

Vietnam

Population 101.6 million · Latest figures: 2025

Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security recorded 4,200 online fraud cases in 2025, with losses estimated at more than VND 8,000 billion, against more than 6,000 cases and more than VND 12,000 billion in 2024. Between 2020 and 2025 there were 24,295 cases and losses of nearly VND 40,000 billion.

Since 1 March 2025 the ministry has led on network security as well as policing: its cyber security department, A05, took over the information security work of the former communications ministry. The State Bank of Vietnam regulates the banks and runs a shared database of suspect accounts. The Ministry of Science and Technology regulates the phone companies. The Prime Minister chairs the national cyber security steering committee.

The measures are built on identity: a face scan checked against the national ID for larger bank transfers (July 2024) and for every account used online (January 2025), and confirmation of every mobile number in the VNeID identity app (2026). A personal data law took effect on 1 January 2026 and a new cybersecurity law on 1 July 2026.



PEOPLE SCAMMED

9,739,333

13.2% of adults

The script the police rank first is a caller posing as the authorities, and the ministry reminds people that the police, courts and prosecutors do not work by phone. Scripts follow the news: scammers posed as regulators, phone company staff and bank staff during the clean-up of SIM cards and bank accounts itself. Victims are told to install a fake public service or identity app, or sent an 'electricity' or 'tax' link, which gives the scammer control of the phone and its banking apps. Other forms are fake prizes, investment and crypto platforms that allow small withdrawals at first, 'easy work, high pay' tasks, and fake payment receipts.

The police list 25 scripts for 2026, including cloned voices and deepfake video. In 'online kidnapping', callers posing as police isolate a student in a hotel and extort the family: about 50 victims were rescued between mid-2024 and August 2025, all aged 18 to 22 and nine in ten of them women.

Much of this is directed from abroad. In January 2026, 205 Vietnamese were arrested at Chinese-run scam companies in Bavet, Cambodia.

PEOPLE WHO LOST
MONEY

5,607,499

58% of victims

Money leaves by bank transfer into accounts rented or bought from their owners, and the State Bank says a transfer can pass through several accounts in about a minute. 'Blank' accounts are advertised for a few hundred thousand to over a million dong.

Vietnam's answer is to tie every account to a verified person. Since 1 July 2024 a transfer of more than VND 10 million needs a face scan. Since 1 January 2025 an account or card that has not been matched to its owner's biometric data cannot be used online at all. By October 2026, 175.2 million customer records had been matched, and of about 200 million accounts that existed, 113 million individual accounts were valid after the checks.

Banks also check the recipient. The State Bank's SIMO database held more than 688,000 suspect accounts by March 2026, and by September 2026 customers warned by it had abandoned 1.9 million transfers worth more than VND 6,300 billion. By March 2027 banks must offer customers a 24-hour delay on large transfers to a new recipient. On the phone side, every number has to be confirmed in the VNeID app: about 13 million unconfirmed numbers had been stopped by September 2026.

MONEY LOST

US\$537.1m

₫13.41tn in a year,
0.10% of GDP

Police put losses to online scams at more than VND 8,000 billion in 2025, against more than VND 12,000 billion in about 6,000 cases in 2024. Over 2020 to 2025 the police counted 24,295 cases and nearly VND 40,000 billion lost. The police department for high-tech crime says the 2025 figure may be only a small part of the real total, because many victims do not report: in a December 2025 survey by the National Cybersecurity Association, only 32.12% of victims had reported to the authorities. The same survey found the share of internet users hit had fallen, the first fall in years.

Scammers posing as the police and other authorities are the leading script, followed by job scams, fake prizes and high-return investment. Large cases show the scale: the Mr Pips indictment covers more than VND 1,568 billion taken in over 920 frauds through 36 fake trading websites. In January 2026, 205 Vietnamese were arrested at scam companies in Bavet, Cambodia, that had taken hundreds of billions of dong from thousands of victims.

MONEY RETURNED

US\$10.8m

2.0% of the money
lost

No rule in Vietnam makes a bank refund a customer who was tricked into paying, so little of the money lost to scams comes back. What does return is recovered from the scammers through the police and the courts. The police aim is to trace and freeze the money before it leaves the country.

Freezing is still limited. Money can pass through several accounts in about a minute, and between June and early October 2026 a little over 400 accounts showing signs of fraud were frozen. In August 2026 the national cybersecurity steering committee ordered the State Bank and the Ministry of Public Security to build a mechanism for blocking accounts and e-wallets linked to fraud at once, so that money can be recovered for victims, due in the last quarter of 2026. A decree in force since 19 August 2026 lists eight cases in which an account or e-wallet can be suspended, among them receiving the proceeds of a violation and being rented or borrowed.

In the largest case, the Mr Pips investment fraud, Hanoi police seized assets and asked the victims identified to come forward so that their money could be returned once the court rules. The trial was set to open in Hanoi on 26 October 2026.

REPORTED

65%

of victims reported it

In the Armidale 2026 survey, 39.4% of victims of the last 12 months told the police and 65.2% reported to some institution, such as the police, a bank or a platform. In the National Cyber Security Association's survey of internet users in December 2025, 32.12% of scam victims reported to the authorities, down from 45.69% a year earlier, and 12.03% accepted the loss and did nothing. Police reports are made to the police where the scam happened, or through the crime-reporting function of the VNeID identity app, which sends them straight to the commune or ward police.

The Ministry of Public Security detected more than 6,000 online fraud cases in 2024, and the Criminal Police Department says fraud was cut by more than 20% in 2025. Scam calls and texts are reported to telecoms short codes: in the first week of 2025 the information security authority logged 6,685 scam reports, 6,472 through those codes and 213 through its warning portal, down from 7,083 in the last week of 2024.

Banks and payment firms report suspect accounts to the State Bank's SIMO database, which held over 688,000 records from 149 institutions by March 2026. By September 2026 bank customers had been warned from it more than 5.6 million times and had stopped or cancelled a payment more than 1.9 million times, worth over 6,300 billion dong. In August 2026 the Prime Minister told the State Bank to set up a mechanism with the police to block accounts linked to scams at once, by the end of 2026.

POLICE RECORDS

4,200

cases recorded by the authorities

The Ministry of Public Security counts online fraud cases recorded when crime reports are handled: 4,200 in 2025. It has given other figures on other bases, such as nearly 1,500 cases detected in the first months of 2025, so its counts do not form a single series. In the third quarter of 2025 fraud was more than half of all crime, and online offenders were 59% of fraud.

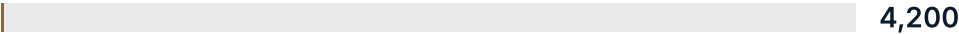
Fraud is punished under Article 174 of the Penal Code, with 12 to 20 years or life in prison where VND 500 million or more is taken. Renting, lending or selling a bank account draws a fine of VND 100 to 200 million under a decree of December 2025, and trading bank account information up to seven years in prison.

Large networks have been broken up: one, dismantled in 2025, had more than 10,000 victims in about 100 days and led to nearly 200 arrests. Cambodia handed over 161 Vietnamese linked to online fraud in July 2025.

Victims who told the police (estimated)



Cases recorded by the authorities



MOST COMMON

- 1. Online shopping
- 2. Jobs
- 3. Government impersonation

The Criminal Police Department of the Ministry of Public Security groups online fraud into nine kinds and ranks impersonation of the authorities first and job scams second. The ministry's own summary names four main groups: impersonation, romance, investment and malware.

In the largest investment case, Mr Pips, more than 920 frauds were run through fake trading websites. Fake apps are a growing route: scripts tell the victim to install an app that looks like a public service, which then takes over the phone.

GOVERNMENT
RESPONSE

Vietnam's programme runs through the state's control of identity. Banks must match every customer to their biometric data and the national ID, phone companies must have every number confirmed in the state identity app, and from 2027 everyone trading online is to be identified. The State Bank's SIMO database makes banks and payment firms pool the accounts they suspect: 149 institutions were connected by March 2026.

On the banks' side the results can be measured. The State Bank reports that the number of customers defrauded fell 59% in the third quarter of 2025 against a year earlier, and the losses recorded by the Ministry of Public Security fell from more than VND 12,000 billion in 2024 to more than 8,000 billion in 2025.

The weaknesses are named by officials themselves. The deputy head of A05 said in May 2026 that prevention is fragmented, that suspect accounts, malicious links and fake apps stay up too long, and that help arrives after the money is lost. In June 2026 the minister described coordination between the police and the State Bank as only at a first stage, and the instant blocking of accounts is promised for late 2026. National Assembly deputies say cross-border platforms do not fully meet their legal duties in Vietnam.

The 2025 cybersecurity law gives platforms 24 hours to remove content. No rule makes a bank, phone company or platform bear a victim's loss.

Calculation Methodology & Sources

People scammed

From one survey:

- 13.2%: Armidale, ASEAN Consumer Scam Report 2026 for the GSMA (figures computed from the respondent data), Respondent data, Q25 (12 months to 30 July 2026).
- 13.2% of 73,782,826 adults.

People who lost money

From one survey:

- 57.6%: Armidale, ASEAN Consumer Scam Report 2026 for the GSMA (figures computed from the respondent data), Respondent data, Q32 (12 months to 30 July 2026).

Money lost

- $\text{₫}8\text{tn}$ was lost in cases recorded by the authorities. Adding the 5,603,299 victims who lost money but are not in those records, at $\text{₫}965,108$ each, gives $\text{₫}13.41\text{tn}$.
- Price of an unrecorded loss: Read off the line fitted to GDP per person in the countries where this price is measured (Canada, Chile, Mexico, Singapore and United States): US\$38.66 = VND 965,107.54.
- US dollars at 0.000040062 per VND.
- Share of GDP: US\$537.1m against GDP of US\$514.7b in 2025. World Bank, GDP (current US\$) 2025.

Money returned

- Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Payment Systems Report 2025, Level average, see note.
- No national figure covers every route, so the average is used for countries where the no rule makes banks refund fraud losses. Worked out: banks return 2.5% of money lost through banks, the average of Nigeria and Bangladesh; banks returned VND 146.54bn (2.5% of the 42.9% of money lost through banks); VND 122.42bn came back on money lost outside banks (1.6%, from Armidale's non-government survey of seven Asian markets, converted to money).
- 2.0% of $\text{₫}13.41\text{tn}$ lost.

Reported

From one survey:

- 65.2%: Armidale, ASEAN Consumer Scam Report 2026 for the GSMA (figures computed from the respondent data), Respondent data, Q33 (12 months to 30 July 2026).

Police records

- 39.4%: Armidale, ASEAN Consumer Scam Report 2026 for the GSMA (figures computed from the respondent data), Respondent data, Q33 (12 months to 30 July 2026).
- 4,200: Online fraud cases recorded by the Ministry of Public Security.

Most common

- Ranked by scam types that affected victims of the last 12 months most (Armidale 2026; victims could choose more than one). 36.2% of answers are methods such as phishing, or other, and are not ranked.

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