



Vietnam's Gig Workers Struggle with Rising Fuel Costs

Description

After a long day of working as a driver in Ho Chi Minh City, Nguyen was upset to find that half of his earnings went on fuel. He explained that he made 240,000 Vietnamese dong (around £9.11) in seven or eight hours but spent 120,000 Vietnamese dong (about £4.56) on petrol. He said, "I can't survive with this amount of money in the city."

Many gig workers in Vietnam are struggling due to rising fuel prices caused by the ongoing war involving Iran. Normally, Vietnam gets about 80% of its crude oil from Kuwait, but supplies have decreased, making fuel more expensive. Diesel prices have more than doubled, and petrol costs have risen nearly 30%. This affects the cost of getting around, particularly in Ho Chi Minh City, which has over 7 million motorcycles.

In response to these problems, the Vietnamese government has introduced emergency measures. Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh announced he would suspend an environmental tax on diesel and petrol until mid-April to help control prices. Researchers believe these steps are necessary to avoid further public anger over rising living costs.

Transportation and businesses are increasingly affected. Public transport is overcrowded, while companies are losing money despite raising prices. Many drivers need to work longer hours but lack protections such as minimum wage. As authorities seek short-term solutions, they must also plan for greater energy independence in the future.

Vocabulary List:

1. **earnings** //ˈɜːnɪŋz// (noun): money a person receives for their work
2. **gig** //gɪɡ// (noun): a short-term job, often freelance or temporary
3. **crude** //kruːd// (adjective): in a natural state before processing
4. **supplies** //səˈplaɪz// (noun): things provided for use, like fuel
5. **suspend** //səˈspend// (verb): to stop something for a short time
6. **independence** //ˌɪndɪˈpendəns// (noun): freedom to control something on its own

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. How much did Nguyen earn in a day as a driver?
 - Option: 120,000 VND
 - Option: 240,000 VND
 - Option: 300,000 VND
 - Option: 180,000 VND

2. What percentage of Vietnam's crude oil typically comes from Kuwait?
 - Option: 60%
 - Option: 70%
 - Option: 80%
 - Option: 90%

3. How much has diesel prices increased by?
 - Option: By 10%
 - Option: By 20%
 - Option: More than doubled
 - Option: By 30%

4. Who announced the suspension of the environmental tax?
 - Option: Nguyen
 - Option: Pham Minh Chinh
 - Option: The President
 - Option: The Minister of Finance

5. What is causing gig workers in Vietnam to struggle?
 - Option: Increased rentals
 - Option: Rising fuel prices
 - Option: Less work available
 - Option: High tax rates

6. What measures has the Vietnamese government taken to help control prices?
 - Option: Increasing taxes
 - Option: Suspending environmental tax
 - Option: Subsidizing petrol
 - Option: Reducing fuel supply



True-False

7. Nguyen only earned 120,000 Vietnamese dong in a day.
8. The prices of diesel have decreased in Vietnam recently.
9. Ho Chi Minh City has over 7 million motorcycles.
10. The government has not taken any measures to control fuel prices.
11. Public transport in Vietnam is becoming less crowded.
12. Gig workers in Vietnam are receiving more protections such as minimum wage.

Gap-Fill

13. Nguyen spends _____ on petrol.
14. The cost of petrol has risen nearly _____ percent.
15. Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh announced he would suspend an environmental tax on diesel and petrol until _____ to help control prices.
16. Many gig workers are struggling due to rising _____ prices.
17. Transportation and businesses are increasingly _____ by rising fuel prices.
18. Many drivers need to work longer hours but lack _____ such as minimum wage.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 240,000 VND 2. 80% 3. More than doubled 4. Pham Minh Chinh 5. Rising fuel prices
6. Suspending environmental tax

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 120,000 14. 30 15. mid-April 16. fuel 17. affected 18. protections



Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the term used to describe the general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money?
Option: Deflation
Option: Inflation
Option: Recession
Option: Stagflation
2. Who is the person that owns a house?
Option: Tenants
Option: Homeowner
Option: Realtor
Option: Landlord
3. What do we call a standard or point of reference against which things may be compared?
Option: Target
Option: Benchmark
Option: Metric
Option: Variable
4. What term describes the profession of managing international relations?
Option: Military
Option: Diplomatic
Option: Political
Option: Economic
5. Who are the individuals or entities that allocate capital with the expectation of a financial return?
Option: Borrowers
Option: Savers
Option: Investors
Option: Spenders
6. What is the agreement to stop fighting called?
Option: Truce
Option: War Treaty
Option: Ceasefire
Option: Surrender



7. What term refers to the net profits of a company?

- Option: Losses
- Option: Earnings
- Option: Revenues
- Option: Expenditures

8. What are taxes imposed on imported goods called?

- Option: Quotas
- Option: Subsidies
- Option: Tariffs
- Option: Duties

9. What is the process of terminating employees called, usually due to financial issues?

- Option: Hiring
- Option: Promotions
- Option: Layoffs
- Option: Transfers

10. What term describes a mixture of two different elements?

- Option: Homogeneous
- Option: Compound
- Option: Hybrid
- Option: Elemental

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Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The inflation _____ measures the average change over time in the prices paid by consumers for goods and services.

12. The company has increased its _____ to meet the growing demand.

13. The government decided to _____ the tariffs temporarily to support the economy.

14. This model represents a _____ between a sedan and an SUV.

15. The emergency _____ provides power during outages.

16. The stock has _____ the market this quarter with a 15% increase.



17. The company is undergoing a _____ to enhance efficiency.
18. The goal is to _____ sustainable practices into all levels of the organization.
19. The charity _____ for donations to support relief efforts.
20. Her _____ approach to problem-solving made her an effective leader.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Crude oil prices have recently jumped due to geopolitical tensions.
22. The peace negotiations have entered a critical phase, hoping to resolve the conflict.
23. The country celebrated its independence with a grand parade.
24. His dismissive attitude towards critics only fueled more interest in the controversy.
25. The new car model is turbocharged, providing exceptional speed and performance.
26. He picked up a gig as a music producer for a local band.
27. The homeowner made significant renovations to raise the property's value.
28. The new software serves as a benchmark for performance comparisons in the industry.
29. After the merger, several employees were laid-off due to redundancy.
30. The donation was made by an anonymous benefactor wishing to remain unknown.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Inflation 2. Homeowner 3. Benchmark 4. Diplomatic 5. Investors 6. Ceasefire 7. Earnings 8. Tariffs 9. Layoffs 10. Hybrid

Gap-Fill: 11. index 12. supplies 13. suspend 14. crossover 15. generator 16. outperformed 17. restructuring 18. integrate 19. appealed 20. pragmatic

Matching sentence: 1. crude 2. negotiations 3. independence 4. dismissive 5. turbocharged 6. gig 7. homeowner 8. benchmark 9. layoffs 10. anonymous

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1. Business - LEVEL3



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Date Created

2026/04/06

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