

Vietnam's industrial growth up 6.9 pct in first 11 months

HANOI, Nov.28 (Xinhua) -- Vietnam's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth has hit a record low since June with a year-on-year increase of only 6.9 percent in the first 11 months of this year, Vietnam News Agency reported Monday citing the General Statistics Office (GSO) as saying.

In the first six months, the figure was 9.7 percent and 8.8 percent in seven months, 7.3 percent in eight months, 7.8 percent in nine months and 7 percent in 10 months, the GSO said.

Insiders said that the down-turn in the IIP reflected financial difficulties experienced by industrial companies, including high interest and foreign exchange rates. Meanwhile, the financial challenges also had a strong impact on their distribution and that was why many of the industrial companies had to cut down their production.

Although the IIP continued to drop, the value of manufacturing and processing industries, which account for nearly 70 percent of the industrial sector, still reached a high growth rate of 9.8 percent, said the report.

Other industries reaching high growth rates during the same period included the sugar sector with 982,000 tones, up 42.4 percent year-on-year, the garment industry with 1.6 billion units, up 15.1 percent, the auto and motorbike industry up 19.9 percent with 3.8 million units produced, power production and distribution up 9.7 percent with 92 billion kWh.

As of the beginning of November, the stockpile index saw a month-on-month increased of 0.4 percent. Some industries have amassed huge stockpiles, including the furniture industry and paper producers, said the report.