

VIETNAM COMPLETES POLICIES TO DEVELOP MODERN COMMERCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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Việt Nam will complete policies to develop commercial infrastructure to meet the national socio-economic development needs.

Lê Việt Nga, deputy director of the Domestic Market Department, Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT), said the ministry would continue to coordinate with relevant ministries, sectors and localities to review and develop the commercial infrastructure to approve planning, plans and strategies. They will focus on the development of a wholesale market and logistics centre.

The MoIT will continue to review and amend mechanisms and policies relating to commercial infrastructure development because the existing mechanisms and policies have not yet created a breakthrough.

The ministry has been developing a draft of a circular regulating the classification and management of some commercial infrastructure. That will aim at developing further modern commercial infrastructure according to the strategy of developing domestic trade until 2030 with a vision to 2045.

Its statistics show that from 2010 to 2021, the number of supermarkets and trading centres increased rapidly from 567 supermarkets and 95 trading centres in 2010 to

1,167 supermarkets and 254 trading centres.

The number of convenience store chains also has increased strongly in recent years.

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Notably, the convenience store system has been thriving in Việt Nam as a small and medium-sized retail model. This is considered an upgraded version of the grocery stores, but they have more advantages, such as saving time and space and better service quality.

However, experts have pointed out a strong development in several markets, supermarkets, trading centres and convenience stores. Still, they do not have synchronous development and are mainly located in urban areas. Besides that, the legal framework for them has not kept pace with the development of commercial infrastructure.

Traditional markets, such as Mơ and Hàng Da markets in Hà Nội, have been rebuilt for a long time, but up to now, they still have many empty kiosks without the excitement as before.

That's because Vietnamese consumers often prioritise convenience. They like sitting on a motorbike to buy food and veggies at a small market along the pavement or a traditional market.

Vũ Vinh Phú, a retail expert, said that there is only Decision 1371/QĐ-BTM dated September 24, 2004, on regulations on developing supermarkets and trading centres.