

*Highlight News / January 19/2023*



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## Cambodia's economy to grow despite volatility of Covid-19



*Cambodia News | 18 January, 2023*

Despite the volatile situation of Covid-19 in Cambodia as well as the rest of the world, Cambodia's economic situation continues to grow. Ky Sereyvath, an economist and director general of the Chinese Academy of Sciences of the Royal Academy of Cambodia, made the remark while speaking to the national news yesterday. He added that under such conditions, Cambodia's economic growth in 2023, which the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) has projected to grow at around 6 percent will be down to 3 percent, but the economic situation in Cambodia continues to grow. According to the economist, Cambodia's economic growth is based on six major factors: political factors in the country, the resumption of tourism, the successful management of Covid-19, the state intervening in changing livelihoods, the state fiscal policy factors and the state intervening factors in the situation of the riel against the US dollar. NBC recently forecast that the Cambodian economy in 2023 will grow at around 6 percent despite high external challenges. The increase was due to a 6.9 percent growth in the garment sector, a 14.3 percent increase in non-garment manufacturing and an 18.5 percent increase in agriculture, construction and tourism.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501221877/cambodias-economy-to-grow-despite-volatility-of-covid-19/>

## Cambodia's trade with RCEP countries hit \$31 bln last year



*Cambodia News | 18 January, 2023*

Cambodia's trade with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member countries reached 31 billion U.S. dollars in 2022, up 4 percent from a year earlier, according to a Ministry of Commerce report released on Tuesday. The report said the kingdom's export to the RCEP countries amounted to 6.34 billion dollars last year, up 7 percent, while its import from the RCEP countries totaled 24.68 billion dollars, increasing 3 percent. The Southeast Asian nation's top five trading partners under RCEP are China, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, and Japan, the report added. Entered into force on Jan. 1, 2022, the RCEP free trade agreement comprises 15 Asia-Pacific countries including 10 ASEAN member states — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — and their five trading partners, namely China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Cambodian Ministry of Commerce's Undersecretary of State and Spokesman Penn Sovicheat said Cambodia's trade growth with other RCEP countries was moderate because the kingdom and other countries alike have just recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. "We believe that the growth will be higher this year and beyond," he told Xinhua. "RCEP is a catalyst for our long-term and sustainable trade growth and it is a magnet to attract more foreign

direct investments to our country.” Sovicheat said the world’s largest free trade pact would help Cambodia graduate from its least developed country status, likely by 2028, and to achieve its goals of becoming an upper-middle income country in 2030 and a high-income nation by 2050. Joseph Matthews, a senior professor at the BELTEI International University in Phnom Penh, said the RCEP deal has provided mutually beneficial cooperation and win-win results for all participating countries. “RCEP has not only facilitated free flows of trade, but also promoted the integration of regional industrial and supply chains,” he told Xinhua. “It will help attract foreign enterprises to expand their presence in Cambodia and other member countries.” Xinhua

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501221471/cambodias-trade-with-rcep-countries-hit-31-blh-last-year/>

## Modern machinery improves rice seed planting



*Laos News | 19 January, 2023*

A bridge and road construction and electricity installation enterprise is supplying modern machinery for use in the planting of rice seed in both the wet and dry seasons. The equipment is being used to plant rice seed on 350 hectares of land in Mounlapamok district, Champassak province. Vice President Mrs Pany Yathotou, the Governor of Champassak province Dr Vilayvong Bouddakham and senior officials on Tuesday visited the

enterprise, where staff reported on the success of their work. The mechanised seed planting system is labour saving, cost efficient and ensures the seeds are properly distributed in the ground. Rice crops were planted in 2022 and early this year using this method, which also requires less water. Enterprise staff say they expect the crop harvested on this land to yield about 4 tonnes of rice per hectare. The company also has a modern rice mill that can husk about 2 tonnes of rice in one hour. The processed rice will be distributed to military personnel and police officers in southern and central Laos for their consumption, while some will be sold in markets around the country. During their visit, the Vice President and her delegation also visited other places of significance in Mounlapamok district.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent2023\\_Modern13.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent2023_Modern13.php)

## Myanmar ships \$5 mln worth of exports in Q4 2022



*Myanmar News | 18 January, 2023*

The value of Myanmar’s export through Myanmar-Bangladesh border posts in Q4 (October-December) 2022 is estimated at US\$5.58 million, according to statistics provided by the Rakhine State Chamber of Commerce. The cross-border trade with Bangladesh is conducted through Sittway and Maungtau border posts. Trade value via Sittway totalled \$4.08 million whereas Maungtau trade witnessed a trade value of \$1.4 million. Meanwhile, the import was less than a million (0.12 million).

Myanmar primarily shipped fishery products (freshwater rohu, hilsa and anchovy), agricultural produce and consumer goods. Additionally, from January 2023, Myanmar has directly sent 2,500 tonnes of Aemahta rice to Bangladesh via Sittway Port, Rakhine State Chamber of Commerce stated.

— TWA/EMM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-ships-5-mln-worth-of-exports-in-q4-2022/#article-title>

## China's re-opening to impact Vietnam



*Vietnam News | 18 January, 2023*

According to the latest report "2023 outlook: Three ripples from China's re-opening" by HSBC, ASEAN is well situated to receive a punchy boost from China's re-opening after an impressive recovery in 2022. The direct benefit comes from the heavily-exposed tourism sector, though it offers some hope for FDI and trade. After a strong recovery in 2022, ASEAN started 2023 with more good news as China began its re-opening on January 8. The most direct transmission channel is tourism, a sector that has been ailing in ASEAN. Vietnam along with Thailand will be the two clear winners, as Chinese tourists made up around 30 per cent of visitors pre-pandemic. While Vietnam's economy is not as heavily dependent on tourism as Thailand, the significance of the sector to its job market cannot be underestimated. In Vietnam, around 25 per cent of the workforce works in food, beverage, and accommodation-related sectors. The proportion of broader tourism-related employment is low in

Vietnam, with the share significantly higher in the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. Meanwhile, Vietnam's informal job market is even more sensitive to tourism, such as those working in restaurants and entertainment. In addition, its larger services deficits, a result of a lack of tourism receipts, have been a major drag on Vietnam's current account. More tourist receipts will thus provide further foreign currency inflows and reduce Vietnam's services deficit, though HSBC expects only a small rebound in 2023. The report also pointed out that ASEAN has surpassed the EU to become China's largest trading partner since 2022, so exports should also benefit from a rebound in China demand. Agriculture exports from Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines will likely see considerable support from booming Chinese pent-up demand. Meanwhile, Indonesia and Malaysia will likely keep outperforming in exports as commodity prices stay high. The most notable drag came from weakening electronics exports, making Vietnam and Singapore particularly vulnerable. Vietnam's phone and computer shipments saw an even more striking decline of close to 30 per cent on-year in December. In particular, given the import-intensive nature of tech manufacturing, plunging electronics imports signals an uncertain outlook for tech exports. The green shoots in terms of trade prospects is through FDI, an area which has seen China's growing footprint in ASEAN. Over the years, China has been investing heavily in ASEAN's booming manufacturing sector, ranging from the EV supply chain in Indonesia and

Thailand, to consumer electronics in Vietnam, as well as Singapore's promising pharmaceuticals. High-profile examples include Apple's plans to relocate the MacBook supply chain to Vietnam. Goertek and Luxshare, two of Apple's three major suppliers (in addition to Taiwan's Foxconn), have poured additional funds worth \$400 million and \$306 million, respectively, to expand their production of consumer electronics and multimedia equipment. This is part of Apple's ongoing expansion plans into Vietnam, with the most recent relocation being for its relatively complicated MacBook supply chain, which is expected to start producing in mid-2023.

Source : <https://vir.com.vn/chinas-re-opening-to-impact-vietnam-99304.html>

## Indian newspaper: Vietnam could be Asia's next industrial hotspot



*Vietnam News | 18 January, 2023*

The article said while parts of Asia are still recovering from the global pandemic, Vietnam's economy has boomed, reaching an impressive 8.02% increase in GDP by the last quarter of 2022 – that's faster than other major regional economies in Asia. Its export revenue hit 372 billion USD, up 10% year-on-year. Explaining the boom of Vietnam's industry, it said part of the reason is the disruption to supply chains on the Chinese mainland, Asia's largest manufacturing hub, as factories were subject to shutdowns during COVID-19. Companies turned to alternative locations to continue and diversify their

production streams. Moreover, Vietnam has a competitive labour force and low manufacturing costs. It has a young and growing population of 97 million, 70% of whom are under 35 – that's a considerable labour force for the manufacturing industry. The article also noted that Vietnam is strategically located along a strip of 3,200km coastline which makes the country, particularly the north, an effective location for shipping cargo in and out. The government has been investing in development projects to improve the country's infrastructure, particularly in the northeastern cities, to create a more attractive travel destination, and ultimately a more connected port and industrial hub, it said. Another reason is that more companies are moving in Vietnam which is the world's second-largest manufacturer of tech and apparel, with big brands like Nike, Adidas and Samsung operating across the country. Google's newest Pixel phone, too, will be made in Vietnam, while Microsoft started shipping Xbox game consoles from Ho Chi Minh City in 2022. Reports have also emerged that Apple supplier Foxconn is investing 300 million USD to expand their factories in the north of the country, and Dell, HP, Nintendo and Lenovo are all planning on setting up plants in the country as well. Additionally, the Vietnamese government has been making strong efforts to make trade easier between Vietnam and the rest of the world. The nation has signed several

free trade agreements with the EU, UK and nations across the Asia-Pacific, opening up the country to more trade opportunities, especially to the west. Another strong driver of trade is the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership deal to which Vietnam is a member, the article said.

Source : <https://en.nhandan.vn/indian-newspaper-vietnam-could-be-asias-next-industrial-hotspot-post121907.html>

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