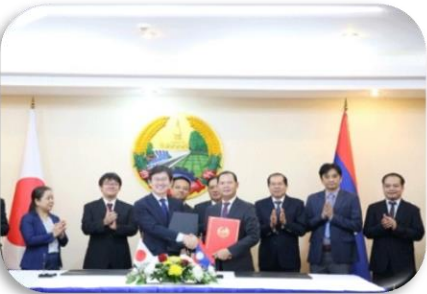




- Cambodia's exports to Japan rise 18.4%
- Cambodia's investment policy preserves existing investments while fostering new ones; peace and stability are crucial, PM says.
- Cabinet orders action intensifies to address air pollution, heatwave, economic woes.
- Japan supports road, bridge upgrade.
- Myanmar kyat depreciates, surpassing K3,900 per dollar.
- Myanmar expects over US\$ 800 million in aquatic product exports this year.
- Vietnam April exports up 10.6% y/y, industrial output up 6.3%
- CPI in April rises 4.4% year on year on petroleum price hike.



## Cambodia's exports to Japan rise 18.4%



*Cambodia News | 30 April 2024*

Cambodia's exports to Japan reached \$365 million in the first quarter (Q1) of this year, an increase of 18.4 percent compared to the same period last year. The rising exports also ensured that Japan is now the fourth biggest export destination of Cambodia, accounting for 5.8 percent of the Kingdom's export market. Japan is also now Cambodia's fifth biggest trading partner, with the bilateral trade (exports and imports together) reaching \$507 million in the first three months of this year, an increase of 11 percent year-on-year. Cambodia maintained a surplus of \$223 million in trade with Japan for Q1, 2024. The Kingdom's main exports to Japan are garments, bags, footwear, furniture, cosmetics, paper and office supplies and leather goods. The main imports are machinery, automobiles, electronic items, furniture, fabrics and plastics. The growing trade between the two countries has also helped in strengthening the bilateral relations, which is seen in the increased assistance by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for various infrastructure development initiatives of the Royal Government. Among the major projects supported by JICA in the Kingdom include three main bridges (Chroy Changvar Bridge, Kizuna Bridge in Kampong Cham and Tsubasa Bridge linking Kandal Province with Neak Loeung in Prey Veng Province), 26 schools, Cambodia Japan Cooperation Centre and Institute of Technology of Cambodia buildings, six roads (568

km) and eight hospitals. Most of JICA's support for Cambodia is people-centric covering sectors such as water supply, public transport, sewerage management, flood mitigation, technical and vocational training and healthcare besides major infrastructure development such as roads, ports and digitalization of the economy. Japan is also supporting the expansion of Cambodia's only deep-sea port in Sihanoukville. JICA is helping the construction of the new international terminal at the port with a soft loan of \$203 million. Once operational, the new terminal will help PAS to match the ocean freight cost of the neighbouring countries in the region, or even better them, and this could further boost the trade and economic development of Cambodia. The project is expected to be completed by mid-2027 and the container handling capacity of the port will then reach 1,250,000 TEUs within one year. Last year, both countries marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two, as well as the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the JICA Cambodia Office. "We will continue our efforts to deepen the 'Kizuna' (enduring bond) between Japan and Cambodia," said Sanui Kazumasa.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501479402/cambodias-exports-to-japan-rise-18-4/>

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## Cambodia's investment policy preserves existing investments while fostering new ones; peace and stability are crucial, PM says.



*Cambodia News | 30 April 2024*

Prime Minister Hun Manet stated that the investment policy of the Royal Government of Cambodia is to preserve existing investments while also fostering new ones. He made this statement on Sunday (Apr. 28) during his meeting with more than 5,000 representatives of the informal economy at OCIC, Phnom Penh. The premier underscored, "All factory enterprises must be maintained to ensure sustainability, with equal attention given to the informal economy." "In the past, we adopted a conventional approach, involving the private sector, enterprises, and factories across various industries such as banking, tourism, and agriculture [...] when new investors arrive, we must consider existing ones. Their success, prosperity, and ability to continue to grow are paramount. Therefore, our policy is to sustain existing investment enterprises, including those in the informal economy, to ensure their sustainability and eventual integration into the system," added the premier. Prime Minister Hun Manet expressed his belief that all investors thriving in Cambodia will contribute to the welfare of Cambodians by raising salaries and expanding their enterprises as they grow. On the occasion, the premier also asserted that attracting new investors is essential in addition to maintaining existing

investments. He stated that effectively recruiting new investors also requires the involvement of existing investors in the country, which he deems highly effective. The premier added that, alongside these efforts, peace and stability are crucial factors for attracting investment. He continued that investment will not thrive in a country plagued by war and instability, highlighting the collective responsibility to safeguard peace and political stability. Fresh News.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501479676/cambodias-investment-policy-preserves-existing-investments-while-fostering-new-ones-peace-and-stability-are-crucial-pm-says/>

## Cabinet orders action intensifies to address air pollution, heatwave, economic woes.



*Laos News | 30 April 2024*

With air pollution rising to alarming levels in some parts of the country, the government has instructed authorities in charge to take action against slash and burn cultivation, which causes current smoky skies. In its monthly meeting for April which ended on Friday, the cabinet stressed the need for central and local authorities to work together in resolving this issue. Chaired by Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, the meeting instructed the relevant sectors to step up to prevent health threat of the public caused by PM2.5, Such a high level is considered a health hazard because of the density of extremely fine particles in the air, which can enter

the deeper parts of the lung, causing or exacerbating respiratory diseases. The poor air quality has resulted in authorities warning members of the public to minimise outdoor activities so they breathe in less polluted air and protect their lungs, which approached unhealthy level. The cabinet resolved that action be intensified to maximise revenue collection and modernise the system of revenue collection, to plug loopholes that lead to revenue losses, while also adhering to a policy of austerity including thrifty use of foreign currency.

Source:

[https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freefreenews/freecontent\\_80\\_Cabinet\\_y24.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freefreenews/freecontent_80_Cabinet_y24.php)

## Japan supports road, bridge upgrade.



*Laos News | 30 April 2024*

The Japanese government is providing grant aid to Laos for the purchase of equipment and vehicles worth 1,500 million Japanese yen (more than US\$9.4 million), to repair roads and bridges in strategic areas. The grant aid agreement was signed in Vientiane on Friday by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Phoxay Khaykhamphithoune and the Japanese Ambassador to Laos, Mr Kenichi Kobayashi, witnessed by representatives of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and other officials. The grant will be used to improve Roads 13, 11 and R2 in the north of Laos and other roads that provide essential links to countries in the region. Mr Phoxay said infrastructure development is critical for the social and economic progress of all countries. The Lao government attaches great importance to

the upgrade of infrastructure, especially roads, as these are the country's main transport links in the absence of sea ports. This latest road improvement project will be a huge boost to international transport, trade and tourism, as well as spurring the social and economic development of Laos, enabling the Lao people to improve their quality of life step by step, he added. Mr Phoxay thanked the Japanese government and people for their enduring support to many spheres of Laos' development and expressed the hope that further assistance would be forthcoming in the future. Ambassador Kobayashi said Japan intended to remain a partner of Laos for many years to come and would pursue closer ties under the two countries' comprehensive strategy partnership with the aim of bolstering development in Laos.

Source:

[https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freefreenews/freecontent\\_80\\_Japan\\_y24.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freefreenews/freecontent_80_Japan_y24.php)

## Myanmar kyat depreciates, surpassing K3,900 per dollar.



*Myanmar News | 30 April 2024*

Information from the foreign exchange market reported that the Myanmar kyat currency has depreciated again to over K3,900 per dollar. The foreign exchange rate on 12 April before the Thingyan Festival was K3,890 for a dollar. The rate has surged to K3,960 on 27 April. Therefore, it has increased by K70 per dollar within 15 days. On the other hand, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM)

injected foreign currencies into the market to control the skyrocketing dollar exchange rates. CBM sold five million yuan and 50 million Thai baht on 22 March, US\$5 million on 15 March, 50 million Thai baht on 11 March, and seven million yuan and 12 million Thai baht on 5 March to exporters and importers through online trading platforms. Furthermore, CBM injected \$10 million and 200 million Thai baht on 4 March into the foreign exchange market. Therefore, CBM sold a total of \$15 million, 12 million yuan, and 312 million Thai baht in the foreign exchange market in March. CBM notified on 15 March that cooperation with legal bodies has also been made to be able to prosecute those who manipulate the foreign exchange market under the existing laws. At present, CBM sets the exchange rate of K2,100 per dollar as the reference rate. On 5 December 2023, CBM relaxed some rules allowing authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign currency trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand. However, the outward remittance procedures must adhere to the rules and regulations specified by the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee. Section 9 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law prescribes, "Purchases and sales of foreign currencies within the Union shall only be transacted by the authorized persons holding foreign currency exchange licences. Foreign currency exchange licence holders shall only entitle to deal in foreign currencies in cash and traveller's cheques." Accordingly, CBM also notified the public that action would be taken

under the Foreign Exchange Management Law if the people were found to hold foreign currencies without permits or licences. The foreign exchange rate has skyrocketed on 19 August 2023 to K4,000 per dollar.

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-kyat-depreciates-surpassing-k3900-per-dollar/>

## Myanmar expects over US\$ 800 million in aquatic product exports this year.



*Myanmar News | 30 April 2024*

According to the Department of Fisheries, it is anticipated that exports of aquatic products to foreign countries will exceed US\$ 800 million in the current financial year. In the previous financial year, over 520,000 tonnes of aquatic products were exported, generating foreign income of nearly US\$ 730 million. Aquatic products from Myanmar are exported to foreign countries via both normal trade and border trade channels. Presently, while the export of aquatic products is operating normally, it has not yet returned to pre-COVID situation. Myanmar exports aquatic products such as fish, prawns, and crabs regularly to countries including China, Thailand, and neighbouring nations via border trade stations in Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Sittway, Myeik, and Maungtau, as well as to Japan and European countries. According to fish and shrimp farming operators, Myanmar boasts 480,000 fish and shrimp farms, alongside over 120 cold storage facilities. Myanmar exports over 20 types of fish, including rohu, hilsa, barbus and river catfish..

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-expects-over-us-800-million-in-aquatic-product-exports-this-year/>

## Vietnam April exports up 10.6% y/y, industrial output up 6.3%.



*Vietnam News | 30 April 2024*

HANOI : Vietnam's exports in April are estimated to have risen 10.6 per cent from a year earlier to \$30.94 billion, led by shipments of electronics, while industrial output in the month rose an annual 6.3 per cent, government data showed on Monday. The Southeast Asian country, a regional manufacturing hub, relies heavily on exports for its economic growth. Imports in April are estimated to have risen 19.9 per cent to \$30.26 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of \$680 million for the month, the General Statistics Office (GSO) said in a report. For the January-April period, exports rose 15.0 per cent from a year earlier to \$123.64 billion, while imports were up 15.4 per cent to \$115.24 billion, the GSO said. This translated into a trade surplus of \$8.4 billion for the four months. Consumer prices in April rose 4.4 per cent from a year earlier, the GSO said, and retail sales increased an annual 9.0 per cent. Shipments of electronics in April rose 32.6 per cent from a year earlier to \$5.3 billion, according to the GSO. Smartphone exports in the month rose 9.1 per cent to \$4.2 billion. Vietnam is targeting gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6.0 per cent to 6.5 per cent this year, faster than its expansion of 5.05 per cent last year. Last week, the World Bank forecast

Vietnam's GDP growth for this year at 5.5 per cent, while Standard Chartered cut its forecast to 6.0 per cent from 6.7 per cent on lower-than-expected growth in the first quarter and global trade headwind.

Source:

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/business/vietnam-april-exports-106-y-y-industrial-output-63-4299461>

## CPI in April rises 4.4% year on year on petroleum price hike.



*Vietnam News | 30 April 2024*

VOV.VN - Vietnam's consumer price index (CPI) in April edged up 0.07% month on month and 4.4% year on year which was fuelled by a petroleum price hike and other factors, according to a report released on April 29 by the General Statistics Office (GSO). The GSO report shows domestic petrol prices increased by 4.78% and diesel prices rose by 2.01%, prompting transportation and related service costs to expand 1.95%. Notably, aviation transportation costs skyrocketed by 10.42% due to high demand for travel during the five-day holiday period, starting on April 27. Meanwhile, drugs and medical services inched up by 0.92% due to seasonal changes and the emergence of disease-causing viruses. The number of cases of pneumonia, chickenpox, and hand-foot-mouth disease is increasing rapidly, forcing people to buy drugs to strengthen the immune system. In addition, prices of other commodities and services; housing and building materials; garments, hats and shoes; household utensils; beverages and tobaccos; and

culture-entertainment-tourism services climbed by 0.27%, 0.21%, 0.12%, 0.11%, 0.09% and 0.03%, correspondingly. Elsewhere, three groups of goods and services - food and catering services; postal and telecommunications services; and education – saw price indexes fall. Also according to the General Statistics Office, core inflation in April soared by 0.17% over the previous month and by 2.79% over the same period last year. On average, Jan.-Apr. 2024 core inflation grew by 2.81% over the same period last year, lower than the CPI average of 3.93%.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/cpi-in-april-rises-44-year-on-year-on-petroleum-price-hike-post1092103.vov>

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