CDRI—Cambodia’s leading independent development policy research institute

Flash Report on the Cambodian Economy

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In November, the consumer price index (all items) decreased by 0.2 percent from the previous month (1.6 percent increase year on year). Prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages decreased by 0.7 percent (1.2 percent rise year on year). Prices of housing and utilities increased by 0.4 percent (2.5 percent year on year). Prices of clothing and footwear remained unchanged, but year on year rose by 3.1 percent.

In December, the price of gasoline rose by 0.2 percent from the preceding month (5.4 percent year on year) to KHR5286.7/litre. The price of diesel fuel declined by 0.7 percent (2.8 percent rise year on year) to KHR5100/litre. In the same month, the riel appreciated 0.1 percent from a month earlier against the US dollar (1.0 percent year on year), 0.1 percent against the Thai baht (0.5 percent year on year), and 0.1 percent against the Vietnamese dong. In September, liquidity dropped by 0.5 percent from a month earlier (18.5 percent rise year on year) to KHR26,864.1 bn and net foreign assets by 1.6 percent (4.3 percent increase year on year) to KHR18,463.8 bn. Private sector credit went up 2.8 percent (30.5 percent year on year) to KHR21,398.2 bn.

Imports of steel in November rose by 47.8 percent from the preceding month (219.9 percent year on year) to USD9.3 m and of cement by 5.7 percent (79.9 percent year on year) to USD6.4 m. Imports of construction equipment declined by 43 percent (11.6 percent year on year) to USD4 m. In the same month, exports of clothing (all kinds) went up 20.3 percent from a month earlier (19.7 percent year on year) to USD363.3 m and of shoes by 45.3 percent (46.1 percent year on year) to USD29.9 m. Exports of other textile products remained unchanged from the previous month, but year on year increased 37.7 percent to USD5.3 m. In November, imports of diesel fuel rose by 6.9 percent from the previous month (36.5 percent year on year) to USD46.1 m. Imports of fuel oil dropped by 14.4 percent (58.1 percent year on year) to USD3.1 m. Imports of gasoline went up 8.0 percent from a month earlier to USD27.7 m, but year on year declined by 2.5 percent.

In October, total government current revenue declined 3.8 percent from a month earlier to KHR64.8 bn, but year on year rose by 17.2 percent. Revenue from domestic taxes decreased by 3.8 percent (14.7 percent rise year on year) to KHR367.2 m and from non-taxes by 9.6 percent (35.8 percent increase year on year) to KHR90.6 m. Import and export tax revenue increased by 1.9 percent from the preceding month (12.9 percent year on year) to KHR107 bn. Total current expenditure went up 33.6 percent from...
The price of Thai rice rose 3.8 percent from a month earlier (3.8 percent drop year on year) to USD703.5/tonne and of rubber by 0.9 percent (27.8 percent decrease year on year) to USD2629.5/tonne. The price of Thai tapioca went down 3.0 percent from the preceding month (14.1 percent year on year) to USD2298/tonne. In the same period, the price of Vietnamese rubber declined by 0.2 percent from the preceding month (9.8 percent drop year on year) to USD2692.3/tonne and of cashew nuts by 3.4 percent (24.2 percent year on year) to USD6150/tonne. The price of Vietnamese rice rose 2.3 percent from a month earlier to USD485.8/tonne, but year on year decreased by 18.8 percent.

Exports of Thai rice in November went down 20.9 percent from a month earlier (3.8 percent year on year) to USD466.9 m and of natural rubber and similar natural gums by 0.3 percent (29.7 percent year on year) to USD665.7 m. Exports of tapioca dropped by 5.8 percent from the previous month to USD201.6 m, yet year on year went up 28.4 percent. In the same month, exports of Vietnamese rubber declined by 5.4 percent from the previous month (34.8 percent year on year) to USD245 m and of cashew nuts by 12.1 percent (10.9 percent year on year) to USD123 m. Exports of Vietnamese rice dropped 6.4 percent from a month earlier to USD292, but year on year increased by 21.2 percent.

In November, exports of the euro zone went down 0.6 percent from a month earlier (0.1 percent year on year) to USD201.4 bn and of Japan 5.1 percent (7.1 percent year on year) to USD624.4 bn. US exports decreased by 0.3 percent from the preceding month to USD129.3 bn, but year on year rose 2.2 percent. In the same month, Malaysian exports dropped by 4.5 percent from the preceding month to USD20.1 bn (4.9 percent rise year on year) and imports by 4.4 percent (6.0 percent increase year on year) to USD16.2 bn.

In December, the price of USA 2/4 rice remained unchanged from the preceding month, but year on year went up 9.5 percent to USD608/tonne. The price of Thai rice 100 percent B rice increased by 0.2 percent (1.9 percent year on year) to USD599/tonne. The price of soybeans (US No. 1) rose by 1.7 percent from a month earlier (28.7 percent year on year) to USD573.9/tonne while that of maize (US No. 2) dropped 3.9 percent (19.5 percent rise year on year) to USD310.2/tonne. The price of rubber went up 3.3 percent from the previous month to USD2951.7/tonne, yet year on year declined by 12.9 percent. In December, the price of gasoline (US Gulf Coast) decreased 1.9 percent from the previous month (2.7 percent year on year) to USD0.65/litre. The price of diesel fuel (low sulphur No. 2) went down 1.2 percent from a month earlier to USD0.78/litre, but year on year increased 2.8 percent.
Main Economic Activities and Consumer Prices in Cambodia

**Fixed Asset Investment Approvals by CDC***
- **Agriculture**
  - 2009 Q4–2012 Q3

  ![Fixed Asset Investment Approvals Graph](Image)

*Including expansion projects.
Source: Council for the Development of Cambodia

**Foreign Visitor Arrivals**
- November 2011–November 2012

  ![Foreign Visitor Arrivals Graph](Image)

Source: Ministry of Tourism

**Phnom Penh: Value of Construction Approvals**
- November 2011–November 2012

  ![Phnom Penh Construction Value Graph](Image)

Source: Municipality of Phnom Penh

**Consumer Price Index**
- (December 2006=100)
  - May 2011–November 2012

  ![Consumer Price Index Graph](Image)

Source: National Institute of Statistics

**Phnom Penh: Gasoline & Diesel Prices**
- October 2011–December 2012

  ![Phnom Penh Fuel Prices Graph](Image)

Source: CDRI

**Interest Rates on 12-Month Bank Deposits (%)**
- September 2011–September 2012

  ![Interest Rates Graph](Image)

Source: Economic & Monetary Statistics, NBC
Exchange Rates, Money and Credit

Riels per US Dollar
October 2011–December 2012

Riels per THB & VND
October 2011–December 2012

Monetary Survey (%)
September 2011–September 2012

Domestic Credit (%)
September 2011–September 2012

Monetary Survey
September 2011–September 2012

External Development Assistance Disbursement
Health
2001–11

Source: National Bank of Cambodia

Source: National Bank of Cambodia

Source: National Bank of Cambodia

Source: National Bank of Cambodia

Source: National Bank of Cambodia

Source: The Cambodia Development Effectiveness Report 2011, CDC
External Trade and National Budget Operations

**Cambodian Imports**
September 2011–November 2012

- Steel
- Cement
- Construction equipment

**Cambodian Exports**
September 2011–November 2012

- Other textile products
- Shoes
- Clothing (all kinds)

**Imports: Energy**
September 2011–November 2012

- Gasoline
- Diesel
- Fuel oil

**Current Budget Balance**
August 2011–October 2012

**Current Budget Revenue**
August 2011–October 2012

**Current Budget Expenditure**
August 2011–October 2012

Source: Economic & Monetary Statistics, NBC

Source: MEF Bulletin

Source: MEF Bulletin

Source: Economic & Monetary Statistics, NBC
Provincial Goods Prices in Cambodia

Cambodia: Rice Prices in Three Provinces

Cambodia: Fish Prices in Three Provinces

Cambodia: Pork Prices in Three Provinces

Source: CDRI
Goods Prices, Exports and International Tourist Arrivals to Partners of Cambodia

**Thailand: Prices of Rubber, Rice and Tapioca**
September 2011–November 2012

**Vietnam: Prices of Rubber, Rice and Cashew Nuts**
September 2011–November 2012

**Thailand: Exports**
September 2011–November 2012

**Vietnam: Exports**
September 2011–November 2012

**Thailand: International Arrivals**
September 2010–November 2011

**Vietnam: International Arrivals**
September 2011–November 2012

Sources:
- Bank of Thailand, *Foreign Trade and Balance of Payments*
- General Statistics Office of Vietnam
- Customs Department of Thailand
- Thailand Office of Tourism Development
- Estimates by General Statistics Office of Vietnam
Economic Activity and Inflation Rates of Selected Economic Partners of Cambodia

Year-on-Year Growth of Main Exports: Japan
September 2011–November 2012

Goods Exports: US, Euro Zone & Japan
September 2011–November 2012

Source: Japanese Trade and Investment Statistics

Sources: BEA, Eurostat and OECD

External Trade: Malaysia
September 2011–November 2012

Inflation Rates: US, Euro Zone & Japan
(percent price change from a year earlier)
September 2011–November 2012

Source: Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia

Sources: IMF and Economist (5 Jan 2013)

Inflation Rates: China, Hong Kong & South Korea
(per cent price change from a year earlier)
September 2011–November 2012

Inflation Rates: Selected ASEAN Countries
(per cent price change from a year earlier)
September 2011–November 2012

Sources: IMF and Economist (5 Jan 2013)
Exchange Rates and Commodity Prices in World Markets

KRW & HKD per USD
June 2011–December 2012

EUR & JPY per USD
June 2011–December 2012

THB & SGD per USD
June 2011–December 2012

International Rice Price Index & Export Prices
June 2011–December 2012

Prices: Soybeans, Maize & Rubber
June 2011–December 2012

Prices: Gasoline & Diesel Fuel
June 2011–December 2012

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Source: Osiriz/InfoArroz

Source: Food and Agriculture Organisation

Source: US Energy Information Administration
### Economic News

#### Economic News Highlights

**Cambodia’s exports to Japan jump 41 percent in eleven months of 2012**

Cambodia exported USD191 m worth of goods to Japan in the first eleven months of 2012, a 41.4 percent rise from the same period of 2011, according to data of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Ninety percent of exported commodities were clothing, shoes and other textile products. Fishing and other agricultural products were also exported. Nonetheless, the exports to Japan accounted for 3.4 percent of the total export value in 2012 compared to the US (37.2 percent), the EU (32 percent) and ASEAN (7.0 percent).

From 2000 to 2011, total exports to Japan value reached USD514 m, growing at an annual rate of 42.4 percent.

Cambodia has also seen growing interest from Japanese investors in the last few years. More Japanese conglomerates have studied the Cambodian business environment and laws as a prelude to investing. Over the last four years, Japanese investors have invested about USD400 m in areas including an assembly factory for motorcycles and parts, packaging and bag manufacturing, seafood processing and clothing. The rising political and diplomatic tension over a number of islets between China and Japan, which partly jeopardises business relations of the two countries, and rising labour costs in China are some of the push factors for Japanese investors to eye investment opportunities elsewhere.

**Links to others economic news**

1. “Cambodia, UAE set to boost cooperation in economics, tourism”  

2. Cambodia's garment workers to get pay rise for 2013”  