

# Research on the impact of Vietnam's accession to CPTPP on the international trade of Vietnam and other countries in CPTPP

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**Abstract:** *The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a landmark global trade pact, seeks to advance trade liberalization, investment efficiency, and regional economic cohesion among participating nations. As an emerging economy, Vietnam's entry into the CPTPP in 2018 has profoundly shaped its international trade trajectory and redefined trade dynamics within the bloc. Through empirical analysis and theoretical frameworks, this study evaluates the implications of Vietnam's CPTPP membership. Key findings reveal that tariff reductions, market access expansion, and enhanced investment conditions have driven significant export growth, industrial modernization, and deeper regional supply chain linkages. However, challenges such as intensified competition, regulatory compliance demands, and technical barriers persist. By integrating case studies and quantitative assessments, this research offers actionable insights for stakeholders to navigate shifting global trade paradigms.*

**Keywords:** *CPTPP; Vietnam's international trade; regional economic integration; supply chain integration*

## 1. Introduction

The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which succeeded the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) after the U.S. withdrawal, was signed by 11 countries across the Asia-Pacific region in 2018[1]. The agreement aims to establish a high-standard framework for regional economic integration by reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers and aligning trade regulations. Covering 13.5% of global GDP[2], it includes both developed nations like Japan and Canada and emerging markets such as Vietnam and Malaysia, thus fostering a multifaceted cooperation model. By promoting principles such as supply chain integration, investment facilitation, and intellectual property protection, the CPTPP aims to create a more competitive trade environment for its members and play a pivotal role in reshaping the Asia-Pacific economic order[3].

In 2018, Vietnam ratified the CPTPP, which came into effect in 2019, marking a significant step as the first developing country to fully engage in a high-standard free trade agreement. This move represents a broad enhancement of Vietnam's export-driven economic strategy: On one hand, the agreement facilitates substantial export expansion via improved market access, with exports to CPTPP countries projected to surpass USD 102 billion by 2024, constituting 13.1% of Vietnam's total trade, particularly in sectors such as machinery and textiles[4]. On the other hand, the CPTPP also compelled Vietnam to accelerate domestic reforms, including market-driven changes in state-owned enterprises, intellectual property law enhancements, and labor standard improvements, all of which pave the way for foreign investment and technological upgrades[5]. After the agreement took effect, foreign investment in Vietnam grew by an average of 9.2% annually, with sectors like electronics and textiles attracting 47% of total foreign capital.

Vietnam's accession, as a case of developing countries engaging in deep integration, strengthens the South-South cooperation aspect of the CPTPP and creates complementary opportunities for member states through supply chain adjustments. This experience provides valuable insights for emerging economies seeking to integrate into global value chains, while also confronting challenges such as growing trade dependence and intensifying competition in local industries. This study aims to systematically assess the two-way effects of Vietnam's participation in the CPTPP and offer policy recommendations to optimize regional economic cooperation.

## 2. Literature Review and theoretical analysis

### 2.1. Literature review

Customs Union Theory, first introduced by Jacob Viner in his seminal 1950 work "The Problem of the Customs Union," provides a foundational framework for understanding regional economic integration[6]. This theory highlights two critical phenomena: trade creation and trade diversion. Trade creation occurs when the removal of tariffs among member countries leads to an increase in trade volume by enabling more efficient resource allocation, thereby enhancing overall economic welfare. Conversely, trade diversion refers to a less desirable outcome where goods that were previously imported from a more cost-efficient non-member country are now sourced from a member country, even if the latter is less competitive. This shift can lead to suboptimal resource allocation, as trade is diverted from the most efficient producers to those within the customs union.

Similarly, Free Trade Area Theory advocates for a broader form of economic liberalization by eliminating all trade barriers—such as tariffs, quotas, and other restrictions—between member states. This approach aims to maximize economic efficiency and foster competitive markets. In their influential book "International Economics," Krugman and Obstfeld explore the role of free trade zones in stimulating economic growth and improving resource allocation through cross-border competition and innovation[7]. They also emphasize a significant challenge: the need for well-defined rules of origin. Such rules are crucial to prevent third countries from exploiting the system by routing exports through low-tariff member countries to circumvent higher tariffs imposed on non-members. Bhagwati (1991) notably discussed this concern, arguing that without strict rules, the benefits of a free trade area might be undermined by unintended trade diversion effects[8]. Overall, both theories provide valuable insights into the potential benefits and pitfalls of regional economic integration, underscoring the delicate balance policymakers must strike between fostering trade liberalization and safeguarding domestic economic interests.

### 2.2. Studies on CPTPP

Since its entry into force in 2018, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) has emerged as a pivotal framework for regional economic cooperation. According to Petri and Plummer (2016), their research indicates that the CPTPP has substantially reduced trade costs among member countries through the reduction or elimination of tariffs, as shown in the figure 1, harmonization of standards and regulations[9]. Nonetheless, (Lewis, 2020) the CPTPP also confronts several challenges, such as addressing competitive currency devaluation, ensuring the enforcement of environmental standards, and safeguarding labor rights and interests[10]. Furthermore, Schott and Cimino-Isaacs (2018) underscored the potential role of the CPTPP in global trade governance, suggesting that it may establish new benchmarks for future international trade rules[11].

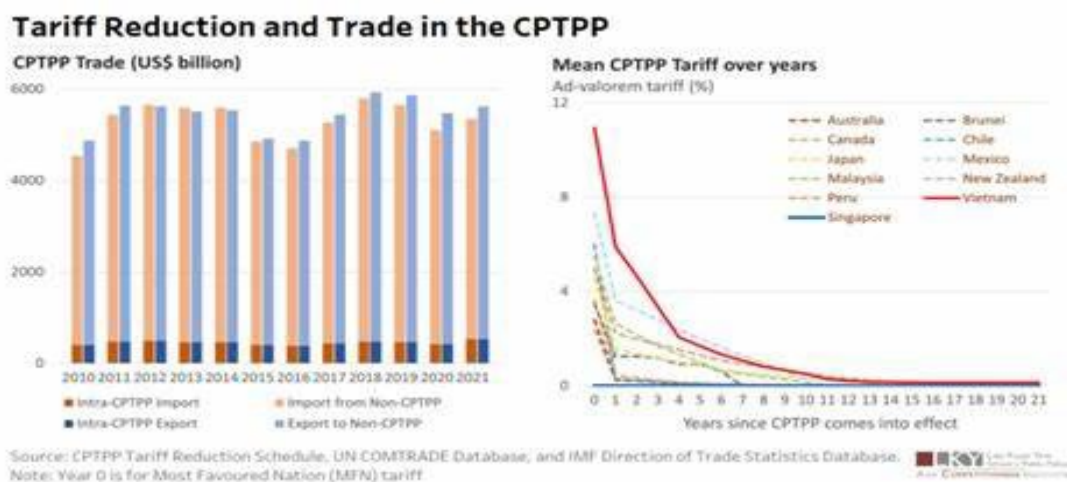


Figure 1: Tariff Reduction and Trade in the CPTPP

### **2.3. Studies on Vietnam's International Trade**

Since Vietnam's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), its international trade has exhibited a significant growth trajectory. Nguyen and Tran (2019)[12] conducted an in-depth analysis of Vietnam's trade development, highlighting that the primary driver of this expansion is the manufacturing sector, particularly the export of textile and electronic products. However, Vo (2021) [13] confirmed that Vietnam's trade structure remains heavily reliant on primary products and processing industries, with limited production of high value-added goods. Vo emphasized the necessity for Vietnam to upgrade its position within the global value chain to transition from quantitative growth to qualitative improvement. To address these structural challenges, Vietnam has actively engaged in regional economic integration agreements, notably by joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Pham (2022)[14] examined the post-CPTPP trade dynamics in Vietnam, noting that while exports have surged significantly, the country now faces stricter international standards and heightened market competition. For instance, the CPTPP mandates higher environmental and labor standards, presenting both challenges and opportunities for Vietnamese enterprises to enhance their competitiveness through improved product quality and technical standards. Consequently, Vietnam must continue to promote trade diversification, expanding its export markets while adjusting the types and quality of its exports, gradually transitioning towards high value-added products. This shift is essential not only for sustained economic growth but also to secure a more advantageous position in the global trade landscape.

### **2.4. Research Gap**

Despite the extensive body of research on the impact of the CPTPP (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership), existing studies have predominantly concentrated on macroeconomic effects, with limited attention given to the specific implications of Vietnam's accession to the CPTPP. The literature currently lacks in-depth analysis on how the CPTPP will influence Vietnam's trade structure, industrial policies, and position within global value chains. Le (2023) [15] highlights that there is insufficient detailed examination of the benefits and challenges faced by specific industries in Vietnam under the CPTPP, particularly key sectors such as textiles, electronics, and agriculture. Future research should delve deeper into these areas to provide a more comprehensive understanding. Le further emphasizes that future studies should focus on Vietnam's policy adjustments within the CPTPP framework, including strategies to leverage CPTPP rules to elevate domestic industry standards, address stringent environmental and labor regulations, and expand international markets through enhanced market access. Additionally, analyzing the concrete impacts of the CPTPP on Vietnam's economy—such as export growth, investment inflows, and industrial upgrading—will offer more targeted guidance for policymakers and businesses. Research should also explore how the CPTPP can facilitate Vietnam's ascent in the global value chain, enabling it to move beyond low-value-added manufacturing and into higher-value-added activities like design, branding, and services.

## **3. The impact of Vietnam's accession to CPTPP on Vietnam's international trade**

### **3.1. Trade creation effect**

The trade creation effect has significantly boosted Vietnam's export growth since it joined the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). According to statistics, as shown in the table 1, Vietnam's total exports to CPTPP member countries reached \$55.8 billion in 2024, representing a year-on-year increase of 11.2%. The primary drivers of this growth were exports of machinery and equipment, textiles, and electronic products, which accounted for 27% of total exports. Notably, Vietnam's performance in new markets has been particularly impressive, with exports to Canada increasing by 20.1% in 2023. This underscores the CPTPP's crucial role in assisting Vietnam in exploring new markets and highlights the agreement's effectiveness in promoting trade liberalization. By reducing or eliminating tariff barriers, the CPTPP provides enhanced market access opportunities for Vietnamese products, thereby encouraging Vietnamese companies to actively expand into these markets.

Table 1: Total imports and exports between Vietnam and CPTPP in 2024

<b>Country</b>	<b>Total Exports (USD)</b>	<b>Total Imports (USD)</b>
<i>Japan</i>	22,434,701.53	19,578,439.71
<i>Canada</i>	5,816,787.58	789,376.64
<i>Australia</i>	5,993,135.82	6,983,241.08
<i>Mexico</i>	5,034,016.01	867,610.84
<i>Singapore</i>	4,742,868.83	4,733,897.60
<i>Malaysia</i>	4,636,570.36	8,334,275.28
<i>Chile</i>	1,216,336.67	303,406.60
<i>Peru</i>	417,434.00	69,775.50
<i>New Zealand</i>	640,626.53	543,096.31
<i>Brunei</i>	117,254.89	493,124.17

### 3.2. Trade diversion effect

In 2024, Vietnam's imports from CPTPP member countries are expected to grow by only 2%, a stark contrast to the overall import growth rate of 17%. This disparity underscores the significant influence of the CPTPP on Vietnam's trade dynamics. The implementation of the CPTPP has catalyzed a notable shift in Vietnam's import demand, moving it from reliance on non-member markets to favoring imports from CPTPP members, thanks largely to reduced trade barriers, including tariff reductions and simplified regulations. This shift is a classic example of the trade diversion effect, vividly illustrated in Vietnam's evolving import landscape.

With the CPTPP in place, Vietnam can import goods from member countries at significantly lower costs. This applies especially to products that benefit from tariff concessions like machinery, electronics, and certain raw materials, as shown in the figure 2. This policy not only slashes costs but also fosters greater localization and regionalization of Vietnam's import strategy. Vietnamese companies are increasingly opting to source from within the CPTPP framework, taking advantage of the reduced costs and enhanced logistical efficiencies. This strategic pivot reduces Vietnam's reliance on global markets while simultaneously bolstering its standing within the regional economic network. Moreover, this recalibration of import patterns reflects a broader strategic realignment in Vietnam's supply chain management. By integrating more deeply into the CPTPP, Vietnam aims to streamline its regional supply chains, minimizing dependence on costly, distant non-member suppliers. This realignment not only tightens economic bonds with CPTPP partners but also elevates Vietnam's role in the global value chain. In summary, the trade diversion effect facilitated by the CPTPP presents Vietnam with opportunities to refine its import structure, enhance resource utilization, and foster stronger regional economic ties. However, this also necessitates continuous adaptation by Vietnamese policymakers and businesses to fully leverage these emerging trade routes and economic prospects.

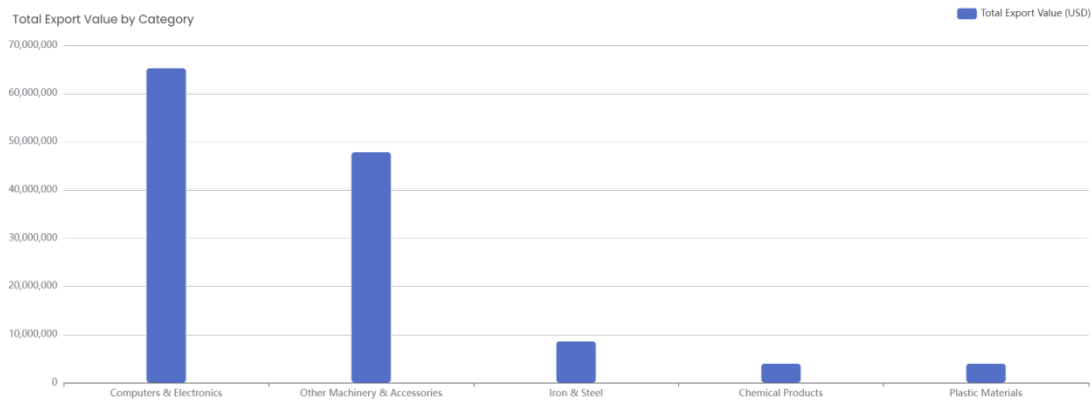


Figure 2: Exports of Machinery, Electronics, and Raw Materials in 2024 (USD)

### 3.3. Investment and competition effect

Enhanced Attractiveness for Foreign Investment: CPTPP Drives Vietnam to Become a Global Manufacturing Hub. Since Vietnam joined the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), its status as a hot spot for foreign investment has significantly improved. From 2023 to 2024, the scale of foreign capital flowing into Vietnam continued to expand, especially in key sectors such as electronics, textiles and apparel, and new energy. According to statistics from Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment, in the first nine months of 2024, Vietnam's total foreign investment absorption reached 24.78 billion US dollars, an increase of 11.6% year-on-year. Among them, the processing and manufacturing industry accounted for 63.1%, becoming the sector with the highest concentration of foreign investment. This trend is attributed to the tariff reduction, market access liberalization, and supply chain integration advantages under the CPTPP framework. For instance, Japanese company YKK Corporation has built its second factory in Ha Nam Province, adopting more advanced technologies. Meanwhile, Hong Kong's Crystal Group has invested 450 million yuan in a denim production project in Nam Dinh Province, which is expected to further enhance the localization level of Vietnam's textile industry chain upon its commissioning in 2026.

The rules of the CPTPP have also attracted diversified investment sources to Vietnam. Chinese direct investment in Vietnam (ODI) reached 5 billion US dollars in 2023, a year-on-year increase of 30%, with investment fields expanding from traditional textile industries to high-value-added industries such as power electronics and renewable energy. Additionally, Vietnam's trade network built through 16 free trade agreements, especially the zero-tariff policies with CPTPP member countries such as Canada and Mexico, has further reduced the export costs of multinational enterprises. In the first eight months of 2024, Vietnam's textile exports to the CPTPP market reached 4.56 billion US dollars, a year-on-year increase of 4.3%, with the growth rate in the Mexican market reaching as high as 26.92%. The supporting policies of the Vietnamese government have also enhanced this appeal. The corporate income tax in economic zones can be reduced to 10%, and enterprises can enjoy tax exemption for the first four years and a 50% reduction for the following nine years. Import duties on production equipment and raw materials can also be waived. These measures not only lower the operating costs of foreign-funded enterprises but also promote the localization of the industrial chain. For instance, after the zipper factory of China's Weixing Co., Ltd. in Thanh Hoa Province went into operation, Vietnam's reliance on imports of zippers, buttons and other accessories has significantly decreased.

Local enterprises face challenges: intensified competition and surging compliance pressure. Although the CPTPP has brought foreign investment dividends to Vietnam, its open market rules also pose a dual challenge to local enterprises. Firstly, intensified international competition forces local enterprises to accelerate technological upgrades. According to data from the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association, the textile industry's export target for 2024 is 44 billion US dollars, but markets such as Europe and the United States are increasingly strict in their requirements for environmental protection, labor rights, and material traceability. For instance, the EU requires exporting enterprises to provide certifications for chemical use and forest management, compelling small and medium-sized enterprises in Vietnam to invest millions of dollars in upgrading their production lines to meet the standards of a circular economy. Secondly, frequent trade protection measures by CPTPP member countries have further squeezed the survival space of local enterprises. In 2024, Australia initiated 18 anti-dumping investigations against Vietnam's export products, involving steel and agricultural

products, which reflects the insufficiency of Vietnamese enterprises in adapting to international rules. Additionally, Vietnamese local enterprises still show weakness in supply chain integration. Although CPTPP encourages regional supply chain participation, 60% of raw materials for Vietnam's textile industry are imported, and the rate of localization has been increasing slowly.

The predicament of small and medium-sized enterprises is particularly prominent. Due to financial and technological constraints, they find it difficult to spread compliance costs through economies of scale as foreign-funded enterprises do. The Ministry of Industry and Trade of Vietnam pointed out that only 15% of domestic enterprises can fully utilize the tariff preferences of the CPTPP, while the rest miss out on opportunities due to a lack of market information and international certifications. Additionally, the "rules of origin" of the CPTPP require that more than 40% of the added value of products be produced within member countries, which forces Vietnamese enterprises to accelerate cooperation with suppliers within the region. However, the lagging of local supporting industries makes it hard to achieve this goal. To address the challenges, the Vietnamese government is guiding and supporting local enterprises through policy measures. For instance, the Ministry of Industry and Trade has launched a CPTPP-specific training program to help small and medium-sized enterprises master compliance standards; at the same time, it is promoting the establishment of raw material centers to reduce supply chain costs by 35%. However, the effectiveness of these measures still needs time to be verified. How to balance the introduction of foreign capital and the protection of local industries in an open market will be a key issue for Vietnam to maintain economic resilience.

#### **4. Effects of Vietnam's Accession to the CPTPP on Member Countries**

##### **4.1. Trade Creation and Market Expansion**

**Export Growth of Member Countries:** Since joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), Vietnam has emerged as a rapidly growing consumer market, significantly boosting exports from member countries. According to 2024 trade data, Canada's reliance on imports from Vietnam has surged, with imports rising from \$5.3 billion in 2021 to approximately \$8 billion in 2024, accounting for 35% of Canada's total import market share. This growth is largely driven by Vietnam's expanding manufacturing sector and maturing consumer base, particularly the soaring demand for electronic products and mechanical equipment. These sectors not only highlight Vietnam's industrialization progress but also offer substantial market opportunities for CPTPP members. Meanwhile, advanced economies like Japan and Singapore have deepened regional trade cooperation through Vietnam's intermediate goods supply chains. For instance, Japanese electronics firms increasingly view Vietnam as a critical hub for component supplies, with Vietnam's exports of electronic parts to Japan growing by 23% in 2023, comprising 18% of Japan's imports in this category. This trend underscores Vietnam's dual role as both a consumer market and a vital production node, strengthening trade ties with member countries.

**Regional Supply Chain Integration:** Vietnam's industrial upgrading has injected vitality into the supply chain integration among CPTPP members. Countries like Singapore and Australia have leveraged Vietnam's processing industries to further embed themselves in global value chains. In the textile sector, for example, high-end textile materials imported from Singapore now constitute 42% of Vietnam's supply, which are then processed and exported to markets in Europe and North America. This efficient "regional production-global sales" model enhances resource allocation within the bloc and bolsters member countries' global competitiveness. Furthermore, Vietnam's share of intermediate goods exports to CPTPP members has risen from 28% in 2019 to 37% in 2024, cementing its role as a pivotal hub in the regional supply chain [16]. This integration allows members to capitalize on Vietnam's low-cost production advantages and strategic geographic position, optimizing their industrial layouts. For instance, Australian mineral resources, processed in Vietnam, are transformed into higher-value products for international markets, significantly enhancing export profitability.

##### **4.2. Trade Diversion and Competitive Pressure**

**Substitution Effects:** Vietnam's cost-competitive goods have exerted considerable pressure on the domestic industries of CPTPP members. Take Mexico as an example: in 2024, its imports of footwear from Vietnam surged by 26.92%, resulting in a 12% decline in the market share of its local shoe industry. This has sparked strong reactions from industry associations, urging governmental intervention to shield domestic producers from external competition. A similar scenario unfolds in Canada, where Vietnam's

furniture exports under the CPTPP framework soared by 85%, encroaching significantly on the market space of Canadian manufacturers. This substitution effect is particularly pronounced in labor-intensive industries, where Vietnam's low labor costs and efficient production capabilities give its products a clear price advantage. In response, member countries' domestic firms are compelled to accelerate industrial upgrades, relying on technological innovation and brand development to stay competitive. However, for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the costs and challenges of such transformations are prohibitive, potentially leading to market exits and broader socio-economic repercussions.

**Escalation of Trade Protectionism:**The rapid rise in Vietnam's exports has triggered frequent trade remedy actions from member countries aiming to safeguard their domestic industries. By 2024, Australia had initiated 18 anti-dumping investigations against Vietnamese aluminum products, while Canada and Malaysia launched 12 and 10 cases, respectively, targeting steel, plastics, and other key export categories. These measures highlight a growing tension between market openness and domestic industry protection within the CPTPP. Data from Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade reveal a 40% year-on-year increase in trade remedy cases against Vietnamese products in 2023, with 72% targeting goods with export growth exceeding 20%. This escalation of protectionism raises compliance costs for Vietnamese exporters and partially undermines the CPTPP's goal of trade liberalization. Nevertheless, it has also spurred dialogue on trade rules among members, such as efforts to establish more transparent anti-dumping mechanisms to balance interests. Frequent use of such measures, however, risks dampening the cooperative spirit within the bloc, necessitating more constructive solutions moving forward.

### ***4.3. Deepening Regional Economic Integration***

**CPTPP Expansion:** As the first developing country to deeply engage with the CPTPP, Vietnam plays an increasingly pivotal role in the agreement's expansion. In 2024, Vietnam participated in reviewing membership applications from countries like the United Kingdom and South Korea, marking its debut in exercising vetting authority within an international trade pact. This shift signals a notable enhancement of Vietnam's global influence and strengthens its bargaining power on the world trade stage. Vietnam's proactive involvement not only amplifies the CPTPP's global reach but also positions it as a bridge between developing and developed economies. For instance, during the UK's application review, Vietnam proposed specific agricultural market access conditions, reflecting its own interests while enriching the CPTPP's rule framework with diverse perspectives. Moreover, Vietnam's success has inspired other developing nations, such as Thailand and the Philippines, to expedite their CPTPP accession, further broadening the agreement's scope and economic potential.

**Rule Harmonization:**The CPTPP's unified rules of origin and environmental standards have significantly reduced transaction costs among members, providing a robust foundation for regional economic integration. In the textile sector, as shown in the figure 3, the adoption of cumulative rules of origin has boosted the tariff exemption efficiency for Vietnamese exports to Japan by 30%, driving Vietnam's exports to Japan past \$22 billion in 2024. This rule enables Vietnam to efficiently integrate raw materials from other members, producing goods tailored to CPTPP market demands. Additionally, harmonized environmental standards have accelerated Vietnam's green manufacturing transition. In 2023, Vietnam's exports of eco-friendly products—such as recycled plastics and low-carbon aluminum—to CPTPP members surged by 45%, meeting growing sustainability demands while enhancing Vietnam's green competitiveness globally. By lowering trade barriers and fostering closer economic ties, rule harmonization lays a solid groundwork for sustained regional collaboration.

**Conclusion and Policy Implications:** Vietnam's accession to the CPTPP exerts a dual-edged impact on member countries. On one hand, it generates substantial trade creation benefits through market expansion and supply chain integration, advancing regional economic integration. On the other, its competitive low-cost goods intensify pressure on domestic industries, fueling a rise in trade protectionist barriers. To navigate this complexity, member countries must strike a dynamic balance between market openness and industry protection—perhaps through technical cooperation to enhance local firms' competitiveness or by improving the transparency and fairness of trade remedy mechanisms to mitigate friction. For Vietnam, strengthening compliance capacity, particularly in environmental and labor standards, is critical to thriving in an increasingly intricate global trade environment. Only through collaborative efforts can the CPTPP's cooperative potential be fully harnessed, fostering sustainable regional economic growth.

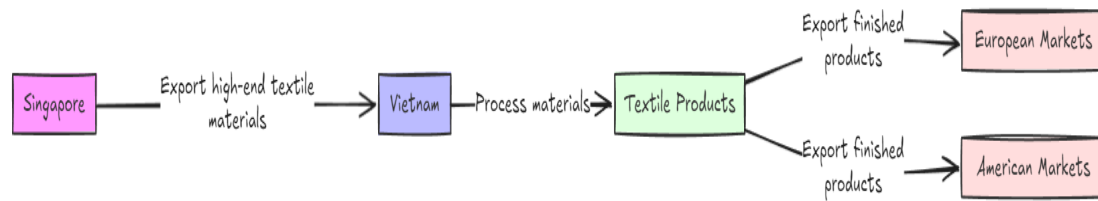


Figure 3: Trade model in Vietnam in textile industry

#### 4.4. Policy Implications

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### 5. Conclusion

#### 5.1. Export Growth and Industrial Upgrading

Vietnam's accession to the CPTPP has undeniably catalyzed its export growth and industrial transformation, positioning it as a pivotal node in the Asia-Pacific trade network. Data from Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade reveals that exports to CPTPP members surged to \$102 billion in 2024[17], accounting for 13.1% of its total trade volume, with machinery, electronics, and textiles leading the expansion. This growth reflects Vietnam's successful integration into regional value chains, driven by tariff reductions and enhanced market access. Notably, the agreement has accelerated industrial upgrading: foreign direct investment (FDI) in high-value sectors like electronics rose to 47% of total inflows by 2024, while labor-intensive industries such as textiles saw a 23% increase in compliance with CPTPP's environmental and labor standards. These shifts underscore Vietnam's transition from low-cost manufacturing to a more diversified, technology-driven economy.

#### 5.2. Challenges Faced

Vietnam faces escalating trade protection risks as its export competitiveness intensifies. By 2024, CPTPP members initiated 40 anti-dumping investigations against Vietnamese goods, including 18 cases by Australia targeting aluminum products and 12 by Canada on steel exports. Such measures highlight the tension between market liberalization and domestic industry protection within the bloc. For Vietnam, compliance with stringent CPTPP rules—ranging from intellectual property reforms to carbon emission controls—demands substantial institutional and financial investments. For instance, textile SMEs now spend an average of \$2 million annually to meet EU sustainability certifications, straining their operational resilience.

#### 5.3. Dual Role as a Supply Chain Partner and Competitor

For CPTPP members, Vietnam's dual role as a supply chain partner and competitor necessitates strategic balancing. While Japan and Singapore benefit from Vietnam's intermediate goods exports (e.g., electronics components grew by 30% in 2024), Mexico and Canada grapple with import substitution effects, as Vietnamese footwear and furniture captured 26.9% and 35% of their markets respectively. This duality underscores the need for cooperative frameworks, such as technical assistance programs, to mitigate trade friction while preserving integration benefits.



#### 5.4. Future Research Directions

Future research should prioritize two dimensions. First, the geopolitical implications of CPTPP expansion—particularly the potential accession of the UK and South Korea—could reshape Vietnam's influence in regional rule-making. As Vietnam participated in reviewing the UK's application in 2024, its ability to advocate for developing economies' interests will test the bloc's inclusivity. Second, addressing long-term trade remedy challenges requires innovation-driven strategies. For example, Vietnam's 45% growth in green exports (e.g., recycled plastics) to CPTPP members in 2023 suggests that sustainability investments could alleviate protectionist pressures while enhancing global competitiveness.

In sum, Vietnam's CPTPP membership exemplifies the paradox of regional integration: it unlocks growth through market access but demands adaptive resilience against protectionism. As the agreement evolves, Vietnam must leverage strategic reforms and multilateral diplomacy to sustain its ascent in the global value chain.

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