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Vietnam posted positive export growth in January despite the lackluster performance of the United States, its biggest buyer

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Statistics from the Ministry of Trade and Industry show that against the backdrop of a lackluster economic performance in the U.S., Vietnam's biggest importer, the fact that export revenues in January reached US\$4.5 billion was already impressive.

The export sector posted a growth rate of 19.7% year-on-year. However, it was lower than the target of 22%, or US\$4.9 billion a month on average. According to the ministry, this result is acceptable given that the greenback continues losing its value, which exerts negative impact on Vietnam's export.

Exports of manufactured goods maintained a high growth rate year-on-year. Of these, exports by the electronic and computer component sector grew by 33.3%, plastic products by 32.7%, and electric wires and cables by 23.1%.

Farm produce exports also posted strong growth, with pepper growing 81.8% and cashew nuts 38.9%.

Meanwhile, coffee exports fell compared with the year-ago period. Crude oil exports dropped nearly 13% in volume but increased 44.5% in price thanks to rising price on the world marketplace.

Coal exports in the first month of this year plunged by 10.1% compared with January 2007.

About 3,000 units of completely built-up automobiles were imported in January. This marked a year-on-year rise of three times. Import of auto parts also doubled the figure of January 2007. ■

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS IN JANUARY 2008

First month' estimated	Compared with 2007 period (%)			Value
	Amount (1,000 tons)	Value (US\$ mil.)	Amount	
<b>Total export value</b>		<b>4,500</b>		<b>119.7</b>
<b>- Foreign-invested enterprises</b>		<b>2,500</b>		<b>121.1</b>
<b>Main export items</b>				
1. Fisheries		290		115.5
2. Rice	70	23	106.1	109.5
3. Coffee	150	260	61.5	74.3
4. Vegetables, fruit		26		104.0
5. Rubber	70	148	107.7	138.1
6. Pepper	8	27	181.8	242.4
7. Cashew nuts	15	65	138.9	151.2
8. Tea	10	13	125.0	146.2
9. Crude oil	1,160	817	87.3	144.9
10. Coal	2,500	71	89.3	89.3
11. Textiles, garments		720		120.8
12. Footwear		400		105.3
13. Electronics, computer components		200		133.3
14. Handicrafts		80		113.6
15. Wood products		250		111.6
16. Plastic products		65		132.7
17. Bicycles and parts		10		100.0
18. Electric wires, cables		80		123.1
19. Handbags, suitcases, hats, umbrellas		60		120.0
<b>Total import spending</b>		<b>5,500</b>		<b>127.0</b>
<b>- Foreign-invested enterprises</b>		<b>2,000</b>		<b>131.3</b>
<b>Main import items</b>				
1. Completed automobiles	3,000	49	421.3	347.6
2. Auto parts	(sets) 6,000	66	314.6	254.2
3. Motorbike components	-	57	-	107.5
4. Steel products	430	304	119.8	137.5
5. Steel billets	190	110	106.7	144.1
6. Fertilizers	300	101	114.9	186.1
Urea fertilizer	60	18	157.9	200.0
7. Gasoline, oil	1,000	757	108.6	170.2
8. Paper	70	47	109.4	112.5
9. Plastic materials	145	224	112.4	120.0
10. Fiber	40	73	114.3	128.1
11. Cotton	25	31	108.7	111.6
12. Chemical materials		110		111.1
13. Equipment, machinery, components		1,000		118.2
14. Medicine		70		112.9
15. Electronics, computers, components		270		117.9
16. Fabrics		290		111.5
17. Textiles, garments, leather materials		180		125.9
18. Cooking oils and fats		40		117.6
19. Tobacco		16		106.7
20. Clinker	210	4	96.8	70.0
21. Pharmaceutical materials		14		116.7
22. Chemical products		125		130.2
23. Insecticides and materials		40		121.2
24. Metals	35	156	112.9	115.4
25. Milk		33		132.0
26. Wood materials		100		123.5
27. Animal feed and materials		90		107.1
28. Wheat	120	47	125.0	205.2
29. Paper pulp	7	5	100.0	125.0
30. Rubber	18	36	94.7	109.1

Source : Ministry of Industry and Trade