



Vietnam Economic Bulletin

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Vietnam pulls off Asia's fastest growth as economy powers on

- According to the GSO, Vietnam's 2022 GDP growth reached 8.02%, a record high in the 2011-2022 period, driven by solid manufacturing and export performance.
- Manufacturing, which grew 8.1% during the year, was the main driver of economic growth. Strong improvement in services also supported growth.
- Vietnam's total import and export turnover in 2022 is estimated at 732.5 billion USD, up 9.5% compared to 2021, of which exports increase by 10.6% and imports by 8.4%.
- Vietnam's CPI in December 2022 increased by 4.55% over the same period last year. Overall, for the whole year of 2022, CPI increased by 3.15% compared to 2021, reaching the target set by the National Assembly.



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Samsung Vietnam opens largest R&D center in Southeast Asia

On 23 December, Samsung Electronic officially opened a USD 220 million research and development center in Viet Nam - the largest facility in the Southeast Asian country set up by a foreign firm. The facility will research and develop mobile devices, including smartphones, tablet PCs, and software and hardware products.



Samsung Electronics Co. on December 23 held an opening ceremony for a research and development center in Vietnam.

9. Vietnam's offshore wind power sparks an influx of foreign investment

10. Vietnam crowned as "Asia's Best Culinary Destination 2022"

11. Simplified Entry Procedures: Vietnam Aims For More Middle East and Indian Tourists In 2023

12. More than 3.6 million international visitors to Vietnam in 2022

The company plans to develop the facility to become the global No. 1 center through enhancing cooperation with tech universities as well as research capabilities of Vietnamese engineers in product development, artificial intelligence (AI), internet of things (IoT), big data, the fifth generation (5G) network, and others.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh said the R&D center in Hanoi is a testament to Samsung's orientation and commitment to its long-term operation in Vietnam. The center is expected to contribute to improving Vietnam's industrial competitiveness.

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Vietnam's 10 outstanding science-technology events in 2022

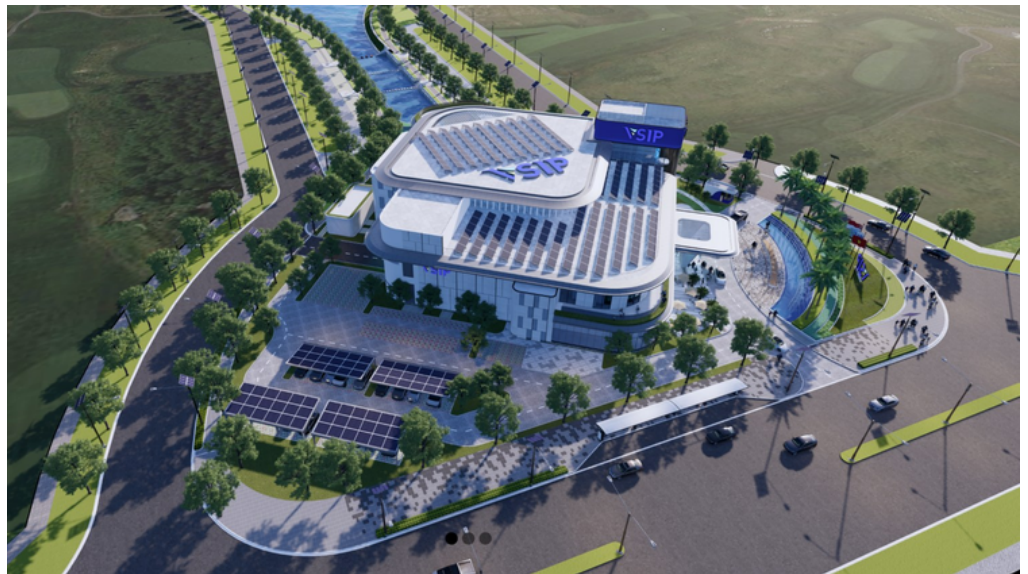


On 26 December, the Vietnam Science and Technology Journalists Club under the Vietnam Journalists Association announced 10 outstanding science and technology events in 2022, covering aspects of policy, social science, natural science, research and application, and outstanding scientists:

1. Issuing the Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation Development until 2030.
2. The Law on amendments and supplements to a number of articles of the Law on Intellectual Property was approved
3. Piloting local innovation index
4. The national seminar on the value systems of the country, culture and family as well as the Vietnamese human standard in the new period.
5. Mastering CRISPR/cas9 gene-editing technology
6. INTECH Group successfully builds global-standard highest grade cleanroom.
7. FPT Semiconductor debuts integrated circuit (IC) applied in Internet of Things (IoT) products for the medical field.
8. Vietnam's largest cloud computing ecosystem is officially launched.
9. Sixth Ho Chi Minh Awards and State Awards on Science and Technology announce winners.
10. 2022 VinFuture Prize presented

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Vietnam attracts 22.72 billion USD in FDI in 2022



Vietnam Singapore Industrial Park in Binh Duong (Vietnam)

According to the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vietnam attracted a total of USD27.72 billion in foreign direct investment as of 20 December, including USD12.45 billion poured into 2,036 newly-licensed projects. While this year's capital inflow is down 11% compared to the previous year, the total disbursed volume set a new record of USD22.4 billion, a 13.5% increase from 2021.

Singapore, Korea, and Hong Kong topped Vietnam's FDI source countries in 2022. The manufacturing and processing industry attracted the highest FDI, bringing in USD 16.8 billion from foreign investors, or 60.6% of all inflows of foreign capital. Textile and garment manufacturing and electronics and food processing are at the forefront of booming investment.

As Vietnam's largest economic engine, Ho Chi Minh City remains a top investment destination, receiving more than USD3.94 billion. The city has more than 150,000 enterprises and 19 industrial zones, including three export processing zones, 14 industrial parks, and two hi-tech parks.

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Vietnam's first unicorn named among 10 Asian companies to watch in 2023

According to Japan's Nikkei Asia, VNG, Viet Nam's first unicorn, has emerged as one of the country's most watched companies, with a possible initial public offering (IPO) this year.

The tech company has registered to trade some of its shares on a local exchange for unlisted firms, a move that is often used for companies to test the stock market before their official IPO.

VNG has become one of Southeast Asia's rising tech stars, offering services from gaming, messaging and mobile

payments to artificial-intelligence voice assistants and cloud computing. With users in more than 130 nations, VNG aims to reach 320 million customers globally in 2023. The company is keen to accelerate its international expansion, especially in the US market.



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Vietnam sees strong growth of data centres

According to ResearchAndMarkets, Vietnam is in the top 10 emerging markets in 2021 in the global data centre market. The Vietnamese market stood at USD858 million in 2020 and is forecast to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of nearly 15% until 2026. Vietnam now has nearly 30 data centres with more than 46% based in northern, over 35% in southern, and over 18% in central localities.



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As demand for data storage in the country is increasing, foreign and domestic companies are strongly eyeing to develop data centres in Vietnam. In December, VNG Company put into operation a new and international standard data centre called VNG Data Centre in Ho Chi Minh city. In October, Viettel also launched the Viettel Cloud ecosystem with 13 centres and more than 9,000 racks, and over 60,000 sq.m of floor area - the largest data centre infrastructure in Vietnam.

Global partners team up with Vietnam for a net-zero dream



The European Commission (EC) on Dec 14th 2022 announced that leaders from Vietnam and the International Partners Group have agreed on a bold energy transition partnership (JETP) worth 15.5 billion USD to support Vietnam's green transition for the next 3-5 years.

Last year, Vietnam impressed the international community with its strong commitment to reaching net zero in GHG emissions by 2050. In 2023, Vietnam will work with partner nations to adopt the JETP Plan, ensuring the

transition away from fossil fuels is at the centre of the plan.

Leaders from the other nations involved have vowed to accompany Vietnam. EC President commented that they will help Vietnam to start reducing its GHG emissions five years earlier than planned, while Mr Joe Biden stated that Vietnam has demonstrated leadership in charting an ambitious clean energy transition.

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Vietnam's offshore wind power sparks an influx of foreign investment

According to Nikkei Asia, Vietnam's favourable winds and strong workforce are the main draw for an increased concentration of foreign manufacturers.

At the COP26 summit, the Vietnamese PM announced plans to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Thus, it will be necessary to secure energy sources to replace coal, and offshore wind is expected to play a major part in the government's plans. Wind power in Vietnam is currently dominated by local companies, but the expansion of offshore wind power generation requires both technological and financial strength, and the Vietnamese government has high hopes for foreign companies.



A Japanese corporation, Renova, which specializes in renewable energy, has the largest number of personnel in Vietnam and labeled the country as "one of the most important" for renewable energy development. Denmark's Orsted, the world's largest offshore wind power company, has also begun looking into Vietnam since 2020.

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Vietnam crowned as "Asia's Best Culinary Destination 2022"



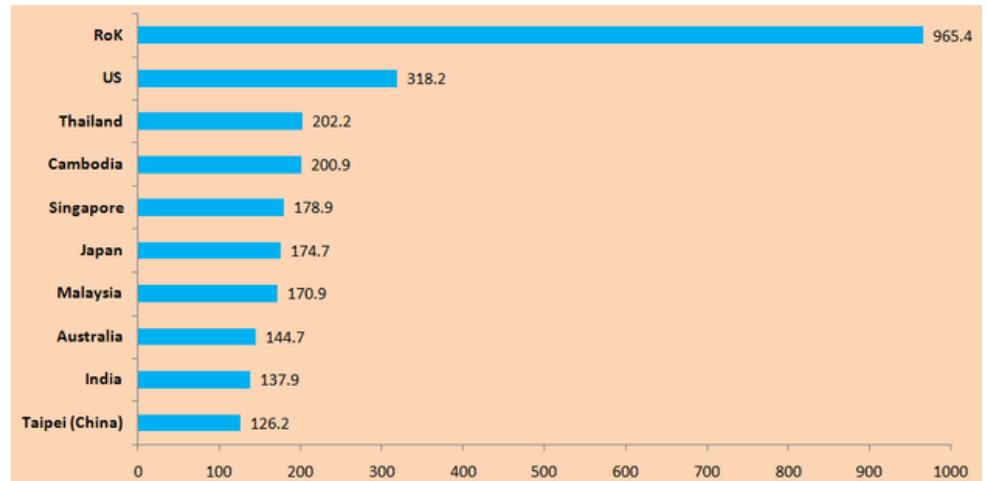
On December 13 the winning list for the 3rd Annual World Culinary Awards was unveiled in Dubai. Vietnam has been named Asia's Best Culinary Destination 2022. The director of the Awards said the results follow a year-long search for the world's leading culinary brands. Votes were cast by culinary industry professionals and the general public, with the nominee gaining the most votes in a category named the winner.

12 days prior to the event, the first MICHELIN Guide Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City pick was also released during a Michelin press conference. This is considered a historical turning point for Vietnamese cuisine when it is evaluated and ranked according to the most prestigious, trusted and strict international standards.

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More than 3.6 million international visitors to Vietnam in 2022



Top tourist source markets for Vietnam in 2022 (thousand arrivals)

According to the Vietnamese General Statistics Office (GSO), in 2022, Vietnam welcomed 3.66 million international visitor arrivals, of which South Korea accounted for the largest proportion. The number of Indian tourists is also impressive - the total number of visitors reached 137.9 thousand, ranking 9th out of 10 tourist source markets of Vietnam. The average growth rate of Indian visitors is 45% per month.

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Indian School Students Headed to Vietnam



Vietnamese Ambassador in Delhi Nguyen Thanh Hai and Principals, Directors and Coordinators at the seminar.

Recently, more than 60 Principals, Directors and Coordinators from premier schools of Haryana and Delhi attended the Vietnam Awareness Seminar 2022. After a presentation depicting Vietnam in several aspects from the Vietnamese Ambassador, The Vice Chairman of Athena Ventures brought out a tailor-made itinerary for the trip of Indian students to Vietnam. The cultural and educational comfort, high level of safety and children-friendly tourist attractions - participants believed Vietnam is a good choice for school tours. Many Indian principals have asked to be contacted soon for finalising the travel plans.

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