

VIET NAM'S FOREIGN TRADE in 1957

FRANCE IS FIRST IMPORTER FROM AND EXPORTER TO VIET NAM

SAIGON, March 19 --The Customs House has recently released statistics about the foreign trade of Viet Nam in 1957. Here are the figures compared with that of 1955 and 1956.

	1955		1956		1957	
	Million kgs.	Million piast.	Million kgs.	Million piast.	Million kgs.	Million piast.
Imports	1089	9212	1053	7618	1221	10098
Exports	433	2424	127	1579	384	2781
<u>Main imported products</u>						
Textile material, thread, fabrics and similar items.	19	1711	21	1596	24	1970
Semichemical industrial products (pharmaceutical products, fertilizers, films).	27	614	44	665	45	977
Mineral products (oil products and building material).	578	627	640	740	708	871
Transportation equipment (cars, bicycles).	13	798	8	483	12	822
Common metals.	55	425	26	227	81	696
Engines and devices.	11	531	78	371	84	643
Vegetal products (flours)	103	649	121	673	107	637
Food products (beverages, vinegar, tobaccos).	94	981	66	555	66	576
Common metal products.	19	461	12	271	15	430
Paper and fiber products.	30	321	25	279	34	422
<u>Main exported products</u>						
Rubber and rubber products	62	1405	64	1375	75	1690
Vegetal products (rice, tea, coffee)	87	352	6	31	192	748
<u>Viet Nam's main suppliers</u>						
France	253	4653	85	1776	118	2894
U.S.A.	71	1110	217	2137	181	2292
Japan	169	1228	279	1955	316	2160
West Germany	6	158	8	323	27	627
Indonesia	321	363	323	413	389	540
China	26	321	24	147	44	308
Great Britain	7	150	3	123	5	221
Italy	1	46	1	76	4	190
Cambodia	117	177	15	55	47	123
<u>Main purchasers of Vietnamese products</u>						
France	79	760	50	1062	82	1415
U.S.A.	26	567	13	298	17	386
French Western Africa	30	118	-	-	45	173
Japan	166	65	36	10	77	136
Algeria	14	9	-	-	29	117
Cambodia	32	337	10	67	14	114

As shown by the above table, Viet Nam exports in 1957 increased by 76% and imports 32%, compared with the year 1956.

The trade balance remained unfavourable but some improvement was recorded as compared with the preceding years in 1955 the exports were 26% of the imports; in 1956, 20% and in 1957, 27%.

Imported products were the same fabrics, pharmaceutical products and gasoline. But the quantity of engines and equipment materials imported in 1957 is far larger than imported in 1955 and 1956.

Rubber again ranked first among exported products. But a boom was registered on the 1957 cereal exportation, which is forecast to get more importance in the forthcoming years on account of the government sponsored land development program.

France took the lead in both import and export transactions with Viet Nam. She supplied pharmaceutical products, beverages, rubber items, paper, books, thread, fabrics, metal products, electric machines, cars. She purchased raw rubber and farm products.

Next came the USA which supplied Viet Nam with milk, wheat flour, tobacco, pharmaceutical products, fabrics, cars and purchased its rubber.

Japan came third, after the USA, but she imported very few Vietnamese products. She sold building materials, paper, sewing thread, machines.

Cambodia exported to Viet Nam: livestock, vegetables, oil seeds and timber. She imported from Viet Nam: beverages, metal products, wool products, earthen ware.

French Western Africa and Algeria were among main purchase of being up to 173 million and 104 million piaster worth of cereal respectively

THE TIMES OF VIET NAM

March 22, 1958