

## Economy Watch—External Environment

This section presents economic indicators of major world economies and economies in Southeast Asia during the third quarter of 2020. At the time of writing, data on real GDP growth in Cambodia were unavailable.

### Real GDP growth

At first glance, all selected countries were on the path to recovery in this quarter. After the worst economic contraction in the preceding quarter, all selected ASEAN countries were recovering at different speeds, but they still had a lower real GDP growth rate compared with the same quarter of last year. Malaysia, which had the largest contraction rate at -17.1 percent in the preceding quarter, recovered by 14.4 percentage points, the fastest recovery, to -2.7 percent, which was -7.1 percentage points lower than the third quarter of last year. This gives Malaysia the second smallest contraction rate (-2.7 percent) in this quarter after Vietnam, the country that did not experience a negative growth rate at all throughout the given period. Vietnam did, however, experience its worst GDP growth rate (0.4 percent) in the preceding quarter, but it recovered by 1.9 percentage points to 2.3 percent, and was the only country in this group to achieve positive growth in this quarter. Singapore had a 7.4 percentage point recovery rate from the second worst contraction among the country group in the previous quarter (at -13.2 percent) to -5.8 percent. Thailand experienced the most severe contraction rate (-6.4 percent) in this third quarter. The worst recession experienced by Indonesia was -5.3 percent in the preceding quarter, and it recovered by 1.8 percentage points in this quarter.

Among the other selected Asian countries, China and Taiwan achieved GDP growth, whereas Hong Kong and South Korea were still in contraction in this quarter. China's GDP increased by 4.9 percent, 1.7 percentage points higher than the preceding quarter, but 1.1 percentage points lower than the same quarter in 2019. Taiwan recovered by 4.5

percentage points from the contraction of 0.6 percent in the previous quarter to have a 3.9 growth rate in this quarter. Hong Kong had a 5.5 percentage point recovery from the worst contraction (-9.0 percent) among the country group to -3.5 percent in this quarter. South Korea recovered by 1.9 percentage points from the previous quarter, but still remained in contraction at -1.1 percent in this quarter.

Among the selected industrial countries, the Euro-12 had the largest recovery rate (10.4 percentage points) to reduce the contraction from its worst (at -14.7 percent) in the preceding quarter to -4.3 percent, the second highest contraction in the country group after Japan (-5.7 percent) in this quarter. Even though there was a 4.2 percentage point recovery from the previous quarter, Japan's GDP was still 7.4 percentage points lower than it was in the same quarter last year. The USA's GDP presented the lowest contraction rate since the first quarter of 2020 with a 6.7 percentage point recovery from the previous quarter to -2.8 percent, which was 4.9 percentage points lower than the same quarter of last year.

### Inflation rates

Among the six selected ASEAN countries, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam experienced inflation rates of 2.8 percent, 1.4 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively, while other three countries reported deflation rates. Malaysia had the highest deflation rate (-1.4 percent), followed by Thailand (-0.8 percent) and Singapore (-0.3 percent). In terms of changes, compared with the preceding quarter, only Indonesia had a drop in inflation (by 0.9 percentage points), while there were increases in Cambodia (by 0.3 percentage points), Malaysia (1.2 percentage points), Singapore (0.4 percentage points), Thailand (1.9 percentage points) and Vietnam (0.4 percentage points).

Throughout the given period, only China, among the other selected Asian countries, did not experience deflation, and its inflation rate in this quarter was 2.3 percent, which was 0.4 percentage points lower than the preceding quarter and 0.6 percentage points lower than the same quarter of last year. Hong Kong experienced a first-time deflation in this quarter at

-0.9 percent, a 2.2 percentage point drop from the previous quarter and a 4.3 percentage point drop compared with the same quarter of last year. South Korea experienced a deflation rate of -0.1 percent in the preceding quarter (quarter two of 2020), and this turned to an inflation rate of 0.7 percent in this (third) quarter, a 0.8 percentage point increase from the previous quarter and a 0.6 percentage point increase over the same quarter of last year.

The inflation rate fluctuated in the selected industrial countries throughout the given period, but it hovered around zero in Japan after the brief deflation (-0.1) in 2016. The Euro-12 reported a zero inflation rate in this quarter, while it was 0.2 percent in Japan and 1.2 percent in the USA. In comparison with the previous quarter, there was a drop in inflation by 0.3 percentage points in the Euro-12, whereas there was a rise in Japan (by 0.1 percentage points) and in the USA (by 0.9 percentage points). Year-on-year, the inflation rate has dropped in these three countries: Euro-12 by 1.0 percentage point, Japan by 0.1 percentage point and the USA by 0.5 percentage points.

### Exchange rates

Compared with the preceding quarter, among all the currencies of the countries selected, only the Khmer riel depreciated (0.1 percent) against the US

dollar: the Singapore dollar, Hong Kong dollar and Euro remained stable at 1.4 Singapore dollars/US dollar, 7.8 HK dollars/US dollar and 0.9 Euros/US dollar, while the Indonesian rupiah appreciated by 1.7 percent, the Malaysian ringgit by 2.3 percent, the Thai baht by 0.2 percent, the Vietnamese dong by 0.2 percent, the Chinese yuan by 2.8 percent, the South Korean won by 2.6 percent, the Taiwan dollar by 2.0 percent and the Japanese yen by 1.3 percent.

### Commodity prices

The prices of only rice and soybeans were higher than they were in the same quarter of last year, while the prices of rubber, crude oil, gasoline and diesel dropped. The price of rice increased by 16.7 percent year-on-year to USD513.3/tonne, but it was 6.2 percent lower than it was in the preceding quarter, when it hit a peak of USD547.5/tonne. The price of soybeans rose by 11.7 percent year-on-year and by 8.6 percent from the previous quarter. The prices of rubber, crude oil, gasoline and diesel dropped by 5.3 percent, 29.0 percent, 31.3 percent and 37.6 percent, respectively, compared with the same quarter of 2019, but all of these prices were higher than they were in the preceding quarter: 15.0 percent for rubber; 39.9 percent for crude oil; 45.0 percent for gasoline; and 27.1 percent for diesel.

Table 1: Real GDP growth of selected trading partners, 2014–20 (percentage increase over previous year)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020		
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Selected ASEAN countries												
Cambodia	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	5.2	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	3.0	-5.3	-3.5
Malaysia	6.0	4.9	4.3	5.9	4.8	4.5	4.9	4.4	3.6	0.7	-17.1	-2.7
Singapore	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.8	3.2	1.3	0.1	0.5	0.8	-2.2	-13.2	-5.8
Thailand	1.6	2.8	3.2	3.8	4.1	2.8	2.3	2.4	1.6	-1.8	-12.2	-6.4
Vietnam	5.9	6.6	6.1	6.6	7.2	6.8	6.7	7.3	7.0	3.8	0.4	2.3
Selected other Asian countries												
China	7.3	7.0	6.7	6.9	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.0	-6.8	3.2	4.9
Hong Kong	2.3	2.3	1.7	2.8	3.1	0.6	0.5	2.9	-2.9	-8.9	-9.0	-3.5
South Korea	3.4	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.0	1.8	2.1	2.0	3.4	1.3	-3.0	-1.1
Taiwan	3.5	0.6	1.2	2.8	2.6	1.7	2.4	3.0	3.3	1.5	-0.6	3.9
Selected industrial countries												
Euro-12	0.7	1.3	1.6	2.3	1.9	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.0	-3.3	-14.7	-4.3
Japan	0.6	0.3	0.9	1.8	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.7	-0.7	-2.0	-9.9	-5.7
United States	2.4	2.3	1.6	2.3	3.0	3.2	2.3	2.1	2.3	0.3	-9.5	-2.8

Sources: International Monetary Fund; *Economist*; countries' statistics offices

Table 2: Inflation rates of selected trading partners, 2014–20 (percentage price increase over previous year – period averages)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020		
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Selected ASEAN countries												
Cambodia	3.9	1.2	3.0	2.9	2.5	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.1	3.0	2.5	2.8
Indonesia	6.4	6.4	3.5	3.8	3.2	2.6	3.1	3.4	2.9	2.9	2.3	1.4
Malaysia	3.2	2.1	2.1	3.9	1.0	-0.3	0.6	1.3	1.0	0.9	-2.6	-1.4
Singapore	1.0	-0.5	-0.8	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.4	-0.7	-0.3
Thailand	1.9	-0.9	0.2	0.7	1.1	0.7	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	-2.7	-0.8
Vietnam	4.8	0.6	2.7	3.4	3.6	2.6	2.7	2.2	3.7	5.6	2.8	3.2
Selected other Asian countries												
China	2.0	1.4	2.0	1.6	2.1	1.8	2.6	2.9	4.3	4.4	2.7	2.3
Hong Kong	4.4	3.1	2.5	1.7	2.4	2.2	2.7	3.4	3.0	2.0	1.3	-0.9
South Korea	1.3	0.7	0.8	2.0	1.4	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.3	1.2	-0.1	0.7
Taiwan	1.5	0.6	1.4	0.6	1.4	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.6	-1.0	-0.5
Selected industrial countries												
Euro-12	0.4	0.0	0.3	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.3	0.0
Japan	2.8	0.9	-0.1	0.6	1.0	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.2
United States	1.6	0.0	1.2	2.1	2.5	1.7	1.8	1.7	2.1	2.1	0.3	1.2

Sources: International Monetary Fund; *Economist*; National Institute of Statistics

Table 3: Exchange rates against the US dollar of selected trading partners, 2014–20 (period averages)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020		
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Selected ASEAN countries												
Cambodia (riel)	4037.6	4060.4	4053.6	4047.0	4045.0	4006.6	4052.1	4086.8	4063.7	4064.1	4101.4	4105.7
Indonesia (rupiah)	11850.2	13394.8	13338.3	13379.8	14227.6	14127.8	14246.8	14117.6	14060.5	14220.3	14944.2	14690.0
Malaysia (ringgit)	3.3	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2
Singapore (S\$)	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Thailand (baht)	32.5	34.2	35.3	33.9	32.3	31.6	31.6	30.7	30.3	31.2	32.0	31.3
Vietnam (dong)	21138.2	21917.7	22507.5	22645.9	22663.3	22902.9	23255.5	23258.3	23217.3	23351.0	23244.6	23195.8
Selected other Asian countries												
China (yuan)	6.2	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.1	6.9
Hong Kong (HK\$)	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
South Korea (won)	1053.6	1131.9	1161.0	1130.5	1099.9	1125.0	1165.4	1193.4	1174.7	1191.5	1219.8	1188.5
Taiwan (NT\$)	30.3	31.8	32.3	30.4	30.1	30.8	31.1	31.2	30.5	30.1	29.9	29.3
Selected industrial countries												
Euro-12 (euro)	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Japan (yen)	105.9	121.0	108.8	112.1	110.4	110.1	109.9	107.3	108.7	109.0	107.6	106.2

Sources: International Monetary Fund; *Economist*; National Bank of Cambodia

Table 4: Selected commodity prices on the world market, 2014–20 (period averages)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020		
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Maize (US No. 2) – USA (USD/tonne)	192.9	169.8	159.2	154.5	164.4	167.5	175.9	170.1	166.8	167.6	146.3	156.0
Palm oil – northwest Europe (USD/tonne)	821.4	622.7	643.6	714.7	638.7	586.9	568.1	570.1	680.2	724.7	614.0	750.2
Rubber SMR 5 (USD/tonne)	1755.6	1392.7	1416.1	1688.3	1401.4	1436.6	1549.5	1389.7	1410.1	1374.4	1144.4	1316.5
Rice (Thai 100% B) – Bangkok (USD/tonne)	434.9	395.5	406.7	452.3	444.2	426.7	430.0	439.7	442.7	481.3	547.5	513.3
Soybeans (US No.1) – USA (USD/tonne)	491.8	390.4	405.7	400.6	405.4	353.3	347.8	339.7	347.3	360.7	349.4	379.5
Crude oil – OPEC spot (USD/barrel)	96.2	49.6	40.7	52.6	69.5	60.5	65.1	59.7	60.3	49.1	30.3	42.4
Gasoline – US Gulf Coast (cents/litre)	65.6	41.0	35.2	42.4	49.6	40.9	49.4	46.0	43.3	34.2	21.8	31.6
Diesel (low sulphur No.2) – US Gulf Coast (cents/litre)	71.5	41.7	34.8	42.9	53.8	49.5	51.1	48.9	49.4	39.2	24.0	30.5

Sources: Food and Agriculture Organisation; US Energy Information Administration

## Economy Watch—Domestic Performance

### Main economic activities

At first glance, the list of total fixed asset approvals for the third quarter of 2020 was the lowest, compared with those of previous quarters of the same year and the preceding year. Year-on-year, the total fixed asset approvals plunged by 84.0 percent due to the decrease in approvals for industry (by 63.8 percent) and services (by 94.9 percent). This was despite the fact that approvals for agriculture rocketed by 1,568.9 percent to USD31.7m. In spite of the year-on-year expansion, the approvals for agriculture were still 11.4 percent lower than they were in the preceding quarter, which saw a jump from zero approvals in the first quarter of 2020. In terms of approvals for the other two major sectors, there was a decrease in comparison with both the same quarter of last year and with the preceding quarter. The decrease in approvals for industry was driven by the 37.3 percent decrease in approvals for garments, and, for services, by the 99.6 percent decrease in approvals for hotels and tourism.

It should be noted that data relating to the value of construction project approvals in Phnom Penh have been unavailable since the third quarter of 2015.

Regarding foreign visitor arrivals, the data clearly show that the total number of those for the third quarter was still low compared with quarters in previous years, despite the 87.0 percent increase from the preceding quarter to 64,854 visitors; the total was 1,475,832 visitors in the same quarter of the previous year. Of the total foreign visitors in the third quarter of 2020, 55.9 percent arrived by land or water and the rest (42.9 percent) by air. Excluding the 4.5 percent of arrivals from unspecified destinations, this was the first time, counting from the first quarter of 2019, that the total number of arrivals from China was not the largest: it was in second place at 41.9 percent, exceeded by those from Thailand at 43.8 percent. Thai visitors to Cambodia were 236.4 percent up - from 8,430 in the preceding quarter to 28,358. Compared with the preceding quarter, the arrivals from all major destinations increased, but, as mentioned earlier,

those numbers were far lower than they were in the first quarter of 2020, and especially in comparison with various quarters of the previous year.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the data show that there was an improvement in Cambodia's exports in comparison with both the same quarter of the previous year (by 30.4 percent) and with the preceding quarter (by 30.8 percent). Compared with all quarters since the beginning of 2019, garment exports hit a peak in the third quarter of 2019 and fluctuated in later quarters. The export value of garments in this quarter, however, was the second largest - at USD2,705 m as it was 13.9 percent lower than the same quarter of 2019 (the peak), but 36.4 percent higher than the preceding quarter because of the increase in the export value of garments to all major destinations, except to ASEAN. Garment exports to the USA (the largest importer in this quarter) expanded by 49.6 percent, the EU (the second largest) by 14.0 percent, Japan by 47.3 percent, the UK by 63.5 percent and the rest of the world by 39.0 percent. Garment exports to ASEAN dropped by 10.6 percent from the preceding quarter.

There was also a marked expansion in exports of electronics, hitting a peak of USD183.2 m in this quarter compared with previous quarters since the first quarter of 2019. This value was 28.7 percent higher than it was in the same quarter of last year, and 65.0 percent higher than that of the preceding quarter.

Automotive exports dropped by 17.7 percent from their peak in the preceding quarter, but they were higher than had been achieved during the other seven previous quarters.

Similar to the automotive trend, agriculture exports reached a peak in the second quarter but fell in this third quarter - it was the third largest agriculture export value figure achieved throughout the seven-quarter period. This sector experienced an 8.9 percent drop from the previous quarter to USD277.4 m, driven mainly by the drop in exports of agricultural commodities: wood by 8.3 percent, rice by 40.7 percent and unspecified commodities by 30.5 percent. This is despite a 107.8 percent increase in rubber exports and stable fish exports at the lowest agricultural export value (USD0.1 m).

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It is also important to note the significance of other exports, which have not been specified, because they constituted a large share of up to 42.4 percent of the total exports in this quarter. The value of those rose by 30.5 percent to USD2,360.7 m (the peak of the seven-quarter period), giving it a year-on-year increase of 217.3 percent.

Viewed throughout the period from the first quarter of 2019, imports in the third quarter of 2020 recorded their third lowest value - at USD4,571.6 m - after the first lowest in the preceding quarter at USD4,361.5 m and the second lowest in the first quarter of 2019 at USD4,437.7 m. In this third quarter, the total import value of three selected import commodities - gasoline, diesel and construction materials - accounted for only 14.4 percent of total imports, meaning that the remaining 85.6 percent related to unspecified import commodities. Compared with the previous quarter, gasoline imports rose by 1.8 percent, diesel by 3.4 percent, construction by 5.7 percent, and the total import value of unspecified commodities by 4.0 percent.

Because the significant rise in exports outweighs the slight increase in import value in this quarter, this is the first time that Cambodia's trade balance has been positive, compared with all quarters included in this report. The trade balance was USD990.5 m, up from USD-110.1 m in the preceding quarter.

### Public finance

Total revenue in this quarter was KHR4,189.8 bn, which represented a year-on-year decrease of 34.2 percent and a 24.6 percent decrease compared with the preceding quarter. Current revenue consistently outweighed capital revenues and it contributed 99.1 percent (at KHR4,150.0 bn) to total revenue in this quarter. In comparison with both the same quarter of last year and with the preceding quarter, the current revenue decreased by 34.2 percent and 24.6 percent, respectively. Year-on-year, this has been driven by drops in tax revenue by 28.2 percent and non-tax revenue by 70.6 percent. All types of revenues included within tax revenue experienced decreases as did those within the non-tax revenues category, except for a 3.0 percent rise in year-on-year property income. In comparison with the preceding quarter, only the taxes on international trade increased (by 9.8 percent), while the rest, both tax and non-tax revenues, decreased.

Total expenditure in this quarter was the third highest at KHR5,603.8 bn after the fourth quarter of 2019 (the peak) and the second quarter of 2020 (the second) among all quarters, counting from the first quarter of 2019. The current expenditure, covering wages, subsidies and other current expenditures, accounted for 68.6 percent of the total expenditure, while capital expenditure was 31.4 percent. Compared with the same quarter of 2019, capital expenditure increased by 29.3 percent, but represented a 23.2 percent drop from the preceding quarter. The current expenditure dropped in comparison with both the same quarter of last year (by 4.5 percent) and the preceding quarter (by 5.1 percent). Under current expenditure, only wages increased in both comparisons, whereas subsidies and social assistance and other current expenditure went into reverse.

The overall balance in the national budget represented a deficit of KHR1,414.0 bn, an increase of 79.5 percent from KHR787.8 bn in the preceding quarter. To address this deficit, there were increases in both foreign and domestic financing. Foreign financing rose by 132.5 percent year-on-year and by 19.9 percent compared with the preceding quarter. Domestic financing increased by 850.4 percent year-on-year and by 504.8 percent compared with the previous quarter making this the largest amount of domestic financing compared with previous quarters since the first one of 2019.

### Inflation and foreign exchange rates

The consumer price index in this quarter was 2.8 percent, up from 2.5 percent in the preceding quarter. In comparison with all other quarters since the beginning of 2019, this makes it the second highest index after the top one in the first quarter of 2020. The price of food and non-alcoholic beverages dropped by 0.4 percentage points, while the price of transport increased by 6.2 percentage points to -4.6 percent.

Compared with the previous quarter, the riel depreciated 0.2 percent against the US dollar to KHR4,094.6 per dollar and 2.7 percent against the Thai baht to KHR131.0 per baht, but remained stable at KHR17.7 per 100 Vietnamese dong.

The price of gold rose by 20.9 percent to USD224.2 per chi, diesel by 14.1 percent to KHR2,730.6 per litre and gasoline by 20.9 percent to KHR3,003.7 per litre compared with the preceding quarter.

### Vulnerable workers survey

This section describes the situation of vulnerable workers using data from a CDRI survey in November 2020 with 480 subjects – 120 garment workers and 360 workers from nine other worker groups (see Table 8). With the exception of this quarter, since February 2018 skilled construction workers earned the largest daily income, hitting a peak of KHR31,298 per day in the preceding quarter and falling to the lowest daily earnings of KHR22,069 in this quarter, making it the second largest compared with the daily earnings of other workers. What is noticeable is that this is the first time that the daily income of skilled workers has been the second highest, and it is also the first time that the earnings of small vegetable sellers were the first, compared both with other workers' earnings in this quarter and with all quarters from February 2019. Waitresses/waiters and rice-field workers consistently remained the lowest daily earners among the vulnerable workers with earnings of only KHR8,912 and KHR8,924 per day, respectively. The daily earnings of other worker types fluctuated slightly, from just above KHR10,000 to about KHR20,000 per day, except for the earnings of unskilled construction workers, which were KHR22,916 per day in February 2020. The descriptions covering the situation of vulnerable workers in this section separates the types of vulnerable workers into groups: workers in the informal sectors and garment workers in the formal sectors.

To begin with workers in the informal sector, the largest proportion of those were aged from 21 to 25 years (15.8 percent), followed by those aged from 36 to 40 years (14.4 percent), 41 to 45 years (11.9 percent) and those aged from 31 to 35 (10.6 percent). This brings the total among these four age groups to just above half of the total workforce employed in the nine job categories. Within the age range of 26 to 41 years, the highest percentage were unskilled construction workers (16.8 percent), while the second was skilled construction workers (15.3 percent), porters (14.2 percent), vegetable vendors (12.6 percent), scavengers (12.1 percent), waitresses/waiters (8.9 percent), cyclo drivers (5.8 percent) and rice-field workers (only 2.6 percent). Outside of this group, more workers were aged above 45 years (25.3 percent), and 10.6 percent were younger than 26 years. Out of the total workers aged above 45 years, the largest proportion

were rice-field workers (26.5 percent), cyclo drivers (22.0 percent), motor taxi drivers (13.6 percent), vegetable sellers (11.4 percent), scavengers (9.8 percent), skilled construction workers (7.6 percent), porters (6.8 percent) and unskilled construction workers (only 2.3 percent). It is also notable that none of the waitresses/waiters interviewed were aged above 45 years, and, more interestingly, the majority were in the youngest age range, i.e., not above 30 years of age. The ages of rice-field workers and cyclo drivers were in complete contrast to those of waitresses/waters.

In terms of gender, 63.1 percent of workers in the nine job categories were male, but it is worth examining the distribution in each job. There was a stark contrast between males and females in four types of workers: cyclo drivers, motor taxi drivers, porters and vegetable sellers. None of the women worked as cyclo drivers, motor taxi drivers or porters, and, in a complete reversal, all vegetable sellers were female. Aside from vegetable vending, females also dominated in rice-field work, scavenging and in working as waitresses/waiters. The percentages for those were 95.0 percent, 65.0 percent and 65.0 percent, respectively. In contrast, 97.0 percent of skilled construction workers and 95.0 percent of unskilled construction workers were men.

Looking at average expenditure, vegetable sellers had the highest monthly expenses - up to KHR720,475 per month - while waitresses/waiters spent the least (KHR166,500) compared with all the types of workers selected for this study. Motor taxi drivers had the second highest monthly expenses (KHR560,000), followed by porters (KHR466,750), scavengers (KHR404,500), skilled construction workers (KHR374,500), unskilled construction workers (KHR371,250), rice-field workers (KHR361,875) and cyclo drivers (KHR341,950). On average, their expenditure related mainly to food (72.9 percent), accommodation (11.0 percent), transportation (2.4 percent), health (2.9 percent) and other issues (12.8 percent).

With regard to the situation of garment workers, there was no considerable difference in comparison with the other types of workers. Their average daily income had increased, relatively, from the previous quarter - to KHR14,391 - but it was 13.2 percent lower than it was in the same quarter of last year. Their income was spent mainly on food (67.4 percent), accommodation (24.2 percent), transportation (0.7

percent), health (6.4 percent) and other items (5.7 percent). Nearly all respondents (99.2 percent) in this group were women, and the vast majority of garment workers (86.7 percent) interviewed were under 40 years of age, 11.7 percent were aged from 41-50 years and only 1.7 percent of them were above 50 years old. In terms of marital status, the largest proportion were married – at 61.7 percent. The percentage who were single was 29.2 percent, and widowed, 9.2 percent. The garment workers came from 15 provinces and towns. The highest percentage were from Prey Veng (25.0 percent), followed by the neighbouring province, Svay Rieng (15.0 percent), then Kampong Thom (10.0 percent), Kampong Cham (also 10.0 percent), Phnom Penh

(7.5 percent), Tboung Khmom (5.8 percent), Kampong Speu (5.8 percent), Takeo (5.0 percent), Kandal (4.2 percent), Pursat (2.5 percent), Kampot (2.5 percent), Kampong Chhnang (2.5 percent), Monduliri (1.7 percent), Oddar Meanchey (1.7 percent) and Siem Reap (0.8 percent). The largest proportion of them were from a family with three members (24.2 percent), while slightly fewer were from families with four members (23.3 percent), five members (19.2 percent), six members (19.2 percent), and seven members (6.7 percent). A smaller proportion of workers came from families with two members (4.2 percent), followed by those with one member (1.7 percent), eight members (0.8 percent) and nine members (0.8 percent).

Table 1: Private investment projects approved, 2014–2020

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020		
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
						fixed assets (USD m)						
Agriculture	56.5	169.8	117.1	62.9	214.9	17.2	48.2	1.9	27.5	0.0	35.8	31.7
Industry	1002.5	1014.7	1436.4	982.2	1186.2	292.9	113.7	302.0	919.9	234.0	737.0	109.3
. <i>Garments</i>	393.5	225.2	380.7	211.1	187.3	73.9	34.4	47.3	74.1	106.0	55.5	29.7
Services	622.6	2734.4	1664.3	3858.6	4351.8	1625.6	2518.2	849.7	1440.4	682.1	481.2	43.4
. <i>Hotels and tourism</i>	446.9	98.6	1366.9	2759.6	1584.0	1618.8	2518.2	808.7	1703.8	133.0	202.4	3.5
Total	1583.9	3918.9	3217.7	4903.7	5752.9	1935.6	2680.1	1153.5	2387.8	916.1	1254.1	184.3
	percentage change from the previous quarter											
Total	-	-	-	-	-	4.9	38.5	-57.0	107.0	-61.6	36.9	-85.3
	percentage change from the previous year											
Total	-63.4	147.4	-17.9	52.4	17.3	312.5	12.6	8.9	29.4	-52.7	-53.2	-84.0

Note: Including expansion project approvals. Source: Cambodian Investment Board

Table 2: Value of construction project approvals in Phnom Penh, 2009–2015

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014				2015		
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
						USD m						
Villas, houses and flats	213.9	220.1	405.1	547.3	658.9	133.6	84.0	33.1	20.4	122.3	-	637.6
Other	227.3	217.8	199.9	463.6	859.6	190.0	141.7	105.6	11.7	49.8	-	252.6
Total	441.2	489.8	605.0	1010.9	1518.5	323.6	225.7	138.7	32.1	172.0	-	897.4
	percentage change from previous quarter											
Total	-	-	-	-	-	34.3	-30.2	-38.5	-77.8	437.3	-	-
	percentage change from previous year											
Total	-60.5	11.0	23.5	67.1	28.1	8.0	-9.2	-64.2	-86.7	-46.8	-	-

Source: Department of Cadastre and Geography of Phnom Penh municipality

Table 3: Foreign visitor arrivals, 2014–2020

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020		
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
thousands												
China	560.3	694.7	830.0	1210.8	2024.4	683.4	609.1	572.5	496.9	259.7	15.9	27.2
Vietnam	905.8	987.8	959.7	835.4	800.1	186.9	214.8	235.7	271.5	179.5	0.2	1.1
South Korea	424.4	395.3	357.2	345.0	301.8	95.7	43.6	47.4	68.1	41.7	1.0	1.8
Thailand	279.5	349.9	398.1	394.9	382.3	97.9	76.3	113.9	178.4	152.7	8.4	28.4
US	191.4	217.5	238.7	256.5	250.8	79.0	53.2	45.5	71.2	42.7	0.3	1.4
Japan	215.8	193.3	191.6	203.4	210.5	60.2	40.4	48.9	58.2	39.8	0.2	0.7
France	141.1	145.7	150.3	166.4	170.8	59.4	27.3	32.9	44.5	41.8	0.1	0.7
UK	133.3	154.3	159.5	171.2	162.4	59.4	29.7	28.5	45.6	44.2	0.1	0.3
Malaysia	144.4	149.4	152.8	179.3	201.1	48.7	43.2	46.5	64.6	24.9	0.1	0.3
By air	2273.5	2476.0	2778.0	3312.7	6405.6	1299.1	1054.8	1039.9	1010.2	663.6	26.3	36.3
By land or water	2229.3	2299.2	2331.4	2289.4	3242.2	578.7	405.8	436.0	786.1	491.6	8.4	28.5
Total	4502.8	4775.2	4980.4	5602.2	9647.7	1877.9	1460.6	1475.8	1796.3	1155.2	34.7	64.9
percentage change from the previous quarter												
Total	-	-	-	-	-	2.9	-22.2	1.0	21.7	-35.7	-97.0	87.0
percentage change from the previous year												
Total	7.0	6.1	4.3	12.5	72.2	9.7	13.2	7.4	-1.6	-38.5	-97.6	-95.6

Source: Ministry of Tourism

Table 4: Exports and imports, 2014–2020

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020		
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
USD m												
Total exports	8106.0	9256.4	10043.3	10772.9	12783.8	3222.7	3379.0	4263.9	3524.9	3550.1	4251.5	5562.2
Of which: Garments	5960.5	6827.0	7308.0	8020.3	9506.0	2463.4	2526.3	3143.8	2530.9	2647.2	1983.8	2705.4
. To US	1963.6	2009.4	1831.5	1923.8	2483.2	739.8	802.9	1006.5	848.0	945.9	694.3	1038.6
. To EU	2403.7	2903.9	2928.7	2782.2	3155.3	719.2	801.1	965.4	716.2	706.3	579.9	661.2
. To ASEAN	83.3	103.4	98.4	106.9	135.3	38.1	41.3	48.2	53.1	54.6	54.6	48.8
. To Japan	383.1	524.2	655.5	701.2	890.8	262.9	175.8	291.2	236.8	262.9	156.7	230.8
. To UK	-	-	439.8	904.0	1007.0	211.5	197.7	272.9	200.3	190.2	136.6	223.4
. To rest of the world	1126.8	1286.3	1354.2	1602.2	1834.3	491.7	507.5	559.7	476.4	487.3	361.7	502.8
Electronics	-	-	-	380.0	328.7	71.9	123.8	142.3	116.3	113.0	111.0	183.2
Automotive	-	-	-	11.6	94.4	20.4	18.2	22.7	24.1	26.0	43.0	35.4
Agriculture	624.4	548.8	534.1	706.4	850.9	210.4	177.7	211.0	288.1	262.9	304.5	277.4
. Rubber	153.9	165.4	165.3	273.5	217.6	43.8	42.2	60.0	73.3	30.8	40.0	83.1
. Wood	132.0	46.3	47.2	100.5	142.3	22.2	35.2	42.4	47.5	44.0	93.8	86.0
. Fish	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
. Rice	248.5	315.3	300.8	255.1	413.6	122.4	72.2	84.5	140.2	145.9	105.5	62.6
. Other agriculture	89.1	21.3	20.2	76.7	76.2	21.9	28.1	24.1	26.9	42.2	65.1	45.6
Others	1520.1	1880.2	2201.2	1654.7	2003.8	456.6	532.9	744.0	565.6	501.0	1809.2	2360.7
Total imports	10295.4	11494.5	15013.4	16815.4	16904.7	4437.7	5328.6	5091.4	5324.3	5250.9	4361.5	4571.6
Of which: Gasoline	334.7	377.3	384.8	256.7	320.5	121.1	117.1	118.6	121.9	131.4	122.6	124.8
. Diesel	602.3	607.8	709.1	472.9	594.1	228.2	250.2	166.4	248.9	248.1	265.1	274.2
Construction materials	117.6	164.4	253.2	304.3	564.5	170.8	231.4	271.2	224.4	177.0	213.5	260.8
Other	9240.7	10345.1	13666.3	15781.6	15425.7	3917.7	4729.9	4535.2	4729.1	4694.4	3760.4	3911.9
Trade balance	-2184.3	-2238.1	-4970.0	-5974.1	-4120.9	-1215.0	-1990.6	-827.5	-1799.4	-1700.9	-110.1	990.5
percentage change from the previous quarter												
Total garment exports	-	-	-	-	-	7.0	2.6	24.4	-19.5	4.6	-25.1	36.4
Total exports	-	-	-	-	-	2.8	7.8	26.2	-17.3	0.7	19.8	30.8
Total imports	-	-	-	-	-	6.0	27.2	-4.5	4.6	-1.4	-16.9	4.8
percentage change from the previous year												
Total garment exports	10.7	14.5	7.0	9.7	18.5	17.7	12.8	9.5	9.9	7.5	-21.5	-13.9
Total exports	16.1	14.2	8.5	7.9	17.9	13.7	12.6	11.8	12.4	10.2	25.8	30.4
Total imports	19.7	11.7	30.6	12.0	0.5	4.6	18.5	28.0	27.1	18.3	-18.1	-10.2

Note: Import data includes tax-exempt imports.

Sources: Department of Trade Preference Systems; Ministry of Commerce and Customs and Excise Department; Ministry of Economy and Finance (website)



Table 5: National budget operations on a cash basis, 2014–2020 (billion riels)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020		
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Total revenue	10543.4	11879.9	14201.5	16582.0	19743.1	5097.5	6357.1	6364.5	6930.3	5544.2	5554.9	4189.8
Current revenue	10359.4	11759.0	14088.7	16481.4	19549.0	5066.8	6322.2	6309.2	6869.7	5524.0	5504.1	4150.0
Tax revenue	8995.2	10502.4	12196.5	14314.3	17019.2	4524.3	5663.5	5415.1	6009.8	4697.1	5236.7	3886.8
Domestic tax	7226.5	8591.7	10185.8	12338.7	14648.3	3904.9	4944.9	4634.1	5215.9	4076.5	4787.8	3393.8
Taxes on international trade	1822.7	1910.7	2010.7	1875.6	2370.9	619.4	718.6	781.0	793.9	620.6	448.9	493.0
Non-tax revenue	1310.3	1256.6	1892.2	2167.2	2520.9	542.5	658.7	894.1	859.9	826.9	267.4	263.2
Property income	88.5	77.3	116.0	127.2	197.3	177.4	34.0	30.2	22.9	289.6	36.8	31.1
Sale of goods and services	871.2	1,047.1	1248.3	1517.0	2075.6	330.7	531.2	798.5	750.0	500.9	211.6	190.7
Other non-tax revenue	350.5	132.2	528.0	523.1	253.9	34.5	93.5	65.5	87.1	36.4	47.5	41.5
Capital revenue	184.0	121.0	113.4	100.5	194.1	30.7	35.0	55.4	60.7	20.2	50.8	39.8
Total expenditure	13306.5	13834.9	13775.4	17250.9	19027.2	4150.4	4997.6	5386.5	7676.7	5301.8	6342.7	5603.8
Capital expenditure	5590.7	5290.3	3785.3	5207.2	5730.2	1025.0	1392.7	1358.6	3195.4	1259.3	2289.2	1757.1
Current expenditure	7715.8	8544.6	9990.1	12043.7	13297.0	3125.4	3604.9	4027.9	4481.3	4042.5	4053.5	3846.7
Wages	3755.5	4271.9	5381.7	6647.4	7558.4	1820.2	1911.1	2102.0	1883.3	2058.0	1934.4	2132.8
Subsidies and social assistance	1627.0	1742.9	1774.9	2314.8	2505.4	729.2	1061.9	855.5	1620.3	1288.2	1435.6	701.5
Other current expenditure	2333.4	2529.8	2833.5	5394.3	5738.6	1305.2	1693.8	1925.8	2598.1	1984.4	2119.2	1713.9
Overall balance	-2763.1	-1955.0	426.1	-668.9	715.9	947.1	1359.5	978.0	-746.4	242.4	-787.8	-1414.0
Foreign financing	3972.1	3729.4	1878.9	3358.1	716.1	652.8	895.5	608.8	1383.3	369.5	1180.5	1415.7
Domestic financing	-1428.7	-2034.9	-1858.7	-2454.1	2513.5	-44.4	-7.6	11.9	-18.0	3.2	18.7	113.1

Source: Ministry of Economy and Finance website

Table 6: Consumer price index, exchange rates and gold prices (period averages), 2014–2020

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020		
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
consumer price index (percentage change from previous year)												
Phnom Penh – All Items	3.9	1.2	3.1	2.9	2.5	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.5	2.8
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages	4.9	4.0	5.6	3.4	2.5	2.1	1.6	2.2	2.4	3.7	4.9	4.5
- Transport	-1.0	-9.2	-6.9	4.1	2.9	-3.8	-1.5	-2.5	-1.4	2.6	-10.8	-4.6
exchange rates, gold and oil prices (Phnom Penh market rates)												
Riels per US dollar	4036.2	4060.4	4053.7	4047.5	4045.0	4006.6	4052.1	4086.8	4063.7	4064.1	4087.0	4094.6
Riels per Thai baht	124.9	119.4	115.5	120.0	125.9	127.4	128.9	133.7	134.9	130.7	127.5	131.0
Riels per 100 Vietnamese dong	19.1	18.7	18.2	17.9	17.7	17.4	17.5	17.7	17.6	17.6	17.7	17.7
Gold (US dollars per chi)	152.3	140.6	151.2	151.5	152.8	156.6	157.1	175.7	178.1	188.3	185.5	224.2
Diesel (riels/litre)	4852.1	3771.3	3004.0	3385.8	3808.7	3413.9	3595.4	3499.7	3499.5	3343.5	2393.0	2730.6
Gasoline (riels/litre)	5083.3	3951.7	3336.8	3716.0	3982.5	3405.7	3770.2	3629.3	3685.9	3538.8	2483.8	3003.7

Sources: National Institute of Statistics, National Bank of Cambodia, CDRI

Table 7: Monetary survey, 2014–2020 (end of period)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020		
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
billion riels												
Net foreign assets	26699.7	26665.5	31814.5	42575.3	55214.3	58148.8	55238.0	58667.0	60182.9	57001.8	63515.6	68060.7
Net domestic assets	15859.8	22157.6	25802.3	28743.5	33228.9	33997.2	55274.0	34814.3	34856.1	62221.0	60598.8	64552.9
Net claims on government	-4359.1	-6428.8	-8148.5	-11066.5	-14803.7	-17381.0	-19828.0	-21574.8	-23884.4	-24650.6	-24152.1	-24395.1
Credit to private sector	36244.6	46071.0	56458.8	66922.6	82419.3	86575.2	111686.0	119358.9	125629.4	131815.3	132849.9	139899.7
Total liquidity	42559.5	48823.1	57616.6	71318.9	88443.2	92146.0	110512.0	116766.5	118436.4	119222.8	124114.4	132613.6
Money	6308.4	6741.4	7273.0	9428.4	10226.8	10782.0	9883.0	11933.4	11906.3	12880.5	12650.4	-
Quasi-money	26699.7	42081.7	50343.8	61890.4	78216.4	81364.0	95196.0	98378.3	99650.6	99700.8	103956.6	-
percentage change from previous year												
Total liquidity	29.9	14.7	18.0	23.8	24.0	24.0	22.6	21.3	20.4	29.4	12.3	13.6
Money	29.3	6.9	7.9	29.6	8.5	8.5	12.6	18.0	32.7	19.5	28.0	-
Quasi-money	30.0	16.1	19.6	22.9	26.4	26.4	24.1	21.7	18.8	22.5	9.2	-

Source: National Bank of Cambodia

Table 8: Real average daily earnings of vulnerable workers (base November 2000)

	Daily earnings (riels)									Percentage change from previous year		
	2018	2019				2020				2020		
		Feb	May	Aug	Nov	Feb	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Cyclo drivers	10793	11764	10567	11114	12046	10997	9081	10779	10775	-14.1	-3.0	-10.6
Porters	14942	15882	17323	16560	18802	18246	17856	15346	19493	3.1	-7.3	3.7
Small vegetable sellers	17015	18912	21472	19197	18651	15207	20181	19479	23206	-6.0	1.5	24.4
Scavengers	11591	12941	12685	13123	13099	14759	8322	10742	11198	-34.4	-18.1	-14.5
Waitresses*	22901	8299	8348	8564	8724	8706	8420	8997	8912	0.9	5.1	2.2
Rice-field workers	17341	8209	7909	9180	9376	9154	8812	8712	8924	11.4	-5.1	-4.8
Garment workers	14231	16073	15166	16076	16578	16483	13271	14211	14391	-12.5	-11.6	-13.2
Motorcycle taxi drivers	8093	14705	15104	14219	14904	17748	9081	15210	14427	-11.9	7.0	-3.2
Unskilled construction workers	8055	19820	17987	18322	18814	22916	19741	17870	14947	9.7	-2.5	-20.6
Skilled construction workers	14093	26265	24743	25235	27225	27164	26778	31298	22069	8.2	24.0	-18.9

Notes: \* Waitresses' earnings do not include meals and accommodation provided by shop owners. Surveys on the revenue of waitresses, rice-field workers, garment workers, motorcycle taxi drivers and construction workers began in February 2000. November 2015 data are not available.

Source: CDRI