



Top News

Vietnam is preparing to bring cryptocurrency trading into the formal financial system

Small modular reactors are considered as part of a broader strategy to diversify the national energy mix in Vietnam

Also in the issue

Major retailers in Vietnam to integrate small-scale farmers and rural cooperatives into their modern supply chains

Vietnam to balance rapid digital commerce growth with tighter market supervision

Qualcomm is deepening its presence in Viet Nam with the opening of a new research and development centre in Ha Noi

Vietnam pushes logistics backbone with 3,800km expressway network





Vietnam is preparing to bring cryptocurrency trading into the formal financial system

Vietnam is preparing to bring cryptocurrency trading into the formal financial system, signaling a shift from cautious observation to regulated adoption as the country accelerates its digital economy ambitions.

Deputy Finance Minister Nguyen Duc Chi said at the “Digital Trust in Finance 2026” forum on May 12 that the country could see the first official operations of a regulated crypto asset market as early as the third quarter of 2026. The market would operate under a framework emphasizing transparency, investor protection and financial security.

The move forms part of Vietnam’s broader strategy to expand the digital economy under Resolution 57-NQ/TW, which targets digital industries contributing at least 30% of GDP by 2030. Authorities also aim for cashless payments to dominate everyday transactions and for innovation-driven businesses to become a larger share of the corporate sector.

To support the transition, the Ministry of Finance is accelerating digital reforms across customs, taxation and state budget management. Officials view these upgrades as critical infrastructure for a future digital financial ecosystem that includes tokenized assets and regulated virtual trading platforms.

In a notable step toward market legalization, the ministry has coordinated with the State Bank of Vietnam and the Ministry of Public Security to approve five companies to organize and operate digital asset exchanges.

Analysts say Vietnam’s young, tech-savvy population and high rate of digital payment adoption make the country one of Southeast Asia’s most promising crypto markets. A formal regulatory framework could also help channel speculative activity into monitored platforms, reducing risks tied to fraud and unregulated cross-border trading.

The planned launch underscores Hanoi’s ambition to position Vietnam as a regional digital finance hub while balancing innovation with tighter regulatory oversight.



Vietnam pushes logistics backbone with 3,800km expressway network

Vietnam has expanded its expressway system to more than 3,800 kilometers, underscoring a broader push to strengthen logistics capacity and sustain high economic growth as the country deepens its role in regional supply chains.

According to the Ministry of Construction, around 3,345 kilometers are now operational on main expressway corridors, while another 458 kilometers cover interchanges and connecting routes. The growing highway network has reinforced road transport's dominant position, accounting for roughly 91% of passenger traffic and up to 75% of domestic freight movement.

Authorities are simultaneously accelerating construction of 38 additional expressway projects totaling more than 2,100 kilometers, with local governments overseeing the majority of the developments. The investment drive reflects Hanoi's strategy to reduce logistics bottlenecks, improve industrial connectivity and support manufacturing expansion beyond traditional economic hubs.

Vietnam is also scaling up maritime infrastructure as cargo throughput is projected to surpass 955 million tons in 2025. Key gateway projects, including Cai Mep Ha Port near Ho Chi Minh City, Lien Chieu Port in Danang and expanded terminals at Lach Huyen Port in Haiphong, are expected to improve multimodal transport efficiency and strengthen export competitiveness.

The transport upgrade extends to aviation and railways. Authorities are prioritizing the first phase of Long Thanh International Airport, regional airport upgrades and preparations for the 2027 APEC Summit in Phu Quoc. Meanwhile, Vietnam is advancing studies for the North-South high-speed railway and new rail connections linking Lao Cai, Hanoi and Haiphong, aiming to create a more integrated national logistics network amid rising geopolitical and supply chain uncertainties. VNS

[Back to top](#)



Vietnam to balance rapid digital commerce growth with tighter market supervision

Vietnam is set to tighten oversight of its fast-growing digital economy as the country prepares to enforce its first standalone e-commerce law from July 1, replacing a framework that has governed the sector since 2013.

The new legislation, formally known as Law 122/2025/QH15 on E-Commerce, reflects Hanoi's ambition to bring global digital platforms under clearer regulatory control while strengthening consumer protection and data governance.

Unlike the previous decree-based regime, the law expands the definition of e-commerce to cover nearly all commercial activities conducted in digital environments, including financial services, digital content distribution and social commerce. It also formally recognizes emerging business models such as livestream selling, affiliate marketing and integrated online marketplaces.

A key shift targets foreign technology companies operating in Vietnam. Overseas platforms that use the Vietnamese language, adopt the ".vn" domain or surpass transaction thresholds with local buyers will face stricter compliance requirements. Depending on their business model, foreign operators may need to appoint a legal representative, establish a local entity or place financial deposits in Vietnamese banks to cover consumer liabilities and regulatory obligations.

The legislation also increases accountability for cross-border platforms in areas such as dispute resolution, counterfeit goods control, personal data protection and product recalls. E-commerce operators must clearly disclose pricing, delivery policies, refund conditions and contract terms before transactions are completed.

The move signals Vietnam's broader push to balance rapid digital commerce growth with tighter market supervision, aligning the country more closely with regulatory trends seen in China, the European Union and other major digital economies. VNS



Small modular reactors are considered as part of a broader strategy to diversify the national energy mix in Vietnam

Small modular reactors (SMRs) are emerging as a new battleground in the global race for clean and secure energy, with industry forecasts projecting up to US\$150 billion in projects by 2030.

At an energy conference in Hanoi, officials and industry executives said the next five years could mark a turning point for nuclear deployment as countries seek stable low-carbon electricity to support industrial growth, artificial intelligence and energy security goals.

Unlike conventional nuclear plants, SMRs are designed with smaller footprints and more flexible deployment models, making them suitable for industrial zones, remote areas and data centers. Advocates say the reactors can deliver continuous power with near-zero emissions while reducing dependence on fossil fuels and weather-driven renewable sources.

Executives from Rosatom and Energy Partners Laurentis said global momentum accelerated after more than 20 countries pledged at COP28 to triple nuclear power capacity by 2050.

For Vietnam, SMRs are increasingly being considered as part of a broader strategy to diversify the national energy mix and support the country's net-zero target. The government is also studying proposals to allow private firms to invest in and develop SMR projects for energy-intensive industries such as steel, petrochemicals and digital infrastructure.

However, industry leaders cautioned that financing, supply chain limitations and shortages of skilled nuclear workers remain major obstacles to large-scale deployment.

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Major retailers in Vietnam to integrate small-scale farmers and rural cooperatives into their modern supply chains

As Vietnam's consumer market expands, major retailers are moving beyond traditional sourcing models to integrate small-scale farmers and rural cooperatives into modern supply chains, reshaping the country's retail landscape.

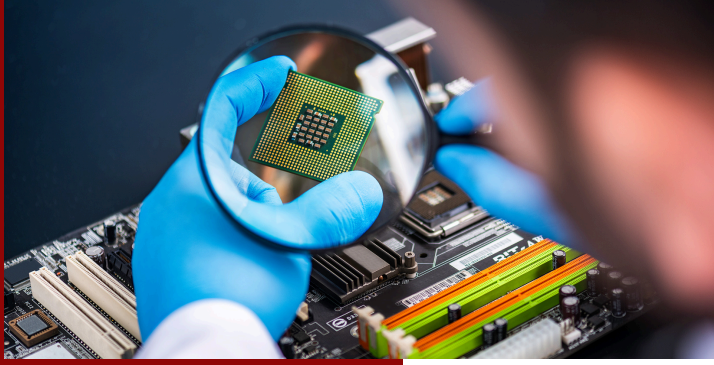
Thailand's Central Retail is widening its community livelihood programme in Vietnam, reflecting growing competition among supermarket operators to secure local agricultural products while responding to rising demand for traceable and regionally branded food.

At a GO! supermarket in Buon Ma Thuot, mushroom products supplied by the Krong Ana Cooperative in Dak Lak have recently entered modern retail shelves after the cooperative completed its first deliveries earlier this year. The products include oyster, straw and lingzhi mushrooms, displayed alongside traceability and quality information – standards increasingly required by urban consumers.

The initiative forms part of Central Retail's Community Livelihood Programme, launched in 2017 to help low-income farming and fishing households improve product quality, standardize packaging and access supermarket distribution networks. The retailer now operates 11 such projects nationwide.

Vietnamese retailers are increasingly treating local sourcing not only as a social responsibility effort but also as a supply-chain strategy. Domestic groups such as WinCommerce and Saigon Co.op are also accelerating the distribution of OCOP-certified products and regional specialties through nationwide store systems.

The shift comes as Vietnam's retail market continues to benefit from rising household spending and improving consumer confidence. Analysts at Fitch Solutions forecast real household spending growth of nearly 7% this year, encouraging retailers to deepen ties with domestic producers and build more resilient local supply chains. VNS



Qualcomm is deepening its presence in Viet Nam with the opening of a new research and development centre in Ha Noi

Qualcomm is deepening its presence in Viet Nam with the opening of a new research and development centre in Ha Noi, underscoring the country's rising role in the global semiconductor and artificial intelligence supply chain.

The new facility expands on Qualcomm's AI R&D centre launched in 2025 and is positioned as a broader innovation hub focused on artificial intelligence and system-on-chip (SoC) technologies. The company said future research could extend into automotive technologies and the Internet of Things, sectors expected to see rapid growth as Southeast Asia accelerates digital transformation.

The investment reflects a broader shift among global technology groups seeking to diversify engineering and innovation capacity beyond traditional semiconductor hubs. Viet Nam is increasingly emerging as a strategic destination thanks to its growing pool of software and chip-design engineers, competitive operating costs and strong government backing for high-tech industries.

Vietnamese engineers at the centre will work alongside Qualcomm's global teams on next-generation technologies, highlighting the country's transition from a manufacturing base toward higher-value R&D activities.

Government officials described Qualcomm as an important partner in developing Viet Nam's semiconductor ecosystem, particularly through cooperation in 5G and AI initiatives. The move also aligns with Ha Noi's ambition to position the country as a regional hub for advanced technologies, including smart-city infrastructure, industrial automation and digital healthcare.

For investors, Qualcomm's expansion signals increasing confidence from multinational technology companies in Viet Nam's long-term innovation capacity. The development is likely to strengthen the country's appeal for further foreign direct investment in semiconductors, AI and advanced digital infrastructure across Southeast Asia. VNS



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