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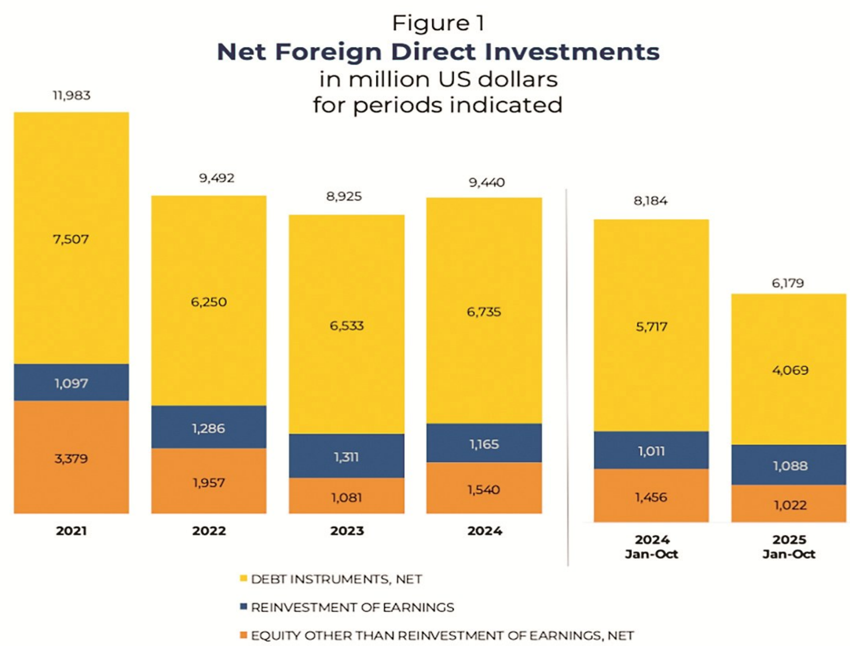
Foreign Investment Inflows Plunge 40%

January 14, 2026 | Victor Sollorano, Ruelle Castro, Malaya Business News Team



End-Oct FDI $642M vs $1.07B yr-earlier as investors delay expansion

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the Philippines fell sharply in October 2025, with net inflows dropping 39.8 percent to $642 million from $1.07 billion in the same month in 2024, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed.

Although the October FDI figure marks a rebound from September's five-year low of $320 million, the 10th month still represents one of the weakest FDI readings in recent history.

The September outturn, meanwhile, is the lowest in more than five years, comparable to April 2020 at the height of the pandemic lockdowns, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael Ricafort said.

The October performance pulled cumulative FDI inflows for the first 10 months of 2025 down to $6.18 billion, down 24.5 percent from $8.18 billion a year earlier—signaling investor caution.

Dragged by debt instruments

BSP data showed the slowdown was driven largely by a pullback in net debt instruments, which consist mainly of intercompany borrowing and lending between foreign parent firms and their Philippine subsidiaries.

Net debt inflows fell to $437 million in October, down more than 50 percent from a year earlier. On a cumulative basis, debt-type FDIs declined 28.8 percent year-on-year to $4.07 billion in January-October 2025, accounting for the bulk of the overall contraction.

Ricafort said the weakness reflected both global and domestic risk factors that have encouraged foreign firms to delay funding decisions.

"Earlier in 2025, higher US tariffs, trade wars, and other protectionist measures led to a wait-and-see attitude by some global exporters in various supply chains," Ricafort said, noting that concerns over slower export demand to the United States weighed on investment timing. *[Cont. page 2]*

Foreign Investment Inflows Plunge 40%

[Cont. from page 1]

He added that political noise in recent months further reinforced caution. “The decline in FDIs was largely due to the political noise that led to a wait-and-see attitude for some investors,” he said.

Equity steadier

Equity flows were comparatively more stable in the 10 months of 2025, even as they remained subdued.

Net equity investments other than reinvestment of earnings stood at $117 million in October, while reinvested earnings amounted to $88 million. For the first 10 months of the year, net equity inflows fell nearly 30 percent to $1.02 billion.

Reinvestment of earnings, however, rose 7.6 percent year on year to $1.09 billion, suggesting that foreign firms already operating in the Philippines continued to retain profits even as fresh capital placements slowed.

What could revive FDI

Ricafort said FDI inflows could improve this year if governance reforms gained traction.

“FDIs could improve if anti-corruption measures and reforms related to improving governance standards were taken seriously,” he said, adding that catch-up government spending following last year’s slowdown—particularly after delays linked to anomalous flood-control projects—could help restore investor confidence.

He also cited further monetary easing in the United States as a supportive factor, as lower global borrowing costs could make long-term investments more attractive.

Aris Dacanay, Asean economist at Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC), said foreign investors remain focused on whether the government can deliver institutional reforms.

“These investors are in a wait-and-see environment,” Dacanay said. “The Philippines is at a critical juncture—whether it can show it is a rules-based economy and a highly attractive investment destination.”

Still, Dacanay said export-oriented FDIs are likely to continue flowing into the country, supported by Southeast Asia’s tariff advantage amid the US trade pivot.

“Regardless of domestic political headwinds, the Philippines retains a tariff advantage,” he said, noting that Asean economies are outperforming China as preferred US import sources in 2025 under the “China-plus-one” strategy.

Sources and sectors

Japan was the largest source of FDIs in October, while financial and insurance activities were the biggest recipients during the month.

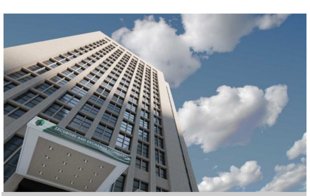
For January-October, Japan, the US and Singapore were the top sources of capital, with manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, and real estate attracting the bulk of investments.

Ricafort said the pattern suggests investors have not abandoned the country, but have adopted a “wait-and-see” stance amid a tougher global backdrop and domestic uncertainty.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/business/foreign-investment-inflows-plunge-40/

SEC broadens eAMEND portal coverage

January 14, 2026 | Alexandria Grace C. Magno | BusinessWorld



SEC.GOV.PH

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has issued a memorandum expanding the scope of corporate amendments that can be filed through its eAMEND portal and imposing penalties for late submission of hard-copy documents.

The new guidelines reclassify applications that were previously under simple processing as complex transactions and designate filings under regular processing as highly technical transactions, according to Memorandum Circular No. 3, Series of 2026. *[Cont. page 3]*

SEC broadens eAMEND portal coverage

[Cont, from page 2]

The changes aim to improve procedural efficiency, reduce the administrative burden on corporations, and align with the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.

Under the revised rules, simple processing now covers a broader range of amendments. These include changes to prefatory clauses, corporate or business names, primary and secondary purposes, principal office addresses, terms of existence, the number of board members or trustees, certain share features unless tied to capital stock changes or reclassification, and selected by-law provisions such as fiscal year, audit rules, membership rights, meeting procedures, and quorum requirements.

The SEC also allows up to four by-law provisions to be amended under simple processing, as well as other amendments it may determine eligible.

“This expanded coverage replaces the previous limited scope of simple processing and is intended to reduce procedural burden, improve accessibility, and enhance efficiency, with all approved applications to be issued a digital certificate through the eAMEND portal,” the memorandum read. Physical certificates are released only after a post-evaluation.

Late submission of the hard-copy documents within 15 calendar days from the issuance of the digital certificate can result in penalties of up to P5,000 or cancellation of the application with forfeiture of fees.

Regular processing, now classified as highly technical, will include applications for new by-laws, amendments of by-laws concerning five or more provisions, corporate dissolution through shortening of corporate terms, amendments to articles of partnership, dissolution of partnerships, and all types of corporate conversions. Partnership applications are considered complex transactions but still go through regular processing.

The SEC also noted that non-compliance with directives issued after review may result in the abandonment of applications under regular processing.

The eAMEND portal, launched in July 2024, was designed to streamline the filing, processing, approval, and payment of corporate amendment applications. The revised guidelines clarify classifications, expand the range of amendments covered, and formalize new procedures for fees, certificates, and penalties, ensuring more consistent and timely processing of corporate filings.

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/corporate/2026/01/14/723992/sec-broadens-eamend-portal-coverage/

‘CEPA with UAE opens more export pathways for MSMEs’

January 15, 2026 | Andrea E. San Juan| BusinessMirror

Philippine trade is now better positioned for long-term growth after the signing of the trade deal with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the Middle Eastern country will open up “new channels” to broader markets, according to Philippine businesses and exporters.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., together with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, witnessed the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2026. (Photo courtesy of the Presidential Communications Office)

“The UAE serves not only as a major destination for Philippine exports but also as a global gateway linking Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe,” Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) President Ferdinand Ferrer said in a statement.

“By opening new channels through the UAE’s logistics and re-export networks, CEPA [Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement] makes Philippine trade more resilient and better positioned for long-term growth,” added Ferrer.

Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. (Philexport) President Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr. shared the same sentiment with the business group as he stressed that the UAE is not only one of the country’s important export destinations but also a “strategic hub” for global trade.

“This agreement will help Philippine exporters expand their presence in the Middle East and beyond, while creating new opportunities for investment, jobs, and inclusive growth at home,” Ortiz-Luis said in a statement.

PCCI said this will help diversify the Philippines’s trade partnerships, reducing dependence on a limited number of “traditional” export markets.

The business group also acknowledged UAE as one of the Middle East’s “most important” commercial hubs, giving Filipino exporters, investors, and small enterprises greater access to a “high-income [and] highly connected market.” *[Cont. page 4]*

'CEPA with UAE opens more export pathways for MSMEs'

[Cont. from page 3]

Meanwhile, Ortiz-Luis said the benefits of this trade deal will not only be confined to established exporters.

The Philexport chief said this trade deal will also "create pathways" for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), particularly to scale up, compete internationally, and contribute to inclusive growth across Filipino communities.

He said this deal is expected to deepen market access, reduce barriers, and enhance competitiveness for Filipino exporters especially in key sectors and hubs such as electronics, food and agribusiness, machinery, and tropical fruits like bananas and pineapples, alongside their value chains.

"This CEPA aligns with our national export growth strategies by providing clearer rules, lower tariffs, and greater predictability for exports," he said.

The Philexport chief said the signing of the CEPA with the UAE is a "major boost" for Philippine exporters and for the country as a whole.

PCCI urged strong implementation of the agreement through clear rules, trade facilitation and "active" business engagement.

"The Chamber reaffirmed its commitment to work with government partners in promoting CEPA and helping Filipino firms translate this milestone into concrete export growth, investment flows, and job creation," it said.

For the exporters, Philexport said it looks forward to working closely with government agencies, industry partners, and regional stakeholders to ensure the "effective" implementation of the Philippines-UAE CEPA and to maximize its benefits for exporters and the Filipino people.

Data provided by Philexport noted that Philippine exports to the UAE reached nearly $390 million last year.

Image credits: PCO

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/01/15/cepa-with-uae-opens-more-export-pathways-for-msmes/

Philippines seen to lead Southeast Asia growth

January 15, 2026 | Louella Desiderio | The Philippine Star

The World Bank headquarters is seen in Washington, DC

Daniel SLIM / AFP

World Bank report

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is projected to be the second fastest growing economy in Southeast Asia this year and the next, according to the World Bank.

The multilateral lender's Global Economic Prospects report for January 2026 released yesterday showed that it expects the Philippines to grow by 5.3 percent this year from the estimated 5.1 percent expansion in 2025.

Both growth forecasts are unchanged from those provided by the World Bank in December last year.

While the World Bank's growth forecast for the Philippines for this year is within the government's five to six percent growth target, its estimate for last year is below the government's growth goal of 5.5 to 6.5 percent.

If realized, the Philippines will be the second fastest growing economy in Southeast Asia for this year and 2025.

While the World Bank expects the Philippines' 2025 gross domestic product (GDP) growth to be behind the projected 7.2 percent for Vietnam, it is expected to post faster growth than Indonesia (five percent), Cambodia (4.8 percent), Laos (4.2 percent), Malaysia (4.1 percent), Thailand (two percent) and Myanmar (-1.8 percent).

The World Bank's growth projection for the Philippines for this year is also lower than the projected 6.3 percent growth for Vietnam, but higher than the growth forecasts for neighbors such as Indonesia (five percent), Cambodia (4.3 percent), Malaysia (4.1 percent), Laos (four percent), Myanmar (three percent) and Thailand (1.8 percent). *[Cont. page 5]*

Philippines seen to lead Southeast Asia growth

[Cont. from page 4]

From January to September last year, the Philippine economy grew by an average of five percent.

Data on the country's full-year 2025 economic performance will be released on Jan. 29.

For next year, the World Bank expects the Philippine economy to expand by 5.4 percent. This is below the government's growth target of 5.5 to 6.5 percent.

If this forecast is realized, the Philippines would remain the second fastest-growing economy in Southeast Asia, with Vietnam projected to post the highest growth at 6.7 percent in 2027.

The World Bank's projected 2027 GDP growth for the Philippines places the country ahead of Indonesia (5.2 percent), Cambodia (5.1 percent), Malaysia (four percent), Laos (3.9 percent) and Thailand (2.5 percent).

The World Bank said that the risks to the outlook in East Asia and the Pacific, which includes the Philippines, remain tilted to the downside.

It said that a further increase in trade restrictions and policy uncertainty poses a significant risk to growth in the region.

Other downside risks include tighter global financial conditions, slower-than-expected growth in China, political uncertainty and social unrest in some economies and natural disasters.

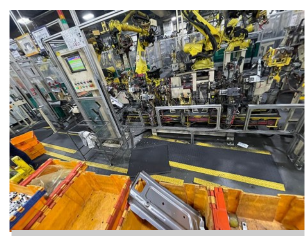
"The Philippines suffered powerful earthquakes late last year," the World Bank.

On the upside, its said private sector adaptability and investments in artificial intelligence and exports could lead to higher growth prospects in the region.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/01/15/2500985/philippines-seen-lead-southeast-asia-growth

Missing piece in unlocking FTAs: PHL competitiveness

January 14, 2026 | Justine Irish D. Tabile | BusinessWorld



REUTERS

THE PHILIPPINES has been on a free-trade agreement (FTA) negotiating spree in anticipation of shifting trade patterns in the wake of the disruption brought by the US tariff regime.

Getting exporters to fully utilize the advantages on offer from FTA partners is another matter. Since 2022, the Philippines has signed on to two major FTAs: the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Philippines-South Korea trade agreement. The two deals brought the Philippines' active FTAs to 11, according to the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) FTA portal.

Nevertheless, exports continue to lag those of the other ASEAN economies, like Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

According to ASEANstats, the Philippines posted the sixth-most merchandise exports in 2023 within the bloc at $72.9 billion. That was the year RCEP entered into force for the Philippines.

The top exporter in the region was Singapore with $475.9 billion in 2023, followed by Vietnam ($353.1 billion), Myanmar ($312.6 billion), Thailand ($284.6 billion), and Indonesia ($258.9 billion).

Enunina V. Mangio, outgoing president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said that "while the country has an extensive network of FTAs, utilization on the export side remains low."

Based on recent research commissioned by the PCCI, many exporters face persistent challenges such as limited awareness of FTA benefits, complex rules of origin and certification procedures, and high domestic costs related to production, logistics, and regulatory compliance, she said via Viber.

"These constraints reduce the ability of Philippine firms, particularly micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), to fully take advantage of preferential market access, including in key markets such as Korea," she added. *[Cont. page 6]*

Missing piece in unlocking FTAs: PHL competitiveness

[Cont. from page 5]

Citing DTI Undersecretary Allan B. Gepty, the PCCI said the Philippines' utilization rate for RCEP is around 20%.

"The country continues to face a significant trade deficit with our trading partners, prompting the government to proactively strengthen its information and awareness campaigns to educate businesses on how to avail of and maximize the benefits of these FTAs," Mr. Gepty said.

According to a report seen by the PCCI, many companies that are not using RCEP cited "not knowing where to start" as a reason for not utilizing the FTA.

To address this, Ms. Mangio called for stronger public–private collaboration, streamlined procedures, and a more comprehensive FTA support program.

"These are to ensure that our trade agreements translate into real export growth and competitiveness," she added.

Associate Professor of the University of Asia and the Pacific George N. Manzano, a former tariff commissioner, said that the low utilization rate might have something to do with where Philippine exports fall under most favored nation (MFN) rates.

In particular, he said exports to South Korea could be declining this year even with an FTA in place because a "significant portion of Philippine exports to South Korea are classified as low tariff or are duty-free, such as electronic products under MFN rates."

Philippine exports to South Korea declined 12% to $2.734 billion in the first 10 months of 2025. The FTA has been in place since Dec. 31, 2024.

Meanwhile South Korean exports to the Philippines grew 5.7% to $8.538 billion over the same period, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

"Another (reason) is that Philippine exports in the high-tariff sectors may have difficulty complying with the rules of origin, i.e., the value added of the Philippines may be low," Mr. Manzano said via Viber.

He added that many exporters may still be learning the ropes with regard to using the FTA.

"Note that the Philippines-South Korea FTA was implemented late last year, so it is possible that it may take some time for Philippine exporters, like MSMEs, to use the FTA. Perhaps efforts to address the aforementioned issues may help increase utilization," he added.

Mr. Gepty said many untapped opportunities remain, with the RCEP free trade area alone being the biggest market accounting for 29% of global trade, 29% of total GDP, and a market of 2.3 billion people.

"Thus, it is important that investors and stakeholders take advantage of this trade agreement. More than the market access, it offers a stable and predictable business environment with clear and reasonable rules for trade and investment."

He said the information side is being addressed through the Trade Education and Advocacy (TEA) Campaign and Usapang Exports.

"We also partner with business organizations such as the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, PhilExport, and the Women Business Council… we need more partners to increase awareness and utilization of FTAs."

Regarding the Philippines-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Free Trade Agreement, which offers access to Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein, "goods that can be exported duty free including most of our fish products and other key agricultural goods. There is also a good opportunity for services such as professionals, construction, and business services."

"Our businesses need to be aware and at the same time be capacitated to access these foreign markets," he said. "This is especially important because the Philippines is now more visible in the international economic community."

[Cont. page 7]

Missing piece in unlocking FTAs: PHL competitiveness

[Cont. from page 6]

Trading partners see the Philippines as “able and willing to shape the rules-based trading system and expand its trade network. The FTAs we are negotiating right now such as with the EU, Chile, and eventually with Canada, India, and Israel are indicators that we are expanding our preferential market access and that we are strengthening our foothold in the global economy.”

Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines (FOBAP) President Robert M. Young said that although the Philippines needs more FTAs to keep up with regional counterparts, the government must make sure exporters have benefits at par with those enjoyed by exporters from the FTA partner.

“The Philippines must make sure that we can compete on an equal footing,” according to Mr. Young, who is also the trustee for the textile, yarn and fabric sector of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (Philexport).

Speaking to *BusinessWorld* by phone, he noted that FTAs essentially remove the tariff revenue generated from exports. “For example, let’s say we are trading with Korea … we sell mangoes to them, but our mangoes are very high-priced, higher than the other guys exporting to Korea. Will Korea buy? Of course not,” he said.

“They have enough reason, and all the right to refuse our mangoes … The Philippines must be ready for the price war as far as FTAs are concerned,” he added.

Without preparing exporters for FTAs, he said such agreements could instead kill Philippine industries, as they will encourage more imports.

“You have to make sure that you can compete price-wise, quality-wise, and delivery-wise. Because otherwise, what will happen is *puro* importation *ang mangyayari* (imports will proliferate). That will result in a trade deficit,” he said.

“FTAs are very dangerous because they can cause job losses. When the country will be flooded with all these cheap imported goods; all the factories that are making these products will close shop,” he added.

These imports, he said, could also impact startups and developing industries.

The DTI’s Export Marketing Bureau reported that the Philippines is running a trade deficit even within its various regional partnerships.

In the 10 months to October, the Philippines exported $31.768 billion worth of merchandise to RCEP members, while importing $82.112 billion.

A similar pattern can be seen in the ASEAN Free Trade Area, the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area, the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area, the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area, the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area, it said.

Mr. Young said not many garments exporters utilize the FTAs. “That is because the other countries are also producers of garments, and (partner countries) will never buy our garments because other countries’ garments are cheaper than ours,” he said. “The cost of garments in the Philippines is the highest in ASEAN now. The lowest price of our pants is $7; in Vietnam it’s $5, in Malaysia it’s $6, in Laos it’s $6.50,” he added.

He said this stems from high labor and power costs, as well as the absence of a textile industry.

“But the industry is still alive. In FOBAP, what we do is we go to the higher-priced items instead. We are catering to those that can pay more,” he said.

“Our prayer is that there will be a textile industry here in the Philippines and that the government will wake up and provide the sector with subsidies,” he added.

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2026/01/14/724159/missing-piece-in-unlocking-ftas-phl-competitiveness/

Business interruption a top risk among APAC firms

January 15, 2026 | Niña Myka Pauline Arceo | The Manila Times

The Manila Times®

BUSINESS interruption, in the form of geopolitical tensions, protectionist trade policies and natural disasters, is a persistent threat to companies in Asia-Pacific (APAC), according to the Allianz Risk Barometer 2026 survey.

Twenty-nine percent of respondents ranked business interruption as a top risk.

“The increasing severity and frequency of related perils continue to pose ongoing operational and financial challenges to businesses,” the study said, noting that business interruption — which includes disruptions caused by supply chain breakdowns, energy shortages and operational shutdowns — is the third most significant risk in the Asia-Pacific region.

It also ranked among the top three risks in major economies such as China, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and South Korea.

Closely linked to business interruption is the risk arising from changes in legislation and regulation, including trade tariffs, the study said. This risk ranked fourth globally at 25 percent, unchanged from the previous year, since companies remain concerned about growing protectionism.

“Commerce is increasingly taking place between geopolitically aligned economies,” the survey said, adding that this leads to changes in supply routes and the rise of next-generation trade hubs in Asia, including Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand.

Moreover, the report cited that 2025 marked a clear shift toward more protectionist trade policies and tariff wars, which added uncertainty to the global economy.

“Geopolitical risks are putting supply chains under increasing pressure,” the study said, noting that only 3.0 percent of respondents said they consider their supply chains to be “very resilient,” reflecting widespread vulnerability to shocks.

Trade restrictions have expanded rapidly, with Allianz Trade estimating that the number of restrictions has tripled over the past year, affecting around $2.7 trillion worth of merchandise — nearly 20 percent of global imports.

Companies are rethinking their supply chain strategies, exploring approaches such as friendshoring and regionalization to reduce exposure to geopolitical risks.

Friendshoring, or allyshoring, is a supply chain strategy in which companies source materials and manufacture goods from countries that are political and economic allies.

Natural catastrophes

Natural catastrophes are also a cause for worry in the region, ranking fifth in Asia-Pacific at 22 percent, and among the top three risks in Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

The survey noted that Asia-Pacific experienced a series of severe natural disasters in 2025, including the Myanmar earthquake, typhoons Matmo, Ragasa and Bualoi, Cyclone Alfred, wildfires in South Korea, and widespread flooding in Malaysia and Thailand.

It said that a delayed start to the tropical cyclone season contributed to severe flooding and landslides, leading to significant human and economic losses across Asia.

These were made more severe by the region’s large insurance gap, which remains above 80 percent, leaving many losses uninsured.

“Economic and insured losses remained high, albeit lower than the 10-year average, and the evolving nature of natural catastrophes continues to pose significant challenges to businesses and the [re]insurance industry,” the study said.

Insured losses from natural catastrophes are seen to reach $107 billion for 2025, while economic losses are over $200 billion.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2026/01/15/business/top-business/business-interruption-a-top-risk-among-apac-firms/2258931

DTI launches tax perks for garment makers

January 15, 2026 | By: Logan Kal-El M. Zapanta - @inquirerdotne | Philippine Daily Inquirer


A clothes factory in Lapu-Lapu City. —PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MEPZ WORKERS ALLIANCE

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is rolling out incentives to lower operating costs for Philippine garment manufacturers amid what it described as “tighter global competition.”

These incentives are mandated by the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy, or “CREATE MORE” Act.

New projects or subsidiaries of existing garment firms may now avail of a 100-percent additional deduction on power-related expenses and a 50-percent additional deduction on direct labor costs.

Garment manufacturers that export at least 70 percent of their output may also qualify for a value-added tax (VAT) zero-rating or exemption.

These measures are expected to ease financial pressure and help preserve jobs, the DTI said.

The DTI is also studying industry proposals to reduce VAT, which currently stands at 12 percent—the highest in Southeast Asia, alongside Indonesia’s.

Industry modernization

Trade Secretary Cristina Roque said the incentives followed consultations with garment manufacturers, exporters and international buyers.

“I received direct feedback from buyers abroad that automation is no longer optional; it has become a baseline requirement in the global market,” she said.

To support modernization, the DTI plans to coordinate with government banks, such as the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines, to offer financing for machinery, production equipment and automation.

Training, upskilling

Additionally, the DTI is planning to expand training programs with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to increase the number of skilled sewers and machine technicians needed for automated garment production.

It urged garment manufacturers to engage with the Foreign Trade Service Corps, which helps link Philippine exporters with international buyers and trading companies.

Based on 2024 data from the Philippine Textile Research Institute, the country has about 70,000 workers in garment manufacturing across 999 establishments. These workers are highly concentrated in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon).

Some of the Philippines’ top export markets for garments include the US, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Ireland and China.

Source: https://business.inquirer.net/568828/dti-launches-tax-perks-for-garment-makers

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