

Main Export Items

Hanoi	Ho Chi Minh City
Weaving	Rice
Hosiery	Beans
Fibre Shoes	Duck Feathers
Gloves	Coffee
Wool Carpets	Frozen Pork
Jute Mats	Frozen Shrimp
Vegetable/Fruit (Fresh)	Wood
Electric Fans	Peanuts
Bicycles	Sandals
Peanuts	Canned Vegetable/Fruit

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

State-owned companies, cooperatives, and private companies are being encouraged to compete with each other in manufacturing and trading activities.

Ho Chi Minh City has experienced astounding growth during the last two years. Evidence of the changes taking place can be seen in the renovation of hotels and new hotel developments, restaurants, and entertainment facilities. Construction is also booming, a strong indication of the economic confidence in the country, and the anticipation of expanding foreign investment.

Trading activities are also increasing. The majority of exports are in agricultural production, which makes up 60 percent of Vietnam's exports; however, the manufacturing sector is becoming more diverse. Local manufacturers are beginning to experience competition from foreign goods, which is making them invest to improve their productivity and product quality.

Vietnam is rapidly reintegrating into the international community. Vietnam cleared its arrears with the IMF in October 1993. This led to the first Donors Conference for Vietnam in November 1993 which garnered over US\$1.86 billion in pledges. Japan, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are the leading donors, and many other countries, including Canada are increasing their levels of development assistance to Vietnam.

Foreign Trade

Prior to Vietnam's recent economic reforms, the government pursued an inward-looking development strategy which focused on the domestic market rather than the export market and maintained a tradition of running a trade imbalance. In the wake of economic reforms, state companies are faced with competition from the public and private sector and are performing more efficiently.