



DOING BUSINESS IN VIETNAM

VIETNAM TRADE OFFICE IN SINGAPORE (VTO)

AQUATIC EXPORTS POISED TO SET NEW RECORD IN 2025

Vietnam’s seafood exports are likely to set a new record in 2025, reaching around 11.2-11.3 billion USD – the highest level to date.

According to the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP), seafood products were sold overseas for more than 10.5 billion USD in the first 11 months, up 14.6% year-on-year. Shrimp exports generated 4.31 billion USD, a year-on-year rise of 21.2%, remaining the key growth driver; tra fish exports surpassed 2 billion USD, up 9%; tuna exports reached 855.7 million USD, while the figures for molluscs, marine fish and value-added products all maintained double-digit growth.

In terms of markets, Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) member countries
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December 2025

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DURIAN EXPORT REVENUE GROWS TO FRESH NEW HIGHS

Vietnamese durian is still experiencing strong growth despite facing technical barriers from China, thanks to improved quality and competitive pricing.

Durian has set a new record, raking in over 3.33 billion USD in export value during the first 10 months of this year, a 10.4% jump compared to the same period last year, according to customs data.

VIETNAM BUSINESS UPDATE AND NEWS REGULATIONS

This marks the fruit as the largest contributor to Vietnam's total agricultural export value.

The surge came from the Chinese market, which accounts for 94.35% of the total export value in the period, equivalent to over 3.14 billion USD. Although exports in October dropped by more than 41% compared to the previous month due to the end of the season and adjustments in import control, the accumulated value to this market still increased by nearly 14% year-on-year.

Specifically, durian exports in October reached over 572 million USD, 2.7 times higher than the same month last year.

According to Dang Phuc Nguyen, General Secretary of the Vietnam Fruit and Vegetable Association, Vietnamese durian is still experiencing strong growth despite facing technical barriers from China, thanks to improved quality and competitive pricing. On average, each tonne of Vietnamese durian exports reaches 3,696 USD, 15% lower than Thai durian. Thanks to its price advantage and shorter shipping times, Vietnam is now the second-largest durian exporter to China, just behind Thailand.

Since the beginning of this year, in response to China's stricter technical requirements, many Vietnamese enterprises have upgraded their growing areas, invested in cold storage and packaging lines, and developed their own brands. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment has also established a

separate control process for durian, which is considered a key precedent for expanding the export of other agricultural products to this market.

In addition to the Chinese market, several other destinations have also seen strong growth. Hong Kong (China) saw an increase of nearly 89%, reaching over 45 million USD, playing an important role as a major transit hub. Papua New Guinea and Malaysia also experienced a significant surge, although their scale remains modest. Japan and Canada maintained double-digit growth, indicating the potential for expanding into higher-standard markets.

Nguyen forecast that durian export value can reach 4 billion USD in 2025. Currently, the association's preliminary estimates show that durian export value has reached around 3.7 billion USD in the first 11 months of the year./.

(Source: VTV)

AQUATIC EXPORTS POISED TO SET NEW RECORD IN 2025

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accounted for the largest share of Vietnam's total seafood export revenue, at 27.2%, marking a strong growth of 24.3% year-on-year. Exports to China rose 30.6% and to the EU went up 11.9%, while shipments to the US were valued at 1.78 billion USD, up 8.1%.

Le Hang, VASEP's Deputy General Secretary, noted that in a global market still

Secretary, noted that in a global market still marked by volatility, the above results reflect the proactive and flexible approach of exporters, particularly in accelerating shipments ahead of anticipated new US regulations on seafood imports and before the final ruling in the country's anti-dumping case on shrimp.



Seafood exports are expected to drop slightly in December compared to November due to seasonal factors and increased caution among exporters trading with the US. Many businesses have temporarily limited new seafood orders to the market pending official guidance on the US's Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). However, shrimp exports may hold steady or fall only marginally thanks to stable demand from Japan, the EU and CPTPP markets.

According to Hang, based on 11-month performance and year-end prospects, Vietnam's seafood exports are likely to set a new record in 2025, reaching around 11.2-11.3 billion USD – the highest level to date.

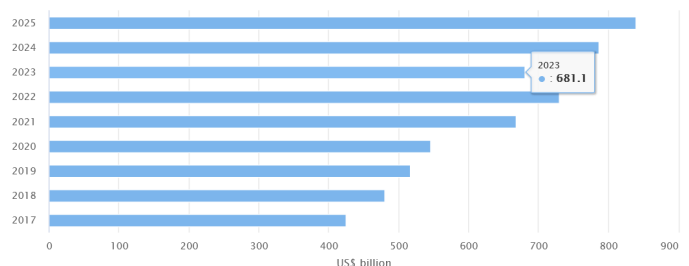
Shrimp exports alone are expected to exceed 4.6 billion USD, establishing a new record for the sector, tra fish exports are forecast to surpass 2.1 billion USD on the back of demand recovery in Asia, while tuna exports are projected to top 900 million USD.

(Source: VNA)

FOREIGN TRADE HITS NEARLY US\$840 BLN IN 11 MONTHS

Viet Nam's trade with the rest of the world in the first 11 months of this year reached approximately US\$840 billion, a year-on-year increase of 17.2 percent, equivalent to US\$123 billion. Of the figure, exports increased by 16.1 percent to US\$430 billion, while imports grew 18.4 percent to US\$409.61 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of US\$20.5 billion.

Viet Nam total foreign trade during 2017–November 2025



During January–November, the U.S. remained the biggest importer of Vietnamese goods with US\$138.6 billion while China was Viet Nam's largest goods supplier with US\$167.5 billion.

In November alone, despite storms causing delays in the supply chain, production activity still recorded positive growth as the number of new orders increased, with the manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) reaching 53.8 points. November marked the third consecutive month of rising new orders, helping drive continued growth in production, according to an S&P Global report.

Building on the aforesaid achievements, the Southeast Asian nation's foreign trade volume for the entire year is expected to set all-time record high of US\$900 billion./.

(Source: CGP)

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS FARMERS CHEER AS COFFEE DELIVERS HIGH YIELDS, HIGH PRICES

The Central Highlands is entering the peak of its coffee harvest season — the region's staple crop, spanning more than 639,000 hectares across Quang Ngai, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, and Lam Dong.

This year, growers are once again enjoying both bumper yields and strong prices. Although prices have not reached the record highs seen two years ago, they remain elevated enough to lift farmers' spirits.

In Gia Lai, Nguyen Huu Thong of Thong Nhat Ward — who cultivates 1 hectare of coffee planted over a decade ago — said his trees are heavily fruited this season, producing large, firm beans. He expects to harvest 25 tons of fresh cherries, equivalent to more than 4 tons of parchment coffee. With selling prices hovering around VND115,000–117,000 per kilogram, his family will turn a substantial profit after expenses. “This Tet will be more comfortable for us than in previous years,” he said.

In Ia Phi Commune (Gia Lai), the harvest is in full swing. Farmers enthusiastically share techniques to preserve bean quality during the picking process. Ia Phi Commune Chairman Nguyen Cong Son said the commune has more than 2,800 hectares under coffee cultivation, and for the past three years, growers have enjoyed both bumper crops and strong prices. This has enabled steady incomes and encouraged households to reinvest in rejuvenation and expansion.

In Dak Lak, Tran Van Toan of Quang Phu Commune reported earning profits of roughly VND300 million from his 1-hectare plot this year, and said he plans to buy a car for easier travel.

Many other households in major coffee-growing localities, such as Quang Phu, Ea Kpam, and Krong Nang, have also built new houses and purchased cars, thanks to consecutive years of strong harvests.

Alongside harvesting, localities are prioritizing quality enhancement and security throughout the coffee season.

Mr. Nguyen Minh Vuong, Chairman of Dak Ha Commune (Quang Ngai Province), said the commune — a key coffee-growing hub — is focusing on boosting product quality while safeguarding harvesting operations. The commune has issued a coffee-harvest plan that encourages residents to install surveillance cameras and work with police and neighborhood teams to conduct night patrols and strictly monitor outside buyers, preventing theft and the purchase of cherries of unclear origin.

Authorities are also guiding farmers to pick cherries at the correct ripeness ratio to improve bean quality and meet market demands.

According to the Western Highlands Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, favorable weather has supported robust crop development, with yields and bean quality projected to surpass 2024 levels. Stable, high prices could generate average profits of roughly VND300 million per hectare for farmers.

However, the institute advised growers to gradually shift from traditional agricultural production to an agricultural-economic model — diversifying revenue streams through intercropping and expanding high-quality or organic coffee linked to market partnerships. It also recommended avoiding expansion in areas unsuitable for coffee and instead focusing on replanting old, unproductive orchards with new, high-yield, high-quality varieties to secure sustainable income.

Mr. Trinh Duc Minh, Chairman of the Buon Ma Thuot Coffee Association (Dak Lak Province), noted that for the sector to grow sustainably, farmers, businesses, and the State must act together, especially as major markets such as Europe tighten requirements on traceability and anti-deforestation compliance under the EUDR.

He said farmers must transition to clean, certified farming models and increase deep processing to add value, rather than exporting raw green beans as is common today.

(Source: SGGP)

TIMELY REMOVAL OF OBSTACLES FOR BUSINESSES IN LOGISTICS, IMPORT-EXPORT ACTIVITIES NEEDED

Based on feedback from the business community, Board IV recommended that the Prime Minister direct relevant ministries to continue reviewing and reforming administrative procedures, especially in areas of high priority such as attracting investment, industrial park development,

logistics, and enhancing export-import facilitation.

Vietnam's logistics sector has not yet reached its full potential, affecting the country's transportation capacity and competitiveness of local goods in the international market. This is a key finding in a recent report by the Private Economic Development Research Board (Board IV) under the Prime Minister's Administrative Reform Advisory Council submitted to the PM.

In an update to the media on December 10, Board IV highlighted that Vietnam is still in a "logistics trade deficit" position, with its ports primarily focused on cargo handling, which covers only about 20% of the functions of an international maritime hub by global standards. Most value-added services such as shipbuilding, repairs, finance, maritime insurance, and digital technology services are outside the port area and rely heavily on foreign businesses.

Despite these challenges, Vietnam has several advantages, such as its strategic geographical location on the international maritime route, accounting for 65% of global trade; its position among the top 17 largest trading nations; 17 signed Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) covering over 60 markets and 90% of global GDP; and the presence of the Cai Mep - Thi Vai port complex, capable of handling some of the world's largest vessels (24,000-25,000 TEU). These factors present an opportunity for Vietnam to become a new maritime-logistics and production hub in Asia.

The report also points out that inland waterway transport has not been developed in proportion to its potential, leading to inefficiencies in the transportation of goods. Vietnam has one of the world's densest river networks, with 2,360 rivers and channels spanning over 42,000 km, of which about 17,000 km (41%) are navigable. This system covers key economic regions, especially the Red River Delta, Mekong Delta, and South-east region, forming a natural, low-cost, high-capacity, low-emission, and energy-efficient transport network.

The country has nearly 6,500 inland waterway ports, about 1,800 companies operating in the inland waterway transport sector, with more than 270,000 vessels, ensuring the transportation of about 20% of the total goods of Vietnam - far higher than the 5-7% average in the region. Around 70% of inland waterway cargo is concentrated in the southern region, where the river and canal networks are closely linked with industrial centres and deep-water ports such as Cai Mep - Thi Vai, Ho Chi Minh City, and Dong Nai.

However, public investment in this sector only accounted for about 2% of total investment in the transportation sector from 2001-2020, with a slight increase since 2021 but still far below the actual contribution of inland waterway transport to goods circulation, regional connectivity, and emission reduction. Meanwhile, 82% of investment in this sector comes from private sources, indicating significant potential for private sector involvement if supported by appropriate policies.

Based on feedback from the business community, Board IV recommended that the Prime Minister direct relevant ministries to continue reviewing and reforming administrative procedures, especially in areas of high priority such as attracting investment, industrial park development, logistics, and enhancing export-import facilitation.

It proposed the PM direct the development of new approaches based on strong public-private collaboration to build strategic and "practical" programmes aimed at increasing the competitiveness of Vietnam's maritime and logistics sectors.

On December 9, the Government Office issued Document No. 12131/VPCP-DMDN, instructing ministries and local authorities to consider and act on these proposals. These actions aim to optimise Vietnam's logistics and export capabilities, ensuring a more competitive business environment./.

(Source: Vietnamplus)

VIETNAM TARGETS STABLE, HIGH-QUALITY SUPPLY CHAIN FOR FUTURE RICE EXPORTS

Sustainable rice export strategies were the focus of a conference held in Ho Chi Minh City on December 10, where the Import-Export Department under the Ministry of Industry and Trade assessed both the challenges and opportunities facing Vietnam's rice exports in 2026.

Nguyen Anh Son, Director General of the Import-Export Department, noted that the

sector is confronting a series of difficulties, including escalating geopolitical instability in several regions, persistently high inflation, and slow global trade and investment recovery. Tight monetary policies in major economies continue to exert pressure on financial and currency markets in developing countries. Meanwhile, global consumer demand and economic activity remain subdued. He added that protectionist measures are re-emerging in various forms, while developed economies are increasingly prioritising consumer safety, sustainability and climate action, resulting in new standards and regulations for imported goods.

The Philippines, Vietnam's largest rice market in recent years, is expected to reopen imports from January 2026, albeit with adjustments to tariff levels. Demand from traditional markets such as China, Bangladesh and African countries is also rising. Domestically, the quality of Vietnamese rice continues to improve, strengthening its competitiveness globally.

Representative from the Plant Protection and Crop Production Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment forecast that rice cultivation areas will fall by around 0.2 million ha in 2026 due to seasonal adjustments, with output estimated at about 43 million tonnes. They urged localities to focus on restoring production after natural disasters and ensuring stable cultivation areas, seed structures and schedules for the 2025–2026 Winter–Spring crop. The Mekong Delta will continue rolling out the project to develop one million ha of sustainable, high-quality, low-emission rice linked to green growth by 2030, while

fostering consumption and export of this product line.

Le Thanh Tung, Standing Vice Chairman and General Secretary of the Vietnam Rice Industry Association, proposed that rice be considered a special commodity requiring close monitoring to ensure domestic consumption and food security alongside effective export performance. He called for strengthening linkages to establish stable material zones that meet food safety, traceability and quality standards, and to build strong branding for Vietnamese rice. Businesses and farmers, he stressed, must produce in line with import market requirements to balance supply and demand and maintain price stability.

Ngo Chung Khanh, Deputy Director General of the Multilateral Trade Policy Department, recommended developing plans and strategies to maximise the benefits of free trade agreements (FTAs) for the rice sector. This includes clear task allocation among agencies and enterprises, accelerating brand-building efforts, and enhancing coordination between state bodies and industry associations.

Commercial counsellors from Vietnam's trade offices in Australia, Nigeria, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Egypt, Algeria, China and other markets provided updates on rice import policies in their host countries. They urged Vietnamese exporters to pay close attention to quality standards, quarantine procedures, packaging and labelling, while carefully assessing foreign partners' profiles and payment practices to ensure safe and effective exports./.

(Source: VNA)

VIETNAM ENERGY FOCUS

DRIVERS OF GROWTH FROM GREEN TRANSITION

The green transition is no longer a choice but has become a top strategic priority for businesses, especially as Viet Nam committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 at COP26.

Currently, Vietnamese enterprises are facing significant pressure from international regulations such as the EU's CBAM or environmental-social-governance (ESG) standards. This requires strong government support through enabling policies to ensure that the green transition takes place quickly and effectively, turning challenges into opportunities, promoting the green economy, and driving sustainable growth.

Dual benefits of the green transition

The green transition is the process of shifting the economy toward environmental sustainability, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and using resources efficiently. It delivers multidimensional and long-term benefits to enterprises by enhancing competitiveness in the global market.

According to the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), adopting green transition practices generates dual impacts as businesses can reduce carbon emissions by 15–25% through investments in renewable energy, and save 20–30% in annual energy costs. At the same time, it creates opportunities to access broader international markets, strengthen brand value, and increase export potential as "green" products are prioritised in free trade

agreements such as CPTPP and EVFTA.

Despite the clear benefits, the green transition in Viet Nam still faces many challenges, discouraging many enterprises. Among them, high initial investment costs are the greatest barrier for small and medium-sized enterprises. Installing renewable energy systems or waste treatment technologies can cost millions of USD, while short-term returns remain uncertain.

A shortage of high-quality human resources and modern technological equipment is also a major obstacle to the "greenisation" of businesses.

A recent VCCI survey shows that only around 30% of enterprises have staff knowledgeable about ESG, leading to "greenwashing" or delays in meeting green compliance requirements. In addition, the legal framework has not yet aligned with international standards, causing overlapping procedures and legal risks, which makes businesses hesitant to invest.

To reaffirm the commitment to green development and support enterprises in their transition, the Party and the Government have issued various key policy directions, including the National Strategy on Green Growth for 2021–2030 (vision to 2050), the National Action Plan on Green Growth for 2021–2030, and the Circular Economy Development Project.

However, according to Dau Anh Tuan, Deputy Secretary General of VCCI, administrative burdens, informal costs, and

inconsistencies in policy implementation continue to weigh on enterprises during their green transition. Small and medium-sized enterprises face particular difficulty accessing green finance and technical consulting.

Therefore, the Government needs concrete and stronger actions to resolve institutional bottlenecks, improve policy implementation, enhance green competitiveness, and attract high-value investment. Administrative reform should continue to be accelerated, especially in key sectors such as investment, land, environment, and construction.

Promoting investment and development of green enterprises, and building an effective green financial ecosystem, are essential to accelerating Viet Nam's green transition.

Need for strong support from Government

According to Dr Nguyen Duc Kiem, former Head of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Group, due to limited human resources, especially among small and medium-sized enterprises, Viet Nam has not yet been able to develop a complete set of criteria defining what constitutes a green economy.

Therefore, businesses must proactively adapt, implement green and digital transformation in production and operations; invest in new technologies to reduce energy consumption; comply with sustainability commitments; and prioritise environmental and social indicators in their products. Companies should also work through industry associations to actively contribute opinions and propose recommendations, helping authorities address challenges in the transition process and improve the legal

framework in line with practical business conditions.

To accelerate green transformation in enterprises, VCCI President Ho Sy Hung stressed the need for close coordination between the Government and the business sector, with concrete and feasible solutions to remove obstacles in the digital era. Businesses need a stable, transparent, predictable, and consistently enforced legal framework across different periods and localities, in accordance with the spirit of Politburo's Resolution No.66-NQ/TW (April 30, 2025) on law-making and enforcement.

Additionally, breakthroughs in energy mechanisms are essential, along with solutions to remove financial feasibility barriers for large-scale power projects such as LNG and offshore wind. Viet Nam must also urgently address the severe shortage of high-quality human resources with digital skills, as highlighted in Resolution No.71-NQ/TW (August 22, 2025) on transformative development in education and training.

Green growth and sustainable development are not easy paths, but they will yield valuable "fruits" worthy of enterprises' efforts. Viet Nam's advantageous position offers a major opportunity to accelerate, seize early advantages, and advance across multiple dimensions.

In this journey, enterprises are identified as the central drivers, both beneficiaries and pioneering actors in achieving rapid and sustainable development, with strong government backing. Instead of waiting for support, businesses must take the initiative,

WORKSHOPS AND TRADE EVENTS

turning challenges into competitive advantages and asserting their leadership in a low-carbon economy.

First, enterprises need to develop comprehensive green strategies and integrate ESG across the entire value chain, from input materials to final products, to accurately identify emission points and prioritize reductions. Continued investment in technology and innovation is essential, such as rooftop solar systems, closed-loop water treatment, or AI-powered energy consumption forecasting.

Additionally, businesses should focus on improving workforce quality and building a green corporate culture through regular ESG and international standards training; and proactively participate in carbon markets and global green supply chains.

These efforts not only help Vietnamese enterprises avoid exclusion from supply chains but also create new revenue streams through carbon credit trading, contributing to the nation's sustainable development goals.

(Source: NDO)

TECHFEST 2025 REDEFINES FORMAT WITH CITY-WIDE PROGRAMME, CAFÉ-STYLE SEMINARS

Techfest Vietnam 2025 will take over Hanoi's Hoan Kiem pedestrian street from December 12 to 14, showcasing cutting-edge technologies, innovative business models, and start-up support services directly to the

public.

This year's event, themed "Creative Startups for All People – New Growth Drivers", marks a bold departure from the traditional conference format, evolving into a dynamic city-wide festival.

At a press briefing on December 3, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Hoang Minh highlighted the significance of Techfest 2025, coinciding with Vietnam's review of the first year of implementing Politburo Resolution No. 57-NQ/TW on breakthroughs in science, technology, innovation, and national digital transformation. He emphasised that innovation-driven entrepreneurship is increasingly seen as a core engine for Vietnam's development in the modern era. The Deputy Minister also noted that the government is in the process of drafting a national strategy for innovation and start-ups, built on technology, creativity, and digital transformation. The goal is to foster economic growth and instill a culture of innovation across the country.

He stressed the festival's role in cultivating a start-up mindset that embraces risk and "tolerates failure," underscoring the importance of giving entrepreneurs, particularly those in high-risk tech sectors, the opportunity to learn from setbacks and try again.

Pham Hong Quat, General Director of the National Agency for Startups and Technology Entrepreneurship, explained that

Techfest's 11th edition is being redesigned to be an open, highly interactive event aimed at expanding public access and spreading the spirit of innovation nationwide. International visitors will have the chance to experience both Hanoi's cultural vibrancy and the creativity of Vietnamese innovators, while also exploring solutions that Vietnam is developing to address both domestic and regional challenges. Unlike previous years, this year's festival will unfold across Hoan Kiem pedestrian street and its surrounding areas, moving away from the typical indoor venue. Seminars and discussions will take place in cafés, restaurants, and social spaces, enabling greater interaction between residents, investors, researchers, businesses, and start-ups. The event will also offer a more immersive tech experience, featuring live demonstrations of groundbreaking technologies, with open participation for everyone - from households and students to young enterprises and early-stage innovators.

Over 60,000 attendees are expected both on-site and online, including representatives from corporations, start-ups, investment funds, incubators, universities, and research institutes, as well as delegates from six international regions: Southeast Asia, North-east Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, North America, and Europe.

In addition to the Opening Ceremony and National Policy Forum, Techfest 2025 will feature more than 10 international workshops, specialist panels, technology showcases, and interactive demonstrations.

There will also be over 20 events aimed at strengthening investment ties and promoting business collaborations between local and

foreign partners.

The final round of the National Innovative Technopreneur Contest will spotlight outstanding Vietnamese start-ups, both domestic and international, that are using science, technology, and innovation to solve business and social challenges.

Tran Anh Tuan, Director of the Hanoi Department of Science and Technology, noted that this year's event will feature around 700 exhibition booths. These will provide the public with an opportunity to explore new technologies while offering businesses and creative groups, especially those in digital and emerging tech sectors, a platform to showcase their products.

Themed zones will provide deeper insights for visitors, helping investors navigate the ecosystem and identify opportunities for collaboration, technology transfer, and commercialization.

(Source: VNA)

E10 BIOFUEL TO BE ROLLED OUT NATIONWIDE FROM JUNE 2026

E10 biofuel has already been piloted by the two largest fuel distributors, Petrolimex and PV Oil, since August 1 in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, and Hai Phong.

According to Circular 50/2025/TT-BCT, all unleaded gasoline must be converted to E10, which is a blend of gasoline containing 10% ethanol, from that date. The existing E5 RON92, which contains 5% ethanol, will continue to be available until the end of 2030./.

(Source: VNA)



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Ministry of Trade and Industry of Vietnam: <https://moit.gov.vn/web/web-portal-ministry-of-industry-and-trade/home>

Export Opportunities in Vietnam: <http://vietnamexport.com/>

Investment Procedure: <http://fia.mpi.gov.vn/category/115/legal-facts>

Business registration in Vietnam: <https://dangkykinhdoanh.gov.vn/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Database portal of supporting industries in Vietnam: <http://vsi.gov.vn/en/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

Trade Fairs in Vietnam: en.vietrade.gov.vn

ADB LIFTS VIET NAM'S GROWTH FORECAST TO 7.4 PERCENT IN 2025

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revised its 2025 economic growth forecast for Viet Nam to 7.4 percent, up from 6.7 percent.

In its latest Asian Development Outlook, ADB upgrades growth forecast for developing economies in Asia and the Pacific by 0.3 percentage points to 5.1 percent.

The regional upgrade comes as exports out-perform expectations and trade uncertainty eases following the conclusion of several trade agreements with the U.S.

The ADB report highlights that robust exports - especially of semiconductors and other technology products - together with cooling inflation and stable financial conditions, have strengthened the region's overall growth prospects.

Developing Asia is now expected to expand 5.1 percent in 2025, higher than the 4.8 percent projected in September, while the 2026 outlook has been nudged up to 4.6 percent.

"Asia and the Pacific's solid economic fundamentals are underpinning robust export performance and steady

growth, despite a global trade environment clouded by historic levels of uncertainty over the past year," said ADB Chief Economist Albert Park.

He noted that although new trade agreements have helped ease some uncertainty, "external and other challenges could still weigh on the outlook." The chief economist called on governments across the region to continue fostering open trade and investment to sustain growth momentum.

ADB cautioned that risks to the region include renewed trade tensions, financial market volatility, geopolitical strains, and the possibility of a deeper-than-expected downturn in China's property sector.

HSBC recently upgraded Viet Nam's 2025 and 2026 growth forecast to 7.9 percent and 6.7 percent, respectively, the highest in ASEAN.

UOB raised Viet Nam's growth forecast to 7.7 percent in 2025, while Standard Chartered predicted that the Vietnamese GDP growth would accelerate to 7.5 percent in 2025 and 7.2 percent in 2026./.

(Source: VGP)