

## **ASEAN REMAINS IMPORTANT EXPORT MARKET OF VIETNAM**

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In the January-April period, Vietnam's exports to ASEAN member countries fell 4.7% year on year, a low level compared to the country's 13% drop of overall export revenue in the period.

Particularly, among the 24 export markets with turnover of over 1 billion USD, six are ASEAN members.

Meanwhile, imports from ASEAN member countries in the first four months of 2023 was 13.360 billion USD, accounting for 13.4% of Vietnam's total imports, down 17.6% year on year, resulting in a trade deficit of 2.51 billion USD, a decrease of 48% compared to the same period last year.

Thailand was the largest market of Vietnam among ASEAN member countries, with two-way trade reaching 6.25 billion USD. Vietnamese products with export revenue of over 10 million USD included telephones and accessories; machineries, equipment and spare parts; transport vehicles; crude oil; comput-

ers and electronics.

Thailand was followed by the Philippines with 1.73 billion USD, up 7% year on year, and Indonesia, Cambodia, and Malaysia./.

*(Source: Vietnamplus)*

## **GOVERNMENT TIGHTENS MANAGEMENT OVER CONSTRUCTION INVESTMENT CONSULTANCY**

Many projects have had investment plans and capital adjusted, causing waste. Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha has issued a directive requesting relevant ministries and agencies to tighten management and handle shortcomings relating to construction investment consultancy for transport projects.

The directive said investment consultancy has seen positive results but still exhibited shortcomings, especially in design and surveys without full and comprehensive information. The estimated amount of investment capital in some projects have also failed to meet actual circumstances, leading to adjustments in investment plans and capital that negatively affect project progress and investment efficiency.

The Ministry of Transport was instructed to enhance management over the selection of consultants and consultancy contracts when conducted feasibility studies. Those found to illegally transfer or sell bids will be strictly punished, according to the directive.

The Ministry was also required to increase inspections and supervision over the granting of licenses and certificates for construction consultants.

*(Source: Vneconomy)*