

Highlight News / November 04/2022



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Cambodia's trade with RCEP countries up 11 pct in 9 months: ministry



Cambodia News | 3 November, 2022

Cambodia's trade with Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member countries was valued at 24 billion U.S. dollars in the first nine months of 2022, up 11 percent from the same period last year, the Ministry of Commerce said in a report on Wednesday. Cambodia's export to RCEP member countries reached 4.7 billion dollars during the January-September period this year, up 6 percent, while its import from RCEP member countries totaled 19.3 billion dollars, up 12 percent, the report said. The kingdom's top five trading partners under the RCEP are China, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore and Japan, the report said. Ministry of Commerce's undersecretary of state and spokesman Penn Sovicheat said that the RCEP is a key instrument to boost economic recovery in Cambodia and in the region. "This regional mega-trade deal is very beneficial to Cambodia as it has provided the country bigger market access with tariff concessions," he told Xinhua. "For the long term, it will be a main driving force for our economic growth."

Xinhua

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501177931/thai-tourists-lead-the-pack-in-number-of-tourists-that-visited-cambodia-in-first-nine-months/>

Cambodia-Korea Free Trade Agreement to enter into force in December



Cambodia News | 3 November, 2022

Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, yesterday morning announced that the bilateral free trade agreement between Cambodia and South Korea will come into force in December this year. The Premier made the announcement at the opening ceremony of the High-Level Forum on the 10th Anniversary of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement, and the Official Launch of the Book on the Framework for Regional Integration by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). Being Cambodia's second bilateral FTA after China, the agreement will be a major driving force in boosting trade and investment flows between Cambodia and South Korea with mutual benefits, and will especially help to accelerate the economic recovery of the two countries after the severe impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. It will contribute to the promotion of long-term partnerships and strengthen economic partnerships, particularly market access, including the export of Cambodian products to South Korea. Cambodia mainly exports footwear and other apparel, travel goods, beverages, electrical and electronic components, rubber, pharmaceuticals, and agricultural products to South Korea. The Kingdom imports vehicles, electronics, kitchen appliances, beverages, pharmaceuticals and plastic

products. The bilateral trade between Cambodia and South Korea reached \$818 million in the first nine months of this year, up 13.8 percent compared to the same period last year, according to a report of the Korea International Trade Association (KITA). Cambodia exported \$301 million worth of goods to South Korea, a 19.6 percent year-on-year increase.

AKP-Chea Vannak

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501179178/cambodia-korea-free-trade-agreement-to-enter-into-force-in-december/>

Thailand eyes advantages of tourist outflow from Laos-China railway



Laos News | 3 November, 2022

Thailand is keen to take advantage of an expected tourist spillover from the Laos-China railway when China's borders fully reopen in 2023, according to a recent Thaiger report. The Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA) was quoted in the Thaiger as saying that at least 3 million Chinese are estimated to travel through the 422-km Laos-China railway when the mainland permits outbound travel. President of Laos' Hotel and Restaurant Association, Mr Pakasith Chathapaya, told Vientiane Times on Wednesday that tourism-related businesses are preparing for a surge in Chinese visitors to Laos and other Asean countries, who will make use of the new railway. "We are improving services at hotels and restaurants through a capacity-building programme, while further improving tourist attractions with a view to accommodating more foreign tourists, including

those from China," he said. "Many hotels and restaurants have begun hiring staff who can speak both English and Chinese, in readiness for the expected influx of Chinese and other foreign visitors coming to Laos via the railway." Mr Pakasith said Chinese tourists enjoy Laos' natural environment and adventure activities, particularly zip-lining, which they can experience in Vangvieng district, Vientiane province. The Chinese are also interested in Laos' cultural attractions and the world heritage site in Luang Prabang is one of their favourite destinations. Adith Chairattananon, honorary secretary-general of the ATTA, said Thailand must take the opportunity to accommodate the overflow of tourists from Laos, as he believes Laos may not be able to cope with the expected large number of tourists, in terms of facilities and accommodation. Adith said that about one million Chinese tourists visited Laos in 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic, with 80 percent arriving by air. He estimated that the number could reach 4-5 million next year, with most expected to travel on the Laos-China railway which runs from Kunming to Vientiane, assuming that China's borders are fully reopen by that time. Of the total 211,898 foreign tourist arrivals in Laos in the first six months of this year, more than 4,600 came from China, despite the travel restrictions in place. Some 1,140 Chinese visited Laos in May and over 3,440 in June, according to the report, which was published by the Tourism Development Department of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism. The number of

visitors to northern Laos is on the rise due to the popularity of the Laos-China railway, which runs from Boten (on the Laos-China border) to Vientiane, with trains running at a maximum speed of 160km per hour. The Laos-China railway forms part of the larger Kunming-Singapore rail link, which passes through Laos, Thailand and Malaysia.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent2022_Thailand214.php

Corn prices bounce back over K1,100 per viss



Myanmar News | 3 November, 2022

The price of corn has rebounded to over K1,100 per viss, according to the corn market. The prevailing price of corn is K1,120 per viss on 1 November in the markets. The increase in corn price is attributed to the Kyat depreciation against the US dollar and the strong demand by exporters. Myanmar shipped corn to Viet Nam and the Philippines by sea, according to Myanmar Corn Industrial Association. A total of 112 companies have been given the go-ahead for maize export and some companies commence exporting, said U Aye Chan Aung, chair of the association. Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand. The directive released on 30 June said that transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, bean and

oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat. Therefore, the export earnings of the corn have to be exchanged for the US dollar according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K2,100), making the traders tough financially. Nonetheless, there is a large gap between the regulated rate and the unofficial rate of the US dollar (over K3,000). Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India and Viet Nam. At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. – NN/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnml.com.mm/corn-prices-bounce-back-over-k1100-per-viss/#article-title>

PMI growth at 13-month low



Vietnam News | 3 November, 2022

HCMC – Although business conditions in the Vietnamese manufacturing sector continued to improve at the beginning of the fourth quarter, the Vietnam Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) grew the slightest in 13 months. The S&P Global Vietnam manufacturing PMI registered 50.6 in October, following a reading of 52.5 in September. Though the figure stayed above the 50.0 no-change mark and signaled an overall strengthening of operating conditions during the month, new order growth showed signs of a slowdown. According to

the latest report on the Vietnam Manufacturing PMI by S&P Global, new business increased to the least extent in over a year, with a slight increase in new orders, while demand seemed to wane and export growth decelerated. "The October PMI data provides us with the first signs that weakness in the global economy is starting to impact growth at Vietnamese manufacturers, with both new orders and exports increasing at the weakest rate in 13 months. Worries around demand conditions also hit business confidence," Andrew Harker, Economics Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said. During the month, manufacturers continued to expand production in response to the rise in new orders, though at a modest rate. Rises in output were seen across consumer, intermediate and investment goods producers. However, they eased the expansion rate due to signs of demand softening, reflected in a weaker growth of buying activity and employment. Input buying growth hit a seven-month low, while job creation grew at the slowest pace since July. Meanwhile, inflationary pressures remain muted, with a slight increase in prices. Stocks of both purchases and finished goods dropped in the month, reversing the stockpiling seen in September. According to S&P Global, suppliers' delivery times continued to shorten in October, representing a continued stabilization of supply chains after a long period of disruption despite some incidents of delays resulting from material shortages and transportation issues. Although expected improvements in new orders and a lack of Covid-19

disruptions meant that manufacturers remained optimistic about an increase in output over the year ahead, confidence dropped to a 13-month low amid concerns over waning demand. However, continued expansions in output and employment alongside muted price and supply pressures may help the sector remain in growth territory as the end of the year approaches, he added.

Source : <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/pmi-growth-at-13-month-low/>

Newly established firms up in 10 months



Vietnam News | 3 November, 2022

HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam saw over 13,000 new enterprises formed with a total registered capital of VNĐ106.9 trillion in October, up 13.6 per cent in number of firms but down 21.4 per cent in capital over the previous month. The country counted 125,800 new firms in the first ten months of this year with combined investments of over VNĐ1.37 quadrillion and 835,000 labourers, according to the General Statistics Office (GSO). The figures represented increases of 34 per cent in the number of firms, 6 per cent in capital and 18 per cent in workforce compared with the same period last year, the GSO said, adding that the average capital of new enterprises in the period was VNĐ11 billion. Meanwhile, 42,600 operating enterprises registered an increase of above VNĐ2.79 quadrillion. Therefore, the total registered capital of

the economy in the first ten months topped more than VNĐ4.16 quadrillion, up 31 per cent year-on-year. The GSO reported that the number of enterprises returning to business was 52,700 during the period, a yearly hike of 49 per cent. On the opposite side, 66,400 enterprises temporarily ceased operation, up 37 per cent against the last year's same period. Another 40,300 were in the dissolution process, a year-on-year rise of 13.4 per cent and 12,200 completed dissolution procedures. On average, 12,200 businesses withdraw from the market every month. From January to October, 1,684 newly-established enterprises operate in the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors, up 5.1 per cent over the same period last year; over 31,000 in the industrial and construction industries, up 23.3 per cent; and 93,100 in the service sector, up 39 per cent. To support businesses, GSO General Director Nguyễn Thị Hương suggested ministries and branches to ensure the adequate supply of raw materials and energy to meet enterprises' requirements of production and business recovery and socio-economic development; remove difficulties and obstacles for important industrial projects; and support factories to maintain and restore production to keep orders. Along with that, in the context of deep global integration, she suggested that rising use of trade remedies and supporting Vietnamese

exporters be an important role in protecting and developing export markets, she said. Many manufacturing enterprises also suggested that the Government continue to simplify customs procedures and make them more transparent to reduce costs and enhance predictability for businesses. Accordingly, it is necessary to quickly build and use systems for the electronic exchange of data between enterprises, customs and related agencies. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1351251/newly-established-firms-up-in-10-months.html>
