

Highlight News / February 13, 2023



- Cambodia's exports to EU surge 25 percent to \$4 billion in 2022
- 2025 target for Cambodia to export 1 million tonnes of rice
- Laos Imports Fuel Worth USD 125 Million From Vietnam in 2022
- Myanmar pockets over \$1 bln from pulses exports over past ten months
- Vietnam's rice exports predicted to drop in 2023
- Vietnamese aviation sector to fully recover by end of year



Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)



Cambodia's exports to EU surge 25 percent to \$4 billion in 2022



Cambodia News | 12 February, 2023

Cambodia's exports to the European Union (EU) last year were worth \$4 billion, up 25% compared to the 2021's figure, according to the country's ministry of commerce. The trade turnover between Cambodia and the EU reached \$4.8 billion in 2022, an increase of 15.9% against the previous year. The country spent \$812 million on imports from this market, resulting in a trade surplus of \$3.23 billion. Germany was Cambodia's largest EU trading partner last year with trade turnover amounting to over \$1.2 billion, up by 19.2%. It was followed by Belgium (\$731 million), the Netherlands (\$596 million), France (\$542 million), and Spain (\$503 million), according to Cambodia's general department of customs and excise (GDCE). Germany was also the biggest EU buyer of Cambodian goods, at over \$1 billion, marking a 23% increase year-on-year, followed by Belgium (\$642 million), the Netherlands (\$552 million), Spain (\$474.7 million), and France (\$423 million), GDCE figures show. According to Hong Vanak, director of international economics at the Royal Academy of Cambodia, exports of garments, footwear, bags, bicycles and other items to the bloc remain in positive growth, even with the EU's partial withdrawal of the tariff preferences granted to the country under the Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme. He emphasised that Cambodia's economic growth in the past two decades is associated with the active support of the EU market. It is forecasted that Cambodia's exports to the EU will continue to increase in value in the near future in

the context that the bloc is still an important market for the Southeast Asian country, he added. VNA

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501236859/cambodias-exports-to-eu-surge-25-percent-to-4-billion-in-2022/>

2025 target for Cambodia to export 1 million tonnes of rice



Cambodia News | 12 February, 2023

The Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF) has set export targets for the nation at 750,000 tonnes of milled rice in 2023 and one million tonnes by 2025. This represents an over 50 percent increase compared to the export figure in 2022. According to CRF President Chan Sokheang, the federation has also set a goal to facilitate profitable, sustainable, environment-friendly rice business. "The Cambodian Rice Federation has set two goals for rice exports, which by 2023 will boost exports to 750,000 tons and reach 1 million tons by 2025," Sokkheang said. The CRF will continue to collaborate with the Ministry of Commerce to access new markets, especially the Philippines, and increase the number of milled rice exports to China toward a target of 400,000 tonnes this year, Sokheang said. Last year, Cambodia exported 637,004 tons of milled rice to international markets, up 3.2 percent, from 617,069 tons a year earlier. CRF said Cambodia earned revenue of \$414 million from the exports of the commodity to 59 countries and regions last year. China remains Cambodia's top rice importer. VNA

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501237171/2025-target-for-cambodia-to-export-1-million-tonnes-of-rice/>

Laos Imports Fuel Worth USD 125 Million From Vietnam in 2022



Laos News | 10 February, 2023

Overall exports from Vietnam to Laos shot up by 10.4 percent to USD 656.4 million while other exports, including steel, dropped 15 percent to USD 60.1 million, and fertilizer surged up by 31 percent to USD 32.5 million. Import of goods from Laos to Vietnam, on the contrary, rose by 34.6 percent to USD 1 billion, with primary products being wood, wood products, and asphalt. Additionally, being under ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement or Laos Bilateral Trade Agreement and the Vietnam – Laos Border Trade Agreement, most goods traded between Laos and Vietnam are tax-free. Over the past three years, Laos has become a popular destination for high-quality agricultural investments by businesses in Vietnam. Another news report on Tuesday also suggested that the two-way trade income between the countries increased by 24 percent in 2022, crossing over USD 1.7 billion. Earlier this week, The Siam Commercial Bank's Economic Intelligence Center also predicted that Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar will see potential growth in the economy in 2023. Laos used to earlier rely on Thailand for fuel importation. However, PTT Oil and Retail Business Public Company Limited, which operates 53 petrol stations in Laos said that fuel supply just from Thailand may not be adequate. Some local media, on the other hand, reported that due to the depreciation of the LAK currency, and the

soaring inflation in Laos accompanied by the unstable oil market, it has become rather challenging for fuel importers to meet the needs of the public.

Source: <https://laotiantimes.com/2023/02/10/laos-fuel-imports-from-vietnam-reaches-over-usd-120-million-in-2022/>

Myanmar pockets over \$1 bln from pulses exports over past ten months



Myanmar News | 12 February, 2023

Myanmar brought in over US\$1.1 billion from various pulses exports over the past ten months of the current financial year 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. Between 1 April 2022 and 3 February 2023, the country shipped 1,252,818 tonnes of pulses worth \$982.588 million to external markets by the sea while 181,268 tonnes of various pulses worth \$128.38 million were sent to the neighbouring countries via cross-border posts, totalling over 1.4 million tonnes worth \$1.11 billion. Myanmar primarily exports black gram and pigeon pea to India and sends green gram to China and some European companies. There are more than 1.1 million acres of various pulses sowing every year in Myanmar and black gram and pigeon pea constitute 35 per cent of the overall acres. The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agro-products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage.

Other beans including peanuts, chickpeas, soybeans, black-eyed beans, butter beans and rice beans are also grown in the country. Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy and it contributes to over 30 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. Myanmar conveyed US\$1.57 million worth of over 2.02 million tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 FY. The country shipped \$966.4 million valued at over 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through sea route, and \$604.3 million valued at over 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders, the MoC's trade data showed. Myanmar grows 18 types of pulses, covering 11.45 million acres across the country. The pulses constitute 26 per cent for black gram, 25 per cent for black gram, 15 per cent for pigeon pea, eight per cent for chickpea and the remaining for other pulses. — TWA/EM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-pockets-over-1-bln-from-pulses-exports-over-past-ten-months/>

Vietnam's rice exports predicted to drop in 2023



Vietnam News | 11 February, 2023

Vietnam's rice exports are predicted to reach just 6 million tonnes this year, lower than last year's figure due to limited supply and inventories, said businesses. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam exported only

400,000 tonnes of rice worth 203 million USD in January 2023, down 20.9% in volume and 17.4% in value year-on-year. Do Tran Hoan, member of the Members' Council of the Vietnam Northern Food Corporation, said Vietnam earned over 3.4 billion USD from exporting 7.1 million tonnes of rice last year, up 13.83% in volume and more than 5% in value. Vietnam shipped over 3 million tonnes of rice to the Philippines last year, accounting for 45% of the country's total rice exports and more than 80% of the Philippines' rice imports, he said. If the Philippines has high inventories, its import demand will drop. Moreover, Vietnam's rice inventories had slumped as of late 2022, resulting in lower rice export volume this year, he said. Unless the number of Vietnamese rice exporters to China increases, it is unlikely that more opportunities will open up following the COVID-19 pandemic, said analysts. Hoan said Vietnam tends to export more jasmine and high-quality rice as countries have demand to stock more food due to the impacts of climate change. About rice export prices, Chairman of the Board of Directors and General Director of Intimex Group Do Ha Nam said prices generally will increase due to rising consumption demand and political and economic instability caused by the prolonged conflict between Russia and Ukraine./. VNA

Source: <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vietnam-s-rice-exports-predicted-to-drop-in-2023-2109005.html>

Vietnamese aviation sector to fully recover by end of year



Vietnam News | 11 February, 2023

HCM CITY — The Vietnamese aviation sector is expected to fully recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by the end of 2023 with an estimated 80 million passengers and 1.44 million tonnes of cargo to be transported by air this year, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of Việt Nam (CAAV). According to the global outlook for the aviation industry by CAAV, the amount of passengers and cargo transported by air in Việt Nam this year will be up 45.4 per cent and 15 per cent from last year, respectively, or up 1 per cent and 14.8 per cent from 2019 before the pandemic broke out. Việt Nam saw a full recovery and recorded strong growth in the domestic aviation market in 2022, while its international market is expected to reach the level recorded in 2019 by the end of 2023. However, there remain huge hurdles for the sector, including limited aviation infrastructure, fluctuation of fuel prices, human resource shortages, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which will continue to have a negative impact on the industry this year. In addition, there are only a few large airports in Việt Nam, all of which have very limited capacities. Domestic airports served 9.8 million passengers in January, up 13.8 per cent from the previous month, including 2.3 million international arrivals, a rise of 10 per cent, according to CAAV. Vietnamese airports handled 112,000 tonnes of cargo in January, up 11.6

per cent from the previous month, according to the authority. Around 34 million passengers from Việt Nam are expected to travel overseas this year, triple the number of last year, according to analysts at CAAV. Though China has already resumed travel and economic activities with Việt Nam, it will take longer than this year for the aviation sector to recover to pre-pandemic levels, experts said. The IATA predicted a recovery of 80 per cent and 95 per cent in the number of international passengers and domestic passengers, respectively, compared to the pre-pandemic period. The Asia-Pacific region is expected to recover slowest, according to the association. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1482680/vietnamese-aviation-sector-to-fully-recover-by-end-of-year.html>