VIETNAMESE PHONEMIC INVENTORY

Please remember that dialectal differences exist for each language and should be considered when using the phonemic charts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bilabial</th>
<th>Labiodental</th>
<th>Dental</th>
<th>Alveolar</th>
<th>Postalveolar</th>
<th>Retroflex</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plosive</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>tʰ</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>g</td>
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<td>Nasal</td>
<td>m</td>
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<td>n</td>
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<td>j</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tap or Flap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fricative</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>ʃ</td>
<td>ʒ</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>h</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affricate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glides (Approximant)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>j</td>
<td>w</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liquid (Lateral Approximant)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Additional sounds not found on the chart: /kʰ/ and /ŋm/.

Reference:
Facts on Vietnamese Phonology

- There are three major dialects of Vietnamese that are geographical in nature: northern, central, and southern.¹
- Vietnamese is a tonal language. Each syllable has a tone and each tone changes the semantics of a word. Vietnamese tones include the following:²
  - level,
  - breathing rising,
  - breathing falling,
  - falling–rising,
  - creaky rising (low rising), and
  - low falling (low constricted).
- There are no consonant clusters.³
- Words are primarily monosyllabic, although some multisyllabic words exist.⁴
- There are six consonants used in final position: /p/, /t/, /k/, /m/, /n/, and /ŋ/.⁵
- Phonemes in English that are not found in Vietnamese are as follows:
  - /θ/, /ð/, /ʧ/, and /ʤ/.
- A number of dialectal variations exist in Vietnamese. The following phonemes only occur in some dialects:⁶
  - /z/—Northern dialect,
  - /j/—Central and Southern dialects,
  - /ʃ/—Central and Southern dialects,
  - /ɾ/.

³ Ibid.
⁶ Ibid.