Vietnam's major exports are rice, crude petroleum, coal, timber, rubber, shrimp, tea, coffee, peanuts, and rattan goods. It also produces silk, embroidery, ceramics, jewellery, and lacquerware. The country's main export destinations are Japan, Hong Kong, Poland, Malaysia, and Australia.

Export Categories By Industrial Groups

(reubles and US dollars millions)

Industry Group	Export Value		
	1988	1989	1990
Heavy Industrial Products	50.3	300.8	577.8
Light Industrial Products	383.4	533.9	557.9
Agricultural Products	271.2	447.5	403.5
Forest Products	41.5	55.6	52.8
Aquatic Products	105.6	103.1	105.8
Total	852.0	1,440.9	1,697.8

Source: General Statistical Office, Economy and Finance of Vietnam, 1991

NOTE: Due to the economy's use of convertible and non-convertible currencies, official trade statistics are often expressed in Russian rubles and US dollars.

Vietnam's main imports are tractors, trucks, steel, oil and gas, tires and tubing, fertilizers, cotton, pharmaceuticals, cement, textiles, sugar, and food. The majority of imports originate in Japan, Hong Kong, France, Poland, and Sweden.

Vietnam began to change its trading pattems in 1989, away from its traditional trading partners from the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance ((CMEA) consisting of countries from Eastern Europe). During the last five years, trade with the former Soviet Union has almost ceased. Vietnam has been working hard to find new markets and suppliers with hard currency.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, AND FORESTRY

Agriculture

Vietnam remains a predominantly rural society with approximately 80 percent of its work force engaged in agriculture and related activities; therefore, success in the agricultural sector is important for the country to reach its economic goals.

Agricultural development requires an intricate structure between agricultural production and the rest of the economy, with govemment involvement an important aspect of that structure. The agricultural sector is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry. Its main responsibility is to establish broad policy guidelines and to function as a facilitator between foreign companies and Vietnamese companies. A large number of Vietnamese state companies remain under the umbrella of the Ministry; however, officially, they are financially autonomous and unconstrained in their day-to-day management and decision- making. Cooperatives possess capital equipment, such as tractors and trucks.