



VIETNAM MATTERS FOR AMERICA MATTERS FOR VIETNAM

30th ANNIVERSARY EDITION



AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/VIETNAM

The **East-West Center** promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the US Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options. The **East-West Center in Washington** provides US and Indo-Pacific government stakeholders and program partners with innovative training, analytical, dialogue, exchange, and public diplomacy initiatives to meet policy priorities.

The **U.S. Mission to Vietnam** is the official diplomatic representation of the United States to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The U.S. Embassy is located in Hanoi–Vietnam’s capital, and the Consulate General sits in Ho Chi Minh City. The U.S. Mission promotes cooperation across various sectors, including trade, education, security, health, and cultural exchange. The Embassy and Consulate General also provide essential consular services to American citizens living or traveling in Vietnam. Through its outreach programs and diplomatic efforts, the U.S. Mission to Vietnam holds a key role in advancing shared interests with Vietnam.

Map Disclaimer

Included maps are for illustrative purposes only and do not imply an opinion on the legal status of a territory.

VIETNAM MATTERS FOR AMERICA/ AMERICA MATTERS FOR VIETNAM

This project explores the important and multi-faceted relationship between the United States and Vietnam at the national, state, and local levels. Part of the *Asia Matters for America* initiative, this publication and the website AsiaMattersforAmerica.org provide tools for a global audience to explore the growing connections in the US-Vietnam relationship in the 21st century.

AsiaMattersforAmerica.org

Project Team

East-West Center in Washington

Director: Satu Limaye, PhD

Program Manager: Amy Namur

Program Coordinator: Charissa Yong

Design: Jeanette Simmons

Research & Content: Nurul Ashiqin Ariffin, Prash Bajracharya, Jacob Erhart, Samantha Garcia, Shinjini Ghosh, Tanya Nagrath, Hanah Park, Nayan Seth, Hoang Trung “Alex” Vu

Copyright © 2025 East-West Center

Highlights

THE UNITED STATES-VIETNAM RELATIONSHIP IN PROFILE

The United States and Vietnam Share Strong Economic, Security, and Diplomatic Ties

The United States is Vietnam's second-largest trading partner and a leading investor in Vietnam's high-tech sectors.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

The United States and Vietnam are Comprehensive Strategic Partners

Vietnam is a key partner in the Indo-Pacific and the United States and Vietnam are working together to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific region through forums such as ASEAN, APEC and the East Asia Summit.

SECURITY COOPERATION

US-Vietnam Security Cooperation Aims to Support a Sovereign, Independent, and Self-Reliant Vietnam

The United States has transferred 24 Metal Shark patrol boats, six Boeing ScanEagle UAVs, three high-endurance Coast Guard cutters, and 12 Textron T-6C Texan II training aircraft to Vietnam.

INVESTMENT

Vietnamese Greenfield Investment in the United States Has Reached \$6.9 Billion

In 2024, 328 American companies had a registered presence in Vietnam, operating 769 foreign subsidiaries.

JOBS

Trade and Investment from Vietnam Supports 65,000 Jobs Across the United States

Vietnamese greenfield investment has created nearly 10,000 US jobs, including 3,780 in the automotive original equipment manufacturing sector and 3,000 in the electronic components sector.

TRADE

Total Two-Way Trade in Goods Between the United States and Vietnam Reached \$149.7 Billion

Goods exports from the United States to Vietnam have increased from \$4.6 million in 1995 to \$13.1 billion in 2024.

AGRICULTURE

Vietnam Is the Tenth-Largest Global Importer of US Agricultural Products

Bilateral agricultural trade between the United States and Vietnam has increased by \$3.9 billion over the last 10 years.

Highlights

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Vietnam Is a Key Partner in Secure Supply Chains for US Technologies

Information and communication technology services trade between the United States and Vietnam was worth \$160 million in 2023.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF

The United States Has Provided More than \$100 Million to Support Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Assistance in Vietnam

During Pacific Partnership–Pacific Angel 2024, US forces renovated clinics and schools, met with 800 students, and engaged with more than 180 healthcare professionals.

HEALTHCARE

The United States Has Provided Over \$1 Billion to Improve the Healthcare in Vietnam

Through global health security investments and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the United States has improved disease prevention, treatment, and health systems in Vietnam.

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

Students from Vietnam in the United States Contribute Over \$1 Billion to the US Economy

Vietnam is the sixth-largest source of international students in the United States.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

Vietnamese Tourists Annually Contribute \$1.7 Billion to the US Economy

An estimated 779,800 Americans visited Vietnam in 2024, nearly double the number of arrivals in 2010. More than 135,000 Vietnamese visited the United States in 2024, triple the amount in 2010.

POPULATION

The United States is Home to 2.3 Million Vietnamese Americans

Vietnamese Americans are the fourth-largest Asian American and Pacific Islander population in the United States after Chinese, Indian, and Filipino Americans.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES

The United States and Vietnam Share Strong People-to-People Ties

The United States and Vietnam share 10 sister-city and sister-state relationships, two American centers, and four American hangouts.

The United States and Vietnam Share Strong Economic, Security, and Diplomatic Ties

The US-Vietnam relationship has grown significantly over the past three decades, marked by expanding economic ties, robust security cooperation, and shared regional goals. The United States is one of Vietnam’s largest trading partners, and both countries benefit from increased trade and investment, especially in the high-tech sector. Diplomatic relations were established in 1995, evolving into a Comprehensive Partnership in 2013, and further elevating to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2023. This unprecedented double upgrade reflects deeper collaboration in diplomatic relations, trade and economic ties, defense and security, regional stability, as well as science, technology, and innovation.



Photo source: President Donald J. Trump and Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party and President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, participate in a photo opportunity in the Mirror Room of the Presidential Palace Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, in Hanoi. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)

INDICATOR	UNITED STATES	VIETNAM
Population	335 million	100 million
GDP (Current USD)	\$27.72 trillion	\$429.7 billion
GDP per capita (Current USD)	\$82,800	\$4,300
Trade (% of GDP)	25%	166%
Exports of Goods and Services (% of GDP)	11%	87%
Imports of Goods and Services (% of GDP)	14%	79%
FDI, Net Inflows (BOP)	\$348.8 billion	\$18.5 billion
FDI, Net Outflows (BOP)	\$454.1 billion	-\$1.6 billion
Life Expectancy	77 years	75 years

Beyond these key areas, the United States and Vietnam also cooperate on shared challenges such as disaster relief, healthcare, and efforts to address the legacies of war. Moreover, exchanges, academic partnerships, and cultural ties continue to strengthen people-to-people connections. Over 30,000 Vietnamese students enrolled in US academic institutions in the 2023/24 academic year and 135,000 Vietnamese visited the United States in 2024, contributing \$1.7 billion to the US economy. Nearly 780,000 Americans visited Vietnam in 2024. These connections promote better understanding at a national, state, and local level.

Through this multifaceted partnership, the United States and Vietnam not only contribute to regional stability in the Indo-Pacific, but also foster a future of mutual growth and prosperity. By deepening ties between the people of the United States, the world’s largest economy and Vietnam, with a large population of youth and an emerging middle class in a region expected to drive global growth in the next decade, the US-Vietnam relationship is poised to advance shared prosperity, security, safety and stability for decades to come.

Numbers rounded throughout. All monetary values are in current US\$ unless otherwise noted. Whenever possible, most recent available data is used. For the most up-to-date data please visit AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/Vietnam

Source: World Bank, 2023 data, 2022 data for Life Expectancy

The United States and Vietnam are Comprehensive Strategic Partners

The bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam has evolved significantly since the establishment of bilateral relations in 1995 with both countries taking significant steps to address the legacies of the the Vietnam War and expand political, economic, and security ties. In 2013, the United States and Vietnam established a Comprehensive Partnership outlining nine areas of cooperation: political and diplomatic; trade and economic; science and technology; education; environment and health; war legacy issues; defense and security; protection and promotion of human rights; and culture, tourism, and sports.

In 2023, this agreement was double-upgraded to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership—a two-step enhancement to Vietnam’s highest diplomatic status. The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership builds on the same areas of cooperation and expands on deepening people-to-people ties through educational exchanges, engagement with diaspora, and continued efforts to address war legacies.

The United States and Vietnam also work together on the international stage through several international organizations. The United States established relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1977, elevating relations with the organization to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2019.

SELECTED STORY

THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM PARTNERING IN THE MEKONG

Through the Mekong-US Partnership the United States works with Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao, Burma, and Thailand to address regional challenges such as transboundary water management, environmental sustainability, and economic connectivity in the Lower Mekong Delta. Building on past initiatives like the Lower Mekong Initiative, the partnership focuses on enhancing water security, promoting good governance, and facilitating joint efforts in managing shared resources. The United States and the countries of the Lower Mekong Delta also work together through the Mekong-Mississippi Sister Rivers Partnership, which began in 2010 to promote the sharing of best practices in water and river management. Through annual reciprocal exchanges, this program enhances transboundary river governance, disaster risk mitigation, and sustainable development, contributing to regional stability and prosperity.

Vietnam joined ASEAN in 1995. The United States and Vietnam are also members of the East Asia Summit, APEC, the World Trade Organization, and the United Nations. Both countries also work together on the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus, a framework under which Defense Ministers from ASEAN countries and eight additional countries including the United States, Japan, China, and South Korea, meet and discuss regional defense cooperation.

KEY MOMENTS IN THE US-VIETNAM PARTNERSHIP

1991	A United States Missing in Action Office is opened in Hanoi
1994	The United States lifts its trade embargo against Vietnam
1995	The United States and Vietnam announce the official normalization of US-Vietnam relations and the opening of embassies in Hanoi and Washington, DC
2000	President Clinton becomes first US President to visit Vietnam
2001	The United States and Vietnam sign a Bilateral Trade Agreement
2003	The Navy missile frigate USS Vandegrift docks in Ho Chi Minh City, becoming the first US Navy ship to dock in Vietnam since the end of the War
2006	ASEAN Ministers and US Representatives sign a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement
2007	Vietnam becomes the 150th member of the World Trade Organization
2008	The first American Center is opened in Hanoi to serve as a one-stop source of up-to-date information on all aspects of the United States
2013	The US-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership is formed
2016	The United States lifts its ban on weapons sales to Vietnam
2018	First US Aircraft Carrier USS Carl Vinson visits Vietnam
2020	A Peace Corps implementing agreement is signed
2023	The US-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership is formed
2023	The United States breaks ground on new US Embassy Hanoi campus

Source: US Mission to Vietnam; US Department of State

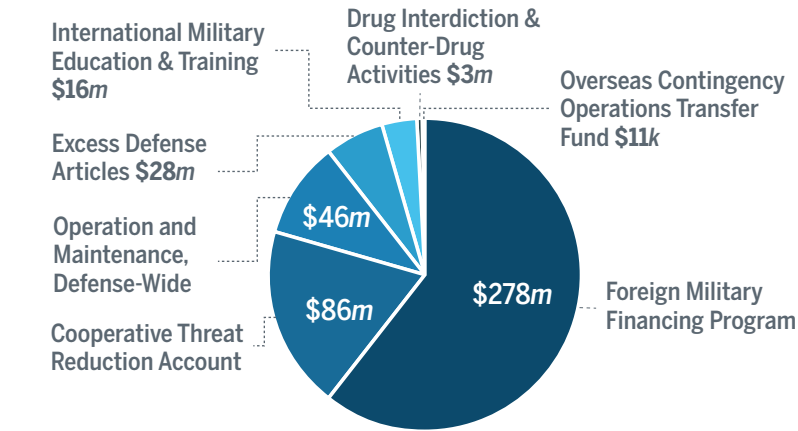
US-Vietnam Security Cooperation Aims to Support a Sovereign, Independent, and Self-Reliant Vietnam

The United States and Vietnam share a mutual commitment to address regional security challenges and ensure an independent, sovereign, and self-reliant Vietnam. The US-Vietnam security partnership encompasses defense trade, maritime security, cybersecurity, peacekeeping and disaster relief, and addressing war legacies, as guided by the 2023 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding Updating Areas of Bilateral Defense Cooperation in 2022 and the Updated US-Vietnam Joint Vision Statement on Defense Relations in 2024. Both countries engage in ongoing dialogues, including the US-Vietnam Political, Security, and Defense Dialogue and the Defense Policy Dialogue.

As Vietnam seeks to develop self-reliant defense capabilities and modernize its military, it has been diversifying its defense supply chains away from Russia and boosting its domestic defense industry. This presents opportunities to further expand US-Vietnam defense trade, for instance through more technology transfers and joint production between US and Vietnamese defense firms.

US-Vietnam defense relations have expanded significantly after the US lifted its ban on arms sales to Vietnam in 2016, qualifying the country to receive additional maritime security and capacity-building assistance through the Maritime Security Initiative, the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, and Foreign Military Financing. In 2018, the

US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM BY PROGRAM



Source: US Mission to Vietnam; US Indo-Pacific Command; ForeignAssistance.gov, 2019-2023 disbursement data

USS Carl Vinson made the first visit by a US aircraft carrier to Vietnam in more than 40 years, followed by port calls by the USS Theodore Roosevelt in 2020, the USS Ronald Reagan in 2023, and the USS Blue Ridge and US Coast Guard Cutter Wausatche in 2024.

Vietnam participates in multilateral exercises led by the US, including Rim of the Pacific, Pacific Partnership, and Pacific Angel. The US and Vietnam also collaborate on a range of law enforcement and security initiatives. In 2024, the US announced a \$12.5 million assistance package to support Vietnam in strengthening its maritime law enforcement capabilities and combating illegal fishing.

KEY EQUIPMENT TRANSFERS

EQUIPMENT	YEAR	DESCRIPTION
Beechcraft T-6C Texan II Aircraft	2024-2025	The Vietnam Air Defence Air Force will receive 12 T-6C aircraft to incorporate into their pilot training program at Phan Thiet Air Base.
Hamilton-Class Cutter Vessel	2017-2023	The US Coast Guard has transferred three 378-foot cutters to the Vietnam Coast Guard.
Metal Shark 45 Defiant Vessel	2020	The delivery of 24 Metal Shark patrol boats to the Vietnam Coast Guard was completed in 2020.
ScanEagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)	2019	The Vietnam Coast Guard received six ScanEagle unmanned aerial vehicles for maritime domain awareness.



Photo source: Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander of US Indo-Pacific Command, US Ambassador to Vietnam Marc Knapper, left, and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Jedidiah P. Royal, right, engage with media at the 2024 Vietnam International Defence Expo in Hanoi, Vietnam, Dec. 19, 2024. Paparo's first visit to Vietnam aims to strengthen a defense relationship rooted in shared security interests, regional stability, and respect for international laws. (US Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class John Bellino)

MILITARY-TO-MILITARY COOPERATION ON WAR LEGACY ISSUES

The War in Vietnam (1955–1975) was a prolonged war between opposing factions, with significant involvement from the Soviet Union, China, and the United States and its allies, ending with the reunification of Vietnam under communist rule. Despite the enduring historical legacy of the war, the normalization of diplomatic and economic relations between the US and Vietnam in the 1990s marked a shift to cooperation, as both countries focused on rebuilding trust, fostering trade, and addressing the lingering effects of war. This reconciliation also paved the way for the US-Vietnam defense partnership of today, with security cooperation beginning in 1988 with an initial focus on humanitarian efforts in recovery of missing US servicemembers, clearance of unexploded ordnance (UXO), and disability assistance for areas heavily sprayed by dioxin and those suffering from UXO accidents.

Throughout the course of the war, the United States sprayed an estimated 11 million gallons of Agent Orange, which caused environmental damage and severe health issues. To address the lingering effects of Agent Orange, Congress began appropriating funds in 2007 to remediate dioxin-contaminated sites in Vietnam and support health programs in nearby communities. Congress has since appropriated \$569 million in funding. This includes a 10-year dioxin

US CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR HERBICIDE REMOVAL AND REMEDIATION IN VIETNAM

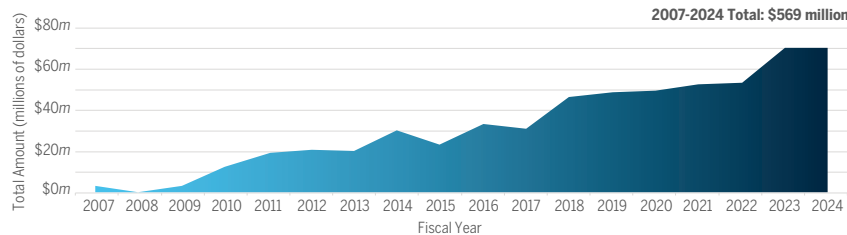
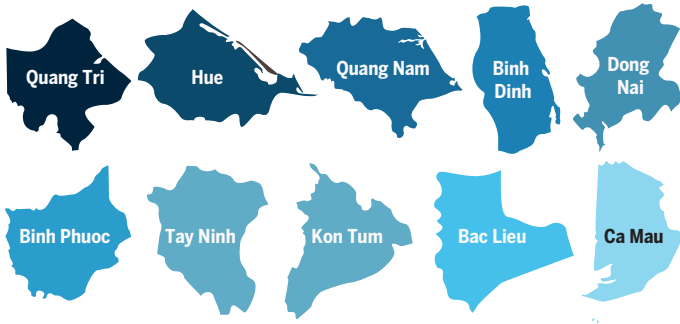


Photo source: A U.S. - Vietnam veterans exchange to mark the anniversary of the Battle for Hill 937 (Hamburger Hill), May 2020 (US Mission to Vietnam).

Source: USAID; US Government Accountability Office; Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, February 2025 data

PROVINCES WITH US FUNDED DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAMS



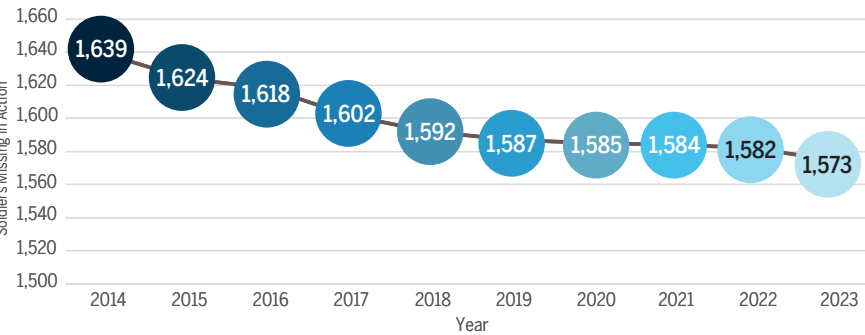
remediation project at the Bien Hoa Air Base Area in the Dong Nai Province, which aims to restore nearly 500,000 cubic meters of dioxin-contaminated soil. The Leahy War Victims Fund has contributed more than \$155 million in assistance to persons with disabilities in Vietnam, primarily focusing on locations that were heavily sprayed with Agent Orange.

Collaboration between the United States and Vietnam on Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) efforts was a foundational issue for the normalization of relations. The United States and Vietnam began collaborating on POW/MIA efforts in 1985. The desire for continued collaboration on POW/MIA efforts was cited in the lifting of the US trade embargo on Vietnam in 1994 and the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1995. Since efforts began, 1,073 American soldiers' remains have been repatriated to their families, however, the remains of 1,573 soldiers remain unaccounted for. Additionally, the United States has supported Vietnam in its own recovering of missing soldiers through technology and training on DNA analysis.

Since the end of the war, UXOs have been responsible for over 40,000 civilian deaths. Bipartisan support in the White House and Congress has led to funded programs that have removed over 700,000 UXOs from Vietnam. Funding has historically come from the Department of Defense and the Department of State.

There have also been a growing number of wartime artifact exchanges between US and Vietnamese veterans, serving as gestures of reconciliation. In a ceremony in Hanoi in June 2025, the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University returned artifacts to more than 20 Vietnamese families, and presented more than 200 wartime documentation files and data sets to Vietnam's National Archives Center III for their preservation and return to the families of fallen soldiers.

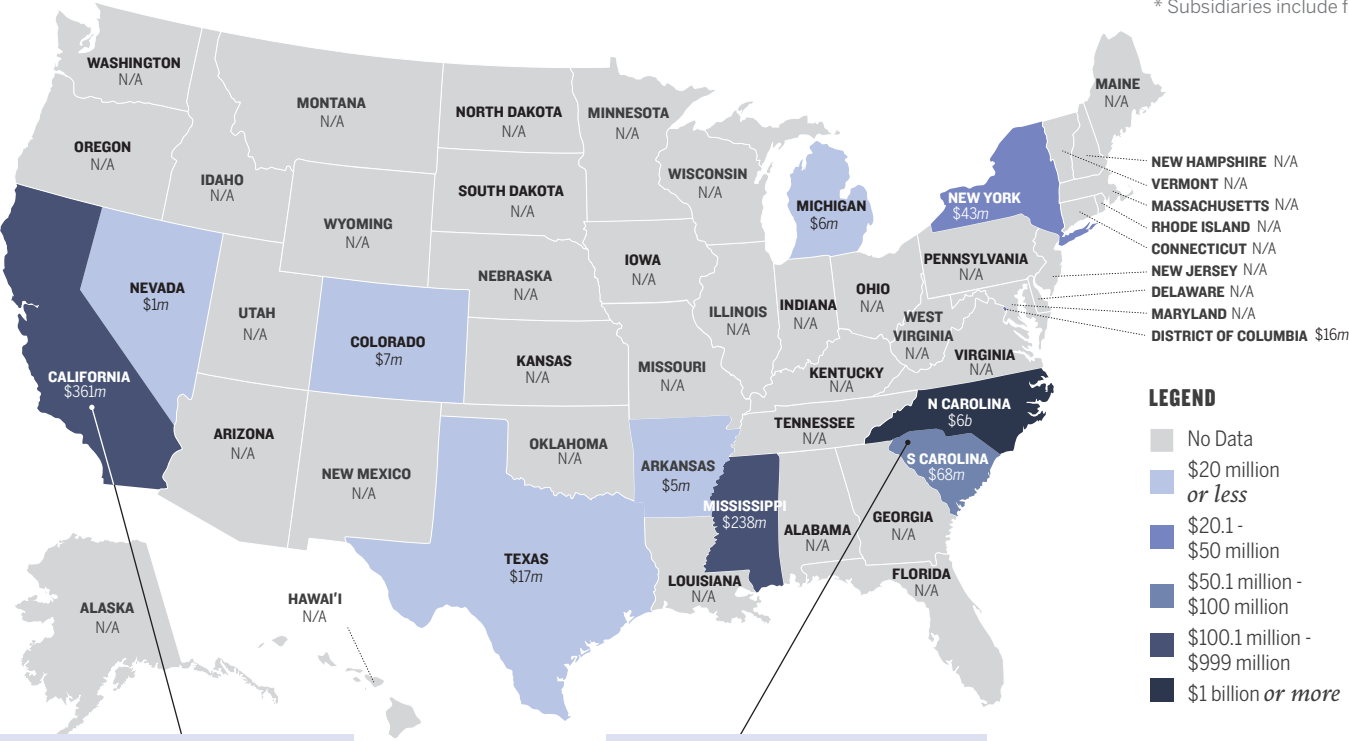
AMERICAN SOLDIERS UNACCOUNTED FOR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



Vietnamese Greenfield Investment in the United States Has Reached \$6.9 Billion

Vietnamese foreign direct investment (FDI) in the United States has grown from \$5 million in 2007, the year both countries signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, to \$948 million in 2024. American FDI in Vietnam grew from \$426 million to \$4.4 billion over the same period. The United States was the 11th-largest foreign investor in Vietnam in 2024.

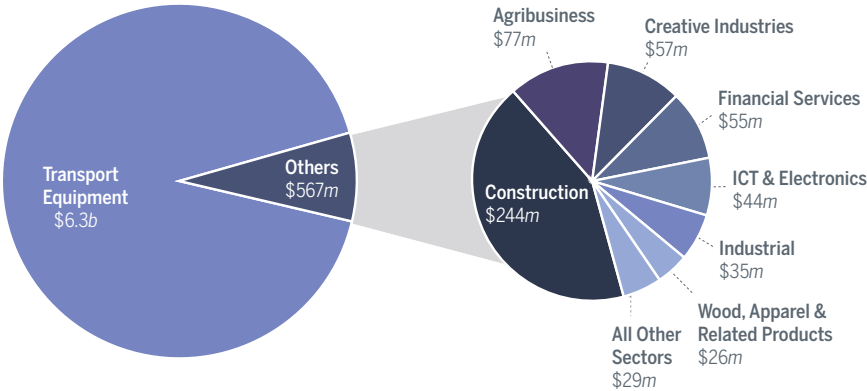
VIETNAMESE GREENFIELD INVESTMENT* IN THE UNITED STATES



In 2021, electric car maker VinFast invested \$200 million and announced its US headquarters would be located in Los Angeles, California.

Tin Thanh Group Americas, a tire maker, invested \$68 million in its first US facility in South Carolina in 2023.

VIETNAMESE INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES BY INDUSTRY



* Subsidiaries include franchise locations of US-based companies

Vietnamese companies have announced \$6.9 billion in investment in 44 greenfield projects across 10 states and the District of Columbia. North Carolina is the top recipient of Vietnamese greenfield investment, boosted by electric carmaker VinFast’s plans to build a \$4 billion plant—its first in North America—in Chatham County. In 2024, 328 American companies have a registered presence in Vietnam, operating 769 foreign subsidiaries.

There are two Vietnamese companies—FPT Software Company Limited and Vinamilk—which operate 10 foreign subsidiaries in the United States. FPT Software has nine offices across the United States, including its US headquarters in Richardson, Texas. Vinamilk’s US-based subsidiary, Driftwood Dairy, produces a variety of milk products in El Monte, California and is a major provider of milk to schools in Southern California.

*Greenfield investment refers to the building or expansion of new facilities rather than purchases or merges with existing companies

Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2007-2023 data; fDi Markets, 2003-2024 data; Uniworld 2024 data

The United States is home to 328 companies that operate 769 foreign subsidiaries in Vietnam. More than half of these businesses are located in Ho Chi Minh City. The KFC Corporation, Church’s Texas Chicken (via its subsidiary Texas Chicken), and Baskin-Robbins are the top three US-parent companies that operate the largest number of subsidiaries in Vietnam. Curves International, a fitness club for women, ranks fourth.

Fast-food chain Kentucky Fried Chicken opened its first location in Ho Chi Minh City in 1997 and now operates 131 subsidiary locations across 40 provinces and cities, with Ho Chi Minh City hosting nearly half of these entities. Texas Chicken and Baskin-Robbins have both operated in Vietnam for over a decade. Church’s Texas Chicken manages 32 subsidiaries in Vietnam, including locations in Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong, Nha Trang, Hanoi, Hai Phong and Bien Hoa. Baskin-Robbins manages 27 subsidiary locations after signing a master franchise agreement with Vietnam-based Blue Star Food Corporation in 2012.

SELECTED STORY

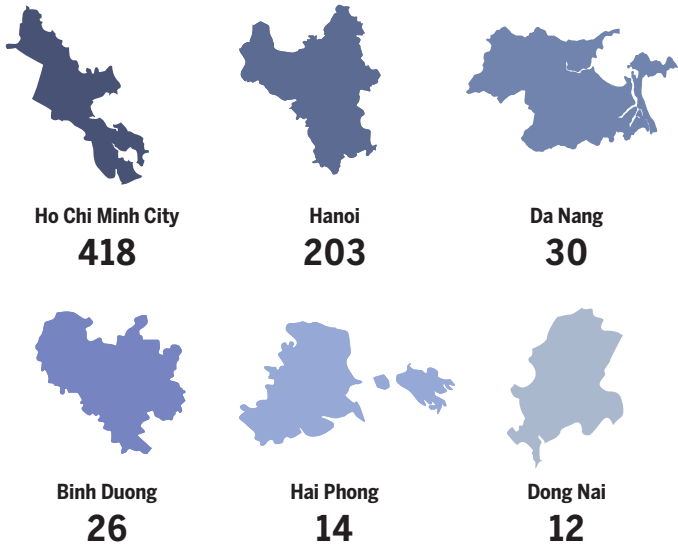
OVER 100 VIETNAMESE ENTERPRISES ATTENDED SELECTUSA SUMMIT



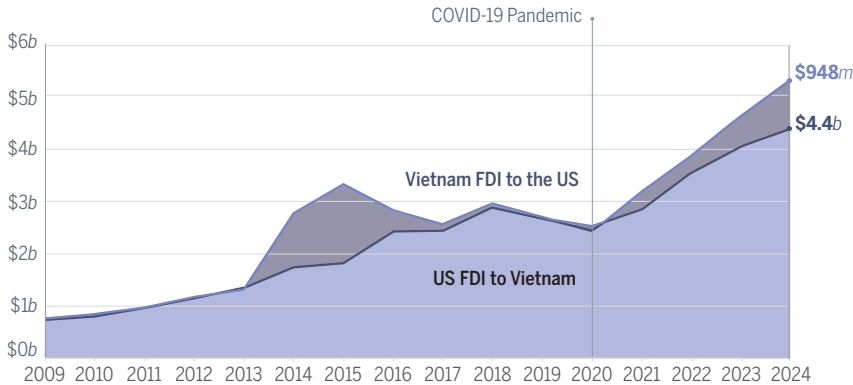
Photo Source: US Mission to Vietnam Announces Recruitment for 2025 SelectUSA Investment Summit, March 26, 2025 (US Mission to Vietnam)

A record number of more than 100 Vietnamese businesses, representing a wide range of sectors from technology to finance and semiconductors, attended the 11th SelectUSA Investment Summit from May 11-14, 2025. Held near Washington, DC, the summit is the Department of Commerce’s annual one-stop shop for foreign companies interested in expanding into the United States. The Vietnam delegation, led by US Ambassador Marc Knapper and Vietnam’s Vice Minister of Finance Cao Anh Tuấn, met with US government agencies, business groups, and companies during their time in America.

VIETNAM’S PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES WITH THE MOST US SUBSIDIARIES*



US-VIETNAM DIRECT INVESTMENT STOCK**



* Foreign subsidiaries are companies that are situated outside the country where the parent company is headquartered.

**Stock values are the amounts owned or owed by an entity at any particular point in time

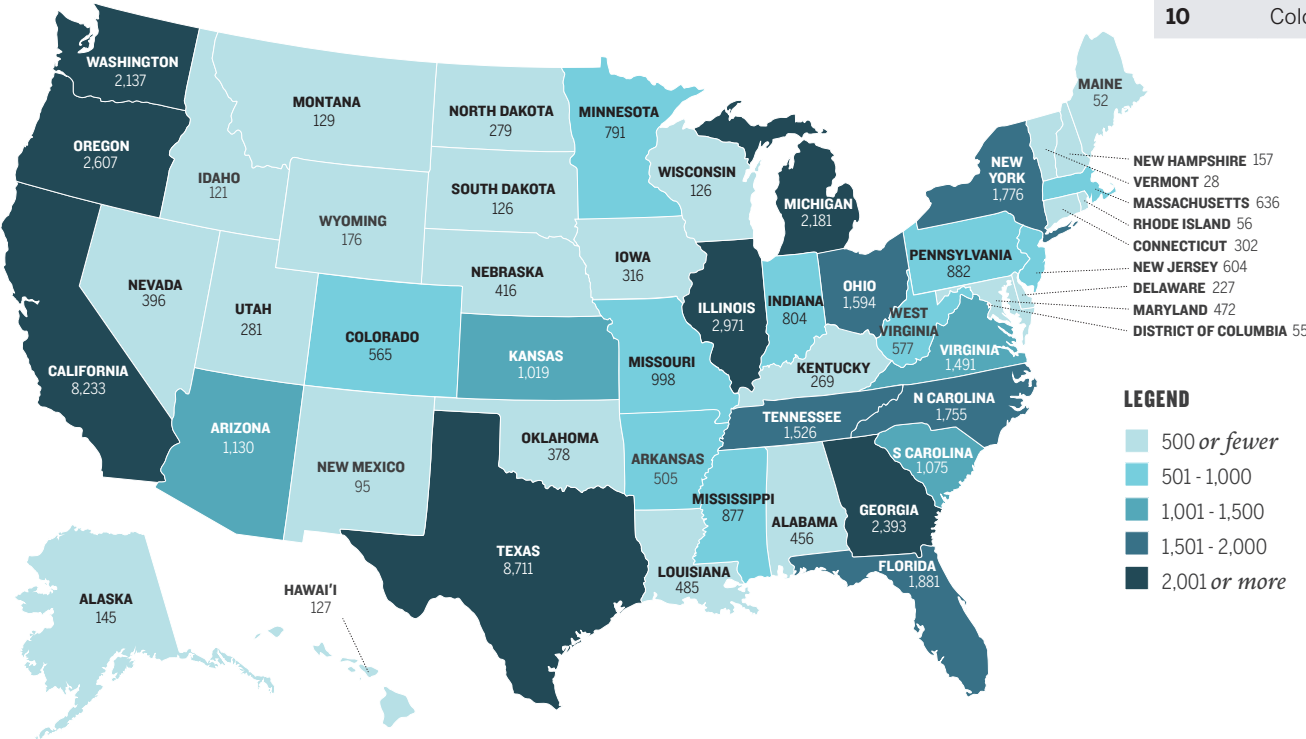
Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2009-2024 data; US Department of Commerce; US Mission to Vietnam; Uniworld, 2024 data; KFCVietnam.com

Trade and Investment from Vietnam Supports 65,000 Jobs Across the United States

In 2023, US exports to Vietnam directly supported 30,600 jobs and indirectly supported an additional 24,900 jobs across the United States. Nearly a third of these jobs were located in Texas and California.

Greenfield investments from Vietnamese companies, hailing primarily from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, have created almost 10,000 jobs in the United States. These include 6,000 jobs in North Carolina expected to be created from the establishment of VinFast’s first North American manufacturing plant, as well as 1,400 jobs in California and 1,000 jobs in South Carolina from other greenfield investments.

US JOBS SUPPORTED BY EXPORTS TO VIETNAM

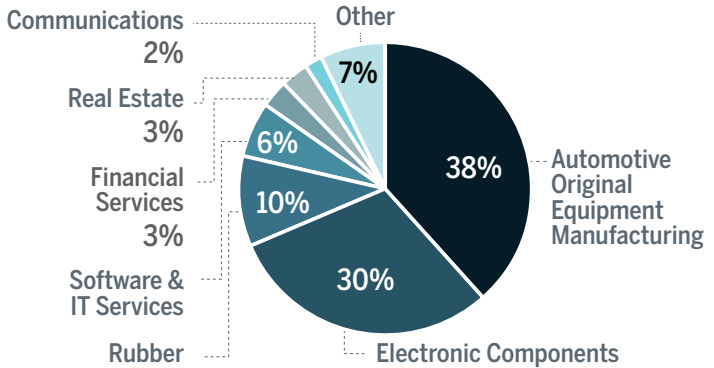


Sources: Estimated by the Trade Partnership (Washington, DC), 2023 data; US Census Bureau, 2024 data; fDi Markets, 2003-2024 data

US JOBS CREATED BY GREENFIELD INVESTMENT FROM VIETNAMESE FIRMS

	STATE	TOTAL JOBS CREATED
1	North Carolina	6,067
2	California	1,384
3	South Carolina	1,031
4	Mississippi	260
5	New York	255
6	Texas	221
7	Michigan	101
8	Arkansas	75
9	Washington, DC	53
10	Colorado	40

US JOBS CREATED BY VIETNAMESE GREENFIELD INVESTMENT BY INDUSTRY

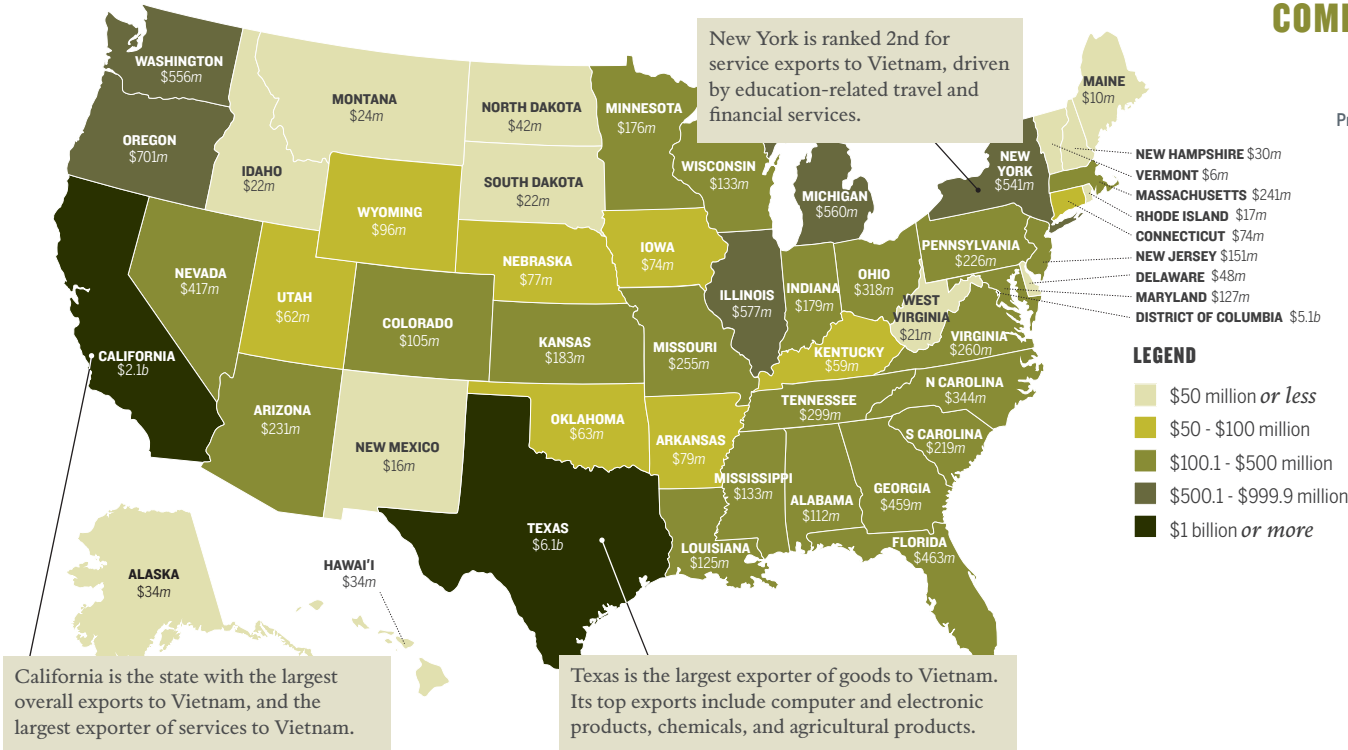


Total Two-Way Trade in Goods Between the United States and Vietnam Reached \$149.7 Billion

The United States is the top export market for Vietnam and its second-largest trade partner. Vietnam is America’s 10th-largest trading partner, and the seventh-largest source of imported goods. In 2024, total two-way trade in goods between the United States and Vietnam reached \$149.7 billion—a 20% increase from 2023.

The United States and Vietnam established permanent trade relations in 2006. Over the next 12 years, Vietnamese exports to the United States increased from \$1.1 billion in 2006 to nearly \$46.5 billion in 2017. Goods exports from Vietnam to the United States have continued to rise, more than doubling from \$49.1 billion in 2018 to \$136.6 billion in 2024.

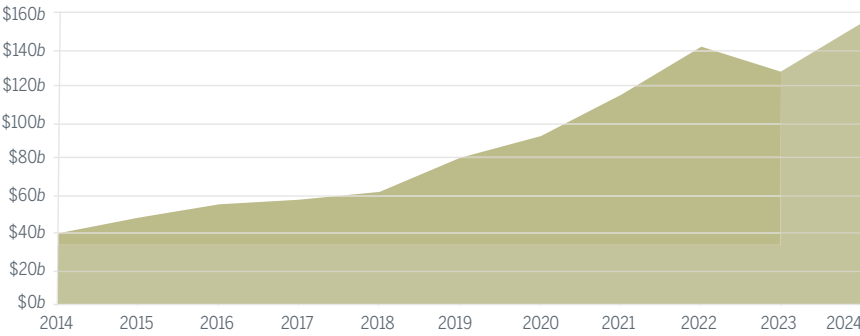
US GOODS AND SERVICES EXPORTS TO VIETNAM BY STATE



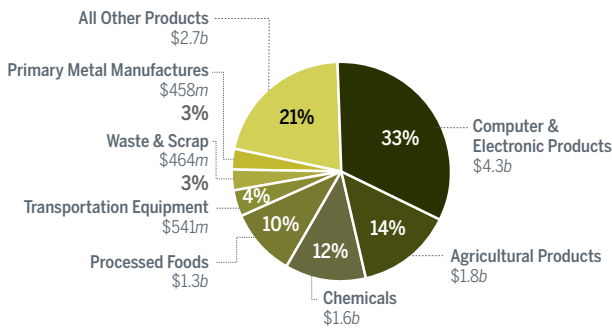
Source: Office of the United States Trade Representative, 2024 data; US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2006-2024 data; Trade Partnership, 2023 data; General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2022 data; US Census Bureau, 2024 data

Computer and electronic products and agricultural products were America’s largest exports to Vietnam in 2024. The top Vietnamese exports to the United States were computer and electronic products, and apparel and accessories.

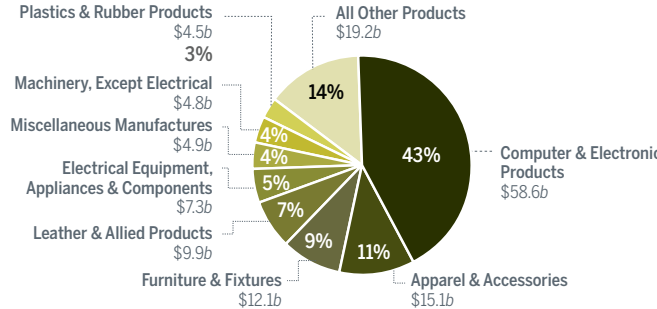
TOTAL TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM



COMPOSITION OF US GOODS EXPORTS TO VIETNAM



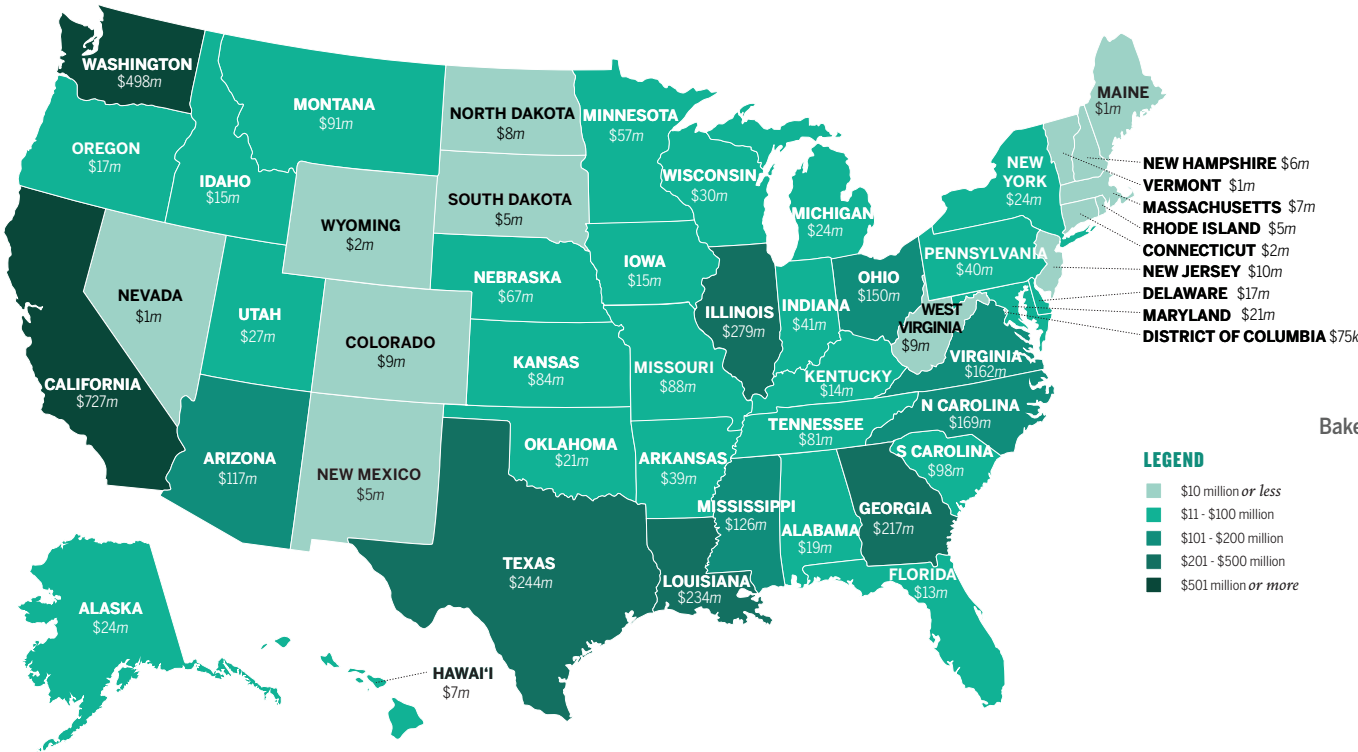
COMPOSITION OF VIETNAM GOODS EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES



Vietnam is the Tenth-Largest Global Importer of US Agricultural Products

Bilateral agricultural trade between the United States and Vietnam has increased by \$3.9 billion, about 66%, over the last 10 years, reaching \$9.7 billion in 2024. The United States exports \$3.9 billion in agricultural goods to Vietnam, including \$581 million in cotton, \$484 million in soybeans, and \$393 million in tree nuts. The United States and Vietnam have worked together to expand market access for US-grown fresh fruits, including grapefruits, pomelos, and California-grown nectarines and peaches, with exports totaling \$126 million in 2024. Vietnam is the tenth-largest global importer of US agricultural products and the sixth-largest importer in the Indo-Pacific. All 50 states and the District of Columbia export agricultural products to Vietnam, with California exporting the largest amount of agricultural products at \$727 million. In 2024, the United States sent its largest agricultural trade mission to Vietnam, featuring 33 businesses, nine state agriculture departments, and 23 USDA cooperators.

EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED PRODUCTS TO VIETNAM BY STATE

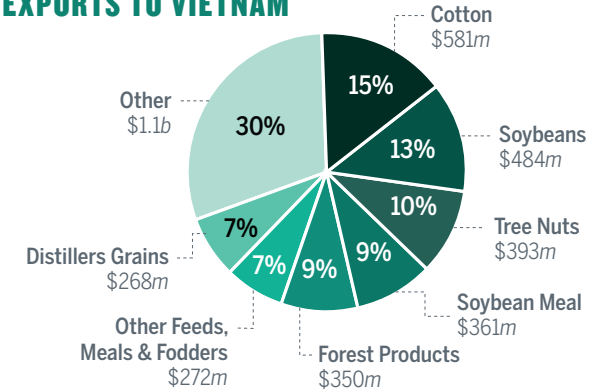


Source: US Census Bureau Trade Data, US State Export Data, 2024 data; US Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service, 2024 data

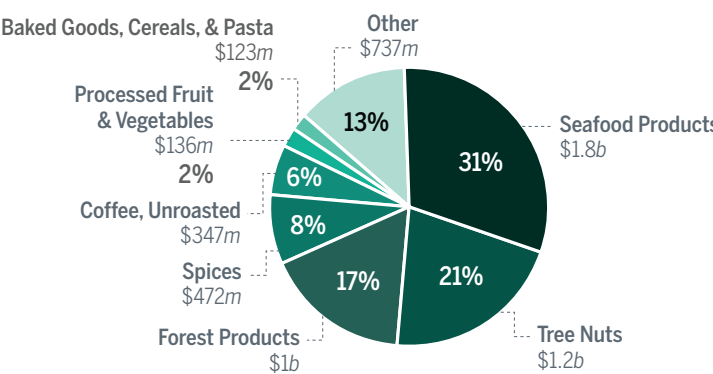
The United States is Vietnam's largest agricultural export partner, with Vietnam exporting \$5.9 billion in agricultural products to the United States including \$1.8 billion in seafood products, \$1.2 billion in tree nuts, and \$1 billion in forestry products. Agricultural exports make up 4% of all exports from Vietnam to the United States.

As part of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Vietnam and the United States are working to promote sustainable, smart agricultural and fertilizer practices. The US Department of Agriculture, Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the International Rice Research Institute have come together on a joint project to improve efficiency and sustainability in fertilizer use in Vietnam, known as the "Fertilize Right" project. This four-year and \$4.4 million project will concentrate on six pilot provinces in Vietnam—Hai Duong, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Can Tho, Dong Thap, and Soc Trang—where the initiative will promote the efficient and sustainable uses of fertilizer based on the 4Rs of nutrient management (right source, right rate, right time, and right place).

COMPOSITION OF US FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO VIETNAM



COMPOSITION OF VIETNAMESE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES



Vietnam Is a Key Partner in Secure Supply Chains for US Technologies

Vietnam is a crucial player in American supply chains, playing a key role in manufacturing goods for export to the US while also importing materials from the US to assemble electronics, such as smartphones and computers, as well as other completed goods.

Semiconductor chips are crucial to these electronics and Vietnam has emerged as a key partner for the United States in the semiconductor industry, supplying 11% of all US imported chips, the third highest after Malaysia (20%) and Taiwan (19%). Vietnam exported \$7b worth of chips to America in 2024, almost four times as much as in 2018.

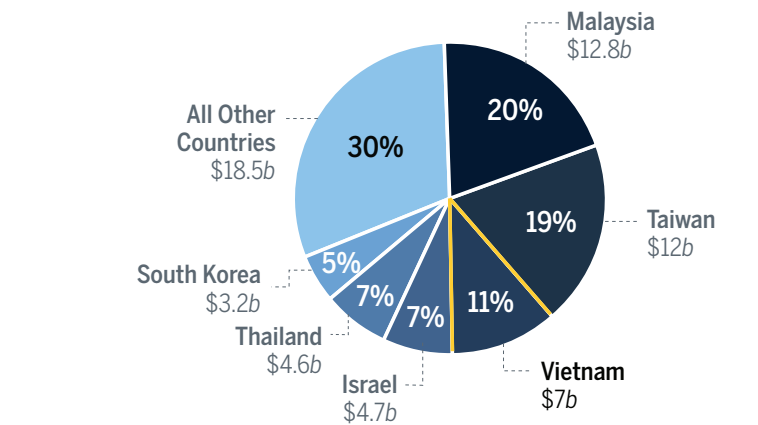
Vietnam’s growing role in electronics manufacturing has led it to increase imports of finished semiconductors from the United States, resulting in a bilateral US trade surplus in this product category in 2024 for the first time ever.

American chipmakers have expanded their manufacturing operations in Vietnam, supporting jobs and production back home. For example, up to 80% of the value of semiconductors exported from Intel’s \$1.5 billion assembly, testing, and packaging facility in Ho Chi Minh City – its largest globally – originates in the United States. The Vietnamese government aims to significantly grow its semiconductor sector and train at least 50,000 high-skilled workers by 2030, which has the potential to improve global supply chain security and resiliency.

US CHIPMAKER INVESTMENTS IN VIETNAM

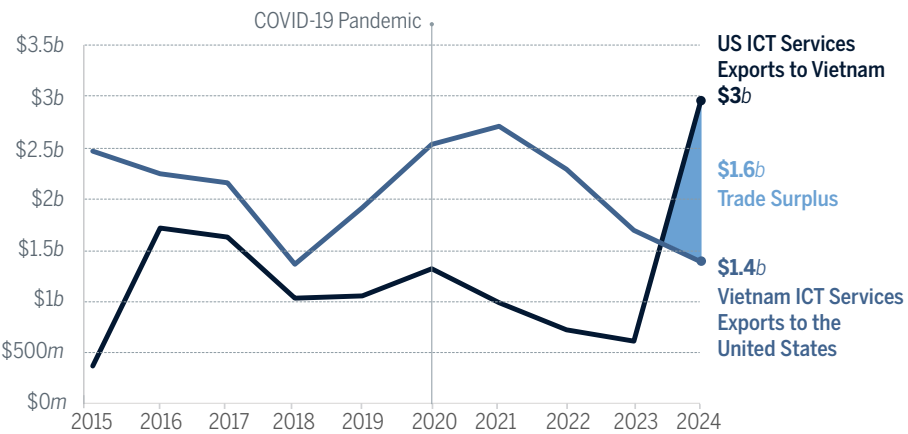
COMPANY	DATE	EXPANSION PLANS
Amkor	2023	Amkor opened a \$1.6 billion chip factory in Bac Ninh in October 2023.
Intel	2010	Intel has invested \$1.5 billion in Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh is home to the company’s largest factory for assembling, packaging, and testing chips.
Marvell	2023-2026	Marvell pledged to grow its workforce in Vietnam by 50% between 2023 and 2026, and will set up a design center in Ho Chi Minh City.
Qualcomm	2025	In June 2025, Qualcomm launched an artificial intelligence R&D center in Hanoi, its third AI center outside the US. It set up its first R&D center in Southeast Asia in 2020, in Hanoi.
Nvidia	2025	Nvidia signed an agreement in December 2024 to jointly set up an AI R&D center and AI data center in Vietnam. In 2023, it began collaborating with FPT Smart Cloud as its first Vietnamese cloud partner.
Synopsys	2024	Synopsys opened its Hanoi office in December 2024, its fourth office in Vietnam.

TOP EXPORTERS OF CHIPS* TO THE UNITED STATES



The US and Vietnam are also advancing digital infrastructure, with plans to launch an Open Radio Access Network (O-RAN) training lab, secure 5G initiatives, and emerging technology adoption to drive Vietnam’s digital economy. In 2024, Vietnam’s largest telecommunications company Viettel launched its O-RAN 5G network, becoming the first such commercial network in the world to use US chipmaker Qualcomm’s 5G chips. Viettel and Intel also signed an agreement in 2024 to advance research and development in AI and 5G technology and products. Google and Vietnam’s National Innovation Center also have a partnership to train Vietnamese entrepreneurs on AI and promote AI startups in Vietnam.

US-VIETNAM TRADE IN ELECTRONIC INTEGRATED CIRCUITS**



*Comprises semiconductors under the HS codes 8541 and 8542
**Comprises semiconductors under the HS code 8542 only
Sources: US Mission to Vietnam; US Census Bureau, State Imports and Exports of HS Code 8541 and 8542, 2015-2024 data; Individual company websites

The United States Has Provided More than \$100 Million to Support Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Assistance in Vietnam

A majority of Vietnam's population lives on or near the Mekong and Red River Deltas, making the country particularly vulnerable to many natural disasters including flooding, typhoons, drought, and landslides. The United States and Vietnam continue to work together to improve national disaster response, preparedness, and risk-reduction capacities through joint trainings, in-kind aid, and funding.

The United States has provided more than \$100 million in support of disaster relief and humanitarian assistance in Vietnam, including emergency aid for storm and flood responses and disaster preparedness programs. This assistance also includes support for the construction of 47 schools, 32 clinics, and 12 bridges and 12 Disaster Management Coordination Centers across 32 provinces, as part of projects aimed at enhancing Vietnam's resilience in natural disaster-prone areas.

The Pacific Partnership is the US Navy's largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mission. Since its inception in 2006, the mission has made 13 stops at seven provinces and municipalities in Vietnam to perform essential humanitarian services and support efforts to reduce the risk of, prepare for, and respond to humanitarian disasters. The Oregon National Guard's partnership with Vietnam's National Committee for Search and Rescue celebrated its 13th year in 2025. A cornerstone of this collaboration is an annual disaster management event which allows both partners to improve their ability to respond to natural disasters.

Vietnam has provided peacekeepers to the United Nations since 2014 and provisioned a Level 2 Field Hospital in South Sudan in 2018, which provided advanced life support, basic surgery, and intensive care. Vietnam also provides international assistance in search and rescue missions after natural disasters, deploying teams to Turkey and Burma following devastating earthquakes.



Photo source: Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Anne Marie Crumley, facilitates Basic Life Support subject matter expert exchange with Vietnamese medical professionals at the Traditional Medicine Hospital in Phu Yen during Pacific Partnership 2022. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Shamira Purifoy)

SELECTED STORY



Photo source: Deputy Chief of Mission Courtney Beale provided assistance to over 900 households in the most affected by Typhoon Yagi, December 2024. (US Mission to Vietnam)

US SUPPORT IN THE AFTERMATH OF TYPHOON YAGI

Typhoon Yagi made landfall in Vietnam in September 2024, killing 143 people and injuring more than 800 others in addition to damaging and destroying some 48,000 homes and approximately 455,000 acres of agricultural land. In response, the United States committed \$1 million in immediate humanitarian aid to support Vietnam's relief efforts with \$245,000 being provided as cash assistance to 915 households in Yen Bai province. The assistance, provided in collaboration with the Yen Bai Provincial Women's Union, aimed to cover two months of essential needs.

Source: USAID; US Mission to Vietnam; US Indo-Pacific Command

The United States Has Provided Over \$1 Billion to Improve Healthcare in Vietnam

The United States works closely with Vietnam to strengthen Vietnam's public health system and global health security. This contributes to regional stability and America's own national health security. The United States has provided over \$1 billion in total to improve healthcare in Vietnam. In 2024 alone, the United States obligated \$73 million to help end the public health threats of tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS, and to prevent and reduce infectious disease outbreaks, which could hamper the country's economic progress and safety of investors.

In 2004, the United States launched the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), with Vietnam as the first country in Asia to participate in the program. PEPFAR has invested nearly \$1 billion in funding for HIV testing, prevention, treatment, and health system improvements to help Vietnam turn the tide against HIV. PEPFAR has worked closely with Vietnam to gradually increase self-reliance for HIV programs through increasing diversified domestic financing, strengthening local capacity, and fostering community engagement.

To support Vietnam's goal of eliminating tuberculosis by 2035, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has collaborated with Vietnam's National Tuberculosis Program, the private sector, and community-based organizations to help identify undetected TB cases and expand laboratory capacities to identify TB, and strengthen surveillance systems to detect drug-resistant strains, a risk to health security globally.



Photo source: Collaboration between the US and Vietnam governments, as well as non-governmental partners, contributes to the development and implementation of innovative tools, strategies, and technologies to reduce tuberculosis morbidity and mortality in people with the greatest need. Doctors screen for tuberculosis at a screening event in Ho Chi Minh City. (US Mission to Vietnam)

The United States also works with Vietnam to boost its primary healthcare capabilities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States installed liquid oxygen systems in 23 medical facilities across 11 provinces in Vietnam, allowing oxygen to be safely piped directly to patients' bedsides—saving more lives and strengthening the country's resilience against future pandemics and infectious diseases. America's collaboration with Vietnam National University's School of Medicine also works to enhance educational standards and produce a skilled healthcare workforce.

To advance global health security, the CDC helps to improve disease surveillance systems, advance laboratory diagnostics, and improve Vietnam's public health workforce capacity. This includes support to Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi to provide training in genome sequencing to detect threats faster. Additionally, CDC's support for the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) has resulted in training almost 600 "disease detectives" who detect and respond to outbreaks and stop them at the source, reinforcing the shared commitment between the United States and Vietnam to build a resilient and responsive health system.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Vietnam shipped over 450,000 protective suits and other medical equipment to the United States to help American healthcare workers, when personal protective equipment was in short supply. The United States sent more than 40 million vaccine doses to Vietnam through the COVAX program, and has contributed \$42 million in technical assistance to support Vietnam's COVID-19 response.

SELECTED STORY

OPERATION PACIFIC ANGEL

Pacific Angel 24-3, hosted in Vietnam's Quang Ngai and Quang Nam provinces, marked another chapter in the long-running humanitarian assistance initiative led by Pacific Air Forces. The 2024 mission focused on renovating the Tinh Khe Elementary School and Medical Clinic, dedicating 1,200 man-hours to improve infrastructure under challenging conditions. These efforts ensured that the medical clinic could serve more patients and that students had fully functioning classrooms upon their return. Since its inception in 2007, Pacific Angel has worked to strengthen disaster preparedness and humanitarian response across the Indo-Pacific and has delivered essential health services such as dentistry, optometry, and pediatrics, alongside civil engineering projects.



Photo source: US Air Force Maj. Stephanie Chayrez, 33rd Operational Support Squadron Aircrew Performance flight commander, works with local Vietnamese doctors for a patient care plan at a local hospital for Pacific Angel 24-3 in Quang Ngai, Vietnam, Aug. 23, 2024. The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Ariana Wilkinson)

Students from Vietnam in the United States Contribute Over \$1 Billion to the US Economy

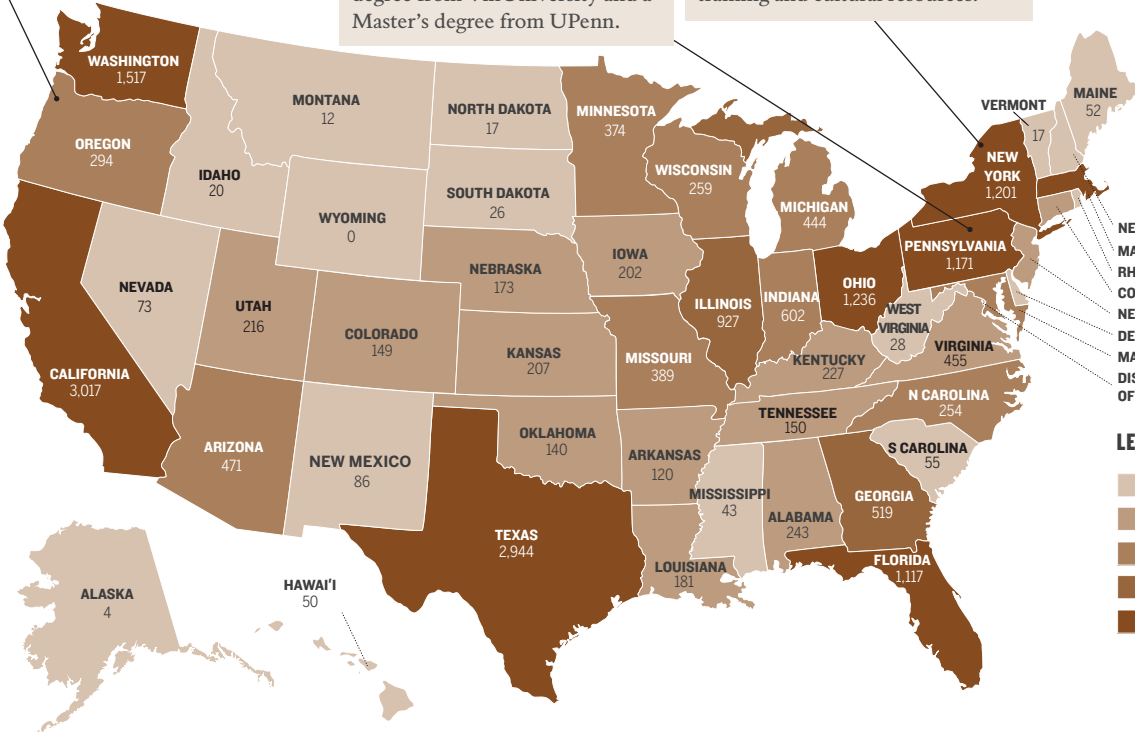
Vietnamese students are the sixth-largest group of international students studying in higher education in the United States, with 30,000 students from Vietnam enrolling in US colleges and universities in the 2023/2024 academic year—an elevenfold increase since 2000. Nearly half (49%) of Vietnamese students study science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), while another quarter (24%) pursue business/management. Vietnamese students are the second-largest group of foreign students enrolled in community colleges and made up 7% of all international students studying in community colleges in the United States during the 2023/2024 school year. Students from Vietnam contributed over \$1 billion to the US economy in 2024.

VIETNAMESE STUDENTS IN US HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

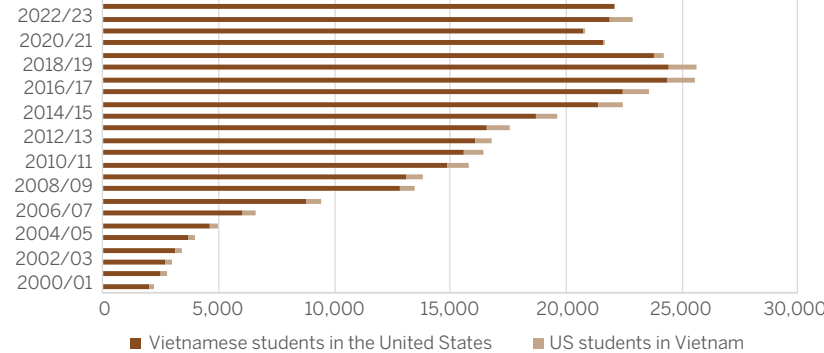
Fulbright University Vietnam and Reed College share a Student Exchange Agreement.

VinUniversity and the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) have a 5-year program for joint study with students earning a Bachelor's degree from VinUniversity and a Master's degree from UPenn.

Columbia University's Vietnamese Studies program and Cornell University's Vietnamese language program offer advanced language training and cultural resources.



VIETNAMESE STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND US STUDENTS IN VIETNAM

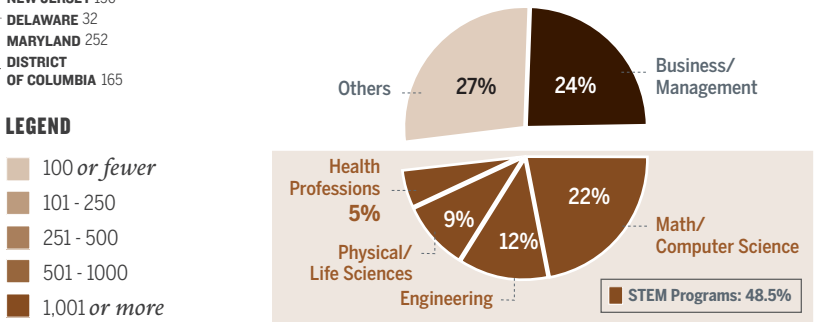


The number of US students studying abroad in Vietnam is still recovering to pre-pandemic levels with 950 Americans studying in Vietnam during the 2022/2023 academic year. The number of US students studying abroad in Vietnam was at an all-time high of 1,235 in the 2018/2019 academic year before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

In the past three decades, the United States and Vietnam have engaged in several education and exchange programs, including Fulbright, the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), Study of the United States Institutes, the Peace Corps, the Global Undergraduate Exchange Program, and Vietnam Education Foundation fellowships.

In 2016, Fulbright University of Vietnam (FUV) was established outside of Ho Chi Minh City with the United States providing financial support and the Vietnamese government providing land for the university's development in Saigon Hi-Tech Park. FUV currently has more than 800 students and provides undergraduate and graduate degrees, building off its focus on economics, management and public policy.

VIETNAMESE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES BY FIELD OF STUDY



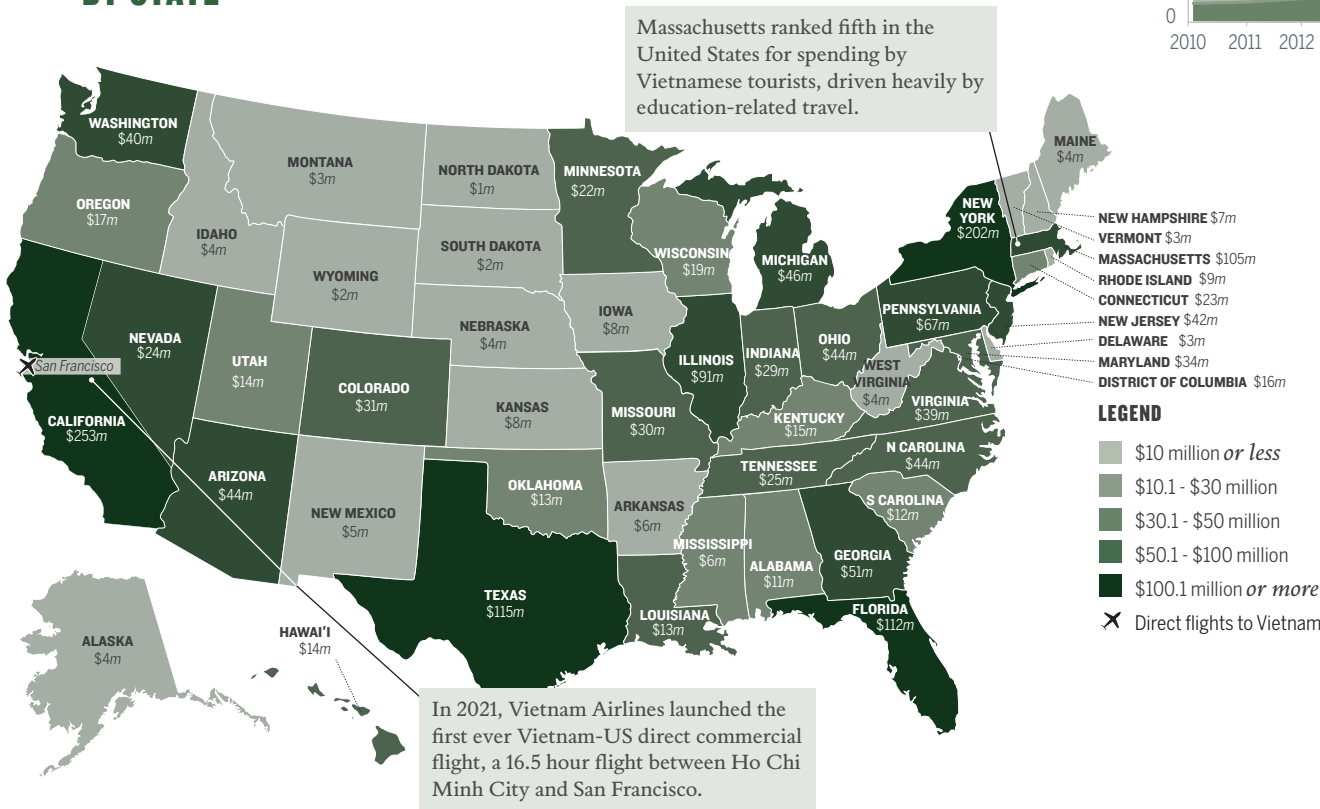
Source: US Department of Homeland Security, SEVIS Data Mapping Tool, 2024 Data; Institute of International Education (IIE) Open Doors Report, 2023/24; US Mission to Vietnam

Vietnamese Tourists Annually Contribute \$1.7 Billion to the US Economy

In 2024, more than 135,000 Vietnamese travelers visited the United States, a 27% increase compared to the previous decade. They contributed \$1.7 billion to the US economy. California and New York both receive over \$200 million in visitor spending from Vietnamese travelers annually, mostly in education-related spending.

In 2024, 779,800 Americans visited Vietnam, nearly double the number of arrivals in 2010. The United States ranks as one of the top four sources of tourists to Vietnam — behind South Korea, China, and Taiwan — and sends more tourists to Vietnam than any other country outside of Asia. Americans spent an average of \$1,710 per tourist in Vietnam in 2019, behind only the Philippines and Belgium.

VIETNAMESE VISITOR SPENDING IN THE UNITED STATES BY STATE*

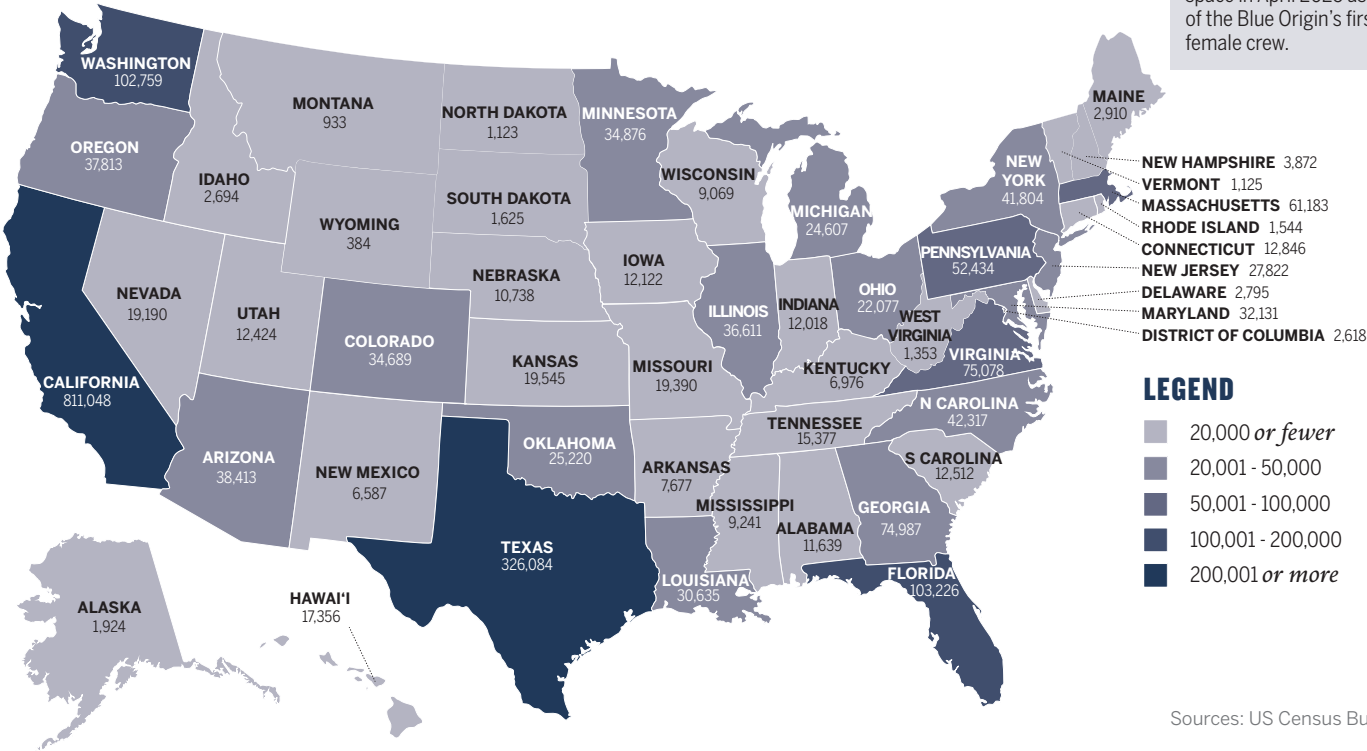


The United States is Home to 2.3 Million Vietnamese Americans

Vietnamese Americans are the fourth-largest Asian American population in the country after Chinese, Indian, and Filipino Americans. Two out of three Vietnamese Americans speak Vietnamese at home, and Vietnamese is the fourth-most spoken non-English language in American households. Half of all Vietnamese Americans live in California (36%) or Texas (14%).

Most Vietnamese Americans are naturalized citizens (60%) while 40% are born in the United States. Vietnam has consistently been in the top six or seven countries of birth for new US citizens, and immigrants from Vietnam account for 3% to 4% of all naturalizing US citizens each year. About 33,200 Vietnamese became US citizens in 2022 and 36,000 became permanent residents in 2023.

VIETNAM AMERICAN POPULATION BY STATE



Vietnamese Americans make up more than half of the global Vietnamese diaspora and have contributed to various fields, from entrepreneurship to academia and arts and culture. Those in the labor force are primarily in the educational services and healthcare (18%), services (17%), manufacturing (15%), and recreation and food services (10%) industries.

NOTABLE VIETNAMESE AMERICANS

Christine Ha Bestselling cookbook author and restaurateur who won the MasterChef reality television contest in 2012.	Duy-Loan T. Le The first Asian American and woman to be elected a Texas Instruments Senior Fellow, in recognition of her groundbreaking work in digital signal processing design.	Teresa Mai First Vietnamese American singer to win a Grammy award for a vocal performance, with her 2022 win in the Best Classical Solo Vocal Album category.
Amanda Nguyen Nobel Peace Prize nominee and the first Vietnamese American woman to fly to space in April 2025 as part of the Blue Origin's first all-female crew.	Huan Nguyen Retired Rear Admiral and engineer in the US Navy, and the first Vietnamese American to be promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.	Tuan Vo-Dinh Duke University professor of biomedical engineering and chemistry, specializing in photonics, molecular biology, and nanotechnology.

VIETNAMESE AMERICAN SHARE OF STATE'S ASIAN AMERICAN POPULATION		
1	Louisiana	28%
2	Mississippi	21%
3	Oklahoma	19%
4	Texas	17%
5	Kansas	16%
6	Nebraska	16%
7	Georgia	13%
8	Oregon	13%
9	Florida	12%
10	Colorado	12%



Sources: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 Vietnamese five-year estimates

The United States and Vietnam Share Strong People-to-People Ties

The United States and Vietnam share one sister-state connection between the state of Maryland and Ninh Thuan Province. They have nine sister-city connections in total, spanning eight US states and seven Vietnamese provinces and municipalities. Sister relationships are partnerships between cities, counties, or states, working to build civic and people-to-people relationships and supporting cultural and commercial ties. The first sister-city relationship between America and Vietnam was established in 1994 between New Haven, Connecticut and Hue, Vietnam.

The US Mission to Vietnam manages two American Centers in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. These platforms are spaces where Vietnamese youth can learn about the United States, practice English, and learn about educational and exchange opportunities in America.

Smaller American Hangouts in Vietnamese partner universities have also been launched in Hanoi, Thai Nguyen, An Giang, and Can Tho provinces, fostering educational exchanges and supporting global development goals.

There are more than 9,000 alumni of US government programs across Vietnam, as well as tens of thousands of graduates of US higher education institutions. These US alumni networks have fostered exchanges between emerging Vietnamese leaders in business, government and academia with Americans across the United States.

SISTER PARTNERSHIPS SHARED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM

Relationship	US Partner	Vietnam Partner	Founded
Sister State	Maryland, USA	Ninh Thuan, Vietnam	2011
Sister City	New Haven, Connecticut, USA	Hue, Vietnam	1994
Sister City	Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA	Hue, Vietnam	1995
Sister City	San Francisco, California, USA	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	1995
Sister City	Seattle, Washington, USA	Hai Phong, Vietnam	1996
Sister City	Oakland, California, USA	Da Nang, Vietnam	2005
Sister City	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA	Da Nang, Vietnam	2009
Sister City	Angel Fire, New Mexico, USA	Quang Tri, Vietnam	2012
Sister City	Riverside, California, USA	Can Tho, Vietnam	2015
Sister City	New York City, New York, USA	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	2023

Source: US Mission to Vietnam

THE EDUCATION CONNECTION



Photo source: A delegation from 21 US universities toured Vietnam and met with Vietnam PM Pham Minh Chinh in 2025. (US Mission to Vietnam)

The United States supports Vietnam’s drive to modernize its higher education system, with the goal of producing a skilled workforce to meet the demands of high-tech industries critical to the United States. Programs forged between United States and Vietnamese universities have focus on improving institutional governance, reforming curriculum and teaching, boosting research capacities, and strengthening industry linkages.

The United States is helping Vietnam meet its national goal of making English the second language in all schools by 2035. Since 2020, a total of 39 Peace Corps volunteers in Vietnam have taught alongside local teachers in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi district schools, strengthening Vietnamese students’ English skills and helping to improve the quality of English teachers in Vietnam.

The Fulbright English Teaching Assistants program and Regional English Language Fellow program have placed more than 300 Americans across Vietnam to support English language training and learning. The programs support education in Vietnam by improving English skills, promoting academic exchanges, enhancing STEM education, and fostering educator training.

Both countries are also partnering in higher education. From March 31 to April 4, 2025, a delegation of over 40 leaders from 21 American universities embarked on a five-day study tour of Vietnam, strengthening academic collaboration and creating new partnerships with their counterparts from 31 Vietnamese universities.

The Asia Matters for America Series



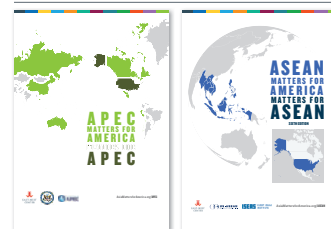
COUNTRIES



REGIONS



ORGANIZATIONS



OPINION POLLS



ASSOCIATED PUBLICATION



PUBLICATION DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION

JEANETTE SIMMONS

Infographic and Design Specialist
East-West Center in Washington

THE ASIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA INITIATIVE

Asia Matters for America/America Matters for Asia is an interactive resource for credible and nonpartisan information, graphics, analysis, and news on US-Asia Pacific relations at the national, state, and local levels.

AsiaMattersforAmerica.org

Sources and Methodology can be found at:
AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/Sources-And-Methodology

VIETNAM MATTERS FOR AMERICA/ AMERICA MATTERS FOR VIETNAM

This project explores the important and multi-faceted relationship between the United States and Vietnam. Part of the Asia Matters for America initiative, this publication and its corresponding website AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/Vietnam provide tools for a global audience to explore the increasing significance of the US-Vietnam relationship in the 21st century.

Asia Matters for America is an initiative of the East-West Center in Washington and can be contacted at:

Asia Matters for America
East-West Center in Washington
 1828 L Street, NW, Suite 500
 Washington, DC 20036 USA
Washington@EastWestCenter.org

The East-West Center headquarters is in Honolulu, Hawai'i:

East-West Center
 1601 East-West Road
 Honolulu, HI 96848 USA
 Main Telephone: (+1)808.944.7111
EastWestCenter.org

The United States Embassy Hanoi can be contacted at:

The United States Embassy Hanoi
 No 7 Lang Ha Street,
 Ba Dinh District in Hanoi, Vietnam
 Tel: (+84) 28-3850-5000
VNEmbassyWebMaster@state.gov

