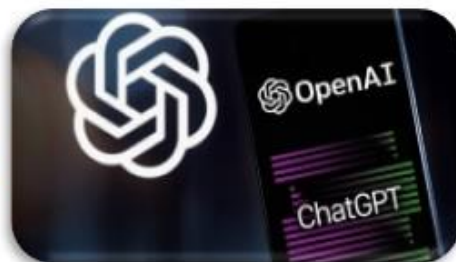
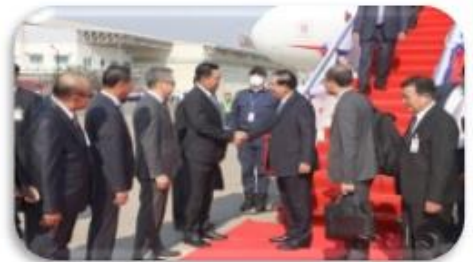


## Highlight News / February 14, 2023



- Cambodia's export to US tops \$12B last year
- Cambodia exports 36,900 tonnes milled rice in first month
- Cambodian PM arrives in Laos
- Over US\$9 bln earned from export of finished industrial goods abroad within nine months
- Industrial production plunges in January over Tet holiday
- OpenAI Company to sell ChatGPT Plus in Vietnam for US\$20 per month



**Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)**

## Cambodia's export to US tops

**\$12B last year**



*Cambodia News | 13 February, 2023*

Cambodia's export to the United States remained strong last year, despite the US generalised special preference (GSP) scheme remaining to less developed countries (LDCs) including Cambodia. Cambodia exported \$12.2 billion worth of products to the United States in 2022, a 40 percent increase compared to a year earlier, the US Census Bureau reported on Sunday. The Kingdom imported \$450 million worth of products from the world's biggest economic power, an 8 percent increase year-on-year. Cambodia's trade surplus with the US is at \$10.9 billion. In December alone, Cambodia's export to the US amounted to \$838 million, while import was valued at \$21 million. Cambodia's export to the US was mostly garments and included goods such as footwear, bicycles and furniture under the trade preference – under the Most Favoured Nation status and travel goods are exported under the General Specialised Preference (GSP). The Kingdom's imports include automobiles, machinery, electrical appliances and electronics. The US has not yet renewed the GSP scheme since the scheme expired in 2021. The GSP status, offered to Less Developing Countries by the US, expired last December and the US government is in the process of reactivating it. Cambodia has not lost any trade benefits from the loss of the US's GSP scheme, while the volume of Cambodia's trade exports to this market continues to remain high, said Penn Sovicheat, Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Commerce. The loss of the GSP scheme is inevitable in the future as Cambodia moves from the status of a low-income country to a upper-

income country by 2030, he said. "All products that Cambodia exported to the US remained increasing last year, but the travel goods which are allowed to export to the US under the GSP scheme has moderately increased," Sovicheat told Khmer Times. Growth in exports of clothing, footwear, travel products and electrical equipment increased significantly compared to 2021, reflecting the confidence in Cambodian goods, he said. Garment, footwear and travel goods industry is the largest foreign exchange earner for Cambodia. The sector consists of roughly 1,100 factories and branches, employing approximately 750,000 workers, mostly female. The ministry's report showed that garment, footwear and travel goods products accounted for 56.1 percent of the kingdom's total export of \$22.48 billion last year.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501237385/cambodias-export-to-us-tops-12b-last-year/>

## Cambodia exports 36,900 tonnes

**milled rice in first month**



*Cambodia News | 13 February, 2023*

In January, Cambodia exported some 36,900 tonnes of milled rice to international markets, generating \$28.83 million, according to a report of Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF). The Cambodian milled rice was shipped to 34 international destinations, adding that 20 countries in Europe purchased 17,795 tons or 48 percent of the total exported milled rice. China (including Hong Kong and Macau) came in second by importing 15,045 tonnes of Cambodian milled rice or 41 percent. Meanwhile, the source said, 1,871 tonnes were exported to two ASEAN countries – Malaysia and Singapore – while seven other destinations, including

Gabon, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, and Saudi Arabia bought 2,189 tons. For the rice varieties, Cambodia exported 22,810 tonnes of Premium Aromatic Rice (Malys Angkor), 9,359 tonnes of Sen Kra Ob, 1,721 tonnes of Premium White Rice, 1,867 tonnes of Parboiled Rice, and 1,144 tonnes of Organic Milled Rice. Cambodia has also traded 252,714 tonnes of paddy rice with neighbouring countries, said CRF, underlining that the total value for exported milled rice and paddy rice for January 2023 generated a revenue of \$92 million. AKP-Phal Sophanith

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501237755/cambodia-exports-36900-tonnes-milled-rice-in-first-month/>

## Cambodian PM arrives in Laos



*Laos News | 13 February, 2023*

KPL (KPL) Prime Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen, accompanied by a delegation of senior officials, arrived at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane this morning for a two-day visit to the Lao PDR. (KPL) Prime Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen, accompanied by a delegation of senior officials, arrived at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane this morning for a two-day visit to the Lao PDR. He was greeted at the airport by Alounxay Sounnalath, Minister and Head of the Prime Minister's Office and relevant officials. Hun Sen's visit, scheduled for Feb 13-14, is in response to the invitation of Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone to strengthen the relations, longstanding solidarity, and comprehensive and long-lasting strategic partnership between Laos and Cambodia. Laos and Cambodia established

diplomatic relations in 1956. The two countries elevated the relationship to a comprehensive and long-lasting strategic partnership in 2019.

Source: <https://kpl.gov.la/En/detail.aspx?id=71435>

## Over US\$9 bln earned from export of finished industrial goods abroad within nine months



*Myanmar News | 13 February, 2023*

During the nine-month period of the 2022-2023 financial year, US\$9.48 billion were earned from the export of finished industrial goods abroad, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce. From 1 April 2022 to 3 February 2023, the exports of finished industrial goods from the private sector to foreign countries were valued at more than US\$6.09 billion, and from the state-owned sector's exports, more than US\$3.38 billion. Compared to the same period last year, it received US\$2.10 billion more, according to trade statistics. Agricultural produce, animal products, aquatic products, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods from Myanmar are being exported and the maximum export income is obtained from the export of finished industrial goods. Among 10 main export items of Myanmar, the export of finished garments, which is an industrial product, takes the first position. Among the finished industrial goods, sugar, including ready-made cloth, jewellery, and natural gas are included. — TWA/KZL

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/over-us9-bl-earned-from-export-of-finished-industrial-goods-abroad-within-nine-months/#article-title>

## Industrial production plunges in January over Tet holiday



Vietnam News | 13 February, 2023

HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam's index of industrial production (IIP) fell 14.6 per cent in January from the previous month and 8 per cent from the same period last year, the General Statistics Office (GSO) has announced. The GSO attributed the IIP reduction to the Lunar New Year (Tết) holiday which fell in January. Due to the Tết holiday, the number of working days in January was 8-10 days fewer than in December and January 2022. The office also blamed the decline in industrial production in the first month of this year for a drop in the number and size of orders. During the month, the processing and manufacturing industry saw the most significant IIP drop with 9.1 per cent. The mining industry followed it with 4.9 per cent and the electricity generation and distribution sector with 3.4 per cent. Meanwhile, the water supply, wastewater treatment and management activities recorded an IIP increase of 3.7 per cent. Key industries that recorded substantial declines in January included means of transport, down 27 per cent; motor vehicle production (24 per cent); apparel production (21 per cent); electrical equipment (19 per cent) and metal production (15 per cent). On the contrary, several industries saw a hike in industrial production, such as beverage production, up 18 per

cent; exploitation, treatment and supply of water (6 per cent); and repair, maintenance and installation of machinery and equipment (4 per cent). The GSO also outlined industrial products posting significant IIP declines in the first month, including liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), down 33 per cent; motorbikes (32 per cent); automobiles (32 per cent); steel bars and sugar (26 per cent); and televisions (24 per cent). Among localities that experienced a significant decrease in industrial production were Vĩnh Phúc (29 per cent); Hà Nội (23.2 per cent); Vĩnh Long (23 per cent); HCM City (21 per cent); Hải Dương (20 per cent); Bình Dương (17 per cent); Đồng Nai (16 per cent) and Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu (14 per cent). The localities mentioned above all had large-scale industrial production. When their industrial production indices fell sharply, it would affect the industrial production of the whole economy, the GSO explained. However, these provinces are making efforts to facilitate their industrial production in 2023. HCM City is a good example. Nguyễn Nguyên Phương, deputy director of the municipal Department of Industry and Trade, said that his department is implementing a programme to improve qualifications, management capacity, productivity, and product quality management for enterprises in supporting industries. He said it is also supporting enterprises to supplement resources and improve competitiveness, adding that solutions to stimulate investment in supporting industries in this period are

also essential. The municipal People's Committee also passed a plan to carry out the supporting industry development programme between 2022-23 with assistance in supply-demand connection, production management, and human resources training. For its part, the Ministry of Industry and Trade said it would actively implement the project to restructure the industry and trade sector to facilitate the country's industrial production in 2023. Top priority would be given to creating products under national brands. These products could be competitive in regional and world markets, participating more deeply in the global value chains. The ministry would continue restructuring industrial production sectors, focusing on increasing the proportion of processing and manufacturing industries and reducing the proportion of processing and assembling for industrial products manufactured in Việt Nam. At the same time, it would review mechanisms and policies affecting each industry and product, gradually remove difficulties for enterprises and increase localisation rate. Last year, the country's IIP went up 7.8 per cent year-on-year, with a growth of 6.8 per cent recorded in Q1, 9.8 per cent in Q2, 10.9 per cent in Q3, and 3 per cent in Q4. Sectors posting impressive growths in 2022 were beverage with 32.3 per cent; medicine, pharmaceutical chemistry and herbs (19.2 per cent); machinery production (19 per cent); wood and wooden products (17 per cent) besides processed seafood (16 per cent), phone parts (15 per cent) and motorbikes (10 per cent). In the year, Bắc Giang saw

the best IIP growth with 31.5 per cent, followed by Cần Thơ (30 per cent), and Vĩnh Long (25 per cent). — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1482791/industrial-production-plunges-in-january-over-tet-holiday.html>

## OpenAI Company to sell ChatGPT Plus in Vietnam for US\$20 per month



Vietnam News | 13 February, 2023

ChatGPT - an AI chatbot was developed by San Francisco-based OpenAI, a research company led by Sam Altman and backed by Microsoft. Specifically, OpenAI has just updated ChatGPT, in which the Plus version will charge and provide some improvements to access the service at peak hours without congestion but with faster response plus more improvements. In its latest notice, OpenAI said that ChatGPT Plus is available in Vietnam for \$20 a month. Those who buy accounts will enjoy benefits including usage priority when there is massive access to the application, faster speeds, reliable access, and priority to new features and users can pay ChatGPT Plus with international debit cards with a Vietnamese address and phone number. However, Vietnamese users who registered for the ChatGPT Plus package in fact encountered obstacles because OpenAI uses the Stripe payment gateway which is not supported in Vietnam. Currently, those who need to use ChatGPT ought to buy a foreign phone number and use an international payment card to register or buy an account from

someone else. In addition, ChatGPT is not limited to devices, so many users can share the same account.

Source: <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/openai-company-to-sell-chatgpt-plus-in-vietnam-for-us-20-per-month-2109526.html>

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