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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

UPCOMING EVENT

PHL-Korea FTA seen to boost investments, trade as uncertainties linger

July 08 , 2025 | Justine Irish P. Tabile | BusinessWorld

THE PHILIPPINES' free trade agreement (FTA) with South Korea is expected to continue encouraging Korean companies to make investments here and help bilateral trade rebound despite a challenging global environment, according to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the Philippines.

A South Korea won note is seen in this illustration photo, May 31, 2017. — REUTERS

"Despite current fluctuations in Korea-Philippines trade, driven by geopolitical uncertainties and a downturn in global demand, the FTA is expected to significantly mitigate downward pressures," Korean Embassy Commercial Attaché Taehyung Kim told *BusinessWorld*.

Philippine exports to South Korea declined by 20.1% year on year to $1.29 billion in the first five months of the year, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed.

Mr. Kim said he expects the FTA to help bilateral trade between the two countries recover once the global environment improves.

"With geopolitical uncertainties easing and global demand rebounding, we anticipate that the growth in Philippine exports to Korea, coupled with increased Korean investment, will positively impact trade between our two countries," he said.

"In this evolving landscape, the Korea-Philippines FTA will play a crucial role by providing institutional stability for the mutually beneficial growth of both nations."

Mr. Kim added that he has observed "a notable upward trend in investments from Korean companies into the Philippines."

Citing data from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), he said, "Korea is the number one and most significant investor country for the first half of this year."

"This surge in Korean investment is largely attributed to the Korea-Philippines FTA coming into effect, coupled with the Philippine government's strong commitment to improving the investment climate," said Mr. Kim.

In particular, he said that the government's initiatives like the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy Act and the Luzon Economic Corridor have helped spur interest.

In the first semester, the PEZA approved 133 projects worth P72.36 billion, of which 14.87% came from South Korea.

PEZA Director-General Tereso O. Panga also said that increasing Korean investments can be partly attributed to the FTA.

"This agreement is anchored on expanding trade through enhanced market access, fostering robust economic cooperation, and attracting investments — particularly in key sectors such as critical minerals and supply-chain development," Mr. Panga said in a Viber message. *[Cont. page 2]*

PHL-Korea FTA seen to boost investments, trade as uncertainties linger
[Cont. from page 1]

"The Philippines stands to benefit from this FTA, which opens more opportunities for investors, increased market access, FDI (foreign direct investment) inflows, higher value-added production, and export diversification combined with deeper economic cooperation and innovation partnership," he added.

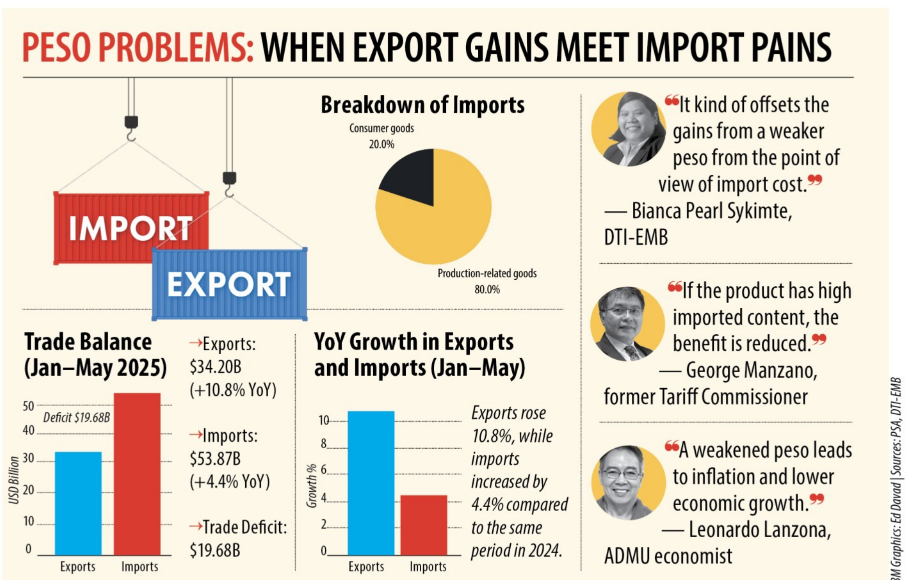
Mr. Kim said the Philippines' workforce, strategic location, and dynamic economy have helped attract Korean firms.

"Already, many Korean companies in sectors like semiconductors, auto parts, and apparel are achieving mutually beneficial growth here in the Philippines. Notably, last year also saw significant new investments from a Korean company in the shipbuilding sector," he said.

"We expect Korean companies to continue bolstering reciprocal economic cooperation by contributing to the creation of quality jobs, revitalizing local economies, and advancing industrial structures within the Philippines."

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2025/07/08/683727/phl-korea-fta-seen-to-boost-investments-trade-as-uncertainties-linger/

'With trade gap, weak peso hurts exporters'
July 08, 2025 | Andrea E. San Juan | BusinessMirror



A WEAKER peso due to volatility would hurt local exporters as the country's import bill still outweighs its export receipts, according to the top official of the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) export marketing arm.

"Of course, a weaker peso boosts export competitiveness in a sense that exporters earn more in peso terms for every dollar revenue they get," DTI-Export Marketing Bureau (DTI-EMB) Director Bianca Pearl R. Sykimte said in a recent televised interview.

Sykimte explained, however, that in a volatile environment, "It's harder for our exporters to price their contracts and plan ahead in terms of import costs."

Illustrating the trade pie of the country, the head of DTI's export marketing arm said: "Just to contextualize in terms of our import portfolio, it's only 20 percent that are consumer goods; the rest are actually capital goods, raw materials, intermediate products, mineral and fuels that actually affect the production cost."

With this, Sykimte pointed out that "It kind of offsets the gains from a weaker peso from the point of view of import cost."

Meanwhile, Filipino economists agreed that in general, a weaker peso tends to make Philippine exports more competitive, since the dollar price of these exports becomes lower.

However, they explained that certain factors could diminish the competitiveness of the country's outbound shipments, which they noted rest on the content of the inputs of the country's exports as well as the volatile environment.

Former Tariff Commissioner George N. Manzano told the BusinessMirror in a Viber message that, "The extent of this competitiveness gain depends on the export's composition."

Manzano explained further that if the product has a "high imported content, the benefit is reduced compared to exports with a high proportion of locally sourced value." *[Cont. page 3]*

‘With trade gap, weak peso hurts exporters’

[Cont. from page 2]

As to the effect of a weaker peso on the country’s imported goods, the former Tariff Commissioner explained that a weaker peso makes imports more expensive in peso terms.

“This typically dampens demand for imports and encourages greater use of local substitutes—provided they exist,” Manzano told this paper.

He explained further that the impact “varies” by type of import. For instance, Manzano noted that for goods like petroleum, where local alternatives are limited or nonexistent, the decline in demand is likely to be smaller.

For Ateneo De Manila University (ADMU) economist Leonardo Lanzona, if exports produced from domestic inputs are rising, the weakening of the peso will result in greater export earnings as volumes of exports rise.

“However, if we remain dependent on imports for both consumption and inputs for our exports, then a weakened peso leads to inflation and lower economic growth,” Lanzona pointed out.

Former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante B. Canlas said that while Filipino exporters may benefit from a weaker peso, “gains may be offset by a volatile environment.”

“The latter is conducive to a growth slowdown,” Canlas underscored.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed the country’s export earnings from January to May 2025 amounted to $34.20 billion. This is 10.8 percent up from the $30.87 billion in the five-month period in 2024.

In contrast, the country’s import bill amounted to $53.87 billion, up 4.4 percent from the $51.59 billion in the same period a year ago.

With this, the country’s trade deficit is valued at $19.68 billion, meaning the country’s import bill exceeded its export receipts by this amount.

Image credits: **BM Graphics: Ed Davad | Sources: PSA, DTI-EMB**

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/07/08/with-trade-gap-weak-peso-hurts-exporters/

57% of PH retail payments now digital — BSP

July 08, 2025 | Jimmy Calapati | Malaya Business Insight

More Filipinos are going cashless and transacting in e-money or digital cash as the most preferred payment for retail accounts, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said in a report on Monday.

Based on the latest BSP status report, digital payments now account for 57.4 percent of retail transactions by volume as of end-2024, up from 52.8 percent in 2023. In terms of value, e-money’s share also increased to 59 percent from 55.3 percent.

Digital Payments Report 2024

Period	2013	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Volume	1%	10%	14%	20.1%	30.3%	42.1%	52.8%	57.4%
Value	8%	20%	24%	26.8%	44.1%	40.1%	55.3%	59.0%

Source: BSP

The figures surpassed the government’s target range of between 52 and 54 percent as set under the Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028.

BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona Jr. said the steady year-on-year growth “reinforces the momentum built after surpassing the 2023 digitalization target of 50 percent for volume.”

He also said the upward trajectory “reflects the long-term impact of market developments, policy initiatives, and the growing trust and familiarity of Filipinos with digital payment options.” *[Cont. page 4]*

57% of PH retail payments now digital — BSP

[Cont. from page 3]

Remolona said the BSP will continue to harness technology and finance to connect markets and ensure that "every Filipino becomes part of the formal financial system."

They will do this by empowering banks, non-banks and the fintech sector to leverage innovation in designing financial products that are not only accessible but also more responsive to the needs of consumers."

Improvement by volume

Consistent with the previous year, the latest BSP report showed that merchant payments, person-to-person (P2P) transfers, and business-to-business (B2B) supplier payments remained key contributors to growth in digital payments.

Merchant payments comprised 66.4 percent of the monthly digital payment volume, while P2P transfers and B2B supplier payments accounted for 20.6 percent and 6.2 percent, respectively.

The report said these three drove the surge in digital transactions, collectively accounting for 93.2 percent of the total volume.

The data also showed payments made by the government have consistently remained the most "cash-lite among the three primary payment use cases," with 97.2 percent of transactions conducted digitally as of end-2024.

Meanwhile, payments made by persons had a remarkable leap toward digitalization, with 72.2 percent of total transactions processed through digital channels.

The BSP said this increase is accompanied by a drop in the volume of non-digital payments, which could indicate a shifting preference to pay digitally.

By value

As of end-2024, the total value of monthly digital payments has reached $136 billion or P7.616 trillion, accounting for 59 percent of the country's overall retail transaction value.

Among the three payment use cases, the government sector remains at the forefront of digitalization with 97.2 percent. Payments made by persons digitally have increased by 5.3 percent or 80.4 percent of total transaction value.

Meanwhile, payments made by businesses digitally represent 38.6 percent of the overall total value.

The report said this development underscores a significant shift toward digital financial systems, reflecting increased public trust and reliance on digital payment infrastructure as the country advances toward a more digitally integrated economy.

More accessible

The BSP's strategic approach remains focused on enhancing the payments ecosystem, particularly through interoperable systems, public-private partnerships, and the development of use cases that benefit all sectors of society. "Expansion of the digital finance ecosystem makes transactions more accessible, affordable, and inclusive. It also helps microenterprises and underserved sectors thrive in the formal financial system," the report said.

The report added that the BSP remains committed to promoting a safe, efficient, and inclusive payments system.

Improved access

Philippine Institute for Development Studies research fellow John Paolo Rivera said the steady rise in digital payments shows that cashless is becoming the new norm in the Philippines.

"This growth reflects improved access to digital platforms, stronger consumer trust, and continued support from the BSP's Digital Payments Transformation Roadmap," Rivera said in a Viber message.

He said that the continuous growth also signals deeper financial inclusion and greater efficiency in everyday transactions, from bills and remittances to market purchases and small business sales. *[Cont. page 5]*

57% of PH retail payments now digital — BSP

[Cont. from page 4]

"As digital ecosystems expand into more rural and informal sectors, we can expect this upward trend to continue in 2025 and beyond," Rivera said.

Ateneo economist Leonardo Lanzona said digital transactions lead to lower transaction costs and improved movements of money to spur growth.

However, Lanzona warned that if these are left unregulated and without consumer protection, "scamming activities can be rampant, causing a lot of people to move away from it."

Chief economist Michael Ricafort of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., meanwhile, said the continued increase in digital payments may be attributed to the higher use of e-wallets, especially by the masses, as expedited by the pandemic. It was more convenient and safer to use digital cash compared to physical banknotes and coins.

He added the increased usage stem from continued growth and adaptation of online business transactions, as well as increased use of delivery services, TNVS, and other online solutions that also make digital transactions more convenient.

"More Filipinos have adopted online banking transactions through banking apps instead of over-the-counter banking transactions, such as the use of InstaPay and PESONet as an alternative to bank checks for greater convenience, safety, reliability, and lower cost of transactions. These are also available anytime and from anywhere," Ricafort said.

He also said that digital payment systems also increased financial inclusion in the country, especially in rural areas that have no or limited physical bank branches.

"For the coming years, use of digital payment systems could still increase further amid greater financial literacy, higher incomes, and as more Filipinos embrace more online business transactions and digital payment solutions," Ricafort said.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/business/business-news/57-of-ph-retail-payments-now-digital-bsp/

PPA: 12 ports up for privatization

July 07, 2025 | Elijah Felice Rosales | The Philippine Star

MANILA, Philippines — Not only airports are being privatized in swift succession by the government, but seaports, too, are lined up for public-private partnerships (PPPs), with 12 set to be turned over this year.

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is preparing to complete the PPP of 12 ports in Luzon and Mindanao as part of efforts to tap private resources for infrastructure management.

Businessworld / File

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is preparing to complete the PPP of 12 ports in Luzon and Mindanao as part of efforts to tap private resources for infrastructure management.

Based on a list obtained by The STAR, the PPA aims to turn over to private control this year the ports of Balingoan, Jasaan, General Santos, Lucena, Roxas, Mansalay, Bulalacao, Bansud, Pola, Puerto Galera, Abra de Ilog and San Jose.

Both the ports of Balingoan and Jasaan are in Misamis Oriental, while the port of General Santos is located in South Cotabato. PPA general manager Jay Santiago said his agency has wrapped up the feasibility studies (FS) for the Mindanao ports.

Meanwhile, Oriental Mindoro houses the ports of Roxas, Mansalay, Bulalacao, Bansud, Pola and Puerto Galera. The port of Lucena is in Quezon, while the ports of Abra de Ilog and San Jose are both in Occidental Mindoro.

All of the Luzon ports are awaiting the delivery of their FS, but Santiago said the PPA can finish both the studies and bidding this year.

"At this stage, only Balingoan, Jasaan and General Santos have feasibility studies that include an indicative financial model," Santiago told The STAR. *[Cont. page 6]*

PPA: 12 ports up for privatization

[Cont. from page 5]

“For the rest of the ports, the estimated concession fees are still being developed in compliance with the PPP Code and its (implementing rules and regulations), which require the completion of FS before finalizing the valuation, structuring and procurement strategy,” he added.

Santiago said the PPA is aggressive in handing over ports to the private sector given the limited resources that the agency has. As logistics demand goes up, these ports have to be expanded, and it will be difficult for the PPA to fund all of these projects on its own.

Further, the agency wants to maximize the resources and technologies that the private sector has in running infrastructure projects. Santiago said these capabilities can lead to better services and business efficiencies.

The PPA is taking its cue from the Department of Transportation, which is working to privatize the operations and maintenance of transport projects like airports and railways.

“We are accelerating these initiatives mainly to support the national policy on PPPs as a catalyst for investments, jobs and more competitive logistics across the country,” Santiago said.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. chief economist Michael Ricafort said traders and travelers benefit when the government turns over ports to the private sector.

He said private partners tend to invest in solutions that simplify most procedures, which are otherwise tedious to comply with when processed with a government agency. This is particularly beneficial in ports, where time is of the essence for the movement of cargo.

“Privatization of ports would help expedite decision-making, especially on new investments and expansion plans in port operations. This is unlike the longer approval process entailing the many requirements in the government,” Ricafort told The STAR.

However, Ricafort warned the PPA that the logistics industry remains in limbo, especially as US tariffs are scheduled to go up, and this could make investors think twice before taking over ports at this time.

In spite of the tariff threat, the Philippines is showing no signs of a logistics slowdown, as cargo throughput in the first quarter of the year jumped by 11 percent to 65.77 million metric tons.

Last year, the PPA turned over the Iloilo Commercial Port Complex to the International Container Terminal Services Inc. through a P10.53-billion deal to operate and maintain the facility.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/business/2025/07/07/2455981/ppa-12-ports-privatization

Japan, South Korea face 25% tariffs as Trump ramps up trade war in letters to leaders

July 08, 2025 | Reuters | BusinessWorld

US President Donald Trump — REUTERS

WASHINGTON/BRUSSELS – U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday began telling trade partners – from powerhouse suppliers like Japan and South Korea to minor players – that sharply higher U.S. tariffs will start August 1, marking a new phase in the trade war he launched earlier this year.

The imposition of the 25% levy on U.S. importers of all goods from key allies Japan and South Korea rattled Wall Street, with the S&P 500 Index knocked back sharply, though markets in Asia were taking the latest news in stride.

The 14 countries sent letters so far, which included smaller U.S. exporters like Serbia, Thailand and Tunisia, hinted at opportunities for additional negotiations while at the same time warning that any reprisal steps would be met with a like-for-like response.

“If for any reason you decide to raise your Tariffs, then, whatever the number you choose to raise them by, will be added onto the 25% that we charge,” Mr. Trump said in letters, released on his Truth Social platform, to Japan and South Korea.

The higher tariffs take effect August 1, and notably will not combine with previously announced sector tariffs such as those on automobiles and steel and aluminum. *[Cont. page 7]*

Japan, South Korea face 25% tariffs as Trump ramps up trade war in letters to leaders

[Cont. from page 6]

That means, for instance, that Japanese vehicle tariffs will remain at 25%, rather than the existing 25% auto sector tariff climbing to 50% with the new reciprocal rate as has occurred with some of Trump's tariffs.

The clock has been ticking for countries to conclude deals with the U.S. after Mr. Trump unleashed a global trade war in April that has roiled financial markets and sent policymakers scrambling to protect their economies.

Trading partners got another reprieve as Mr. Trump signed an executive order on Monday extending the Wednesday deadline for negotiations to August 1.

Asked if the deadline was firm, Mr. Trump said: "I would say firm, but not 100% firm. If they call up and they say we'd like to do something a different way, we're going to be open to that."

Mr. Trump has kept much of the world guessing on the outcome of months of talks with countries hoping to avoid the hefty tariff hikes he has threatened.

The rate for South Korea is the same as Mr. Trump initially announced, while the rate for Japan is 1 point higher than the one announced on April 2. A week later, he capped all of the so-called reciprocal tariffs at 10% until Wednesday.

Only two agreements have so far been reached, with Britain and Vietnam, while Washington and Beijing in June agreed on a framework covering tariff rates.

Wendy Cutler, vice president of the Asia Society Policy Institute, said it was unfortunate that Trump was hiking tariffs on imports from two of the closest U.S. allies, but there was still time for a breakthrough in negotiations.

"While the news is disappointing, it does not mean the game is over," Ms. Cutler said.

Mr. Trump said that the United States would impose 25% tariffs on goods from Tunisia, Malaysia and Kazakhstan; 30% on South Africa, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 32% on Indonesia; 35% on Serbia and Bangladesh; 36% on Cambodia and Thailand and 40% on Laos and Myanmar.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said on Tuesday that some progress had been made on avoiding higher tariffs of up to 35% that Trump had suggested recently.

"We have received a proposal from the United States to swiftly proceed with negotiations towards the newly set August 1 deadline, and that depending on Japan's response, the content of the letter could be revised," Mr. Ishiba told a meeting with cabinet ministers to discuss Japan's strategy on the tariffs.

South Korea said it planned to intensify U.S. trade talks and considers Mr. Trump's latest plan as effectively extending a grace period on implementing reciprocal tariffs.

"We will step up negotiations during the remaining period to reach a mutually beneficial result to quickly resolve the uncertainties from tariffs," the country's Industry Ministry said.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said the 30% U.S. tariff rate was unjustified given that 77% of U.S. goods enter South Africa with no tariffs. Mr. Ramaphosa's spokesperson said his government would continue to engage with the U.S.

MARKET DROP

U.S. stocks fell in response, the latest market turmoil as Mr. Trump's trade moves have whipsawed financial markets and sent policymakers scrambling to protect their economies.

U.S. stocks were driven to near bear-market territory by his cascade of tariff announcements through the early spring but quickly rebounded to record highs after he put the stiffest levies on hold on April 9.

The S&P 500 closed down about 0.8%. U.S.-listed shares of Japanese automotive companies fell, with Toyota Motor closing down 4% and Honda Motor off by 3.9%. The dollar surged against both the Japanese yen and the South Korean won. *[Cont. page 8]*

Japan, South Korea face 25% tariffs as Trump ramps up trade war in letters to leaders

[Cont. from page 7]

"Tariff talk has sucked the wind out of the sails of the market," said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management. Most of the announced tariff rates have been rounded down, he added, and the letters come across as "take it or leave it" offers.
U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said earlier on Monday he expected several trade announcements in the next 48 hours, adding that his inbox was full of countries' last-ditch offers.

TRADING BLOCS

The European Union will not be receiving a letter setting out higher tariffs, EU sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Monday.

The EU still aims to reach a trade deal by Wednesday after European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Trump had a "good exchange," a commission spokesperson said.

The EU has been torn over whether to push for a quick and light trade deal or leverage its economic clout to negotiate a better outcome. It had already given up hopes for a comprehensive trade agreement before the July deadline.

The president also threatened leaders of developing nations in the BRICS group, who are meeting in Brazil, with an additional 10% tariff if they adopt "anti-American" policies.

The group includes Brazil, Russia, India and China among others. – **Reuters**

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/world/2025/07/08/683888/japan-south-korea-face-25-tariffs-as-trump-ramps-up-trade-war-in-letters-to-leaders/

PH manufacturing posts faster growth in May 2025

July 08, 2025 | Jon Viktor D. Cabuenas | GMA Integrated News

The Philippine manufacturing sector grew at a faster rate in May as 13 of the 22 industry divisions posted positive annual growth rates during the month, data released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on Tuesday showed.


FILE PHOTO

Preliminary results of the Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries (MISSI) showed that the volume of production index (VoPI) for May posted a 4.9% annual increase, faster than the 4.3% in April, and the 4.2% in May 2024.

The PSA attributed the acceleration to the faster annual increment of manufacture of food products at 15.7% from 11.2% the previous month; transport equipment at 13.5% from 7.4%; and chemicals and chemical products that posted an annual decline of 13.8% from 23.8%.

Annual increases were also recorded in the growth of the manufacture of leather and related products at 62.0%; wood, bamboo, can, rattan articles at 26.1%; tobacco products at 18.6%: electrical equipment at 13.9%; furniture at 13.1%; computer, electronic, and optical products at 5.5%; fabricated metal products at 4.2%; basic pharmaceutical products at 2.2%; other non-metallic mineral products at 1.7%; basic metals at 1.1%; and printing and reproduction of recorded media at 0.2%.

The value of production index (VaPI) stood at 4.5%, faster than the 4.3% in April, and the 3.3% in May 2024.

The PSA attributed the acceleration to the faster annual increase in the manufacture of food products that grew by 16.4% versus the 11.9% in the previous month. This contributed 37.1% to the uptrend.

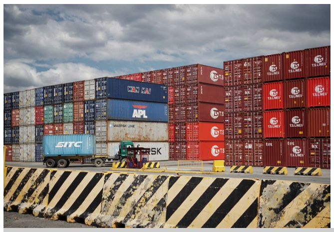
The latest figures brought the year-to-date VoPI to 1.8%, and VaPI to 2.3%.

In terms of capacity utilization, the average utilization rate for the month was recorded at 76.9%. Some 34.9% of establishments operated at full capacity or 90% to 100%, while 40.7% of the respondents operated at 70% to 89% capacity, and 24.4% operated below 70% capacity.—**AOL, GMA Integrated News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/951853/ph-manufacturing-posts-faster-growth-in-may-2025/

Groups, govt racing to cut logistics cost

July 07, 2025 | Andrea E. San Juan | BusinessMirror



[FILE: November 27, 2024] Stacks of container vans fill the Bureau of Customs compound in South Pier as trucks move in and out.

Local trade groups and relevant government agencies are targeting to finish the review of logistics cost and other trade fees in the Philippines by the end of the year to mitigate the impact of the tariffs imposed by Washington.

"We're not able to see yet the actual impact of this. But then again, right now, we're reviewing the cost of logistics, reviewing the port charges, reviewing the imposed taxes. We have to find ways and means on how to mitigate the impact of this tariff," PCCI President Enunina Mangio told reporters in an interview on Friday.

Mangio said the Philippines still has the highest logistics cost compared to its neighboring countries. This review, she said, could pave the way for the reduction in logistics costs.

A study conducted by the World Bank in 2017 showed that the country's logistic cost is around 27 percent of the total cost of goods.

Last April, Procurement and Supply Institute of Asia (PASIA) President Charlie Villaseñor raised the same concern during a forum on logistics.

"Logistics cost ranges from 28 to 35 percent, depending on the commodity. And where are we compared to our Asean neighbors in terms of logistics? It's sad to say. If you will refer to the Logistics Performance Index, you will see that the Philippines is not very well-positioned," he said.

"Looking at the logistics cost of other countries, *tayo ang pinakamataas*. That's why it's being addressed right now. This includes, handling, custom charges, so those things are being reviewed right now," Mangio said.

Asked if bringing down the logistics cost could offset the higher tariffs imposed by the US, Mangio said, "I don't think so, but at least we could reduce the adverse impact of the US tariffs."

She said the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) have started to look into the increasing logistics cost in the country after several trade groups raised this concern.

"Actually *'yung sabi ko na* by the end of the year, that's very long. We're expecting within 30 to 60, days but I don't want to be too optimistic about that. Because that's an initiative of Philexport [Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc.]. So, Philexport is working with PPA, and they are raising a lot of issues about that. That's why that review was initiated," Mangio added.

The PCCI chief said the review also includes the shipping fees.

Mangio said PCCI, Philexport, and the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines signed a letter expressing their concern about the logistics cost in the country even before Washington imposed the reciprocal tariffs last April.

The PCCI has yet to provide the media with a copy of the letter.

Image credits: Bernard Testa

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/07/07/groups-govt-racing-to-cut-logistics-cost/

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The six members of the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) of the Philippines are pleased to announce that registration for the **Arangkada Philippines Investment Forum 2025** is now open! Since 2012, the Arangkada Philippines Forum has been a premier platform for high-level dialogue on investment, economic reform, and inclusive growth in the Philippines. This year, the annual forum will take place on **September 25 and 26, 2025** at the **Marriott Grand Ballroom** in Pasay City and bring together hundreds of distinguished leaders from government, the private sector, academe, and media to discuss strategies to attract and retain investments and promote business growth. Specifically, the forum will be focused on the JFC's seven "big winner" sectors of agribusiness, infrastructure, manufacturing and logistics, tourism, critical minerals, creative industries, and Information Technology and Business Process Management.

The first day of the forum will feature speeches from top government and business leaders and breakout discussions focused on the seven sectors and the second day will feature exclusive business-to-business and business-to-government networking opportunities, live product and business demonstrations at booth exhibits, and in-depth industry talks that provide valuable insights into government services and investment-related topics.

For more information, you may contact KCCP Secretariat at +632-8885-7342 or through email at info@kccp.ph


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