

## **Press release: socio-economic statistical data, 2008 (05/01/2009)**

Our social economy in 2008 was happening in a background of many complicated and difficult-to-anticipate changes over the world and within the country. World prices of crude oil and other raw materials and commodities increased rapidly in mid-year months that brought about high prices of most of goods in the domestic market. Inflation occurred in many countries; the world financial crisis resulted in a recession in big economies, a decline in the world economy; natural calamity and diseases for animals and crops consecutively happened in the whole country, causing great influences on production and people's life.

Confronted with that situation, the Politburo, National Assembly and Government have promptly considered the situation carefully and promulgated many guiding documents relating to the country's social-economic development in 2008. Owing to those timing and drastic directives of the Party, NA and Government; great efforts and initiative sense of overcoming difficulties of line ministries, localities, economic groups, enterprises, establishments and all the people our social economy in 2008 step by step overcame many difficulties and challenges. The economy had a fair growth; the inflation was controlled; social security ensured and many urgent social problems were effectively resolved.

### **I. ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CURBING INFLATION**

#### **1. Economic growth**

The Gross Domestic Products (GDP) in 2008 at 1994 constant prices were estimated increasing by 6.23% against 2007, of which the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector rose by 3.79%; the industry and construction by 6.33% and the service by 7.2%. Of the general growth rate of 6.23%, the agriculture, forestry and fishery contributed 0.68 point percents, the industry and construction contributed 2.65 points percent and the service 2.9 points percent. Although, this year's GDP growth rate was lower than the rate 8.48% in 2007 and the readjusted set goal of 7%, but in the background of the world financial crisis and decline in many economies, that rather high growth was a great effort.

The GDP structure at 2008 current prices was as follows: the agriculture, forestry and fishery accounted for 21.99%, the industry and construction 39.91% and the service 38.1% of GDP.

#### **2. Consumer prices**

The 2008 consumer prices happened complicatedly and unusually compared to the trend in previous years. Prices raised highly right from Quarter I and consecutively increasing in quarters II and III, but consecutively fell down in months of quarter IV (compared to previous month, prices in October fell by 0.19%; 0.76% in November and 0.68% in December). Generally, consumer prices were still at a high level. Consumer prices in December 2008 grew by 19.89% against December 2007 and the average prices in 2008 grew by 22.97% against 2007.

#### **3. Government revenues and expenditures**

According to report from the Ministry of Finance (MOF), total government revenues in 2008 were estimated increasing by 26.3% against 2007 and equaling 123.8% of the yearly estimate, of which domestic revenue was 110.9%; revenue from crude oil: 143.3%; trade balance revenue: 141.1%.

Total government spendings in 2008 were estimated rising by 22.3% against 2007 and equaling 118.9% of the yearly estimate, of which spending for investment and development was 118.3% (only

spending for capital construction was 114.7%); for public services sector, Party, associations, defence : 113.3%, for debt and aid payments: 100%. Overspending in 2008 was equal 95% of the approved estimate by the NA in beginning of the year.

#### **4. Investment**

*Social* realized capital investments in 2008 were VND 637.3 trillion at current prices, equaling 43.1% of GDP and rose by 22.2% over 2007. Of which the state sector gained VND 184.4 trillion, accounted for 28.9% of the total investment capital and fell by 11.4%; the non-state sector: VND 263 trillion, accounted for 41.3% of the total and rose by 42.7%; FDI sector: VND 189.9 trillion, accounted for 29.8% of the total and rose by 46.9%.

The result of FDI attraction was good. In December 2008, the country had 112 projects newly licensed with USD 1,254 million total registered capital, bringing the total number of licensed project to 19/12/2008 to 1171 with USD 60.3 billion total registered capital, reduced by 24.2% in projects but rose 3.2 times of registered capital against 2007. If USD 3.7 billion additional registered capital of 311 licensed projects in past years was taken into account, the total number of registered capital in 2008 was USD 64 billion, nearly tripled the number in 2007. This is the highest rate to present. Realized FDI in 2008 was USD 11.5 billion, rose by 43.2% over last year.

## **II. PRODUCTION OUTPUTS OF SECTORS**

### **1. Agriculture, forestry and fishery**

*Output values* of this sector in 2008 at 1994 constant prices were estimated increasing by 5.6% against last year; of which agriculture rose by 5.4%; forestry by 2.2% and fishery by 6.7%.

#### **a. Agriculture**

The rice yield in whole 2008 was estimated at 38.6 million tons, rose by 2.7 million tons (equivalent to 7.5%) against 2007 due to increase of 200.5 thousand ha in cultivated area, and 230 Kg per ha in productivity. Of which, winter-spring rice gained 18.3 million tons, rose by 7.6% against last year; the summer-autumn rice: 11.4 million tons rose by 12%; the winter rice: 8.9 million tons rose by 2%. If 4.5 million tons of maize were included, the gross cereal production in 2008 was 43.2 million tons, grew by 7.5% against last year.

The production of industrial perennials continued to develop toward the direction of producing goods for domestic consumption and for export: yield of coffee was 996.3 thousand tons, rose by 3.6%; rubber: 662.9 thousand tons rose by 8.7%; tea: 759.8 thousand tons rose by 7.5%; and pepper: 104.5 thousand tons rose by 17%.

Animal husbandry activities were gradually recovering after losses caused by natural calamity and diseases, but the speed was still slow. According to the 01/10/2008 Husbandry Survey, the country had 2898 thousand buffalos, reduced by 3.3% compared to 01/8/2007; 6338 thousand oxen, fell by 5.8%; 26702 thousand pigs rose by 0.5%; poultry developed faster with 247.3 million heads, rose by 9.4%.

#### **b. Forestry**

Total area of concentrated forestation in 2008 was 210.8 thousand ha, rising by 6.6% over last year; replanted area: 944.4 thousand ha fell by 0.8%; forest area under care: 486.2 thousand ha fell by 1.2%; woodcut production: 3562.3 thousand cubic meters rose by 2.9%. The phenomena of burnt forest and

illegal cutting wood decreased much in 2008 compared to 2007. Total damaged area was 3919.7 hectares fell by 39.5%, of which burnt forest area was 1677.3 ha fell by 67.3%.

### **c. Fishery**

Total fishery production in 2008 was estimated at 4582.9 thousand tons, increasing by 9.2% over last year, of which farmed production gained 2448.9 thousand tons and rose by 15.3%; catching: 2134 thousand tons, rose by 2.9% (sea catching: 1938 thousand tons rose by 3.3%).

Aquaculture in 2008 was developing better than in 2007 mainly because localities continued changing their production and widening the area of aquaculture in the direction of poly-culture. The catching was also less difficult since petroleum price decreased in ending months of the year and the Government had policies of supporting fishermen in petroleum costs, purchasing/establishing new boat or changing the engine, which encouraged fishermen to work harder.

## **2. Industrial outputs**

Industrial output values in 2008 at 1994 constant prices were estimated increasing by 14.6% against last year, of which the state economic sector rose by 4%; non-state sector by 18.8%; FDI sector by 18.6% (oil and gas decreased by 4.3%). Of the total output values, the manufacture accounted for 88.9% and rose by 16% against 2007; the electricity, gas and water 5.7% rose by 13.4%; the mining 5.4% reduced by 3.5% due to a decrease in extracted volume of crude oil and coal compared to last year.

The production of main items generally maintained higher increased rates than 2007. Lorry rose by 40.6%; bus by 38.3%, processed seafood by 29.1%; washing machine by 28%; garments for adults by 27.7%; transformer by 22.6%; refrigerator by 22.2%; powdered milk by 18.6%; commercial water by 15.2%; television set by 15%; sport shoes by 14.6%; generated electricity by 12.3%; cement by 9.6%. However, other important items only had lowly increased or even lower rates compared to last year, like motorbike rose by 5.5%, air-conditioner by 4.6%; paper and board by 2.3%; chemical fertilizer by 1%; round steel reduced by 10.6%; extracted crude oil by 6.6%; pure coal by 6.1%; chemical paint by 1.9% and textile from cotton yarn by 1.8%.

Large-scale industrial localities having higher growth rates than the general rate were Vinh Phuc: 21.8%; Binh Duong: 21.5%; Dong Nai: 20.7%; Hai Phong: 18.5%; Can Tho: 17.6%; Thanh Hoa: 16.9%. Some provinces/cities having low increased or even lower rates were Ha Noi rose by 12.9%; HCM City by 12%; Quang Ninh by 10.4%; Da Nang by 6.1%; Ba Ria Vung Tau decreased by 0.4%.

## **3. Trade**

### **a. Total retail sales of goods and services**

Total retail sales of goods and services in 2008 were at current prices estimated rising by 31% against 2007 (If the price appreciation factor was excluded, the growth rate was 6.5% only). Of the total, the state economic sector rose by 20.4%; the individual sector by 32.2%; the private sector by 34.3%; the FDI sector by 20.9% against 2007. Of the total, the trade rose by 31.5%; the hotel and restaurant by 26.2%; the service by 31.3 and the tourist by 41.8%.

### **b. Exports – imports**

*Export turnovers* in 2008 were at an estimate of USD 62.9 billion, rising by 29.5% against last year. Of which, the domestic economic sector gained USD 28 billion, rising by 34.7% and shared 50.3%

to the general growth rate; the foreign economic sector excluding crude oil: USD 24.5 billion rose by 26.8% and crude oil: USD 10.5 billion rose by 23.1%. Although, this year's export turnovers were rather higher than in 2007 but, if the costs of re-exporting steel and gold and the price rising factor of 8 main items (crude oil, coal, rice, coffee, rubber, pepper, cashew nut and tea) were excluded, the export turnovers increased only 13.5%. Of the total, commodity group of heavy industry and minerals accounted for 31%, agricultural products 16.3%.

Generally, the 2008 export turnovers of main items increased compared to 2007, mainly due to the world market rising prices. Eight exported items gaining turnovers of more than USD 2 billion were crude oil: USD 10.5 billion, textile: USD 9.1 billion, shoes & sandals: USD 4.7 billion, fishery: USD 4.6 billion, rice: USD 2.9 billion, wood products: USD 2.8 billion, electronics & computer: USD 2.7 billion and coffee: USD 2 billion (two increased items compared to last year were rice and coffee).

Big export markets for Viet Nam in 2008 were the United States: USD 11.6 billion growing by 14.5%; ASEAN: USD 10.2 billion, rising by 31%; EU: USD 10 billion, rising by 15%; Japan: USD 8.8 billion, rising by 45% against 2007.

*Import turnovers* in 2008 were at an estimate of USD 80.4 billion, increasing by 28.3% against last year. Of which, the domestic economic sector gained USD 51.8 billion, rising by 26.5%; the FDI sector: USD 28.6 billion rose by 31.7%. Of the total, production material accounted for 88.8%; consumer goods 7.8%. If the price rising factor of some items were excluded, this year's import turnovers grew only by 21.4% against 2007. The import turnovers of most of main items increased compared to last year.

Among import markets for Viet Nam, ASEAN gained USD 19.5 billion and rose by 22.5%, China: USD 15.4 billion rose by 23.2%, EU: USD 5.2 billion rose by 1.7%, Taiwan: USD 8.4 billion rose by 21.8% and Japan: USD 8.3 billion rose by 37.7% against 2007.

Trade deficits in 2008 were at an estimate of USD 17.5 billion, growing by 24.1% against 2007 and equal 27.8% of total export turnovers. Although trade deficits decreased much compared to the forecast in previous months, the level of trade deficits this year was still high. Of which, the largest amount of imported goods came from Asia: China, ranked as the biggest exporter to Viet Nam, gained USD 10.8 billion, rose by more than USD 1.7 billion against 2007.

Together with export and import of goods, the export and import of services also increased in 2008. Total value of export of services in 2008 was at an estimate of USD 7.1 billion, growing by 9.8% against 2007. Of which, tourist gained USD 4 billion, rising by 7.2%; air transport: USD 1.3 billion rose by 23.7%; sea transport: USD 1 billion rose by 27.7%. Total value of import of services in 2008 were USD 7.9 billion, growing by 10.3% against 2007. Of which, tourist gained USD 1.3 billion, rising by 6.6%; air transport: USD 800 million decreased by 2.4%; sea transport: USD 300 million rose by 20%.

#### **4. Services**

##### **a. Transport**

As estimated, passenger carriage in 2008 gained 1932.3 million times of passengers with 81.7 billion passengers-kilometers, growing by 8.1% in passengers and 7.6% in passengers-kilometers against 2007. Of types of transport, the land grew by 8.8% in passengers and 8.2% in passengers -kilometers; the air: 10.5% and 9.4%, only the rail decreased by 2.1% and 0.4% respectively against last year.

Volume of cargos carried in 2008 was an estimate of 604 million tons with 174.3 billion tons -kilometers, increasing by 8.9% in tons and 40.5% in tons -kilometers against last year. Of which sea transport gained 51 million tons with 141.8 billion tons -kilometers, rising by 21.8% in tons and 49.9% in tons –kilometers (tons-kilometers increased much because the capacity of ships has been enhanced).

#### **b. Communication**

Postal and communication services continued developing in 2008, chiefly the telecommunication. New telephone subscribers in 2008 grew rapidly, bringing the total number of subscribers to end of December 2008 to 79.4 million. Of which, table telephone subscribers were 13.1 million, (the VNPT had 10.3 million subscribers, growing by 11.5% against same period last year). The market for internet continued developing with a number of new internet subscribers of 1.5 million in 2008, bringing the total number of internet subscribers to end of December 2008 to 6.7 million, growing by 28.4% against same period last year.

#### **c. Tourism**

International arrivals to Vietnam in 2008 were estimated at 4.3 million, increasing by 0.6% against last year only. Of which, visitors came for tourist purpose were 2.6 million, rising by 1%; for business purpose: 644.8 thousand rose by 25.4%; for visiting relatives: 509.6 thousand fell by 15.2%; for other purpose: 267.4 thousand fell by 23.3%.

Of the total number of visitors to Viet Nam, passengers from China rose by 13.1%; from the United States rose by 2.2%; from Thailand rose by 9.6%; from Singapore rose by 14.6% against 2007. Countries having a reduced number of visitors to Viet Nam in 2008 were Republic of Korea: -5.5%; Japan: -6.1% and Taiwan: -4.9%.

### **III. Social matters**

#### **1. Population, labor and employment**

The average population in 2008 were estimated at 86.16 million, grew by 1.18%, of which, 42.35 million were men, accounted for 49.1% of the total population, and 43.81 million were women, accounted for 50.9% of the total population. Of the total population, urban population were 24 million, rose by 2.85% against last year and accounted for 27.9% of total population; rural population were 62.1 million, rose by 0.55% and accounted for 72.1% of the total population.

Total under-work employees in various economic sectors in 2008 were estimated at 45 million, increasing by 2% against 2007, of which employees in the state sector were 4.1 million, rising by 2.5%; employees in the non-state sector: 39.1 million rose by 1.2%; employees in the FDI sector: 1.8 million rose by 18.9%. The unemployment rate of laborers within the working age group was estimated at 4.65%.

#### **2. People's living and social security**

In 2008, the consumer prices of goods and services increased highly and the production progress in some sectors ran slowly, natural calamities caused damages of nearly VND 12 trillion, as estimated..., which had adverse effects on the life of almost people, especially the low -income ones.

Although the wage and salary system has been improved with a minimum salary level rising from VND 450,000 to VND 540,000 per month in early 2008, and pension for retired workers has been added

15% according to the Government Decree No 101/2008/ND -CP dated 12/9/2008, the life of cadres, workers and employees has not been improved much .

In rural area, natural calamities and diseases consecutively happened; high prices of consumer goods, petroleum and raw materials affected much on production and life of farmers. According to local reports, in 2008, the country had 957.5 thousand times of households and 4 million times of members suffered from food-shortage, focusing mainly on provinces of the Northern Midland and Mountainous, North Central and Central Coast and Central Highland regions.

To ensure social security, the Government has spent VND 42.3 trillion from the state budget. This amount covered following items: subsidy for ethnic minority people in areas having no electricity to purchase kerosene and for fishermen to catch offshore; providing social aids; buying health insurance cards for poor/close-to-poor persons; granting fellowships for ethnic minority students; raising 15% of the pension to support retired employees and other social insurance receivers; and giving supports to people affected by natural calamities, etc.

Owing to those above social security policies and particularly this year's agricultural production, though affected by price fluctuations that resulted in high input costs, its outputs were rather successful, the life of farmers so was less difficult than beginning months of the year due to the timely steering from all administrative levels and line ministries. As estimated, the country's general poverty rate in 2008 was 13.5%, lower than the rate 14.8% in 2007.

### **3. Traffic accident:**

According to report from the national traffic safety committee, in 11 months of 2008 there were 11.5 thousand cases of traffic accident, killing 10.4 thousand persons and injuring 7,400 others. Compared to same period in 2007, cases of traffic accident decreased by 13.3%; the death by 12.7 % and injuring decreased by 24.8%. The achievement resulted from the persistent and resolute implementation of regulation of wearing safety helmets for motorbike riders and the application of safety measures.

## **4. Education and Training**

### **a. Education**

Closing the 2007-2008 school-year, the country had 1356.1 thousand pupils completed their primary schooling; 1381.3 thousand junior-secondary pupils passed their final exam; 886.7 thousand senior-secondary pupils passed their finals, getting the rate of 86.6%, and 103.6 thousand continuation schooling students passed their finals, getting the rate of 67.4%.

The situation of playing truant has been paid particular attention by all administrative levels and line ministries. In 2007-2008 school-year, the country had 215.1 thousand pupils playing truant, accounted for nearly 1.4% of the total number of pupils, of which, there were 32,000 primary school pupils, accounted for 0.5% of total number of primary pupils; 105,200 junior secondary pupils, accounted for 1.8% of total junior secondary pupils. The reason was that those pupils were either bad learners or their families were too poor to afford their learning.

The compulsory education for primary and junior secondary schooling continued to be promoted over the country. To December 2008, the country had 41/63 provinces/cities met criteria for primary

compulsory education for right age group and 47/63 provinces/cities met criteria for junior secondary compulsory education.

According to local reports, at the time of opening of 2008-2009 school-year, there were nearly 490,000 children sent to kindergartens, fell by 3.7%; over 2782 pre -school pupils, rose by 3.6; nearly 6750 thousand primary pupils, fell by 0.3%; 5530 thousand junior secondary pupils, fell by 3.1% and 2992.9 thousand senior secondary pupils, rose by 0.7% against last school -year.

#### **b. Training**

In the 2007-2008 school-year, the number of universities increased by 15.1%; the number of high schools by 14.2%; the number of university/college students by 4.1%; the number of technical secondary students by 19 against the 2006-2007 school-year. The training gained good results. In 2008, there were 1538 thousand students enrolled in vocational schools, increasing by 17% against 2007. Of which, 60,000 students were in vocational high schools, rose by 103%; and 198,000 students in vocational secondary schools, rose by 31%. This achievement was partly due to the fund of VND one trillion from the national goal program spent to the project "Strengthening of Vocational Training Capabilities", of which, VND 723.5 billion were spent for vocational training establishments; and VND 157 billion for supporting the teaching of a trade to rural laborers, ethnic minority youths and the disabled.

#### **5. Health**

The epidemic diseases in 2008 happened complicatedly; the outburst of hemorrhage and acute diarrhea rapidly occurred in many places. From 1/1/2008 to 22/12/2008, there were 4854 cases of acute diarrhea (883 cases found positive for cholera); 88.4 thousand cases of hemorrhage (89 died); 50.3 thousand cases of malaria (18 died); 7,200 cases of viral hepatitis (5 died); 1,100 cases of virus encephalitis (14 died); 5 cases infected and died of H5N1 virus and 730 cases of typhoid.

The number of HIV cases continued increasing. To 20 December 2008, there were 178.3 thousand HIV-infected cases, of which 71,000 cases turned to AIDS and 41,600 died of AIDS.

The "food safety" issue was attracting the attention of the whole community. The violation of regulation for food safety occurred everywhere, in processes of production, maintenance, slaughtering, and processing. Although the Government has guided all administrative levels and ministries to take various measures to solve the problem, there still occurred many cases of food poisoning, especially some mass food poisoning cases in some places. In 2008, there were nearly 8,000 cases of food poisoning, rose by 18% against 2007, of which 56 persons died.

#### **6. Culture and information**

There were many activities held by the Culture & Information in 2008 to speed up the work of information and propaganda as well as to celebrate public holidays and festivals, which attracted the attention of full of people. Cultural and art performances were improved in both content and quality. The cultural inspection was actively conducted to prevent social evils. According to preliminary report, 16,500 cultural businesses were inspected and 4,400 violated establishments were found and treated in 2008.

#### **7. Sports**

Sporting activities for the mass have been strengthened in the field of size, content and form. High-performance sporting games have been developing. In 2008, the General Department of

Gymnastics and Sports sent 82 national teams to participate in international sporting games. Viet Nam teams made many achievements in Olympic Beijing, Asia Beach Sporting Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> World Intellectual Games, World Chess Prize for Young Players, ASEAN Shooting Match, etc. Viet Nam Teams won 460 medals of all kinds, including 177 Gold Medals, 133 Silver Medals and 150 Bronze Medals. Especially, the Viet Nam Football Team have just won the AFF Cup after many years.

## 8. Environment

According to report from the Ministry of Construction, in 2008 the rate of urban population supplied with clean water was 75% (including Type V urban area). The rate of rural population using sanitary water was 75%, of which 35% of the people used water meeting criteria for clean water according to Decision No 09/2005/QĐ-BYT dated 11/3/2005 by the Ministry of Health, 6% higher than the rate in 2007.

According to the Forest Management Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the forest coverage rate in 2008 was about 38.8-39.3%, rose by 0.5% against 2007.

At present, 4,300 establishments and businesses causing serious pollution to environment should be treated according to Decision No 64/2003/QĐ-TTg dated 22/4/2003 by the Prime Minister on the Plan of absolutely treating any establishment/business that causes serious pollution to the environment.

According to assessments of the Ministry of Construction, total volume of solid wastes using over the country is estimated at about 12.8 million tons per year, of which, urban areas (from type IV up) are using 6.9 million tons of solid wastes per year (about 19,000 tons per day). Of the total solid wastes, the living solid wastes account for 80%, the industrial solid wastes account for 17% and the hospital solid wastes account for about 3%. The amount of solid wastes that can be recycled for use accounts for about 20-30% of the collected amount. However, the technology to treat wastes and the number of wastes treatment establishments are inadequate to meet requirements.

*Briefly*, 2008 is a year that the country had to confront with many difficulties, challenges, and chiefly, financial crisis occurred over the world, inflation rose highly, and natural calamities and epidemic diseases consecutively occurred in the country. However, the Party and Government have timely proposed eight groups of solutions to curb inflation, stabilize macro-economy, ensure social security and sustain growth. Those achievements made in the year have proved the timeliness and appropriateness of the lines and policies set out by the Party and Government. Therefore, inflation has been controlled; exportation was stable; trade deficits were changing to a positive way; Government revenues continued increasing; the attraction of FDI was running well; agriculture production achieved good results; the life of people was stable. The achievement of some 2008 social-economic development goals set by the NA is as follows:

	Unit	Plan	Estimated achievement in 2008
GDP growth rate	%	7.0	6.23
Export turnover growth rate	%	20 – 22	29.5
Realized investment capital as a percent of GDP	%	42	43.1
Total Government Revenues	VND Trillion	323	400

Total Government Expenditures	VND Trillion	398.98	474.3
Overspending as a percent of GDP	%	5.0	4.4
CPI December 2008 compared with December 2007	%		19.89
New enrollment rate of Technical Secondary School	%	16.5	18.7
New enrollment rate of Vocational High/Secondary School	%	18.5	43
Reduced birth rate	‰	0.3	0.2
Poverty rate	%	11 – 12	13.5
Malnutrition rate of children under 5	%	< 22	20.6
Forest coverage rate	%	40	39
Supply of sanitary water to rural area	%	75	75
Supply of clean water to urban area	%	85	75
Collected solid wastes rate	%	80	80

However, the results obtained in the year are not very sound, economic structure changes slowly; the macro balance is not rational; the life of people is not much improved, consumer prices in ending months of the year though decreased but were still at a high level, so, the living conditions of low income people, people in remote and natural calamity affected regions are facing many difficulties. The Viet Nam economy is strongly affected by the economic recession. To overcome difficulties and challenges, in the process of implementation of the 2009 social-economic development plan, it is necessary to focus on carrying out effectively following important issues: Firstly, all levels and ministries should promptly take all efforts in implementing comprehensively and effectively the Government's five groups of solutions in order to curb economic recession, maintain economic growth and ensure social security based on detailed solutions related to the operation of every field and sector. Secondly, it is necessary to have a close and regular coordination between related ministries when realizing the solutions to create a unity and flexibility in directing and managing. Thirdly, it is necessary to have strategies and solutions to help Vietnamese enterprises and businesses gain success in the competition in the domestic market. It is necessary to consolidate the system of distribution, correct weaknesses of the system to cope with the opening of distribution service for foreign businesses, starting from 1 January 2009. Fourthly, continuing to extend market to outside the country, especially to countries having traditional relations with Viet Nam and having consumption requirements suitable to commodities of and the field of production in Viet Nam. Fifthly, strengthening of the forecast and assessment capacities to timely cope with complicated happenings of the weather, world market to limit to a maximum losses to the economy in general and the producer/entrepreneur in particular. Sixthly, continuing to carry out effectively the administration reform to facilitate businesses within and without the country. Seventhly, all levels and sectors should pay particular attentions to the social security and implement timely./.

**GENERAL STATISTICS OFFICE**