

Growth Centres In Vietnam

City	Population	Activities
Hanoi	3 million	Capital City
Ho Chi Minh City	4 million	Commercial Centre, Agro-Industry, Trade, and Port Facilities
Danang	500,000	Fisheries
Haiphong	1.5 million	Port City
Dalat	N.A.	Tourism, Agriculture, and Forestry
Vung Tau	N.A.	Tourism, Oil and Gas, and Port City
Can Tho	N.A.	Agriculture
Nha Trang	250,000	Tourism

Ho Chi Minh City

Ho Chi Minh City is the commercial centre of Vietnam situated 1,726 km south of Hanoi. It is the most urbanized city in Vietnam with a population over 4 million. The city encompasses an area of approximately 2,000 km², of which 140 km² forms the city centre comprising 12 districts. The periphery of the city is mostly rural.

It is located at the centre of the region that includes the Mekong Delta, the nation's most important food-producing centre; the eastern part of the south sustains industrial crops such as rubber, coffee, pepper and cacao, as well as deposits of oil and bauxite; the coastal regions of central and south Vietnam have the greatest reserves of sea products.

Ho Chi Minh City is the largest industrial, trade, and communications centre in the country, contributing 35 percent of the national production. The major industries include manufacturing, handicrafts, food processing, garment and leather production, electronics and chemicals. Most oil drilling is directly offshore from the city, making it the centre of the petroleum industry. Most industries, with the exception of food processing, have had to import raw materials and intermediate products to make full use of their capacity.

Ho Chi Minh City has also attracted a net immigration of people from poorer provinces in the north and central regions. This has created problems such as housing shortages, poor health conditions, and a surplus of untrained labour, typical of any urbanized city in a developing country.