

General Information about the Vietnamese Dong

Name: Vietnamese dong (Vietnamese: Đồng Việt Nam)

Code: ISO 4217 — VND (704); symbol — đ

Issuer: State Bank of Vietnam (Ngân hàng Nhà nước Việt Nam, NHNNVN)

Subunits: 1 dong = 10 hao = 100 xu; hao and xu have been withdrawn from circulation due to inflation

Banknote material: since 2003, Vietnam has fully switched to polymer (plastic) banknotes in denominations of 10,000 dong and above — they do not tear, are water-resistant, and last longer than paper notes

Design: the obverse of all banknotes features a portrait of Ho Chi Minh (1890–1969), founder of modern Vietnam; the reverse features historical and architectural landmarks, landscapes, and industrial sites from different regions of the country

Denominations in circulation: 10,000, 20,000, 50,000, 100,000, 200,000 and 500,000 dong (polymer)

Older denominations: 100, 200, 500, 1,000, 2,000 and 5,000 dong — old-style paper banknotes (1987–1991), which formally remain legal tender

Vietnamese Dong Banknote Security Features

(applicable to 10,000, 20,000, 50,000, 100,000, 200,000 and 500,000 dong banknotes)

1. **1. Watermark.** The national emblem (on 20,000–50,000 dong notes) or Ho Chi Minh's portrait (on the 1,000 dong note), visible when the banknote is held up to the light from either side.
2. **2. Security thread.** A vertical thread embedded in the banknote containing the text “NHNNVN” and the denomination.
3. **3. See-through register.** Design elements on the obverse and reverse align precisely to form a complete pattern when viewed against the light.
4. **4. Hidden image (tilt effect).** Appears and changes when the banknote is tilted and viewed at an acute angle to the light source.
5. **5. Optically Variable Ink (OVI).** An element changes color depending on the viewing angle.
6. **6. Intaglio (raised) printing.** Certain image and denomination elements can be clearly felt by touch, including as an accessibility feature for people with visual impairments.
7. **7. Microtext.** Tiny text readable only with a magnifying glass; it becomes blurred or disappears when copied.
8. **8. Transparent window.** An unprinted section of the banknote containing additional hidden images.
9. **9. Transparent window with DOE coating.** A polarization window displaying a rainbow image of the denomination number, clearly visible against the light and in darkness.
10. **10. Denomination perforation.** Denomination digits visible against the light as a series of tiny holes (microperforation).
11. **11. UV fluorescent ink.** Certain elements and the serial number fluoresce under ultraviolet light.
12. **12. See-through denomination mark.** Part of the denomination is printed on the obverse and part on the reverse; when viewed against the light, they combine to form the complete number.

General recommendation: check the banknote using 3–4 security features at the same time (portrait/watermark against the light, security thread, transparent window, raised printing) — matching all these elements supports the banknote's authenticity.

Appearance of Vietnamese Dong Banknotes:

Appearance of the 100 (one hundred) Vietnamese Dong Banknote

Size: $\approx 128 \times 60$ mm

Year of issue: 1991

Description: obverse with a portrait of Ho Chi Minh; reverse depicting agricultural work (rice harvesting in a field).



Appearance of the 200 (two hundred) Vietnamese Dong Banknote

Size: $\approx 132 \times 60$ mm

Year of issue: 1987

Description: obverse with a portrait of Ho Chi Minh; reverse depicting a Belarus tractor in an agricultural field.



Appearance of the 500 (five hundred) Vietnamese Dong Banknote

Size: 130×65 mm

Year of issue: 1988

Description: obverse with a portrait of Ho Chi Minh; reverse depicting ships moored in a port.



Appearance of the 1,000 (one thousand) Vietnamese Dong Banknote

Size: 134×65 mm

Year of issue: 1988

Description: obverse with a portrait of Ho Chi Minh; reverse depicting an elephant pulling logs (logging).



Appearance of the 2,000 (two thousand) Vietnamese Dong Banknote

Size: 134×65 mm

Year of issue: 1988

Description: obverse with a portrait of Ho Chi Minh; reverse depicting female workers at a textile factory.



Appearance of the 5,000 (five thousand) Vietnamese Dong Banknote

Size: 134×65 mm

Year of issue: 1991

Description: obverse with a portrait of Ho Chi Minh; reverse depicting the Tri An Hydroelectric Power Plant dam on the Dong Nai River and power transmission lines.



Appearance of the 10,000 (ten thousand) Vietnamese Dong Banknote

Size: 132×60 mm

Year of issue: 2006

Description: obverse with a portrait of Ho Chi Minh; reverse depicting the “Bạch Hổ” (“White Tiger”) oil platform on Vietnam’s continental shelf. Brown-green polymer banknote.



Appearance of the 20,000 (twenty thousand) Vietnamese Dong Banknote

Size: 136×65 mm

Year of issue: 2006

Description: obverse with a portrait of Ho Chi Minh; reverse depicting the covered Japanese Bridge (Chùa Cầu) in Hoi An. Blue polymer banknote.



Appearance of the 50,000 (fifty thousand) Vietnamese Dong Banknote

Size: 140×65 mm

Year of issue: 2003

Description: obverse with a portrait of Ho Chi Minh; reverse depicting the Phu Van Lau and Nghinh Luong Dinh pavilions in Hue. Pinkish-purple polymer banknote.



Appearance of the 100,000 (one hundred thousand) Vietnamese Dong Banknote

Size: 144×65 mm

Year of issue: 2004

Description: obverse with a portrait of Ho Chi Minh; reverse depicting the Temple of Literature (Văn Miếu) in Hanoi — Vietnam's first university (11th century). Green polymer banknote.



Appearance of the 200,000 (two hundred thousand) Vietnamese Dong Banknote

Size: 148×65 mm

Year of issue: 2006

Description: obverse with a portrait of Ho Chi Minh; reverse depicting Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Reddish-brown (orange) polymer banknote.



Appearance of the 500,000 (five hundred thousand) Vietnamese Dong Banknote

Size: 152×65 mm

Year of issue: 2003

Description: obverse with a portrait of Ho Chi Minh; reverse depicting Ho Chi Minh's childhood home in Kim Lien village, Nghe An Province. Vietnam's highest-denomination banknote, turquoise-lilac polymer.

