

Highlight News / November 18/2020



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## Big drop in passenger traffic



*Cambodia News | 17 November, 2020*

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a precipitous drop of 78 percent in passenger traffic at Cambodia's three international airports during the first 10 months of 2020 compared with 2019 figures, said a senior executive of the Cambodia Airports. "It has been a challenging situation as our airports and air connectivity play a critical role in the Cambodian economy, said Khek Norinda, communication and public relations director for Cambodia Airports. He said that during October, inbound and outbound traffic at the three airports combined for an average of 33 flights daily, with the vast majority occurring at Phnom Penh International Airport. Norinda added that, "At present, traffic is limited to flights originating from a few Chinese cities, Seoul, Singapore and Taipei as well as several flights to and from Ho Chi Minh City and of course our own domestic flights." He said that companies currently operating a regular slate of flights include Cambodia Angkor Air, Lanmei Air and Sky Angkor Air, with Cambodia Airways and JC Airlines operating a lower volume of flights. Norinda said that with a few exceptions, the opening of a substantial number of green travel lanes in the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) region remains a long shot. He noted that most countries are grappling with its implementation because of the rapid change in the COVID-19 situation and difficulties in coordinating between nations as the situation continues to change.

"Representatives of the Cambodian travel and tourism sectors are jointly studying the establishment of safe travel corridors to and from some Chinese cities in conjunction with the MOT [Ministry of Tourism]," he added. On Oct 27, government and tourism experts joined in discussions about how a travel bubble measure could help attract tourists to Cambodia during the pandemic period, with Chinese visitors set as a priority. The possible implementation of so-called closed-loop charter flights between Cambodia and China was raised by the MOT. The measures discussed included designing packages approved by the MOT, which would appoint designated hotels, restaurants and transportation including airlines and sending lists of travellers to all relevant parties. The measures would also require travellers and relevant parties to strictly follow sanitation and protection measures as instructed by the Ministry of Health as well as facilitate tour guides and health insurance for all travellers while they are in Cambodia. The measures would retain the required \$2,000 deposit held for healthcare expenses incurred by travellers testing positive for COVID-19. Top Sopheak, the ministry's secretary of state, said the policy will promote Cambodia as a destination safe for tourism that offers warm hospitality and great added value. It will also promote the socio-economic benefits of tourism in the Kingdom. "Everything is under process based on the actual situation," Sopheak said. Channel News Asia reported earlier this week that the Singapore-Hong Kong air travel bubble will

commence on Nov 22, with one flight daily into each city. Flights will be limited to 200 passengers per flight, each way. This will increase to two flights a day on Dec 7. Countries such as Thailand, South Korea and Japan could potentially partner with Singapore in setting up future air travel bubbles, although any decisions are likely to be contingent on how effectively COVID-19 is controlled in those countries rather than pressure for the resumption of tourism revenue, said travel experts. Travellers, who must test negative for COVID-19, will be required to take the dedicated flights but will have no restrictions on their travel purposes. They will not have to follow a controlled itinerary or be subject to quarantine or stay-home notice. This arrangement sets up a potential model for future air travel bubbles. Cambodia received more than 1 million international visitors during the first nine months of 2020, a decrease of 74.1 percent compared with the same period last year. Local visitors declined 51.9 percent with just slightly more than 7 million on record for the first nine months of 2020. Tourism experts estimate that Cambodia's tourism sector will return to normal gradually under two potential scenarios measured three years (2020-2023) and five years (2020-2025).

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/783581/big-drop-in-passenger-traffic/>

## Cambodia's rice exports to Australia up by 53 percent in first 10 months



Cambodia News | 17 November, 2020

Cambodia exported a total of 25,994 tonnes of milled rice to Australia in the first ten months of this year, a 53 percent increase compared to the same period last year. This is a significant rise, especially for organic and sustainable rice (SRP: Sustainable Rice Platform), Song Saran, President of the Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF), told Pablo Kang, Ambassador of Australia to Cambodia during his recent visit to rice silo and mill of Amru Rice (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. in Kampong Thom province. It is a pride that the Australian government has supported Cambodia's rice sector, said CRF, continuing that in addition to the increase in rice export, a number of Australian companies have been interested in investing in the rice sector in the Kingdom. Cambodia exported 536,305 tonnes of milled rice in the first ten months of 2020, a year-on-year increase of 17.11 percent, generating \$366.44 million as income. According to CRF, within the 10-month period, China and other Autonomous territories (Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan) take 36 percent of overall export, 27 countries in Europe 32 percent, 6 ASEAN members 13 percent, 10 countries in Africa 9 percent, countries in Asia-Oceania (especially Australia and New Zealand) 6 percent, Dependent territories/department of overseas countries 2 percent, and countries in North America and Asia-Middle East take the rest 2 percent. Phal Sophanith – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50783475/cambodias-rice-exports-to-australia-up-by-53-percent-in-first-10-months/>

## NA approves economic policies, laws in closing session



*Laos News | 18 November, 2020*

The 10th ordinary session of the National Assembly (NA)'s 8th legislature wrapped up on Tuesday after approving economic recovery policies and five laws. During the three-week session, members debated measures presented by the government to overcome economic difficulties and the debt burden, which have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Speaking at the closing ceremony, NA President Mrs Pany Yathortou outlined the achievements of the session, which opened on October 27. "We have spent four days discussing the government's socio-economic development plan and I congratulate the government on its efforts to prevent a second wave of Covid-19," she said. However, Assembly members urged the government to do more to address economic issues and further assist people affected by severe flooding in central and southern parts of the country. The lawmakers approved reports on the implementation of this year's socio-economic development plan, the budget for 2020, and plans for 2021. The session discussed a draft of the 9th five-year socio-economic development plan for 2021-25 before approving urban planning for Vientiane. Several reports were tabled for debate including one on the audit of the state budget and findings of the Government Inspection Authority's audits for the 2018, 2013-2014 and 2015-2016 fiscal years. Four new laws on

diplomatic rankings, youth, international cooperation in the fields of crime and higher education were approved. The Assembly also endorsed an amendment to the state auditing law. The 10th session is the last of the Assembly's 8th legislature. The Election Committee, chaired by Mrs Pany Yathortou, was asked to be responsible for the election of Assembly members for the 9th legislature next year. The 9th legislature will debate and approve laws as well as make decisions on fundamental issues from 2021 to 2025. The People's Supreme Prosecutor and People's Supreme Court also reported on their performances in 2020 and their plans for 2021. The Lao Front for National Development commented on the performance of the NA, urging parliament to further push the government to tackle road accidents and drug use and trafficking, which are on the rise. This year, the economy has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic and is projected to grow by 3.3 percent. However, the inflation rate averaged 5.72 percent over the past nine months. The Assembly urged the government to better regulate places of entertainment to ensure their operations are in line with the law and to address the social ills caused by such places. The government was asked to boost agricultural production for export purposes while minimising imports. The government was also advised to improve the skills of the workforce and create more job opportunities for Lao people, especially for those who had returned from Thailand as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. The closing

ceremony of the National Assembly was attended by President Bounnhang Vorachit, Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith and other cabinet members.

Source : [http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_NA\\_225.php](http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_NA_225.php)

## Myanmar avocado exported to Britain: London embassy



*Myanmar News | 17 November, 2020*

Half a tonne of avocado pears have been exported to the UK by air, according to an announcement by the Myanmar embassy in London. The exported avocados are of three varieties - Amara (local variety), Hass and Buccaneer. The Myanmar Fruits and Vegetables Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP) was connected to the British Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar by the embassy to bring forward the export project, which serves as a trial, the announcement said. The avocado pears were scheduled to be exported in October but transport was delayed due to COVID-19, said MFVP's international relations officer Daw Sandar Myo. She said the next phases involve six types of avocados, including those from Chin State and Pyin Oo Lwin. Preparations are being made to export more to the British market in 2021, the embassy said. Because of the entry into the UK, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan markets have also shown an interest, it added. Eighty-five percent of Myanmar avocado pears are exported to Thailand. Because of border trade disruptions since 2019, no exports have been made to China. The price per tonne in the British

market is around US\$2000, and US\$1200 in the Thai market. Prepa-rations have been made to ensure the standards in packaging and fruit quality. –

Translated

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-avocado-exported-britain-london-embassy.html>

## Vietnam trade surplus hits US\$19.5 billion in Jan-Oct



*Vietnam News | 17 November, 2020*

The Hanoitimes - Vietnam's trade turnover is likely to have reached US\$440.09 billion in the January–October period, up 2.7% year-on-year. Vietnam reported an estimated trade surplus of US\$2.94 billion in October, further expanding the trade surplus to US\$19.5 billion in the January–October period, the General Statistics Office (GSO) has said in a monthly report. In October, Vietnam exported goods worth an estimated US\$27.26 billion, up 0.4% inter-monthly, while imports are estimated to have increased by 0.5% to US\$24.32 billion. Overall, Vietnam's trade turnover is likely to have reached US\$440.09 billion in the January–October period, up 2.7% year-on-year, of which its export value amounted to US\$229.79 billion, up 5% year-on-year, and imports are estimated at US\$210.3 billion, up 0.3%. Notably, foreign-invested firms recorded a trade surplus of US\$28.92 billion during the period, in which exports stood at US\$162.39 billion, up 7% year-on-year and accounting for 70.6% of the country's total. Phones and parts posted the largest export turnover among export items during the

January-October period with US\$42.18 billion, down 4.2% year-on-year and accounting for 18.3% of Vietnam's total exports. In addition, electronic products, computers and components earned an estimated US\$36.44 billion, up 25.2% year-on-year; garments with US\$24.73 billion, down 9.4%; equipment and parts with US\$21.17 billion, up 43.4%; footwear with US\$13.53 billion, down 8.8%; wood and wooden products with US\$9.78 billion, up 11.4%. In the January – October period, the US remained Vietnam's biggest export market, spending US\$62.36 billion on Vietnamese goods, up 24% year-on-year, followed by China with US\$37.91 billion, up 14.8%, and the EU with US\$33.22 billion, down 3.8%. Meanwhile, China continued to be Vietnam's largest supplier, selling US\$65.62 billion worth of goods to Vietnam, up 5.9% year-on-year. South Korea claimed the second place by exporting US\$37.47 billion worth of goods to Vietnam, down 5.1% year-on-year, followed by ASEAN countries with US\$24.5 billion, down 8.1%.

Source : <http://hanoitimes.vn/vietnam-trade-surplus-hits-us195-billion-in-jan-oct-314851.html>

## Vietnam imports most cars from Thailand, Indonesia



*Vietnam News | 17 November, 2020*

VOV.VN - Vietnam imported most completely built unit (CBU) automobiles from Thailand and Indonesia during the past 10 months, making up 84% of its total car imports, according to the General Department of Vietnam Customs. The department's statistics

showed Vietnam purchased 38,800 CBU cars from Thailand and 28,900 cars from Indonesia in 10 months, but the figures marked decreases of 43% and 26% from the same period last year. Overall, businesses spent US\$1.77 billion importing more than 80,000 CBU cars in the reviewed period, an annual decline of 33.8%. However, Vietnam imported a total of 13,650 CBU automobiles during October, representing an increase of 7.8% from the previous month.

Source : <https://vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-imports-most-cars-from-thailand-indonesia-818105.vov>