



Top News

Vietnam sets \$3.8 billion asset floor for domestic banks in financial hub

Vietnam's PTSC and Korea's LS eco energy to build high-voltage cable plant

Also in the issue

Vietnam tightens rules on imported milk powder to boost domestic industry

Vietnam moves to green e-commerce as waste concerns mount

Vietnam's M&A market hits \$786 million in July on real estate and tech deals

Vietnam request Chinese contractor on technology transfer in rail projects





Vietnam sets \$3.8 billion asset floor for domestic banks in financial hub

Vietnam's central bank unveiled draft regulations requiring domestic lenders to hold at least \$3.8 billion in total assets to establish commercial banks within the country's planned International Financial Center, marking one of Southeast Asia's highest entry barriers.

The State Bank of Vietnam's proposed decree sets dramatically different thresholds for domestic versus foreign institutions. Wholly domestically-owned banks face minimum total assets of 100 trillion dong (\$3.8 billion) compared to just 10 billion dong (\$380,000) for wholly foreign-owned banks. Foreign bank branches need parent institutions with minimum assets of 20 billion dong (\$760,500).

The regulations represent Vietnam's ambitious bid to transform Ho Chi Minh City into a regional financial center competing with Singapore and Hong Kong. The IFC initiative, launched in 2017, aims to attract international financial institutions and create sophisticated capital market infrastructure.

Beyond capital requirements, the draft mandates comprehensive anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing protocols. All IFC banks must implement internal regulations preventing money laundering, terrorist financing and weapons proliferation financing compliant with Vietnamese law.

Applicants must submit establishment plans and business strategies ensuring operations won't threaten financial system stability or create unfair competition. Owners must provide written commitments to support their IFC entities financially and operationally.

Vietnam's approach contrasts with regional peers adopting more uniform requirements. The stark difference between domestic and foreign thresholds may raise questions about competitive balance as Southeast Asian nations intensify competition for financial services prominence.

The State Bank hasn't announced implementation timelines, with industry observers expecting further revisions based on stakeholder feedback.

[Back to top](#)



Vietnam request Chinese contractor on technology transfer in rail projects

Vietnam is seeking for technology transfer commitments in upcoming cross-border and high-speed rail developments, as Hanoi seeks both infrastructure upgrades and stronger domestic capabilities.

Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha met on Aug. 14 with Wang Bo, general manager of China Railway No.6 Engineering Group, to discuss rail links between the two countries and the North–South high-speed line.

Ha highlighted the strategic importance of connecting Vietnam’s railway network with China through corridors such as Lao Cai–Hanoi–Haiphong, Hanoi–Lang Son, and Hanoi–Mong Cai. These routes are expected to enhance logistics capacity, stimulate economic growth in border regions, and facilitate Vietnam’s adoption of advanced railway technologies.

The deputy prime minister insisted that foreign contractors commit to transferring know-how on operations, maintenance, and management. He called for binding economic contracts and training programs to ensure Vietnamese firms can independently operate the systems.

On the North–South high-speed line, Ha underscored that while the project is open to diverse investment models — from public to private partnerships — foreign participation must be tied to technology transfer and collaboration with reputable local companies.

Wang said his company had signed a strategic cooperation deal with a Vietnamese partner and has begun training staff, conducting field surveys, and reviewing production sites for the Lao Cai–Hanoi–Haiphong line. He pledged to combine the firm’s expertise with local knowledge to secure efficient and safe project execution. The Saigontimes

[Back to top](#)



Vietnam moves to green e-commerce as waste concerns mount

Vietnam's e-commerce sector is under growing pressure to adopt sustainable practices, as rapid expansion fuels mounting environmental costs.

A survey by the Vietnam E-commerce Association found that nearly 80% of online consumers believe e-commerce has a negative environmental impact, with one-fifth saying it is worse than traditional retail. The industry has grown by around 20% annually over the past five years, reaching an estimated market value of \$25 billion in 2023, or 9% of total retail sales. Forecasts put the sector on track to hit \$100 billion by 2030, placing Vietnam among the world's fastest-growing e-commerce markets.

But growth has come with a surge in waste. WWF Vietnam estimated that 332,000 tonnes of packaging were used by the sector in 2023, including 171,000 tonnes of plastic. Without intervention, plastic waste could climb to 800,000 tonnes a year by 2030. Logistics also contribute heavily to carbon emissions.

A joint report by Google, Temasek and Bain & Company suggests that emissions could be cut by up to 40% through greener delivery models and recycled packaging. The VECOM survey shows strong public backing: 79% of consumers want tougher government rules, while 71% expect businesses to offer green packaging options.

Major players are already moving. Viettel Post has rolled out mobile postal offices to shorten delivery routes, while Nestlé and Coca-Cola are investing in recyclable packaging. Tetra Pak's Binh Duong plant, one of Vietnam's few LEED Gold-certified facilities, saves 2 million liters of water annually.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade is finalising a revised E-commerce Law, with mandatory disclosure of businesses' green compliance. Minister Nguyen Hong Dien has signalled that sustainable practices will be embedded in future regulations, urging innovation in packaging and stronger recycling efforts. VNS/VNA



Vietnam's PTSC and Korea's LS eco energy to build high-voltage cable plant

PetroVietnam Technical Services Corporation (PTSC) and South Korea's LS Eco Energy (LSEE) have agreed to jointly develop a high-voltage cable manufacturing plant in Vietnam, aiming to strengthen the renewable energy supply chain in the region.

The Joint Development Agreement was signed in Seoul on Aug. 12 during the Vietnam-Korea Economic Forum. The project will cover investment, construction and operation of a facility producing both high-voltage alternating and direct current cables, critical components for offshore wind and other renewable projects.

Global demand for high-capacity transmission cables is surging, with a shortage of HVDC cables delaying many projects worldwide. The new venture seeks to make Vietnam a hub for production and export, reducing bottlenecks while positioning the country as a key supplier in Asia.

LSEE, a subsidiary of LS Cable & System, will provide advanced manufacturing technology, ensuring international standards for quality and efficiency. LS already operates two major plants in Vietnam — LS-VINA in Haiphong and LS Cable Vietnam in Dong Nai — and the new facility will complete its product value chain.

For PTSC, a PetroVietnam subsidiary, the project marks a step toward diversifying from oil and gas into renewable infrastructure. The partnership is expected to transfer advanced technology, build a skilled local workforce and enhance Vietnam's standing in the global clean energy industry. VIR



Vietnam tightens rules on imported milk powder to boost domestic industry

Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) will tighten controls on imported milk powder in an effort to reduce reliance on foreign raw materials and foster domestic dairy production.

New rules will restrict imports to shipments with limited shelf lives and require traceability down to the final product. The measures are intended to create a more transparent market while supporting investment in local production — whether from foreign-invested, private, or state-owned enterprises.

The draft dairy development strategy to 2030, with vision to 2045, underscores the shift. Vietnam currently imports 200,000–300,000 tonnes of powdered milk annually, equal to about three billion liters of liquid milk. But the domestic herd has stagnated at around 330,000 cows, far below the 700,000–800,000 needed to replace 70% of imports with local supply.

Deputy Minister Truong Thanh Hoai said the initiative was necessary to unify industry goals, noting the sector's importance to human nutrition and national food security.

For the retail market, stricter import standards could reshape supply chains and pricing. Imported brands, which dominate premium and infant formula segments, may face higher compliance costs and tighter competition. Domestic players, including Vinamilk and TH Group, could gain ground by expanding fresh milk and powder lines, leveraging proximity and faster time-to-shelf.

Analysts note that retailers may initially see price adjustments as import flows adapt, but in the long term, the policy is designed to stimulate a larger local supply base and balance consumer choice.

The announcement coincided with the opening of Vietnam's fourth international dairy exhibition, where both local and global producers sought to position themselves for a more competitive market ahead. VNS



Vietnam's M&A market hits \$786 million in July on real estate and tech deals

Vietnam's merger and acquisition (M&A) market recorded robust activity in July 2025, with 34 transactions worth an estimated \$786 million, according to Grant Thornton. The rebound underscores investor confidence in the country's long-term growth story, with deals spanning real estate, technology, healthcare, logistics, infrastructure, and energy.

Real estate led the recovery, buoyed by favorable macroeconomic conditions and the implementation of the new Land Law in August 2024, which has enhanced transparency. Notable transactions included Vinaconex Group selling a 70% stake in its Cat Ba Amatina project to three domestic investors, and UOA Vietnam acquiring VIAS Hong Ngoc Bao JSC for \$68 million.

Technology deals reflected Vietnam's growing role in digital transformation and semiconductor design. North America's GS Microelectronics acquired Sinble Technology Vietnam, while local AI startup AI Hay secured \$10 million in a Series A round led by Argor Capital. Motorcycle e-commerce platform OKXE Vietnam also attracted \$4.5 million in fresh funding.

Healthcare and education remained active as investors tapped into consumption-led growth. Quadria Capital's affiliate Dale Investment Holdings acquired over 73% of hospital chain Tam Tri Medical, while Galaxy Education raised nearly \$10 million from East Ventures.

In energy, UK-based EnQuest PLC completed an \$85 million acquisition of Harbour Energy's Vietnam assets, including stakes in the Chim Sao and Dua oil fields.

Vietnam's M&A outlook remains positive, supported by ongoing infrastructure upgrades, rising trade flows, and investor appetite for clean energy and digital solutions. Analysts expect cross-border deals to intensify as global funds deepen their presence in Southeast Asia's fast-growing economy. VIR

[Back to top](#)



For more information, please contact us:

SEIKO IDEAS

Research & Consulting Division

- Our services Marketing Research
 Business Matching
 Investment Consulting
 Translation - Interpretation
 Training (Language & Soft skills)
- Our clients Think tanks, Universities
 Japanese & Vietnamese Government Organizations
 Manufacturers, Retail companies
 Advertisement agencies, Mass media
- Head Office Floor 5th – A Chau Building
 No.24 Linh Lang Str., Ngoc Ha Ward., Hanoi, Vietnam
- Rep. Office 〒220-0012, 8F Wework, Ocean Gate Building
 3-7-1 Minatomirai, Nishi ward, Yokohama
 Kanagawa, Japan
- Telephone +84-24-6275-5246 ; +84-24-6273-6989
- Fax +84-24-6273-6988
- URL www.seiko-ideas.com
- Email newsletter@seiko-ideas.com