



# Viet Nam Economic Bulletin

Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in India

Dec 2025

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## Party chief outlines guidance for science, technology, digital transformation development for 2026



- Party General Secretary To Lam, who is also Head of the Central Steering Committee for the Development of Science, Technology, Innovation and Digital Transformation, made the remarks while chairing the committee's conference on December 25 to review its performance in 2025 and set key tasks for 2026.

- Party General Secretary To Lam stressed that 2026 marks an acceleration phase, shifting from the "start-up and runway" stage in 2025 to breakthrough actions and tangible results in science, technology, innovation and digital transformation, which are now mandatory drivers of Vietnam's rapid and sustainable development.

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## Viet Nam's rapid, sustainable development goal is well-grounded, feasible: PM



- Viet Nam's goal of rapid and sustainable development based on green and digital transformation has solid foundations, ample potential and strong feasibility, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh affirmed on

December 16 at the high-level plenary session of the Viet Nam Economy in 2025 and Prospects in 2026 Forum (VEPF).

- He emphasised that science, technology, innovation and the dual transition constitute the core drivers of a reformed growth model,

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alongside strategic breakthroughs in institutions, infrastructure and human resources.

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## Top Vietnamese leaders chair inauguration and groundbreaking ceremonies for key projects



the 14th National Party Congress.

- Top leaders, including the Prime Minister and National Assembly Chairman, directly attended major projects in transport, aviation, urban development, healthcare, industry and energy, underscoring the priority given to strategic, large-scale investments.

- The coordinated rollout is expected to boost public investment disbursement, create jobs, enhance connectivity and lay a solid foundation for rapid and sustainable growth.

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## Viet Nam inaugurates first LNG power plants, marking shift toward cleaner energy



transition toward cleaner energy sources while strengthening grid stability as renewable power expands.

- The US\$1.4 billion projects use advanced GE gas turbines, cut carbon emissions significantly compared with coal and oil, and are designed to support the expansion of renewable energy while meeting surging electricity demand.

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in a green and sustainable direction

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## Long Thanh International Airport ready for first flight on December 19



- Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh stressed that Long Thanh International Airport must be ready for the first flight on December 19 and for commercial operation in the first half of 2026.

- During an inspection visit, he urged contractors to accelerate work on critical components such as runways, terminals, taxiways and connecting roads, noting that most construction packages are still underway.

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## At least 3,000 kilometers of expressways to open to traffic by year-end: Prime Minister



- Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh directed that at least 3,000 km of expressways and 1,700 km of coastal roads be put into operation nationwide by the end of 2025 to boost connectivity, public investment

disbursement, job creation and travel during the Lunar New Year.

- He also ordered detailed preparations to ensure technical test flights at Long Thanh International Airport on December 19 and trial operations toward commercial opening in early 2026.

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## NA approves Resolution on national energy development, paving way for offshore wind power





- Viet Nam's National Assembly has approved a Resolution on national energy development that allows the Prime Minister to directly approve investment guidelines and select investors for offshore wind power projects during 2025–2030, removing land-use

auctions and bidding requirements.

- From 2031–2035, this authority will be delegated to provincial People's Committee chairpersons, giving coastal localities greater flexibility while expanding the direct power purchase agreement (DPPA) mechanism to promote a competitive electricity market.

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## Shaping Viet Nam's position in low altitude economy



- Viet Nam is positioning itself in the emerging low altitude economy through the pioneering role of GASCO under CT Group, which is developing an integrated ecosystem spanning research,

production, testing and deployment of advanced aerial and digital technologies.

- With the Space Ship One (SS1) complex and a comprehensive technology stack combining artificial intelligence, aerospace, semiconductors and digital infrastructure, GASCO has established the first fully integrated low altitude economy model in the country.

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## ADB lifts Viet Nam's growth forecast to 7.4 percent in 2025



- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised Viet Nam's 2025 GDP growth forecast to 7.4%, citing strong export performance—particularly in semiconductors and technology products—along with easing

inflation and stable financial conditions.

- ADB also upgraded its outlook for developing Asia to 5.1% in 2025 as trade uncertainty has moderated following new agreements with the U.S.

- However, the bank warned that risks remain from potential renewed trade tensions, financial volatility, geopolitical pressures, and a deeper slowdown in China's property sector.

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## FDI disbursement hits five-year high during first 11 months



- Foreign direct investment into Viet Nam maintained strong momentum in the first 11 months of 2025, with disbursed capital reaching a five-year high of 23.6 billion USD, reflecting improved absorption capacity and strong investor commitment.

- Total registered FDI rose to 33.69 billion USD, driven by increased capital in existing projects and a surge in capital contributions and share purchases, despite fewer large-scale new projects.

- The processing and manufacturing sector remained the main magnet for FDI, while diversified inflows from major partners underscored Viet Nam's continued attractiveness as a regional investment destination.

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## Foreign trade hits nearly US\$840 bln in 11 months



- Viet Nam's foreign trade reached nearly US\$840 billion in the first 11 months of 2025, up 17.2% year on year, with exports rising to US\$430 billion and imports to US\$409.6 billion, generating a trade surplus of US\$20.5 billion.

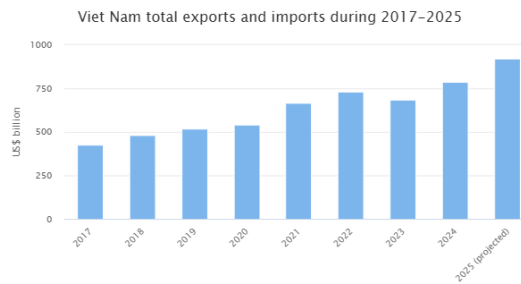
billion.

- The U.S. remained Viet Nam's largest export market at US\$138.6 billion, while China was the biggest supplier with US\$167.5 billion in imports.

- Despite weather-related disruptions, manufacturing activity stayed strong, with PMI at 53.8 in November, and total trade for the full year is expected to hit a record US\$900 billion.

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## Viet Nam to be among world's top 15 trading nations by this year-end



- Viet Nam's total trade volume in 2025 is projected to reach a record US\$920 billion, placing the country among the world's top 15 trading nations.

- Exports are expected to hit US\$470 billion, up 16% year on year,

while Viet Nam continues to maintain a trade surplus, supporting exchange-rate stability and foreign reserves.

- Over the past three decades, Viet Nam has transformed into one of the world's most open economies, with total trade expanding nearly 59 times since 1995.

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## Viet Nam sets up Executive Council for International Financial Center



- Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has decided to establish the Executive Council for the International Financial Center (IFC) in Viet Nam.

- The move follows the issuance of a Government decree providing a comprehensive legal

framework, with harmonised standards, regulations and licensing applied at both locations.

- The IFC is designed to strengthen Viet Nam's financial ecosystem, with Ho Chi Minh City focusing on comprehensive financial services and Da Nang serving as a testing ground for new financial models, digital assets and fintech innovation.

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## Viet Nam launches 234 key projects to celebrate Party Congress



- On December 19, 2025, Viet Nam simultaneously launched and inaugurated 234 key projects across 34 provinces and cities, with total investment exceeding VND 3.4 quadrillion (US\$129 billion), to celebrate the

14th National Party Congress.

- The projects span critical sectors such as transport, energy, urban development, digital transformation, healthcare and education, aiming to strengthen national infrastructure, boost connectivity and support economic restructuring.

- Together, they are expected to create strong spillover effects, stimulate growth, generate jobs and lay a solid foundation for Viet Nam's sustainable, innovation-driven development.

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## Viet Nam launches US\$20 billion preferential credit program for key infrastructure projects



- Viet Nam has launched a VND500 trillion (US\$20 billion) preferential credit program through 21 commercial banks to finance key national infrastructure projects in power, transport, and strategic technologies.

- The package will be disbursed in two phases, with US\$4 billion allocated in 2025–2026 and the remaining US\$16 billion during 2027–2030, offering interest rates 1–1.5 percentage points lower than market rates.

- The program aims to support long-term investment in nationally important projects, strengthen economic resilience, and promote sustainable and technology-driven growth through 2030.

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## HSBC highlights Viet Nam's progress in climbing up tech value chain





- HSBC notes that Viet Nam has made significant progress in moving up the technology value chain, becoming a key hub for final electronics assembly and higher value-added components such as processor

ICs, driven largely by long-term investments from Samsung and Intel.

- Electronics have overtaken light manufacturing as Viet Nam's top export category to the U.S. in 2025, with export growth remaining close to 30% year-on-year despite regional slowdowns.

- By October 2025, electronics exports reached a record US\$136 billion, firmly establishing the sector as a core pillar of Viet Nam's export-led growth.

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## Breakthrough year for transport infrastructure



- In 2025, Viet Nam achieved a major breakthrough in transport infrastructure, completing over 3,800 km of expressways and forming a continuous North-South expressway axis from Lang Son to Ca Mau.

- Key aviation, railway and seaport projects advanced rapidly, including the first technical flight at Long Thanh International Airport, expansion of major airport terminals, groundbreaking of strategic railways, and operation of deep-water ports capable of handling the world's largest vessels.

- Together with smart traffic management using AI technologies, these developments are strengthening national connectivity, reducing logistics costs, and enhancing Viet Nam's competitiveness and regional integration.

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## A breakthrough opportunity for Viet Nam's national innovative startup ecosystem





- Startup Festival 2025, marking 23 consecutive years of the Viet Nam National Startup Programme, reaffirmed its role as a flagship platform fostering breakthroughs in the national innovative startup ecosystem by

connecting startups with mentors, investors, policymakers and international networks.

- The event highlighted Viet Nam's strong and resilient startup performance amid global uncertainties, with nearly 4,000 innovative startups, rising global and regional rankings, and notable successes of local projects expanding into international markets.

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## EVN launches major power projects



- Viet Nam Electricity (EVN) has launched and inaugurated a series of major power projects nationwide, spanning hydropower, renewable energy generation and power transmission, as part

of efforts to welcome the 14th National Party Congress.

- Key highlights include the expanded Hoa Binh Hydropower Plant, new solar and wind power projects, and a strategic transmission line supplying electricity to Con Dao, collectively enhancing capacity, grid reliability and clean energy supply.

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## Viet Nam's marine economy developed in a green and sustainable direction



- Viet Nam is advancing the development of its marine economy in a green and sustainable direction, with experts emphasising the need for an integrated approach combining

modern marine spatial governance, the promotion of natural capital, scientific and technological application, and effective mobilisation of financial resources.

- Discussions at the Viet Nam Marine Economy Sustainable Development Forum 2025 highlighted international experience

and domestic reforms, underscoring the role of marine spatial planning, improved governance capacity, and coordinated policies in unlocking economic potential while protecting ecosystems.

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## Viet Nam OCOP Festival 2025 to open in Ha Noi



- The Viet Nam OCOP Festival 2025, to be held in Ha Noi from December 20 to 23, will showcase the achievements of the One Commune One Product (OCOP) Programme and reaffirm its role in

promoting rural economic development, cultural values and international integration.

- The festival aims to honour outstanding OCOP products and stakeholders, while strengthening value chain linkages, innovation, digital transformation and green transition to enhance the competitiveness of Vietnamese products.

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## Vietjet offers promotional tickets for New Year holiday



- Vietjet has launched its largest promotion of the year, offering millions of Eco tickets with discounts of up to 100% (excluding taxes and fees) on all domestic and international routes for bookings made on December 12, 2025.

- The promotion applies to travel from January 5 to December 31, 2026, and includes additional benefits such as free checked baggage on selected international flights.

- This initiative aims to stimulate travel demand during the year-end and New Year season while providing passengers with flexible and cost-effective travel options.

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## Viet Nam has nearly 80 million Internet users



- Viet Nam now has nearly 80 million Internet users, with people spending about seven hours online daily, highlighting the Internet's central role in everyday life.

- The country leads ASEAN in IPv6 adoption at nearly 68 percent and

ranks among the world's top 15 for broadband speeds, supported by extensive fiber, data center and submarine cable infrastructure.

- Officials say Viet Nam is entering a new phase of Internet development focused not only on speed and coverage, but also on digital trust, data security and supporting socio-economic transformation.

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## Vietnamese passport climbs two places in latest Henley Global Rankings



- Viet Nam's passport has moved up two positions to rank 90th worldwide in the December update of the Henley Passport Index 2025 (HPI), signaling a modest improvement in the country's international

travel mobility.

- Viet Nam's passport has risen two places to rank 90th globally in the December update of the Henley Passport Index 2025, reflecting a modest improvement in travel mobility. Vietnamese passport holders can now access 50 destinations visa-free or with simplified entry, though this remains below the country's peak ranking of 78th achieved in 2006-2007.

- The upgrade comes amid efforts to modernize passport issuance through biometric and digital systems in line with international standards.

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