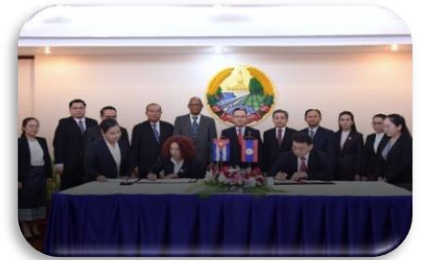


## Highlight News / April 07, 2022



- OECD sees Cambodia GDP growth at 5.4%
- Korea becomes Cambodia's 14th largest trading partner in 2022
- World Bank raises 2023 growth outlook for region as China reopens
- Rice price move upwards in domestic market
- ADB anticipates economic growth of 6.5% for Vietnam this year
- Vietnam's export revenue up 13.5% in March: customs data



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

## Trade and tourism sector, important for economic growth



*Cambodia News | 06 April, 2023*

Cambodian Minister of Commerce has stressed the important role of trade and tourism in the country's socio-economic development toward inclusive, resilient, and sustainable recovery. The minister Pan Sorasak made the point when addressing the opening of the Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India 2023: Reviving Tourism Post-Pandemic of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) webinar recently. Trade has significantly increased job opportunities, generated income, and facilitated food and goods supply chains, he added. Tourism was a driving force for service trade, infrastructure development, and people-to-people contact promotion. The Royal Government of Cambodia is diversifying the country's economy through the establishment of multilateral, regional, sub-regional, and bilateral free trade agreements. He continued that institutional capacity building and necessary legal and regulation reform and framework have also been introduced to harness potential growth. The minister cited the OECD Economic Outlook stating that Cambodia's economy achieved around 4.5 percent in 2022 and is expected to accelerate to 6.3 percent this year. The challenges to economic growth include continuous inflationary pressure and

global economic downturn which can partly be addressed by the reopening of the major economies in the region and adaption of trade and tourism to new trends, including digitalisation. Sorasak appreciated the webinar aimed to provide update on global economic recovery after and enhance awareness on economics, trade, investment, and tourism. L Vy – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501269119/trade-and-tourism-sector-important-for-economic-growth/>

## Chinese Association looks into Cambodia's tourism investment



*Cambodia News | 06 April, 2023*

A Chinese association Global Alliance of SMEs is looking into Cambodia's investment, especially in tourism. The news was unveiled by visiting Cao Fang, Secretary General of Global Alliance of SMEs, during a meeting with Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism here in Phnom Penh early this week. Cao Fang informed the minister that Global Alliance of SMEs has broad international network and its liaison offices have been established in many countries in different regions including Cambodia. The association aims to build on Cambodia-China relations to promote the investment cooperation. Khon highlighted Cambodia's full peace and favorable condition for foreign investment and that the country is ready to welcome international tourists

including Chinese visitors. During the first three months of 2023, Cambodia received approximately 1.2 million foreign tourists, of them 120,000 were Chinese tourists. Lim Nary – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501269103/chinese-association-looks-into-cambodias-tourism-investment/>

## Laos, Cuba boost ties in human resource development



*Laos News | 06 April, 2023*

Representatives of the Institute of Foreign Affairs of Laos' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Higher Institute of International Relations under Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on Wednesday signed an agreement on cooperation in human resource development. The agreement was signed by the Director General of the Institute of Foreign Affairs, Mr May Xayavong, and the Cuban Ambassador to Laos, Ms Enna Esther Viant Valdes, witnessed by Laos' Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Thongphan Savanphet and other officials representing the two sides. The agreement is aimed at expanding relations and friendly cooperation between the two countries and ministries, as well as cooperation with the Cuban institute, through training, upgrading professional skills of diplomats, research and exchange of information between the two sides.

Over the past decades, Laos and Cuba signed a number of cooperation agreements in the fields of politics, social and economic affairs, health, education, sports, information and other spheres. The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1974 and the bilateral ties continue to grow following the Lao national liberation in 1975. Laos and Cuba continue to support each other in the international arena and are closely aligned through reciprocal visits by high-level government delegations.

Source: [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent2023\\_Laos68.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent2023_Laos68.php)

## Corn price moves slightly up in domestic market



*Myanmar News | 07 April, 2023*

The corn price rose above to K1,220 per viss on 6 April, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung commodity centre). From mid-March, the corn price stayed below K1,200 per viss. The strong demand and the price increase in the Thailand market which is the main buyer of Myanmar corn pushed up the price, said corn traders. At present, Myanmar delivered corn to China and Thailand through border posts and also shipped corn to China, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines by sea, according to Myanmar Corn Industrial Association. China is purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium

substitution programme. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 companies have been given the go-ahead for corn exports. 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, 65 per cent of export earnings (US dollars) of the corn have to be exchanged according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K2,100). Nonetheless, there is a large gap between the regulated rate and the unauthorized rate of the US dollar (over K2,870). Myanmar exported more than two million tonnes of corn to foreign trade in the 2022 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to the Philippines, China, India and Viet Nam. More than two million tonnes of corn are expected to be shipped to foreign trade partners in the 2023 corn season, said U Min Khaing, Patron of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association. At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons – winter, summer

and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/corn-price-moves-slightly-up-in-domestic-market/#article-title>

## Industrial production index fell in Q1



Vietnam News | 06 April, 2023

The first quarter of 2023 saw a decline of 2.2% in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) compared to the same period last year, due to the impact of the world economy's challenges on domestic production and business, according to the General Statistics Office (GSO). Among the sectors, the mining industry recorded the highest IIP decrease of 4.4%. The processing and manufacturing industry followed with 2.4%, while the electricity generation and distribution sector saw a decline of 1%. However, the water supply, waste-water treatment and management activities witnessed an 7% increase in IIP. Several essential industrial products showed a decrease in IIP during the first quarter of 2023, including automobiles (17.8%), bar and angle steel (15.8%), motorbikes (13.8%), phone components (13.4%), textiles from natural fibres (13.1%), mobile phones (13.1%), casual wear (10.2%), and cement (9.9%). The decline in production of these key products impacted the IIP and value-added of the industrial sector in the first quarter of the year. The industry's consumption index also

decreased. The consumption index of the processing and manufacturing industry in the first quarter of 2023 decreased by 2.9% year on year. This led to an estimated inventory of the processing and manufacturing industry in the first quarter, up 19.8% over the same period last year. That situation showed that enterprises' production and business efficiency was significantly affected. According to the General Statistics Office (GSO), IIP in the first quarter of 2023 increased in 48 localities but decreased in 15 localities. Several localities with IIP achieved a relatively high increase due to the increase of IIP in the processing and manufacturing industry; and electricity generation and distribution industry. They included Cao Bang (up 26.8%); Tuyen Quang (22.6%); Hai Phong (14.8%); Quang Ninh (13.6%); Hai Duong (12.5%); and Nam Dinh (12.3%). Some localities had low growth rates or reduction in IIP, such as Quang Nam (34.3%); Bac Ninh (18.8%); Vinh Long (16.5%); Soc Trang (15.6%); and Vinh Phuc (8.1%). The decline in industrial production in the first months of 2023 was due to external and internal factors. Economic competition and trade wars have been more intense. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has kept the global prices of input fuel, energy and logistics high, affecting the production costs of domestic enterprises. In addition, inflation is still at a high level. Monetary policy has been tightened, leading to stricter spending in some large consumer markets such as the US and EU. This has caused export orders to decrease, greatly affecting the production of Vietnam's

enterprises. Moreover, the reopening of China has created a lot of pressure on countries with similar export products, including Vietnam. In the domestic market, purchasing power has resumed, but the recovery has not stimulated production. Enterprises still have difficulties accessing capital and face high bank interest rates and input costs of raw materials, especially in the processing and manufacturing industry. The absorption capacity of capital has begun to decrease due to the lack of orders. Production and business optimism The majority of surveyed enterprises have provided positive evaluations about the production and business situation in the first three months of this year, according to a report on the operation of enterprises in the first quarter of 2023 recently released by GSO. Specifically, the survey results on business trends of enterprises in the processing and manufacturing industry in the first quarter of 2023 showed that 24.3% of enterprises rated the production and business situation as better than in the fourth quarter of 2022. About 37.2% of enterprises said that the production and business situation was stable, and 38.5% of enterprises rated it as having difficulties. For the second quarter of 2023, 44.1% of enterprises expect the trend to be better than the first quarter, while 35.3% of enterprises said that the production and business situation would be stable, and only 20.6% of enterprises have forecast greater difficulties. In the first quarter of 2023, Vietnam had nearly 34,000 newly registered enterprises with total registered capital of VND310.3 trillion, down 2% in the

number of enterprises and down 34.1% in registered capital compared to the period last year. It had more than 23,000 enterprises returning to operation, down 10% from the same period in 2022, bringing the total number of newly established and resumed enterprises in the first three months of 2023 to nearly 57,000, down 5.4% on the year. During the first three months, the number of enterprises temporarily suspending business was 42,900, up 20.1% over the same period last year. About 12,800 enterprises stopped operation and waited for dissolution procedures, up 13.1%, and 4,600 enterprises completed dissolution procedures, up 6.5%.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/industrial-production-index-fell-in-q1-post1012161.vov>

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## Labour market continues recovering in Q1



*Vietnam News | 06 April, 2023*

Hanoi (VNA) – Vietnam's labour market continued to maintain recovery momentum in the first quarter of 2023, Deputy Director General of the General Statistics Office (GSO) Nguyen Trung Tien said at a press conference in Hanoi on April 6. Pham Hoai Nam, Director of the Population and Labour Statistics Department, added that the unemployment rate in the working age saw decreases compared to the previous quarter and the same period last year. Those aged 15 and over in the first quarter of 2023

was 52.2 million, 88,700 higher than that of the previous quarter and an increase of more than 1 million compared to the same period last year. In the period, 51.1 million people aged 15 and over had jobs, 113,500 higher than the previous quarter and 1.1 million higher than the same period last year. Of the total, 18.9 million people were working in urban areas. The number of underemployed people in the working age was around 885,500, down 12,400 against the previous quarter, and 443,100 against the same period last year. Meanwhile, the number of unemployed people was 1.05 million, down 34,600 compared to the fourth quarter of last year, and 65,100 against the same period last year./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/labour-market-continues-recovering-in-q1/251136.vnp>

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