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Vietnam aims to hit 8% GDP growth despite economic challenges

Despite mounting global and domestic headwinds, the Vietnamese government remains committed to achieving its ambitious 8% GDP growth target for 2025. A recent resolution emphasizes the need to uphold macroeconomic stability while navigating external risks such as geopolitical tensions, trade disputes, and global supply chain disruptions. Domestically, extreme weather poses risks to agriculture and energy supply, adding further pressure on inflation and exchange rates.

To counter these challenges, the government has directed ministries and local authorities to act swiftly, seize growth opportunities, and implement proactive policies. The Ministry of Finance is preparing business support measures and is proposing an extension of the VAT reduction through the end of 2026.

The State Bank of Vietnam is tasked with flexible exchange rate management and ensuring credit flows to key production sectors. Preferential loan packages are under consideration, including credit for homebuyers under 35 and funding for infrastructure and digital projects.

To ensure energy security, the Ministry of Industry and Trade will resolve power plan bottlenecks and boost trade promotion efforts, while pursuing new free trade agreements and U.S. bilateral negotiations.

Public investment disbursement will be accelerated, and the Ministry of Construction is to stimulate domestic demand for building materials by proposing tax cuts. Meanwhile, the tourism sector is preparing a strong summer 2025 campaign to drive domestic travel.

Overall, Vietnam aims to stay resilient, balancing growth ambitions with inflation control and economic stability amid uncertain global conditions. Vnexpress



Ho Chi Minh City unveils USD 3 Billion seaport development plan by 2030

The Ministry of Construction has approved a comprehensive seaport development plan for the Ho Chi Minh City region for 2021–2030, with a total projected investment of USD 3 billion. The plan aims to expand capacity, enhance regional connectivity, and transform the city into a key logistics and transshipment hub in Southeast Asia.

By 2030, the seaport system is expected to handle between 228 and 253 million tons of cargo, and up to 184,400 passengers annually. It will feature 41 to 44 port terminals and 89 to 94 wharves, stretching over 16.5 to 18.6 kilometers in total berth length.

The development plan covers major port zones such as Cat Lai – Phu HUU, Saigon River, Hiep Phuoc, Nha Be, Long Binh, and the future international transshipment port in Can Gio. It also includes floating terminals, anchorage areas for vessel waiting, storm shelters, and emergency facilities.

A central highlight is the Can Gio international transshipment port, which, along with the Cai Mep – Thi Vai complex, will anchor Vietnam's ambition to become a key node in global shipping routes. The plan also supports relocating the Saigon River ports to align with Ho Chi Minh City's broader urban development.

Of the total investment, USD 114 million is allocated for public maritime infrastructure, while USD 2.88 billion will fund commercial port terminals. Long-term forecasts to 2050 anticipate steady growth, with annual cargo throughput rising 3.5%–3.8%. VIR

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Vietnam taps cross-border E-commerce to boost exports

Vietnam is harnessing the power of cross-border e-commerce to energize its export sector amid shifting global buying trends and a surging digital economy. As more Vietnamese enterprises go online, the country is witnessing strong momentum in digital trade, driven by government support and global platform partnerships.

A key example is Shopee International Platform (SIP), now connecting nearly 400,000 Vietnamese sellers with customers across Southeast Asia and Taiwan. These sellers are fueling 20–30% monthly sales growth and showcasing over 15 million locally made products abroad.

Amazon Global Selling has also been instrumental, with the number of Vietnamese companies earning over \$1 million annually on the platform growing tenfold since its 2019 launch in Vietnam. Local brands like OVF's Newbam (cashews) and VINUT (beverages) are blending traditional exports with digital strategies to scale globally.

Vietnam's business-to-consumer (B2C) online exports reached \$3.5 billion in 2022 and could grow to \$5.5 billion by 2027 — or up to \$13 billion with stronger coordination among stakeholders. Yet, digital adoption remains uneven: only 60% of exporters use e-commerce platforms, and many still struggle with operational know-how and customer service challenges.

To address this, Vietnam's 2026–2030 E-Commerce Development Master Plan focuses on empowering SMEs and promoting "Made in Vietnam" goods globally.

E-commerce is now a vital path to export success, enabling Vietnamese businesses to reach international markets faster, more efficiently, and more sustainably than ever before. VNA



Vietnam's direct power purchase agreement faces challenges despite new decree

Vietnam's energy sector took a significant step forward with the introduction of Decree No. 57/2025/ND-CP on Direct Power Purchase Agreements (DPPAs), removing the previous 200,000 kWh/month threshold and opening the door for more participants. However, the lack of detailed guidelines continues to create uncertainty for businesses and investors.

Key elements such as transmission and distribution tariffs, standard contract formats, and payment procedures remain undefined. According to Nguyen Ngoc Quynh, deputy director of SolarBK Group, businesses urgently need a guiding circular from the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) to clarify cost calculation methods, grid connection responsibilities, and technical standards.

Decree 57 introduces two DPPA models—private wire and national grid connection. The latter has the potential to enhance energy efficiency and accelerate Vietnam's transition to renewables. Yet, grid congestion, particularly in central and southern regions, hinders implementation. Nguyen Van Truong of The Blue Circle Vietnam noted that transmission bottlenecks and unclear pricing mechanisms reduce the appeal of DPPAs, especially when renewable electricity isn't significantly cheaper than power from Vietnam Electricity (EVN).

Legal clarity is also lacking. According to Ngu Truong from Vilasia, the absence of standard contract templates and clear risk-sharing provisions slows negotiations and deters small enterprises.

To move forward, stakeholders recommend piloting a DPPA sandbox program and improving coordination among EVN, local authorities, and market regulators. Despite current barriers, strong interest from foreign-invested companies like Samsung and Nike signals that with the right policy refinements, DPPAs could play a major role in Vietnam's green energy transition. VIR



Vietnam's retail industry is poised for a major breakthrough in 2025

In 2024, Vietnam's retail sector continued its strong momentum, with total retail sales of goods reaching nearly USD 200.9 billion, up 8.3% year-over-year and accounting for 77% of total consumer goods and services revenue. E-commerce remains a major growth engine, expanding by 20% to hit USD 25 billion—around 9% of total retail revenue—with projections to double to USD 50 billion by 2025.

This growth signals rising opportunities for local players, especially in logistics, digital payments, and technology. With over 100 million people and the fastest-growing middle class in Southeast Asia, Vietnam is increasingly attractive—but also fiercely competitive. Recent exits by foreign retailers like Parkson and Emart underscore the challenge of adapting to local consumer behavior and preferences.

To win in this market, Vietnamese retailers must double down on digital transformation, invest in omnichannel strategies, and leverage AI, big data, and IoT to personalize experiences and optimize operations. Understanding the nuances of Vietnamese consumer psychology is now a strategic asset.

As consumer habits evolve—blending online and offline touchpoints—flexibility, innovation, and local insight will be essential for domestic players to stay ahead. The ability to adapt quickly and lead in customer experience will determine who thrives in Vietnam's fast-changing retail landscape. NDO



Vietnam and South Korea set ambitious trade target of US\$150 billion by 2030

Vietnam and South Korea have agreed to boost bilateral trade to US\$150 billion by 2030, up from an estimated US\$81.5 billion in 2024. The commitment was announced at the 14th Vietnam–South Korea Joint Committee for Trade, Industry and Energy Cooperation held on April 14.

The two nations are intensifying economic ties through enhanced collaboration in logistics, distribution, and manufacturing. Plans include promoting trade through exhibitions, supporting investment in textiles and industrial sectors, and strengthening cooperation across regional trade frameworks such as ASEAN–Korea, RCEP, APEC, and the Indo–Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). Industrial cooperation will be deepened with the launch of a technology center for essential mineral supply chains and the second phase of a technology advisory hub in Vietnam. Workforce training initiatives—particularly in shipbuilding—will also be expanded.

Energy is another key pillar, with both sides pledging collaboration across electricity, LNG, clean energy, and nuclear sectors. Vietnam expressed strong interest in attracting South Korean investment into energy infrastructure and innovation.

South Korea will assist Vietnam in drafting industrial development legislation, while both sides work to resolve regulatory and market issues in the automotive, machinery, and tobacco industries.

The meetings concluded with the signing of three key documents, including an action plan to meet the 2030 trade goal and MOUs on nuclear energy and power transmission—laying a clear roadmap for long-term economic partnership and strategic investment opportunities. The Saigontimes



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