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Vietnam

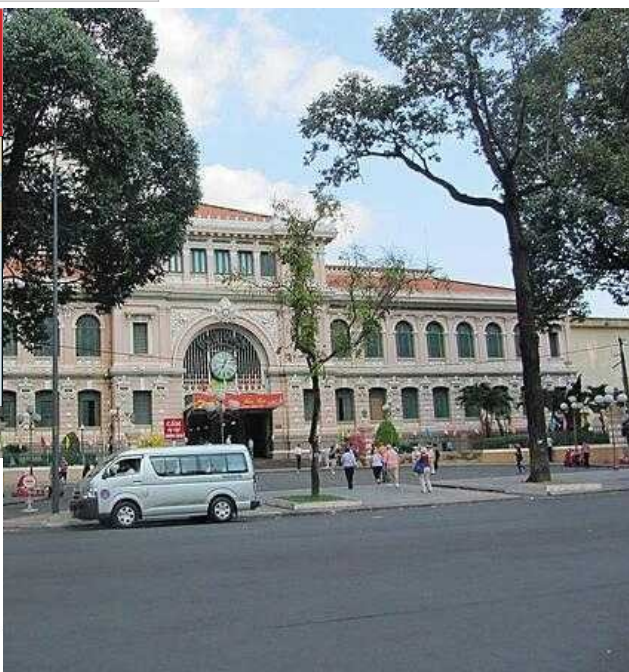
[East and Southeast Asia](#)

Page last updated: May 01, 2024

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Introduction

[Background](#)

Vietnam's early history comprises of periods of occupation by outside forces and eventual power consolidation under Vietnamese dynastic families. Ancient Vietnam was centered on the Red River Valley and was ruled by a succession of Han Chinese emperors until approximately the 10th century. The Ly Dynasty (11th-13th century) ruled the first independent Vietnamese state, which was known as Dai Viet, and established their capital at Thang Long (Hanoi). Under the Tran Dynasty (13th-15th century), Dai Viet forces led by one of Vietnam's national heroes, TRAN Hung Dao, fought off Mongol invaders in 1279. Following a brief Chinese occupation in the early 1400s, the leader of Vietnamese resistance, LE Thai To, made himself emperor and established the Le Dynasty, which lasted until the late 18th century, although not without decades of political turmoil, civil war, and division. During this period, Dai Viet expanded southward to the Central Highlands and Mekong Delta, reaching the approximate boundaries of modern-day Vietnam by the 1750s. Dai Viet suffered additional civil war and division in the latter half of the 18th century, but was reunited and renamed Vietnam under Emperor NGUYEN Phuoc Anh (aka Gia Long) in 1802.

The Nguyen Dynasty would be the last Vietnamese dynasty before the conquest by France, which began in 1858 and was completed by 1884. Vietnam became part of French Indochina in 1887. It declared independence after World War II, but France continued to rule until its 1954 defeat by communist forces under Ho Chi MINH. Under the Geneva Accords of 1954, Vietnam was divided into the communist North and anti-communist South. Fighting erupted between the two governments shortly afterwards with the North supporting communist rebels in the South and eventually committing thousands of combat troops, while the US provided large amounts of economic and military assistance, including combat forces, to the South. The US military presence reached a peak strength of over 500,000 troops in 1968. US forces were withdrawn following a cease-fire agreement in 1973. Two years later, North Vietnamese forces overran the South reuniting the country under communist rule. The conflict, known as the Second Indochina War (1955-1975), devastated the country, spilled over into the neighboring countries of Cambodia and Laos, and is estimated to have resulted in the deaths of up to 3 million Vietnamese civilians and soldiers. Despite the return of peace, for over a decade the country experienced little economic growth because of its diplomatic isolation, its conservative leadership policies, and the persecution and mass exodus of individuals, many of them successful South Vietnamese merchants. However, since the enactment of Vietnam's "doi moi" (renovation) policy in 1986, Vietnamese authorities have committed to increased economic liberalization and enacted structural reforms needed to modernize the economy and to produce more competitive, export-driven industries. Since implementation, the economy has seen strong growth, particularly in agricultural and industrial production, construction, exports, and foreign investment. Increased tourism has also become a key component of economic growth. Nevertheless, the Communist Party maintains tight political and social control of the country, and Vietnam faces considerable challenges including rising income inequality, corruption, inadequate social welfare, and a poor human rights record.

Since withdrawing its military occupation forces from Cambodia in the late 1980s and the end of Soviet aid by 1991, Vietnam has practiced a non-aligned foreign policy that emphasizes friendly ties with all members of the international community. Relatedly, Vietnam adheres to a security doctrine called the "Four Nos" (no alliances, no siding with one country against another, no foreign bases, and

no using force in international relations). Despite longstanding tensions with Beijing regarding its expansive claims that overlap with Hanoi's own claimed maritime boundaries in the South China Sea, Vietnam puts a priority on stable relations with China, given its proximity, size, and status as Vietnam's largest trading partner.

[Tip](#)

[Visit the Definitions and Notes page to view a description of each topic.](#)

[Definitions and Notes](#)

Geography

[Location](#)

Southeastern Asia, bordering the Gulf of Thailand, Gulf of Tonkin, and South China Sea, as well as China, Laos, and Cambodia

[Geographic coordinates](#)

16 10 N, 107 50 E

[Map references](#)

Southeast Asia

[Area](#)

total: 331,210 sq km

land: 310,070 sq km

water: 21,140 sq km

comparison ranking: [total 67](#)

[Area - comparative](#)

about three times the size of Tennessee; slightly larger than New Mexico

Area comparison map:



Land boundaries

km

Land boundaries (3): Cambodia 1,158 km; China 1,297 km; Laos 2,161 km

Coastline

(excludes islands)

Maritime claims

territorial sea: 12 nm

contiguous zone: 24 nm

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

continental shelf: 200 nm or to the edge of the continental margin

Climate

tropical in south; monsoonal in north with hot, rainy season (May to September) and warm, dry season (October to March)

Terrain

low, flat delta in south and north; central highlands; hilly, mountainous in far north and northwest

Elevation

highest point: Fan Si Pan 3,144 m

lowest point: South China Sea 0 m

mean elevation: 398 m

Natural resources

antimony, phosphates, coal, manganese, rare earth elements, bauxite, chromate, offshore oil and gas deposits, timber, hydropower, arable land

Land use

agricultural land: 34.8% (2018 est.)

arable land: 20.6% (2018 est.)

permanent crops: 12.1% (2018 est.)

permanent pasture: 2.1% (2018 est.)

forest: 45% (2018 est.)

other: 20.2% (2018 est.)

Irrigated land

46,000 sq km (2012)

Major rivers (by length in km)

Sông Tiền Giang (Mekong) river mouth (shared with China [s], Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia) - 4,350 km; Pearl river source (shared with China [m]) - 2,200 km; Red river mouth (shared with China [s]) - 1,149 km

note – [s] after country name indicates river source; [m] after country name indicates river mouth

Major watersheds (area sq km)

Pacific Ocean drainage: Mekong (805,604 sq km)

Population distribution

though it has one of the highest population densities in the world, the population is not evenly dispersed; clustering is heaviest along the South China Sea and Gulf of Tonkin, with the Mekong Delta (in the south) and the Red River Valley (in the north) having the largest concentrations of people

Natural hazards

occasional typhoons (May to January) with extensive flooding, especially in the Mekong River delta

Geography - note

note 1: extending 1,650 km north to south, the country is only 50 km across at its narrowest point

note 2: Son Doong in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park is the world's largest cave (greatest cross sectional area) and is the largest known cave passage in the world by volume; it currently measures a total of 38.5 million cu m (about 1.35 billion cu ft); it connects to Thung cave (but not yet officially); when recognized, it will add an additional 1.6 million cu m in volume; Son Doong is so massive that it contains its own jungle, underground river, and localized weather system; clouds form inside the cave and spew out from its exits and two dolines (openings (sinkhole skylights) created by collapsed ceilings that allow sunlight to stream in)

People and Society

Population

total: 105,758,975

male: 53,109,175

female: 52,649,800 (2024 est.)

comparison rankings: [female 16](#); [male 16](#); [total 16](#)

Nationality

noun: Vietnamese (singular and plural)

adjective: Vietnamese

Ethnic groups

Kinh (Viet) 85.3%, Tay 1.9%, Thai 1.9%, Muong 1.5%, Khmer 1.4%, Mong 1.4%, Nung 1.1%, other 5.5% (2019 est.)

note: 54 ethnic groups are recognized by the Vietnamese Government

Languages

Vietnamese (official), English (increasingly favored as a second language), some French, Chinese, and Khmer, mountain area languages (Mon-Khmer and Malayo-Polynesian)

major-language sample(s):

Dữ kiện thế giới, là nguồn thông tin cơ bản không thể thiếu. (Vietnamese)

The World Factbook, the indispensable source for basic information.

Vietnamese audio sample:

Religions

Catholic 6.1%, Buddhist 5.8%, Protestant 1%, other 0.8%, none 86.3% (2019 est.)

note: most Vietnamese are culturally Buddhist

Demographic profile

When Vietnam was reunified in 1975, the country had a youthful age structure and a high fertility rate. The population growth rate slowed dramatically during the next 25 years, as fertility declined and infant mortality and life expectancy improved. The country's adoption of a one-or-two-child policy in 1988 led to increased rates of contraception and abortion. The total fertility rate dropped rapidly from nearly 5 in 1979 to 2.1 or replacement level in 1990, and at 1.8 is below replacement level today. Fertility is higher in the more rural central highlands and northern uplands, which are inhabited primarily by poorer ethnic minorities, and is lower among the majority Kinh, ethnic Chinese, and a few other ethnic groups, particularly in urban centers. With more than two-thirds of the population of working age (15-64), Vietnam has the potential to reap a demographic dividend for approximately three decades (between 2010 and 2040). However, its ability to do so will depend on improving the quality of education and training for its workforce and creating jobs. The Vietnamese Government is also considering changes to the country's population policy because if the country's fertility rate remains below replacement level, it could lead to a worker shortage in the future.

Vietnam has experienced both internal migration and net emigration, both for humanitarian and economic reasons, for the last several decades. Internal migration – rural-rural and rural-urban, temporary and permanent – continues to be a means of coping with Vietnam's extreme weather and flooding. Although Vietnam's population is still mainly rural, increasing numbers of young men and women have been drawn to the country's urban centers where they are more likely to find steady jobs and higher pay in the growing industrial and service sectors.

The aftermath of the Vietnam War in 1975 resulted in an outpouring of approximately 1.6 million Vietnamese refugees over the next two decades. Between 1975 and 1997, programs such as the Orderly Departure Program and the Comprehensive Plan of Action resettled hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese refugees abroad, including the United States (880,000), China (260,000, mainly ethnic Chinese Hoa), Canada (160,000), Australia (155,000), and European countries (150,000).

In the 1980s, some Vietnamese students and workers began to migrate to allied communist countries, including the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and East Germany. The vast majority returned home following the fall of communism in Eastern Europe in the early 1990s. Since that time, Vietnamese labor migrants instead started to pursue opportunities in Asia and the Middle East. They often perform low-skilled jobs under harsh conditions for low pay and are vulnerable to forced labor, including debt bondage to the private brokers who arrange the work contracts. Despite Vietnam's current labor surplus, the country has in recent years attracted some foreign workers, mainly from China and other Asian countries.

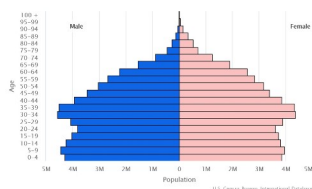
Age structure

0-14 years: 23.2% (male 12,953,719/female 11,579,690)

15-64 years: 68.5% (male 36,591,845/female 35,887,201)

65 years and over: 8.3% (2024 est.) (male 3,563,611/female 5,182,909)

2023 population pyramid:



Dependency ratios

lency ratio: 45.6

lency ratio: 32.8

elderly dependency ratio: 12.7

potential support ratio: 7.8 (2021 est.)

Median age

total: 33.1 years (2024 est.)

male: 32 years

female: 34.2 years

comparison ranking: [total 113](#)

Population growth rate

0.89% (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: [102](#)

Birth rate

14.9 births/1,000 population (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: [111](#)

Death rate

5.8 deaths/1,000 population (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: [165](#)

Net migration rate

-0.2 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: [106](#)

Population distribution

though it has one of the highest population densities in the world, the population is not evenly dispersed; clustering is heaviest along the South China Sea and Gulf of Tonkin, with the Mekong Delta (in the south) and the Red River Valley (in the north) having the largest concentrations of people

Urbanization

urban population: 39.5% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 2.7% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

total population growth rate v. urban population growth rate, 2000-2030

Major urban areas - population

9.321 million Ho Chi Minh City, 5.253 million HANOI (capital), 1.865 million Can Tho, 1.423 million Hai Phong, 1.221 million Da Nang, 1.111 million Bien Hoa (2023)

Sex ratio

at birth: 1.1 male(s)/female

0-14 years: 1.12 male(s)/female

15-64 years: 1.02 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.69 male(s)/female

total population: 1.01 male(s)/female (2024 est.)

Maternal mortality ratio

124 deaths/100,000 live births (2020 est.)

comparison ranking: [62](#)

Infant mortality rate

total: 14.1 deaths/1,000 live births (2024 est.)

male: 14.4 deaths/1,000 live births

female: 13.7 deaths/1,000 live births

comparison ranking: [total 99](#)

Life expectancy at birth

total population: 76.1 years (2024 est.)

male: 73.5 years

female: 78.9 years

comparison ranking: [total population 115](#)

Total fertility rate

2.03 children born/woman (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: [102](#)

Gross reproduction rate

|0.96 (2024 est.)

Contraceptive prevalence rate

|72.8% (2020)

Drinking water source

|**improved:** urban: 99.2% of population

|rural: 95.5% of population

|total: 96.9% of population

|**unimproved:** urban: 0.8% of population

|rural: 4.5% of population

|total: 3.1% of population (2020 est.)

Current health expenditure

|4.7% of GDP (2020)

Physicians density

|0.83 physicians/1,000 population (2016)

Hospital bed density

|3.2 beds/1,000 population (2013)

Sanitation facility access

|**improved:** urban: 98.7% of population

|rural: 90% of population

|total: 93.3% of population

|**unimproved:** urban: 1.3% of population

|rural: 10% of population

|total: 6.7% of population (2020 est.)

Major infectious diseases

degree of risk: very high (2023)

food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever

vectorborne diseases: dengue fever, malaria, Japanese encephalitis, and sexually transmitted diseases: hepatitis B (2024)

note: On 20 September 2023, the CDC issued a travel notice for an outbreak of diphtheria in several provinces in Vietnam (see attached map); vaccination against diphtheria is essential to protect against disease; if you are traveling to an affected area, you should be up to date with your diphtheria vaccines; Diphtheria is a serious infection caused by strains of bacteria called *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* that make a toxin; Diphtheria bacteria spread from person to person, usually through respiratory droplets, like from coughing or sneezing
Diphtheria outbreak in Vietnam:



Obesity - adult prevalence rate

ranking: [192](#)

Alcohol consumption per capita

ters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

ters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

ters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

spirits: 0.21 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

other alcohols: 0 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

comparison ranking: [total 105](#)

[Tobacco use](#)

total: 24.8% (2020 est.)

male: 47.4% (2020 est.)

female: 2.2% (2020 est.)

comparison ranking: [total 51](#)

[Children under the age of 5 years underweight](#)

11.6% (2020)

comparison ranking: [51](#)

[Currently married women \(ages 15-49\)](#)

72.6% (2023 est.)

[Child marriage](#)

women married by age 15: 1.1%

women married by age 18: 14.6%

men married by age 18: 1.9% (2021 est.)

[Education expenditures](#)

4.1% of GDP (2020 est.)

comparison ranking: [113](#)

[Literacy](#)

definition: age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 95.8%

male: 97%

female: 94.6% (2019)

Environment

[Environment - current issues](#)

logging and slash-and-burn agricultural practices contribute to deforestation and soil degradation; water pollution and overfishing threaten marine life populations; groundwater contamination limits potable water supply; air pollution; growing urban industrialization and population migration are rapidly degrading environment in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City

Environment - international agreements

party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Climate Change-Paris Agreement, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 2006, Wetlands

signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Climate

tropical in south; monsoonal in north with hot, rainy season (May to September) and warm, dry season (October to March)

Land use

agricultural land: 34.8% (2018 est.)

arable land: 20.6% (2018 est.)

permanent crops: 12.1% (2018 est.)

permanent pasture: 2.1% (2018 est.)

forest: 45% (2018 est.)

other: 20.2% (2018 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 39.5% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 2.7% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

total population growth rate v. urban population growth rate, 2000-2030

Revenue from forest resources

1.49% of GDP (2018 est.)

comparison ranking: [43](#)

Revenue from coal

0.35% of GDP (2018 est.)

comparison ranking: [16](#)

Air pollutants

particulate matter emissions: 20.89 micrograms per cubic meter (2019 est.)

carbon dioxide emissions: 192.67 megatons (2016 est.)

methane emissions: 110.4 megatons (2020 est.)

Waste and recycling

municipal solid waste generated annually: 9,570,300 tons (2011 est.)

municipal solid waste recycled annually: 2,201,169 tons (2014 est.)

percent of municipal solid waste recycled: 23% (2014 est.)

Major rivers (by length in km)

Sông Tiên Giang (Mekong) river mouth (shared with China [s], Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia) - 4,350 km; Pearl river source (shared with China [m]) - 2,200 km; Red river mouth (shared with China [s]) - 1,149 km

note – [s] after country name indicates river source; [m] after country name indicates river mouth

Major watersheds (area sq km)

Pacific Ocean drainage: Mekong (805,604 sq km)

Total water withdrawal

municipal: 1.21 billion cubic meters (2020 est.)

industrial: 3.07 billion cubic meters (2020 est.)

agricultural: 77.75 billion cubic meters (2020 est.)

Total renewable water resources

884.12 billion cubic meters (2020 est.)

Geoparks

total global geoparks and regional networks: 3

global geoparks and regional networks: Dak Nong; Dong Van Karst Plateau; Non nuoc Cao Bang (2023)

Government

Country name

conventional long form: Socialist Republic of Vietnam

conventional short form: Vietnam

local long form: Cong Hoa Xa Hoi Chu Nghia Viet Nam

local short form: Viet Nam

former: Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam)

abbreviation: SRV

etymology: "Viet nam" translates as "Viet south," where "Viet" is an ethnic self identification dating to a second century B.C. kingdom and "nam" refers to its location in relation to other Viet kingdoms

Government type

communist state

Capital

name: Hanoi (Ha Noi)

geographic coordinates: 21 02 N, 105 51 E

time difference: UTC+7 (12 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

etymology: the city has had many names in its history going back to A.D. 1010 when it first became the capital of imperial Vietnam; in 1831, it received its current name of Ha Noi, meaning "between the rivers," which refers to its geographic location

Administrative divisions

58 provinces (tinh, singular and plural) and 5 municipalities (thanh pho, singular and plural)

provinces: An Giang, Bac Giang, Bac Kan, Bac Lieu, Bac Ninh, Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Ben Tre, Binh Dinh, Binh Duong, Binh Phuoc, Binh Thuan, Ca Mau, Cao Bang, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Dien Bien, Dong Nai, Dong Thap, Gia Lai, Ha Giang, Ha Nam, Ha Tinh, Hai Duong, Hau Giang, Hoa Binh, Hung Yen, Khanh Hoa, Kien Giang, Kon Tum, Lai Chau, Lam Dong, Lang Son, Lao Cai, Long An, Nam Dinh, Nghe An, Ninh Binh, Ninh Thuan, Phu Tho, Phu Yen, Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Quang Ninh, Quang Tri, Soc Trang, Son La, Tay Ninh, Thai Binh, Thai Nguyen, Thanh Hoa, Thua Thien-Hue, Tien Giang, Tra Vinh, Tuyen Quang, Vinh Long, Vinh Phuc, Yen Bai

municipalities: Can Tho, Da Nang, Ha Noi (Hanoi), Hai Phong, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

Independence

2 September 1945 (from France)

National holiday

Independence Day (National Day), 2 September (1945)

Constitution

history: several previous; latest adopted 28 November 2013, effective 1 January 2014

amendments: proposed by the president, by the National Assembly's Standing Committee, or by at least two thirds of the National Assembly membership; a decision to draft an amendment requires approval by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly membership, followed by the formation of a constitutional drafting committee to write a draft and collect citizens' opinions; passage requires at least two-thirds majority of the Assembly membership; the Assembly can opt to conduct a referendum

Legal system

civil law system; note - the civil code of 2005 reflects a European-style civil law

International law organization participation

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCt

Citizenship

citizenship by birth: no

citizenship by descent only: at least one parent must be a citizen of Vietnam

dual citizenship recognized: no

residency requirement for naturalization: 5 years

Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch

chief of state: Acting President Vo Thi Anh XUAN (since 21 March 2024); note - President Vo Van THUONG resigned on 20 March 2024

head of government: Prime Minister Pham Minh CHINH (since 26 July 2021)

cabinet: Cabinet proposed by the prime minister, confirmed by the National Assembly, and appointed by the president

elections/appointments: president indirectly elected by the National Assembly from among its members for a single 5-year term; prime minister recommended by the president and confirmed by the National Assembly; deputy prime ministers confirmed by the National Assembly and appointed by the president

election results: 2023: Vo Van THUONG elected president

2021: Nguyen Xuan PHUC (CPV) elected president; Pham Minh CHINH (CPV) confirmed as prime minister

2016: NGUYEN Xuan PHUC (CPV) confirmed as prime minister

note: Nguyen Phu TRONG is the General Secretary of the Vietnam Communist Party

Legislative branch

description: unicameral National Assembly or Quoc Hoi (500 seats - number following 2021 election - 499; members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by absolute majority vote; members serve 5-year terms)

elections: last held on 23 May 2021 (next to be held in spring 2026)

election results: percent of vote by party - CPV 97.2%, 2.8% non-party; seats by party - CPV 486, non-party 14; composition as of February 2024 - 342 men, 151 women, percentage women 30.6%

Judicial branch

highest court(s): Supreme People's Court (consists of the chief justice and 13 judges)

judge selection and term of office: chief justice elected by the National Assembly upon the recommendation of the president for a 5-year, renewable term; deputy chief justice appointed by the president from among the judges for a 5-year term; judges appointed by the president and confirmed by the National Assembly for 5-year terms

subordinate courts: High Courts (administrative, civil, criminal, economic, labor, family, juvenile); provincial courts; district courts; Military Court; note - the National Assembly Standing Committee can establish special tribunals upon the recommendation of the chief justice

Political parties and leaders

|Communist Party of Vietnam or CPV [General Secretary Nguyen Phu TRONG]

|**note:** other parties proscribed

International organization participation

|ADB, APEC, ARF, ASEAN, CICA, CP, EAS, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (NGOs), ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, MIGA, NAM, OIF, OPCW, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHRC, UNIDO, UNOOSA, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO (2024)

Diplomatic representation in the US

|**chief of mission:** Ambassador Nguyen Quoc DUNG (since 19 April 2022)

|**chancery:** 1233 20th Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036

|**telephone:** [1] (202) 861-0737

|**FAX:** [1] (202) 861-0917

|**email address and website:**

|vanphong@vietnamembassy.us

|<http://vietnamembassy-usa.org/>

|**consulate(s) general:** Houston, San Francisco

|**consulate(s):** New York

Diplomatic representation from the US

chief of mission: Ambassador Marc KNAPPER (since 11 February 2022)

embassy: 7 Lang Ha Street, Hanoi

mailing address: 4550 Hanoi Place, Washington, DC 20521-4550

telephone: [84] (24) 3850-5000

FAX: [84] (24) 3850-5010

email address and website:

ACShanoi@state.gov

<https://vn.usembassy.gov/>

consulate(s) general: Ho Chi Minh City

Flag description

red field with a large yellow five-pointed star in the center; red symbolizes revolution and blood, the five-pointed star represents the five elements of the populace - peasants, workers, intellectuals, traders, and soldiers - that unite to build socialism

National symbol(s)

yellow, five-pointed star on red field; lotus blossom; national colors: red, yellow

National anthem

name: "Tien quan ca" (The Song of the Marching Troops)

lyrics/music: Nguyen Van CAO

note: adopted as the national anthem of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in 1945; it became the national anthem of the unified Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 1976; although it consists of two verses, only the first is used as the official anthem

National heritage

total World Heritage Sites: 8 (5 cultural, 2 natural, 1 mixed)

selected World Heritage Site locales: [Complex of Hué Monuments](#) (c); [Ha Long Bay](#) (n); [Hoi An Ancient Town](#) (c); My Son Sanctuary (c); Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (n); Imperial Citadel of Thang Long - Hanoi (c); Citadel of the Ho Dynasty (c); Trang An Landscape Complex (m)

Economy

Economic overview

lower middle-income socialist East Asian economy; rapid economic growth since Đổi Mới reforms; strong investment and productivity growth; tourism and manufacturing hub; TPP signatory; declining poverty aside from ethnic minorities; systemic corruption

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$1.119 trillion (2022 est.)

\$1.036 trillion (2021 est.)

\$1.01 trillion (2020 est.)

note: data in 2017 dollars

comparison ranking: [25](#)

Real GDP growth rate

8.02% (2022 est.)

2.56% (2021 est.)

2.87% (2020 est.)

note: annual GDP % growth based on constant local currency

comparison ranking: [32](#)

Real GDP per capita

\$11,400 (2022 est.)

\$10,600 (2021 est.)

\$10,500 (2020 est.)

note: data in 2017 dollars

comparison ranking: [134](#)

GDP (official exchange rate)

\$408.802 billion (2022 est.)

note: data in current dollars at official exchange rate

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

3.16% (2022 est.)

1.83% (2021 est.)

3.22% (2020 est.)

note: annual % change based on consumer prices

|comparison ranking: [48](#)

[Credit ratings](#)

|**Fitch rating:** BB (2018)

|**Moody's rating:** Ba3 (2018)

|**Standard & Poors rating:** BB (2019)

|**note:** The year refers to the year in which the current credit rating was first obtained.

[GDP - composition, by sector of origin](#)

|**agriculture:** 15.3% (2017 est.)

|**industry:** 33.3% (2017 est.)

|**services:** 51.3% (2017 est.)

|comparison rankings: [services 173](#); [industry 53](#); [agriculture 65](#)

[GDP - composition, by end use](#)

|**household consumption:** 66.9% (2017 est.)

|**government consumption:** 6.5% (2017 est.)

|**investment in fixed capital:** 24.2% (2017 est.)

|**investment in inventories:** 2.8% (2017 est.)

|**exports of goods and services:** 100% (2017 est.)

|**imports of goods and services:** -101% (2017 est.)

[Agricultural products](#)

|rice, vegetables, sugar cane, cassava, maize, pork, fruit, bananas, coffee, coconuts

[Industries](#)

|food processing, garments, shoes, machine-building; mining, coal, steel; cement, chemical fertilizer,
|glass, tires, oil, mobile phones

[Industrial production growth rate](#)

|7.78% (2022 est.)

|**note:** annual % change in industrial value added based on constant local currency

|comparison ranking: [31](#)

Labor force

55.689 million (2022 est.)

note: number of people ages 15 or older who are employed or seeking work

comparison ranking: [13](#)

Unemployment rate

1.54% (2022 est.)

2.38% (2021 est.)

2.1% (2020 est.)

note: % of labor force seeking employment

comparison ranking: [15](#)

Youth unemployment rate (ages 15-24)

total: 7.2% (2021 est.)

male: 7.1%

female: 7.5%

comparison ranking: [total 177](#)

Population below poverty line

4.8% (2020 est.)

note: % of population with income below national poverty line

Gini Index coefficient - distribution of family income

36.8 (2020 est.)

note: index (0-100) of income distribution; higher values represent greater inequality

comparison ranking: [83](#)

Average household expenditures

on food: 38.8% of household expenditures (2018 est.)

on alcohol and tobacco: 2.3% of household expenditures (2018 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share

lowest 10%: 2.5%

highest 10%: 28.5% (2020 est.)

note: % share of income accruing to lowest and highest 10% of population

Remittances

3.22% of GDP (2022 est.)

3.41% of GDP (2021 est.)

3.04% of GDP (2020 est.)

note: personal transfers and compensation between resident and non-resident individuals/households/entities

Budget

revenues: \$64.895 billion (2019 est.)

expenditures: \$75.834 billion (2019 est.)

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)

-6.7% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

comparison ranking: [191](#)

Public debt

58.5% of GDP (2017 est.)

59.9% of GDP (2016 est.)

note: official data; data cover general government debt and include debt instruments issued (or owned) by government entities other than the treasury; the data include treasury debt held by foreign entities; the data include debt issued by subnational entities, as well as intragovernmental debt; intragovernmental debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for retirement, medical care, and unemployment; debt instruments for the social funds are not sold at public auctions

comparison ranking: [82](#)

Taxes and other revenues

24.8% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

comparison ranking: [53](#)

Fiscal year

calendar year

Current account balance

-\$1.074 billion (2022 est.)

-\$4.628 billion (2021 est.)

\$15.06 billion (2020 est.)

note: balance of payments - net trade and primary/secondary income in current dollars

comparison ranking: [127](#)

Exports

\$384.204 billion (2022 est.)

\$340.126 billion (2021 est.)

\$290.229 billion (2020 est.)

note: balance of payments - exports of goods and services in current dollars

comparison ranking: [24](#)

Exports - partners

US 28%, China 17%, South Korea 6%, Japan 6%, Hong Kong 4% (2021)

Exports - commodities

broadcasting equipment, telephones, integrated circuits, office machinery, footwear, furniture (2021)

Imports

\$371.111 billion (2022 est.)

\$338.327 billion (2021 est.)

\$269.808 billion (2020 est.)

note: balance of payments - imports of goods and services in current dollars

comparison ranking: [22](#)

Imports - partners

China 39%, South Korea 17%, Japan 5%, Taiwan 4%, Thailand 4% (2021)

Imports - commodities

integrated circuits, telephones, clothing and apparel, broadcasting accessories, refined petroleum, iron sheeting (2021)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$86.54 billion (2022 est.)

\$109.371 billion (2021 est.)

\$94.834 billion (2020 est.)

note: holdings of gold (year-end prices)/foreign exchange/special drawing rights in current dollars

comparison ranking: [30](#)

Debt - external

\$96.58 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$84.34 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

comparison ranking: [58](#)

Exchange rates

dong (VND) per US dollar -

Exchange rates:

23,271.213 (2022 est.)

23,159.783 (2021 est.)

23,208.368 (2020 est.)

23,050.242 (2019 est.)

22,602.05 (2018 est.)

Energy

Electricity access

electrification - total population: 100% (2021)

Electricity

installed generating capacity: 65.283 million kW (2020 est.)

consumption: 199,846,440,000 kWh (2019 est.)

exports: 2.067 billion kWh (2019 est.)

imports: 3.316 billion kWh (2019 est.)

transmission/distribution losses: 15.479 billion kWh (2019 est.)

comparison rankings: [installed generating capacity 20](#); [transmission/distribution losses 188](#); [imports 49](#); [exports 51](#); [consumption 22](#)

Electricity generation sources

fossil fuels: 70.7% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)

nuclear: 0% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)

solar: 2.4% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)

wind: 0.4% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)

hydroelectricity: 25.2% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)

tide and wave: 0% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)

geothermal: 0% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)

biomass and waste: 1.4% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)

Coal

production: 47.789 million metric tons (2020 est.)

consumption: 80.568 million metric tons (2020 est.)

exports: 902,000 metric tons (2020 est.)

imports: 55 million metric tons (2020 est.)

proven reserves: 3.36 billion metric tons (2019 est.)

Petroleum

total petroleum production: 197,700 bbl/day (2021 est.)

refined petroleum consumption: 495,500 bbl/day (2019 est.)

crude oil and lease condensate exports: 66,900 bbl/day (2018 est.)

crude oil and lease condensate imports: 103,500 bbl/day (2018 est.)

crude oil estimated reserves: 4.4 billion barrels (2021 est.)

Refined petroleum products - production

153,800 bbl/day (2015 est.)

comparison ranking: [58](#)

Refined petroleum products - exports

25,620 bbl/day (2015 est.)

comparison ranking: [67](#)

Refined petroleum products - imports

282,800 bbl/day (2015 est.)

comparison ranking: [25](#)

Natural gas

production: 8,438,095,000 cubic meters (2019 est.)

consumption: 8,438,095,000 cubic meters (2019 est.)

exports: 0 cubic meters (2021 est.)

imports: 0 cubic meters (2021 est.)

proven reserves: 699.425 billion cubic meters (2021 est.)

Carbon dioxide emissions

249.929 million metric tonnes of CO2 (2019 est.)

from coal and metallurgical coke: 165.775 million metric tonnes of CO2 (2019 est.)

from petroleum and other liquids: 67.775 million metric tonnes of CO2 (2019 est.)

from consumed natural gas: 16.379 million metric tonnes of CO2 (2019 est.)

comparison ranking: [total emissions 27](#)

Energy consumption per capita

36.392 million Btu/person (2019 est.)

comparison ranking: [113](#)

Communications

Telephones - fixed lines

total subscriptions: 2,390,671 (2022 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 3 (2021 est.)

comparison ranking: [total subscriptions 48](#)

Telephones - mobile cellular

total subscriptions: 140 million (2021 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 140 (2021 est.)

comparison ranking: [total subscriptions 12](#)

Telecommunication systems

general assessment: even with Covid-19 pandemic-related mobility restrictions in place, Vietnam's economy has continued to outperform the rest of the region in 2020 and 2021; the telecom sector essentially spent most of this period in a holding pattern, focusing on maintaining service throughout the crisis while preparing for some major changes to come in the mobile market in 2022; both fixed-line telephony and mobile have experienced small drops in subscriber numbers since the start of the pandemic, but the similarities between the two markets end there; fixed-line teledensity continued its downwards trajectory towards virtual oblivion, with just 3% penetration (around 3 million subscribers) at the start of 2021; the mobile market has lost about the same number of subscribers since the end of 2019, but has been sitting on much higher penetration levels around 130% for many years; growth is expected to kick in again in 2022 following the anticipated launch of commercial 5G mobile services along with a range of government-led schemes to move consumers completely off 2G and 3G; one example is the planned redistribution of GSM/3G bandwidth to LTE; in addition to propelling Vietnam into having one of the most advanced mobile markets in the world, this should also spur on the mobile broadband segment; with a penetration level of just over 70%, mobile broadband has considerable room to grow; increasing economic prosperity coupled with the latest smartphone technology and networks should see mobile broadband underwriting the country's telecommunications sector for at least the next few years; this report includes the regulator's market data to July 2021, telcos' financial and operating data updates to June 2021, Telecom Maturity Index charts and analyses, assessment of the global impact of Covid-19 on the telecoms sector, and other recent market developments (2021)

domestic: fixed-line is 3 per 100 and mobile-cellular is 140 per 100 (2021)

international: country code - 84; landing points for the SeaMeWe-3, APG, SJC2, AAE-1, AAG and the TGN-IA submarine cable system providing connectivity to Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the US; telecom satellite earth stations - 2, (Vinasat 1 and Vinasat 2) (Indian Ocean region) (2023)

Broadcast media

government controls all broadcast media exercising oversight through the Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC); government-controlled national TV provider, Vietnam Television (VTV), operates a network of several channels with regional broadcasting centers; programming is relayed nationwide via a network of provincial and municipal TV stations; law limits access to satellite TV but many households are able to access foreign programming via home satellite equipment; government-controlled Voice of Vietnam, the national radio broadcaster, broadcasts on several channels and is repeated on AM, FM, and shortwave stations throughout Vietnam (2018)

Internet country code

.vn

Internet users

total: 71.78 million (2021 est.)

percent of population: 74% (2021 est.)

comparison ranking: [total 12](#)

Broadband - fixed subscriptions

total: 16,699,249 (2020 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 17 (2020 est.)

comparison ranking: [total 14](#)

Transportation

National air transport system

number of registered air carriers: 5 (2020)

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers: 224

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers: 47,049,671 (2018)

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers: 481.37 million (2018) mt-km

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

VN

Airports

42 (2024)

comparison ranking: [98](#)

Heliports

25 (2024)

Pipelines

72 km condensate, 398 km condensate/gas, 955 km gas, 128 km oil, 33 km oil/gas/water, 206 km refined products, 13 km water (2013)

Railways

total: 2,600 km (2014)

standard gauge: 178 km (2014) 1.435-m gauge; 253 km mixed gauge

narrow gauge: 2,169 km (2014) 1.000-m gauge

comparison ranking: [total 64](#)

Roadways

total: 195,468 km

paved: 148,338 km

unpaved: 47,130 km (2013)

comparison ranking: [total 27](#)

Waterways

47,130 km (2011) (30,831 km weight under 50 tons)

comparison ranking: [3](#)

Merchant marine

total: 1,973 (2022)

by type: bulk carrier 117, container ship 45, general cargo 1,176, oil tanker 134, other 501

comparison ranking: [total 13](#)

Ports and terminals

major seaport(s): Cam Pha Port, Da Nang, Haiphong, Phu My, Quy Nhon

container port(s) (TEUs): Saigon (7,956,133), Cai Mep (5,385,289), Haiphong (5,695,839) (2021)

river port(s): Ho Chi Minh (Mekong)

Military and Security

Military and security forces

People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN; aka Vietnam People's Army, VPA): Ground Forces, Navy (includes naval infantry), Air Defense Force, Border Defense Force, Vietnam Coast Guard

Vietnam People's Ministry of Public Security; Vietnam Civil Defense Force (2024)

note 1: the People's Public Security Ministry is responsible for internal security and controls the national police, a special national security investigative agency, and other internal security units, including specialized riot police regiments

note 2: the Vietnam Coast Guard was established in 1998 as the Vietnam Marine Police and renamed in 2013; Vietnam officially established a maritime self-defense force (civilian militia) in 2010 after the National Assembly passed the Law on Militia and Self-Defense Forces in 2009; the Vietnam Department of Fisheries Resources Surveillance (DFIRES; under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), established in 2013, is responsible for fisheries enforcement, aquatic conservation roles, and is designated as Vietnam's standing agency for combating illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing; it is armed, allowed to use force if necessary, and works in tandem with the Vietnam Coast Guard

Military expenditures

2.3% of GDP (2022 est.)

2.4% of GDP (2021 est.)

2.4% of GDP (2020 est.)

2.3% of GDP (2019 est.)

2.3% of GDP (2018 est.)

comparison ranking: [49](#)

Military and security service personnel strengths

information is limited and varied; estimated 450,000 active-duty troops; estimated 40,000 Border Defense Force and Coast Guard (2023)

Military equipment inventories and acquisitions

the PAVN is armed largely with weapons and equipment from Russia and the former Soviet Union; in recent years, Russia has remained the most important supplier of newer PAVN military equipment, but Vietnam has diversified arms purchases to include more than a dozen other countries including Belarus, Israel, the Netherlands, South Korea, and the US; Vietnam has a limited domestic defense industry (2023)

Military service age and obligation

18-27 years of age for compulsory and voluntary military service for men and women (in practice only men are drafted); service obligation is between 24 (Army, Air Defense) and 36 (Navy and Air Force) months (2023)

Military deployments

190 Abyei/South Sudan/Sudan (UNISFA) (2024)

Military - note

the PAVN is the military arm of the ruling Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) and responsible to the Central Military Commission (CMC), the highest party organ on military policy; the CMC is led by the CPV General Secretary

the PAVN is one of the region's largest militaries and has participated in numerous conflicts since its founding in the mid-1940s, including the First (1946-54) and Second (1950s-1975) Indochina Wars, the Cambodian-Vietnamese War (1978-1989), and the Sino-Vietnamese War (1979); the PAVN's current missions include protecting the country's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national interests; in recent years, it has increased focus on protecting the country's maritime economy and sovereignty; it also assists with natural disasters and is involved in economic projects, including electrical infrastructure, oil and gas services, hydroelectric projects, aviation and seaport services, telecommunications, and the shipbuilding industry, while military-owned factories and enterprises produce weapons and equipment; the Ground Forces are spread throughout the country in approximately eight regional commands, four operational corps, and dozens of divisions and brigades, including some that are maintained at cadre strength and filled in wartime by an estimated five million reserves; the Navy is organized into five regional commands; in recent years, it has received increased government focus for procurement efforts because of the rise in territorial disputes in the South China Sea and has a growing combat force of about 20 frigates, corvettes, and fast-attack surface vessels, plus six attack submarines; the Air Force is organized into divisions, regiments, and squadrons; it has a mix of approximately 75 Soviet-era and Russian-made combat aircraft (2023)

Space

Space agency/agencies

Vietnam National Space Center (VNSC; established 2011; formerly known as the Vietnam National Satellite Center); Space Technology Institute (STI; established 2006); both the VNSC and the STI operate under the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology (VAST); Ministry of Science and Technology (2023)

Space program overview

has a growing space program focused on acquiring, operating, and exploiting satellites, as well as expanding domestic capabilities in satellites and associated sub-system production, space sciences, and technology applications; builds and operates communications and remote sensing satellites; conducting research and development on space science and applied space technologies, such as advanced optics and space data exploitation; has worked closely with Japan's Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Japanese companies and universities on its space program since inception; cooperation has included funding, loans, training, technical expertise, and data sharing; has also established relationships with the space agencies or commercial space sectors of some European countries (such as France), India, and the US (2023)

note: further details about the key activities, programs, and milestones of the country's space program, as well as government spending estimates on the space sector, appear in [Appendix S](#)

Transnational Issues

Refugees and internally displaced persons

stateless persons: 35,475 (2022); note - Vietnam's stateless ethnic Chinese Cambodian population dates to the 1970s when thousands of Cambodians fled to Vietnam to escape the Khmer Rouge and were no longer recognized as Cambodian citizens; Vietnamese women who gave up their citizenship to marry foreign men have found themselves stateless after divorcing and returning home to Vietnam; the government addressed this problem in 2009, and Vietnamese women are beginning to reclaim their citizenship

Trafficking in persons

tier rating: Tier 2 Watch List — Vietnam does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so; the government made key achievements during the reporting period, therefore Vietnam was upgraded to Tier 2 Watch List; Vietnam initiated more investigations, prosecuted and convicted more traffickers, increased international law enforcement cooperation, and initiated criminal proceedings against allegedly complicit officials; officials also identified and assisted more victims and implemented protection for overseas workers; despite these achievements, the government did not proactively identify trafficking victims forced to work in cyber scams or provide services, including foreign national victims in Vietnam; authorities inspected thousands of the most at-risk establishments for sex trafficking but only identified two victims (2023)

trafficking profile: human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in Vietnam, as well as Vietnamese abroad; 55% of workers work in the informal economy where labor laws are not effectively enforced, increasing vulnerability to trafficking; Vietnamese men and women who migrate abroad, using illicit brokerage networks operated by Vietnamese nationals based abroad or state-owned or state-regulated recruitment enterprises, are vulnerable to debt bondage or other forms of exploitation; victims are subjected to forced labor in construction, agriculture, mining, maritime industries, logging, and manufacturing primarily in Japan, Laos, Malaysia, South Korea, and in some parts of the Middle East, the UK, and other countries in Europe; reports have increased of Vietnamese labor trafficking victims in Taiwan, continental Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and in Pacific maritime industries; Vietnamese traffickers, including members of Vietnam's diplomatic service, reportedly have exploited Vietnamese nationals in forced labor in Saudi Arabia; many Vietnamese are subjected to forced labor under the auspices of Japan's Technical Intern Training Program and in agricultural education programs in Israel; other Vietnamese are exploited at Chinese-owned factories associated with China's Belt and Road Initiative in the Balkan region; widespread social stigma increases LGBTQI+ individuals' vulnerability to trafficking; traffickers lure Vietnamese women and children with fraudulent job opportunities and send them to brothels on the borders of Cambodia, China, and Laos or elsewhere in Asia, West Africa, and Europe; Vietnamese women and girls are also exploited in sex trafficking in Vietnam, as well as Burma; sometimes family members or small-scale networks exploit Vietnamese men, women, and children—including street children and children with disabilities—in forced labor; child sex tourists from Asia, the UK, other countries in Europe, Australia, Canada, and the US exploit children in Vietnam (2023)

Illicit drugs

a transshipment and destination country for all types of illegal drugs; most transshipments destined for other Asian countries and not the United States; heroin transits from Thailand, Laos, and Burma for domestic use and shipping to countries in Southeast Asia, Oceania, China and Taiwan; methamphetamine and amphetamine type stimulants from Burma locally consumed and shipped; South American cocaine locally consumed and distributed to Southeast Asia and Oceania

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