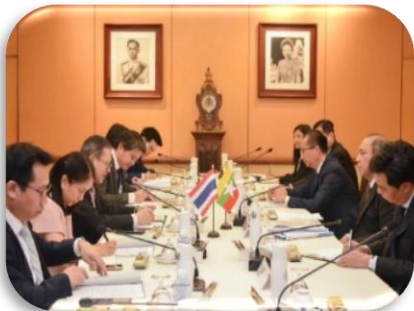
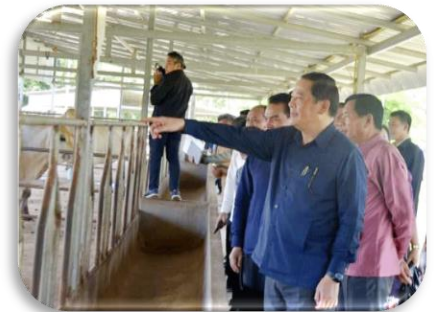


## Highlight News / July 26, 2023



- Cambodia-Australia bilateral trade volume nearly \$260 million
- Electrical goods exports up 109% H1
- PM calls for stronger agriculture, tourism development in Vientiane province
- Thailand discusses bilateral cooperation with Myanmar
- Vietnam to up annual raw rare earths output to 2m tonnes by 2030
- Filipinos biggest spenders in Vietnam in 2022: report



## Cambodia-Australia bilateral trade volume nearly \$260 million



*Cambodia News | 25 July, 2023*

The bilateral trade volume between Cambodia and Australia in the first half 2023, reached more than \$258 million, which is a similar amount compared to 2022. This is according to the report of the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia. In the first six months from January to June 2023, Cambodia's export to Australia were worth more than \$180 million and re-imports were worth more than \$77 million, the report said. On the way to establishing a representative office of the Cambodian Chamber of Commerce in Australia, Vice President of the Cambodian Chamber of Commerce, Neak Okhna Lim Heng, said in May 2023 that Australia needed a wide range of products, including textiles, electrical appliances, and components, especially nine agricultural products, such as avocados, peppers, sesame seeds, sweet potatoes, mango, cashew, palm sugar, and dried banana slices studied by the Cambodia-Australia Agricultural Value Chain (CAVAC), which are opportunities for Cambodian traders to export to Australia, and Australia is also interested in exporting materials and food to Cambodia. During a visit to a number of industrial farms in Australia and meeting with Australian businessmen, Heng hoped that exports and imports between the two countries

would improve. He stressed that Cambodia-Australia will increase trade through the RCEP more effectively after the agreement has been in force for more than a year. It should be noted that in 2022, the bilateral trade volume between Cambodia and Australia has increased steadily from \$205 million in 2019 to \$523 million in 2022. This was stated by Deputy Prime Minister Aun Pornmoniroth, Minister of Economy and Finance in a meeting with Justin Kevin Whyatt, the new Australian Ambassador to Cambodia in March 2023. Kampuchea Thmey

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501330676/cambodia-australia-bilateral-trade-volume-nearly-260-million/>

## Electrical goods exports up 109% H1



*Cambodia News | 25 July, 2023*

Cambodia's exports of electrical machinery, equipment and their parts went up by 108.7 percent in the January to June first half (H1) of 2023 to reach \$1.59 billion, compared to the same period last year, according to the latest trade data of the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE). The rise in the exports in the category helped the Kingdom to make a positive uptick of 0.8 percent in total exports for the first time this year, thereby also compensating to a certain extent the decline of 18.60 percent in the exports of garments, footwear and travel goods (GFT) for the January to June first-half period of 2023. The data also showed that exports of electrical goods rose by 176 percent in June 2023 alone

compared to June 2022. According to the trade data, the Kingdom's total exports reached \$11.46 billion by the end of June 2023. The country's total international trade stood at \$23.69 billion in the first half, registering a decline of 13 percent, compared to the same period last year. Cambodia's trade balance for the first half of the year recorded a deficit of \$764.70 million. China remained the country's biggest trade partner while the US is its biggest export destination. Cambodia's total trade volume with China grew by 2.8 percent and stood at \$6.15 billion for the period, followed by \$4.36 billion with the US, which however showed a decline of 9.6 percent. Vietnam is the third biggest trade partner of the country with \$3.30 billion and the trade between the two neighbours recorded a growth of 1.3 percent. Most of Cambodia's exports went to the US during the January to June period recording a value of \$4.23 billion, though it showed a decline of 8.9 percent compared to the first six months of 2022. Vietnam is the second biggest export destination for the country as it bought goods worth \$1.42 billion from Cambodia in the first six months of the year, showing a growth of 21.7 percent, compared to the same period last year. China is the third biggest export destination for the Kingdom. Cambodia exported goods with a value of \$713 million to China in the first half of the year, showing a growth of 16.6 percent compared to the same period last year. The Kingdom's other main trading partners are Thailand, Japan, Singapore and Indonesia. Cambodia's total trade with Thailand was recorded at \$1.97 billion,

with Japan \$860 million, Singapore \$787 million and Indonesia \$594 million for the first six months of the year. It may be recalled that Cambodia's international trade in 2022 recorded more than \$52 billion, a 9.2 percent year-on-year increase, with exports gaining more than 16 percent. In 2022, Cambodia exported a total of \$22.4 billion worth of goods, up 16.4 percent from a year ago, and imported \$29.9 billion, up 4.3 percent. The international trade in 2022 also resulted in a trade deficit of \$7.4 billion for the country. Cambodia's main export products are garments, machinery and electrical equipment, footwear products, leather goods, grain, furniture, rubber, fruits, vegetables, pearls, toys, and textiles.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501330235/electrical-goods-exports-up-109-h1/>

## PM calls for stronger agriculture, tourism development in Vientiane province



Laos News | 25 July, 2023

The Prime Minister has encouraged local authorities in Vientiane province to do more to develop agricultural production and tourism. During a visit by Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone and his delegation to the province on July 22, he advised the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to partner with the Ministry of Energy and Mines and provincial

authorities to survey irrigation systems and electricity supply. This should be done to ensure that sufficient water and electricity is available for agricultural production, while also ensuring that farmers' technical skills are adequate and that suitable plant and animal species are farmed to meet the needs of local people. The prime minister also advised officials to cut the cost of production for farmers and encourage the farming of quality products that could compete within the region. Provincial authorities should also monitor, encourage and create favourable conditions for industrial and agricultural companies in the province, to promote the production and processing of agricultural products for domestic sale and export, PM Sonexay advised. He also recommended that the Ministry of Industry and Commerce team up with the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism to identify more effective advertising platforms for domestic products in ways that were more visible and appealing to members of the public. In addition, he advised producers to improve the quality of their products by introducing new styles so they are more attractive to buyers. Producers should assess the demand for raw materials, the demand for use of cultivated land, and the required quantity of imported materials, seeds and fertiliser, and provide this information to the relevant sectors. With regard to tourism,

Dr Sonexay recommended that provincial authorities encourage the development of tourist attractions around the Nam Ngum Hydroelectric Power Dam, to bring in more visitors and make full use of the reservoir and surrounding area. While visiting the dam, the delegation monitored a road improvement project and the construction of tourist facilities around the reservoir. The prime minister and his delegation also visited a fruit and sweetcorn processing factory in Ban Keun village, and a cattle farm in Tan Piew village raising animals for export. Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone praised provincial authorities and local companies for working to bring about improvements and achieve success on the way to meeting development targets.

Source: [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent\\_142\\_PM\\_calls\\_y23.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_142_PM_calls_y23.php)

## Thailand discusses bilateral cooperation with Myanmar



*Myanmar News | 25 July, 2023*

Sarun Charoensuwan, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, welcomed U Chan Aye, his counterpart of Myanmar, in Bangkok on July 21, on the occasion of the latter's visit to Thailand. They held a bilateral discussion with a view to further enhancing cooperation in all aspects. Both sides stressed the importance of regular engagements at all levels,

to maintain the dynamism of the close neighbourly relations, and to further advance bilateral cooperation in areas that are beneficial to the peoples of both countries. On the security front, both sides agreed to continue working closely in addressing the growing problem of transnational crimes, especially in border areas. On the economic front, both sides were pleased with the continued steady growth of bilateral trade and discussed ways to further promote economic and development cooperation, such as the use of the Baht-Kyat direct settlement scheme to facilitate bilateral trade and cross-border payments for people in both countries, development of transportation infrastructure, and sustainable development projects. The Thai side also suggested the Myanmar side review and improve its regulatory measures with a view to creating a more conducive environment for bilateral trade and investment. Both sides discussed ways to promote even closer cooperation between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs. In this regard, the Thai side expressed its readiness to offer scholarships and short training courses for diplomats from Myanmar. The Myanmar side expressed its appreciation for the relief items dispatched by Thailand to help the people of Myanmar who were affected by Cyclone Mocha. The Thai side reiterated its readiness to continue providing humanitarian assistance for those in need in Myanmar. The visit to

Thailand of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar took place on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Myanmar in August 2023.

Source: <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40029671>

## Vietnam to up annual raw rare earths output to 2m tonnes by 2030



*Vietnam News | 25 July, 2023*

HANOI (Reuters) -- Vietnam aims to raise its rare earths production to 2.02 million tonnes of unprocessed minerals a year by 2030, according to a government plan reviewed by Reuters, as the Southeast Asian country seeks to tap one of the world's largest reserves of key industrial metals. The rare earths will be extracted from nine mines in the northern provinces of Lai Chau, Lao Cai and Yen Bai, according to the plan signed by Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha on July 18. Rare earths are a group of elements that have applications in electronics manufacturing and batteries, making them important for the global transition toward cleaner sources of energy and in defense. Vietnam has the world's second-largest reserves of rare earths -- an estimated 22 million tonnes -- second only to China, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The country's production of rare earths jumped

to 4,300 tonnes last year from 400 tonnes in 2021, the USGS said. According to the government plan, Vietnam will develop three to four new mines after 2030, aiming to raise its output of raw rare earths to 2.11 million tonnes by 2050. Apart from mining, the country said it will also seek to invest in rare earth mining facilities, with a target of annually producing 20,000 to 60,000 tonnes of rare-earth oxides (REO) by 2030. The plan aims to raise the annual REO output to between 40,000 and 80,000 tonnes by 2050.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/vietnam-aims-raise-annual-raw-rare-earths-output-2-mln-tyr-by-2030-2023-07-25/>

## Filipinos biggest spenders in Vietnam in 2022: report



*Vietnam News | 25 July, 2023*

Hanoi (VNS/VNA) - Philippine tourists were the biggest spenders in Vietnam last year, according to the Statistical Yearbook 2022, recently released by the General Statistics Office. Tourists from this ASEAN country have doubled their expenditure while travelling in Vietnam, increasing from 1,124.7 USD in 2017 to 2,257.8 USD in 2019. Belgian tourists ranked second with 1,995.3 USD, followed by travellers from the US (1,709.7 USD), Australia (1,416.5 USD), Denmark (1,383.5 USD), and Norway (1,346.2 USD). The top ten countries with the highest spending while visiting Vietnam also include the Netherlands (1,317.5 USD),

Canada (1,315.5 USD), the UK (1,212.7 USD), and Germany (1,283.2 USD). On the other end of the spectrum, the tourists spending the least were from Laos, with an average expenditure of only 343.5 USD per person, followed by Cambodia (734.9 USD), Indonesia (804.9 USD), and the Republic of Korea (838.4 USD). Overall, the report showed that the average expenditure of international tourists visiting Vietnam has slightly increased from 1,141.5 USD in 2017 to 1,151.7 USD in 2019. The most significant portion of the average spending went towards accommodation, accounting for over 30% (or 347.2 USD). Spending on food made up 21.9% (or 251.9 USD), local transportation 16% (184.6 USD), sightseeing 9% (103.2 USD), and shopping 12.4% (142.7 USD). Vietnam officially reopened to tourism on March 15, 2022. In 2022, the country received nearly 3.7 million international visitors, a 23.3-fold increase compared to the previous year but only about 20% of the figure in 2019. In 2023, Vietnam has set a target of welcoming eight million international tourists (in the beginning of the year, before its biggest tourist sending market China officially announced reopening plans), aiming for a total revenue of 650 trillion VND. In the first six months of the year, the tourism industry has received nearly 5.6 million visitors, reaching 70% of the set plan./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/filipinos-biggest-spenders-in-vietnam-in-2022-report/262925.vnp>