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China–Vietnam rail freight route opens faster trade corridor

China and Vietnam have launched a new international rail freight service linking Qinghai Province with Dong Nai, one of Vietnam's largest manufacturing centers, in a move expected to strengthen regional supply chains and cross-border trade.

The inaugural shipment, carrying nearly 1,000 tonnes of PVC resin, traveled almost 4,000 km from inland China to southern Vietnam. The service reduces transit time to around seven days, compared with 12 to 15 days previously, thanks to continuous rail operations and streamlined customs procedures.

The new route provides manufacturers in Vietnam with more efficient access to raw materials from China's interior provinces while offering Chinese exporters a direct connection to key industrial hubs in Southeast Asia. It also reflects growing efforts by both countries to expand rail-based logistics as trade volumes increase and businesses seek alternatives to road and sea transport.

Vietnam Railways is developing two-way cargo services to support exports to China and improve network efficiency by reducing empty return trips. Industry officials view balanced freight flows as essential for the long-term viability of international rail operations.

The launch follows agreements between Hanoi and Beijing to deepen railway cooperation and supports broader efforts to enhance connectivity along the China-ASEAN economic corridor. Alongside freight services, international passenger rail links between Hanoi, Nanning and Beijing have also resumed, creating new opportunities for tourism, business travel and regional integration.

The Qinghai-Dong Nai service marks a significant step in strengthening logistics connectivity between the two neighboring economies. Baodautu

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Vietnam eyes regional leadership in E-Commerce exports as SMEs expand globally

Vietnam is positioning itself as a leading e-commerce export hub in Southeast Asia, driven by a strong manufacturing base, improving logistics networks, and growing adoption of digital trade platforms.

Industry experts highlighted that cross-border e-commerce is becoming an increasingly important growth engine for Vietnam's digital economy, enabling local businesses to reach international consumers directly rather than relying solely on traditional export channels.

A recent survey of Vietnamese small and medium-sized enterprises in the furniture and fashion sectors found that more than 90% view e-commerce exports as critical to their future growth, while nearly all respondents reported stronger global competitiveness after adopting online export models.

The shift reflects a broader transformation among Vietnamese manufacturers, many of which are moving beyond contract production toward developing proprietary products and internationally recognized brands. This evolution is expected to help Vietnam capture greater value within global supply chains.

Global platforms are responding by expanding investments in seller support, artificial intelligence tools, and logistics infrastructure. New AI-powered solutions are helping businesses identify overseas demand, streamline operations, and accelerate market entry, while integrated fulfillment and cross-border logistics services reduce barriers to international expansion.

As digital trade gains momentum, Vietnam's next phase of export growth is likely to depend less on production volume and more on innovation, branding, and direct engagement with consumers worldwide. The trend could strengthen the country's position as a regional center for digitally enabled exports and globally competitive consumer brands.



Thailand's B.Grimm expands Vietnam energy push with US\$ 2 billion LNG project

Thailand's B.Grimm Power and Vietnam's PV Power have agreed to jointly develop the \$1.98 billion Vung Ang III LNG power plant, highlighting growing regional cooperation in support of Vietnam's energy transition.

The project, signed during the Thailand-Vietnam Business Forum in Bangkok, will be located in Ha Tinh Province and feature two generating units with a combined capacity of 1,500 MW. Commercial operations are expected to begin between 2030 and 2031.

Vung Ang III is set to become a key power source for Vietnam's North Central region, helping meet rising electricity demand driven by industrial expansion and economic growth. The plant is also expected to support the country's efforts to diversify energy supplies and gradually reduce reliance on coal-fired generation.

The venture reflects Vietnam's increasing reliance on LNG as a transition fuel, providing stable power generation while enabling greater integration of renewable energy into the national grid.

Under the consortium structure, PV Power is expected to hold a 51% stake, while Thailand's B.Grimm Power will own 34%. The partnership combines local project expertise with international energy development experience.

Beyond strengthening energy security, the project is expected to boost investment, infrastructure development and industrial activity in Ha Tinh. It also underscores B.Grimm's long-term commitment to Vietnam, where the company has invested in renewable energy projects for more than three decades. VIR



Vietnam bets on consumer market to power next growth phase

Vietnam is preparing a new long-term strategy to strengthen its domestic market, positioning consumption, retail and e-commerce as key engines of economic growth during the 2026–2030 period.

The government has tasked the Ministry of Industry and Trade with drafting a market development roadmap aimed at boosting economic resilience and supporting the country's ambition for sustained high growth. The strategy, expected to be finalized later this year, reflects Hanoi's increasing focus on domestic demand as a buffer against external uncertainties.

Authorities have set ambitious targets, including annual retail sales growth of 14–15%, e-commerce expansion of 23–25%, and a reduction in logistics costs to 12–15% of GDP by 2030.

Beyond stimulating consumer spending, the plan seeks to modernize Vietnam's retail ecosystem through stronger logistics networks, digital payments and closer integration between online and offline commerce. Policymakers also aim to simplify business regulations and reduce operating costs for enterprises.

E-commerce is expected to play a central role. The government plans to strengthen regulations for cross-border online trade while helping small businesses, cooperatives and farmers participate more actively in digital marketplaces.

Officials view logistics infrastructure as the backbone of domestic commerce and are pushing for greater multimodal transport connectivity to improve distribution efficiency.

The strategy also links retail development with tourism, cultural industries and the emerging nighttime economy, creating new consumption channels while supporting local businesses.

As global trade conditions become more volatile, Vietnam is increasingly looking inward, betting that a stronger consumer market can provide a more stable foundation for long-term economic expansion. VOVs



Vietnam attracted nearly USD 25 billion in foreign direct investment during the first five months of 2026

Vietnam attracted nearly USD 25 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) during the first five months of 2026, underscoring the country's growing appeal as a manufacturing and industrial hub amid ongoing shifts in global supply chains.

According to official data, total registered FDI reached USD 24.8 billion between January and May, up 34.9% from a year earlier. The increase was driven by strong inflows into new projects, foreign share acquisitions, and strategic investments in manufacturing and infrastructure.

Manufacturing remained the dominant destination for foreign capital, accounting for more than 70% of total registered investment. New commitments to the sector exceeded USD 14.5 billion, while power generation and utility projects attracted another USD 2.45 billion, reflecting rising investor interest in Vietnam's energy transition and industrial expansion.

Singapore retained its position as the largest source of new investment, contributing USD 6.8 billion, followed by South Korea and China. Together, the three Asian economies accounted for more than 85% of newly registered capital.

A notable highlight was the strength of actual investment. Disbursed FDI reached an estimated USD 9.75 billion, up 9.6% year-on-year and the highest level recorded for the January–May period in the past five years. More than four-fifths of the realized capital flowed into manufacturing activities.

The figures suggest that beyond investment pledges, foreign companies continue to expand operations on the ground, reinforcing Vietnam's role as a key production base in Asia's evolving industrial landscape. VNA



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