

Vietnam GDP hits eight-year high



Fruits are displayed for sale at a market in Hanoi, Vietnam. (Reuters photo)

HANOI - Vietnam's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 6.68% in 2015, the highest rise since 2008, the government said on Monday.

The figures surpassed the country's target of 6.2%, Minister of Planning and Investment Bui Quang Vinh said at a government meeting to review the year's economic performance.

The growth was driven by a 9.6% rise in the industrial and construction sectors, fuelled by record foreign investments, which reached 14.5 billion United States dollars as of Dec 15, according to the government's General Statistics Office (GSO).

Cheaper energy and low inflation helped boost domestic consumption. Vietnam's inflation rate rose 0.6% this year, the lowest level in the past 15 years, the GSO reported.

Vietnam's GDP per capita for 2015 was 2,109 dollars, 57 dollars higher than last year.

