



Viet Nam Economic Bulletin

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Economic diplomacy to support growth target of 8.3 - 8.5% in 2025: PM



- Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh chaired a major conference on July 22 to strengthen economic diplomacy as Viet Nam aims for an ambitious GDP growth target of 8.3–8.5% in 2025. The hybrid event connected leaders from 94 overseas missions, 34 provincial authorities, and key ministries.

- PM Chinh urged overseas diplomatic to further connect Vietnamese firms with global partners, facilitate new FTAs, and engage overseas Vietnamese experts in high-tech sectors. He emphasized continued reforms, proactive global integration, and the development of sectors like AI, semiconductors, and digital transformation.

- The Prime Minister stressed that economic diplomacy must remain central to foreign affairs, aligning with Party resolutions and national strategies, including developing an international financial centre and advancing science and innovation.

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Viet Nam to start site clearance for two vital railway projects next month



- The Vietnamese Government has announced it will commence site clearance on August 19, 2025, for two landmark railway projects: the North-South High-Speed Railway and the Lao Cai–Ha Noi–Hai Phong Railway. The decision was made during the third meeting of the national steering committee for key railway projects held in Ha Noi on July 9, chaired by Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh.

- The North-South High-Speed Railway will start in late 2027 with two segments: Ha Noi–Vinh and Nha Trang–Ho Chi Minh City, while the central segment Vinh–Nha Trang will follow in 2028–2029. Meanwhile, the Lao Cai–Ha Noi–Hai Phong Railway will link

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Lao Cai near the Chinese border to Hai Phong Port, passing through nine provinces including Ha Noi.

- These two ambitious projects represent a major push by Viet Nam to modernize its rail infrastructure and enhance regional connectivity.

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Prime Minister shares Viet Nam's development path at WEF Tianjin Meeting



- At the World Economic Forum's 16th Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Tianjin, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh shared Viet Nam's strategy to become a high-income developed nation by 2045.

- He emphasized 8% GDP growth in 2025 and highlighted Viet Nam's resilient, open economy—with 17 FTAs and strong ties to major partners like the U.S. and China.

- The Prime Minister stressed the country's commitment to building a self-reliant, socialist-oriented market economy, driven by internal resources and supported by external ones.

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National Assembly's Resolution on International Financial Centre issued



- On July 4, 2025, Vietnam's National Assembly officially issued a resolution outlining the framework for the country's first International Financial Centre (IFC), to be located in Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang.

- The resolution introduces special mechanisms and policies to attract capital, technology, modern management practices, skilled labor, and infrastructure development.

- It aims to promote investment in financial services and facilitate free international capital flows, while developing sectors like banking, insurance, fintech, digital assets, commodities, and e-commerce in line with global standards.

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Vietnam Aims to Finalize Legal Framework for Digital Transformation in 2025



- The Vietnamese government has directed ministries and sectors to complete the legal framework for digital transformation by 2025, focusing on data systems, personal data protection, and electronic identification — considered foundational to the national digital agenda.

- A National Steering Committee on Databases will be established under the Prime Minister's leadership.

- In 2024, Vietnam made significant strides by launching the National Population Database, integrating data from 18 ministries and 63 provinces. Over 20 million e-ID cards were issued, and the country rose 15 ranks to 71st in the UN E-Government Survey.

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Viet Nam builds on growth momentum to reach 8% GDP target



- According to Vietnam's National Statistics Office (NSO), the country's GDP expanded by 7.52% in the first half of 2025 — the highest H1 growth since 2011. Export growth remains a key driver, with earnings up 14.4% year-on-year,

totaling \$219.8 billion, boosted by effective use of FTAs and resilient international demand.

- To achieve the ambitious 8% GDP target, the government plans to accelerate public investment, boost digital transformation, and expand access to credit (target: 16% growth). Policies like VAT reductions and trade promotion with new markets (Middle East, Africa, Latin America) will help stimulate demand.

- Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh emphasized that reaching this target is essential for setting the stage for Vietnam's next phase of sustainable, green, and innovation-led development.

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Trade surplus hits US\$7.63 bln in first half



- In the first half of 2025, Viet Nam's total trade turnover reached USD 432.03 billion, marking a 16.1% year-on-year increase, according to the National Statistics Office. Exports amounted to USD 219.83 billion, up 14.4%, while imports totaled USD 212.2 billion, rising 17.9%. This resulted in a

trade surplus of USD 7.63 billion.

- Processed industrial goods remained the dominant export category, generating USD 194.28 billion, or 88.4% of total exports.

- The U.S. was Viet Nam's largest export market, with turnover of USD 70.91 billion, while China remained the country's top import source, supplying goods worth USD 84.7 billion.

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FDI disbursement reaches five-year high in Jan-June period



- In the first half of 2025, Viet Nam recorded its highest foreign direct investment (FDI) disbursement in five years, reaching USD 11.72 billion, according to the National

Statistics Office. Total registered FDI hit USD 21.51 billion, a 32.6% year-on-year increase, reflecting strong investor confidence.

- The manufacturing and processing sector attracted the most FDI (USD 12 billion, 55.6% of total), followed by real estate (USD 5.17 billion), science and technology (USD 1.18 billion), and wholesale/retail (USD 902.9 million).

- Singapore was the top investor with over USD 4.6 billion, followed by South Korea (USD 3 billion), China (USD 2.55 billion), Japan (USD 2.15 billion), and Malaysia (USD 1.59 billion). Meanwhile, Viet Nam invested USD 487.1 million abroad during the same period.

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New policies improve business environment in Viet Nam



- In the first half of 2025, Vietnam recorded nearly 91,200 newly established enterprises, marking a 60.51% increase year-on-year. Total registered capital reached 6.8 billion USD, while household

business registrations surged by 118.4% in June alone.

- This remarkable growth is credited to new government policies and reforms, notably Politburo's Resolution 68 and National Assembly's Resolution 198, which emphasize the private sector as a key driver of economic development. Revisions to the Law on Enterprises also helped remove operational bottlenecks.

- Additionally, business confidence is rising. A Ministry of Finance survey found 35.7% of manufacturers reported improved performance in Q2 2025, and 37.3% expect better results in Q3, reflecting optimism fueled by a more favorable regulatory and economic environment.

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Viet Nam issues plan to attract top AI talents



- Viet Nam's Ministry of Science and Technology has launched a national plan to attract 100 top-tier artificial intelligence (AI) experts to drive critical AI initiatives, positioning the country as a regional and global leader in AI research, development, and application.

- Research efforts will focus on building a national biological data platform and developing large-scale "Make

in Viet Nam" AI models—particularly a Vietnamese large language model with at least 100 billion parameters tailored for domains like law, agriculture, and finance.

- The strategy highlights the urgent need to address the AI talent gap through training programs for AI educators and engineers, marking a pivotal step in Viet Nam's digital transformation and high-tech growth agenda.

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Viet Nam makes remarkable stride on Global AI Index



- Vietnam ranks 6th out of 40 countries in the 2025 Global AI Index by WIN, thanks to high public trust (3rd) and acceptance (5th) of AI. While interest and confidence in AI are strong, daily usage remains low (only 3%).

- Young people in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City lead adoption, but usage is much lower in smaller cities and among older adults.

- AI is projected to contribute USD 120–130 billion to Vietnam's economy by 2040 through increased consumption and productivity, making it a key growth driver for the country's future.

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Viet Nam is home to 75,000 digital technology enterprises



- Vietnam now hosts over 75,000 digital technology enterprises and 4,000 innovation startups, supported by a growing ecosystem of investment funds, incubators, and accelerators, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology.

- The country ranked 44th in the 2024 Global Innovation Index, leading among middle-income nations.

- The digital economy contributes 18.72% to GDP, with the core digital sector accounting for 8.63%. Internet infrastructure has advanced, with a 65% IPv6 adoption rate and regional leadership in speed. Vietnam aims to be among the world's top 50 countries and 3rd in ASEAN for e-government and digital economy by 2030.

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Elevating Viet Nam's e-commerce position on global stage



- The Vietnam E-Commerce and Digital Technology Application Forum 2025, organized by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, will be held from September 4-6, 2025, at the Saigon Exhibition and

Convention Centre (SECC) in Ho Chi Minh City. The event will be part of Vietnam International Sourcing 2025, expected to attract nearly 600 booths and over 300 international business delegations.

- The forum aims to promote digital transformation, boost cross-border e-commerce, and help Vietnamese businesses integrate into global supply chains. It will gather major domestic firms, financial institutions, and international e-commerce platforms.

- The event is a strategic platform to enhance Vietnam's global e-commerce presence and accelerate its digital economy development.

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Viet Nam aims to boost competitiveness of seasonal agricultural produce



- Vietnam's seasonal fruits like lychee, longan, mango, and dragon fruit are facing export challenges due to high logistics costs, limited preservation infrastructure, and strict quarantine requirements from

major markets such as Japan, Korea, and the US.

- Experts stress the need for better logistics, investment in processing facilities, and stronger branding to avoid post-harvest congestion and price drops.

- Government agencies are stepping up efforts through trade promotion activities, support for geographical branding, and encouraging foreign investment in agro-processing and logistics to strengthen Vietnam's position in global fruit markets.

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Vietnam Ambassador to India meets West Bengal Chief Minister

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and West Bengal.

- Discussions focused on cooperation in various sectors, and the Chief Minister invited Vietnam to participate in the Bengal Global Business Summit.

- The Ambassador also engaged with local business chambers and agreed to establish a dedicated Vietnam Desk in Kolkata to promote trade and investment. He highlighted VinFast's \$500 million EV investment in Tamil Nadu and expressed Vietnam's interest in expanding business across India to boost bilateral trade.

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VinFast starts bookings for electric SUVs in India as Tesla makes debut



- On July 15, 2025, VinFast Auto India, a subsidiary of Vietnamese EV manufacturer VinFast, opened pre-bookings for its electric SUVs VF 6 and VF 7, coinciding with Tesla's showroom debut in Mumbai.

- The official launch and sales will commence in August, following the inauguration of VinFast's new manufacturing plant in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. VinFast is establishing 32 dealerships in 27 cities and has partnered with RoadGrid, myTVS, and Global Assure for EV charging and service infrastructure. It also signed an agreement with BatX Energies to create a circular battery ecosystem through recycling and repurposing.

- These developments underline VinFast's commitment to long-term sustainable mobility and a strong presence in the Indian EV market.

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