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Ho Chi Minh City targets to join world's top 100 cities

At its first Congress for the 2025–2030 tenure, the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee outlined a sweeping blueprint to transform the southern hub into a global, high-income, and livable metropolis. The congress, which concluded on October 15, adopted 30 development targets, three breakthrough programs, and 10 major tasks designed to sustain the city's pioneering role in Vietnam's industrialization and modernization.

Under the resolution, HCMC targets average annual GRDP growth of 10–11%, with per capita income reaching US\$14,000–15,000 by 2030. The digital economy is expected to contribute up to 40% of GRDP, underscoring the city's determination to lead in innovation and technology.

Infrastructure and social development are central to the plan. The city aims to add nearly 200,000 social housing units, relocate half of households along canals, and expand public healthcare with free annual checkups starting in 2026. Education, environment, and public services will also see major upgrades as part of efforts to raise living standards.

The three breakthrough programs focus on institutional reform, modern infrastructure, and skilled human capital—seen as the foundation for sustainable, inclusive growth.

Looking further ahead, HCMC envisions joining the world's top 100 cities by 2030 and emerging as a leading Asian center for finance, services, education, and healthcare by 2045.

"The resolution reflects the city's collective will to seize new opportunities and overcome challenges," Party Secretary Tran Luu Quang said, affirming HCMC's ambition to expand its global influence while ensuring prosperity for all residents. The Saigon times



Vietnam charts new strategy to build high-value, green logistics hub by 2050

Vietnam has unveiled an ambitious plan to transform its logistics sector into a sustainable, high-value industry that underpins the country's growing role in global supply chains.

Under the Vietnam Logistics Services Development Strategy for 2025–2035, with a vision to 2050, the government targets logistics services to contribute 5–7% of GDP by 2035 and 7–9% by 2050, with annual growth of 12–15% in the next decade. Logistics costs are expected to fall to 12–15% of GDP by 2035, and further to 10–12% by mid-century.

The strategy seeks to leverage Vietnam's strategic coastal location and integration into global trade networks, aiming to place the country among the top 40 in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) by 2035 and the top 30 by 2050.

Digitalisation is a key pillar, with 80% of logistics enterprises expected to adopt digital solutions by 2035 and full digital transformation by 2050. The plan also promotes green logistics and low-emission growth to align with Vietnam's net-zero commitments.

To enhance competitiveness, the government will focus on improving the legal and institutional framework, expanding multimodal transport links, and developing modern logistics hubs. At least five world-class logistics centers are slated to be established by 2035, expanding to ten by 2050, serving as regional and global connection points.

Human capital development is another priority. By 2035, 70% of the logistics workforce is expected to receive professional training, including 30% with university-level qualifications.

The strategy also envisions urban logistics networks, free trade zones, and smart warehouses to support Vietnam's fast-growing e-commerce and manufacturing sectors —cementing the country's ambition to become a regional logistics powerhouse. VNS



Vietnam eyes global expansion through cross-border E-commerce

Vietnam's e-commerce market surpassed US\$25 billion in 2024, expanding 20% year-on-year and accounting for about 10% of national retail sales, consolidating its position among Southeast Asia's top three e-commerce economies.

As the domestic market matures, policymakers and businesses are turning their attention to cross-border e-commerce, viewing it as a strategic growth engine for exports and national competitiveness. The Ministry of Industry and Trade has integrated cross-border trade into its GoGlobal Plan, aiming to build a sustainable digital export ecosystem under the forthcoming 2026–2030 E-commerce Master Plan.

Vietnamese firms are increasingly targeting the US, EU, Japan, South Korea, and China, while exploring new markets across ASEAN, the Middle East, and Australia. Experts say this expansion aligns with global trends, as the \$791.5 billion cross-border e-commerce sector is projected to grow more than 30% in the coming years.

Industry leaders highlight Vietnam's advantages—strategic location, logistics potential, young workforce, and rapid digital adoption. However, they urge local enterprises to build distinctive brands, meet global quality standards, and embrace direct-to-consumer (D2C) models.

Logistics remains a decisive factor. Domestic giants like ViettelPost are upgrading infrastructure and technology to shorten delivery times, while international players such as DHL, FedEx, and UPS strengthen connectivity from Vietnam to the US and Europe.

Analysts believe that with clear direction and technological innovation, "Made in Vietnam" products could soon become a hallmark of quality on global e-commerce platforms. VNS



Vietnam to pilot two-component electricity tariff in 2025 to boost efficiency and cut peak demand

Vietnam will pilot a two-component electricity pricing system starting in October 2025, marking a major step toward a more efficient and transparent power market and supporting the country's clean energy transition goals.

The Vietnam Electricity Group (EVN) has completed the design of the new pricing model – which separates electricity bills into capacity and energy components – and submitted it to the Ministry of Industry and Trade for approval. The upcoming trial will apply to industrial customers consuming over 200,000 kWh per month on average.

Under the two-part structure, bills will comprise a capacity charge, based on the customer's maximum monthly power demand (Pmax), and an energy charge, reflecting actual consumption. This model replaces the current single-component tariff and aligns with Article 50 of the revised Electricity Law 2024.

By linking part of the bill to peak demand, the system incentivises industrial users to manage consumption more efficiently. Those who lower their Pmax will pay less overall, helping the grid reduce strain during peak hours and optimising national investment in power generation and transmission.

The trial will initially be conducted on a paper-based basis, using real consumption data to calculate bills and compare them with existing rates. EVN will gather feedback from participants to fine-tune formulas, metering infrastructure, and data systems ahead of full implementation.

Analysts see the two-component pricing reform as a cornerstone in Vietnam's roadmap toward a competitive retail electricity market. By reflecting both fixed and variable costs more accurately, it encourages industrial users to invest in energy-saving technologies and supports national efforts to meet emissions reduction targets under the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. VNS



Vietnam's retail industry gains traction amid policy tailwinds and market reforms

Vietnam's retail sector is regaining strength as structural reforms and supportive government policies combine to revive domestic consumption and reshape competition. According to a report by Vietnam Report JSC, the retail market—valued at hundreds of billions of dollars—is poised for robust activity through year-end, driven by firms racing to capture market share and fortify operations after a period of consolidation.

"Favorable macro conditions and pro-consumption policies are acting as catalysts," said Vu Dang Vinh, General Director of Vietnam Report. Tax cuts, tighter oversight of household businesses, and stronger enforcement against trade fraud have not only boosted consumer confidence but also leveled the playing field for compliant enterprises.

A major policy milestone came with the issuance of Decree No. 232/2025/ND-CP, which liberalizes gold trading by allowing qualified financial institutions and private firms to join the value chain. The move is expected to narrow the domestic–international gold price gap and free capital for broader consumption and investment.

Yet internal capacity remains the decisive factor. Leading retailers are leveraging scale, brand power, and operational efficiency to widen profit margins, while weaker players risk being squeezed out by price competition. FMCG sales are forecast to rebound strongly, while durable goods face slower recovery amid cautious consumer sentiment.

Despite the positive outlook, Vietnam Report warns of persistent risks—from exchange rate fluctuations and trade barriers to rising costs in logistics, rent, and online marketing—pressuring retailers to streamline operations and diversify sales channels. VNA



European confidence in Vietnam surges despite global headwinds

Vietnam has re-emerged as one of Asia's most promising destinations for European investment, with confidence reaching its highest level in three years, according to the latest EuroCham Business Confidence Index (BCI) released on October 14.

The index rose to 66.5 points in the third quarter of 2025, surpassing pre-tariff levels and underscoring European firms' resilience amid geopolitical tensions and shifting global supply chains. "In a world marked by volatility, Vietnam continues to offer stability and opportunity," said EuroCham chairman Bruno Jaspaert.

While 31% of respondents said new U.S. tariffs had a negative impact on their performance, only 3% were considering relocating operations out of Vietnam. Another 3% plan to expand or move within the country — signaling enduring trust in Vietnam's role as a reliable production and investment base.

Recent government reforms are helping sustain that confidence. Three new decrees issued in August have modernized visa and work-permit procedures, streamlined documentation, and expanded exemptions to attract foreign expertise. Nearly half of surveyed firms said these changes have already improved their business environment.

Still, challenges persist. Administrative inefficiency and tax-related hurdles remain key complaints, cited by 65% of European firms. Investors also seek greater consistency in regulatory enforcement across provinces.

Vietnam's growth outlook, however, continues to inspire optimism. 42% of respondents believe the country will meet its 8.3–8.5% GDP growth target for 2025, while 68% expect economic improvement in the next quarter. The recent upgrade of Vietnam's stock market status by FTSE Russell further strengthens its appeal as a maturing emerging market.

As Jaspaert noted, "Vietnam's story is one of resilience and reform. Continued progress on transparency and talent mobility will be key to sustaining investor confidence in the years ahead." VIR

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