

REPORT ON
**REGIONAL
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENTS**
IN THE
PHILIPPINES
2019



Department of Economic Research

BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS

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Foreword

In June 2005, the Monetary Board approved the release of the maiden issue of the BSP's Report on Regional Economic Developments in the Philippines. The report widens the scope of the BSP's market surveillance, adding a geographic dimension to the economic indicators that it monitors regularly. The analysis of regional trends and developments are valuable inputs in monetary policy formulation and financial supervision.

The report tracks economic developments in the regions, focusing on demand and supply conditions, monetary and price developments as well as the emerging economic outlook. It helps confirm the results of the business and consumer expectations surveys conducted by the BSP. Moreover, identifying opportunities and challenges faced by the different regions enhances further the BSP's forward-looking and proactive approach to monetary policy.

Regional performance is gauged using developments in output, prices, and employment. Selected key indicators in each of the major sectors of the economy are the focus of the surveillance. Agriculture covers rice and corn, livestock, fishery, and poultry production. In the industry sector, the number of building permits and housing starts are used to measure construction activity; while developments in the banking system are used to analyze the services sector. Also included in this Report are trends in local governments' receipts and expenditures, approved investments, banking, microfinance activities, as well as operations of the BSP's Regional Offices and Branches (ROBs).

Qualitative and quantitative information used in the report are collected from primary and secondary sources, reflecting the extensive information gathered by the BSP regional offices and branches. ■

Introduction

The Philippine economy continued to perform strongly with a 6.0 percent expansion in gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019, albeit lower than the 6.3 percent growth recorded in 2018. The 2019 GDP outturn was broadly in line with the National Government's (NG) growth target of 6.0 percent to 6.5 percent for the year. The favorable economic performance in 2019 was achieved despite the delayed approval of the 2019 national budget along with the election spending ban, the prolonged El Niño phenomenon, as well as uncertainties in the external environment.

On the supply side, the services sector remains as the primary growth engine of the Philippine economy. The services sector expanded by 7.5 percent in 2019, faster than its 6.7 percent growth in the previous year. The robust growth of the sector was mainly due to the positive contributions by public administration and defense and compulsory social security (13.4 percent), financial and insurance activities (11.9 percent), as well as trade and repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods (8.1 percent).

The industry sector likewise remained a key growth driver as it expanded by 4.7 percent in 2019, albeit a slowdown from the year-ago rate of 7.3 percent. The sector contributed 1.4 percentage points (ppts) to GDP growth driven mainly by manufacturing and construction. Manufacturing posted a 3.2-percent expansion in 2019 following improvements in the reproduction of recorded media, tobacco products, and basic metals, while the construction subsector grew by 7.8 percent supported by the double-digit growth in construction pursued by both financial and non-financial institutions. The agriculture, hunting, forestry, and fishing (AHFF) sector grew by 1.2 percent in 2019, an improvement from the 1.1 percent growth in 2018. Lending support to the sector were improvements in the output yields of key items such as corn (which expanded by 3.3 percent in 2019 from -1.5 percent in 2018) and mango (4.3 percent from -2.9 percent).

Regional developments

Palay production nationwide contracted further by 1.3 percent in 2019 from a 1.1 percent decline in 2018. The El Niño phenomenon and the damage brought by calamities caused a reduction in harvest areas and yields in the affected regions, including Central Visayas, Caraga, Bicol Region, SOCCSKSARGEN, and CALABARZON as the most affected. While 2019 saw notable expansions in corn production as well as chicken and fish production, another agricultural subsector which faced considerable challenge in 2019 was swine production as it declined by 1.0 percent following the outbreak of the African Swine Fever (ASF). The ASF outbreak adversely affected hog production in

Central Luzon, MIMAROPA, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Caraga, Ilocos, and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

In the industry sector, construction-related activities in the regions dwindled in 2019 as approved building permits and new residential construction registered year-on-year declines. The weak construction activity in 2019 may be attributed to the delayed passage of the national budget and bans on public construction related to the May 2019 midterm elections. The number of approved building permits nationwide contracted by 6.9 percent while the number of new residential building construction decline by 9.5 percent in 2019. The slump in the number of approved building permits were led largely by the double-digit declines in the ARMM, Zamboanga Peninsula, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, and Caraga.

Meanwhile, the national employment rate in 2019 grew by 0.2 percentage points (ppts) to 94.9 percent from 94.7 percent in 2018. The highest employment rates were recorded in Cagayan Valley, CAR, Zamboanga Peninsula, and Davao region. The employment expansion was due mainly to the NG's "Build, Build, Build" program as well as the growth in private sector business activities. Conversely, the unemployment rate in 2019 went down to 5.1 percent in 2019 from 5.3 percent in 2018. The reduction in unemployment may be attributed in part to the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE's) initiatives such as the conduct of nationwide job fairs as well as the promotion of youth employment, among others. Nonetheless, the highest unemployment rates were recorded in ARMM, CALABARZON, and the National Capital Region (NCR).

On the fiscal side, the total ending cash balance of local government units (LGUs) in 2019 reached ₱405.1 billion, lower by 10.1 percent from the previous year's level of ₱450.3 billion. Total LGU receipts amounted to ₱689.1 billion in 2019, of which 69.0 percent were from external sources, 30.0 percent from local sources, and 1.0 percent from non-income receipts. The biggest sources of these receipts were shares from the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA), comprising 97.5 percent of total external sources. Of the total LGU receipts, 17.5 percent came from the NCR; 10.1 percent came from CALABARZON; and 9.6 percent came from Central Luzon. Of the ₱461.3 billion total IRA, CALABARZON, Central Luzon, and Western Visayas received the highest shares, while Caraga, Zamboanga Peninsula and CAR received the lowest shares.

On the monetary sector, average annual inflation rates in all regions slowed markedly in 2019 compared to the previous year. Amid the broad deceleration, inflation rates in thirteen (13) regions managed to remain well within the NG's inflation target range of 3.0 percent \pm 1.0 percentage point for 2019. The four (4) regions which breached the bottom end of the government's inflation target range were the Caraga, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, and Zamboanga Peninsula. The benign inflation environment in the regions in 2019 was mainly attributed to the slower mark-up of inflation

rates of most commodity items, including food and non-alcoholic beverages, alcoholic beverages and tobacco, utilities, transport, and restaurant and miscellaneous goods and services. The average annual inflation rates recorded in the regions ranged from a low of 1.0 percent (Zamboanga Peninsula) to a high of 3.9 percent (MIMAROPA).

Approved foreign investments (FIs) in the country expanded further by 112.8 percent in 2019, after registering a robust growth of 73.4 percent in 2018. Several regions posted notable growth in FIs in 2019 namely, SOCCSKSARGEN, CALABARZON, Western Visayas, Davao Region, BARMM, and Central Luzon. Similarly, the combined approved foreign and Filipino nationals' investments in the country grew by 20.7 percent in 2019, following a strong performance in 2018 of 19.3 percent. Positive year-on-year performances were led by CAR, Eastern Visayas, Bicol Region, CALABARZON, BARMM, Cagayan Valley, MIMAROPA, SOCCSKSARGEN, and Ilocos Region.

In the financial services sector, aggregate credit activity remained prudent as loans-to-deposits ratio (LDR) eased slightly to 70.9 percent in 2019 from 72.5 percent over the past year. Most regions registered declines in LDRs led by Central Luzon, Davao Region and Central Visayas. The only region with a higher LDR than the nationwide value was NCR (90.6 percent), which reflected flourishing credit activity in the country's economic center. On bank density, there was a slight improvement to 7.9 percent in 2019 from 7.5 percent in 2018. The NCR, which had the heaviest concentration of banks, registered the highest increment, followed by CALABARZON, Central Luzon, Davao Region, and Central Visayas.

The number of microfinance-oriented banks (MOBs) nationwide increased to 2,405 in 2019 from 2,022 in the previous year, which was led by CALABARZON, Bicol Region, Central Luzon, Central Visayas, and Western Visayas. The expanded network of MOBs translated to more loans released and more clients served. Outstanding microfinance loans reached ₱27.3 billion in 2019, coming from CALABARZON and NCR. Similarly, the number of microfinance borrowers increased to 2.4 million in 2019, up by 21.3 percent year-on-year, with the majority concentrated in CALABARZON. Microfinance clients grew in Central Visayas and NCR but declined for others such as Eastern Visayas and Central Luzon.

Meanwhile, total currency shipments to BSP regional offices and branches (ROBs) declined by 22.8 percent in 2019, as almost all regions received less currency shipments during the year. The reduction in the shipments of currencies was generally due to the decrease in the number of retired unfit notes, non-availability of certain denominations, cancelled flights and shipments of cargoes. The growth in currency withdrawals decelerated to 3.2 percent in 2019 from 20.9 percent in 2018 (excluding Lucena) mainly due to the rationalization of the Banknotes Fitness Level (BFL). Total currency deposits by banks to BSP ROBs increased by 9.7 percent to reach ₱775 billion in 2019.

Moving forward, continuing challenges to regional development remain, including the adverse impact of natural calamities such as typhoons, earthquakes, and extreme weather conditions. Of bigger concern at the moment, however, is the uncertainty on the breadth and depth of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak over the near to medium. Nonetheless, on the upside, the NG was able to promptly and significantly deploy critical health and safety measures, including the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine, as well as shore up massive stimulus and support packages particularly for the most affected segment of the population. The NG also remains committed to pursue efforts meant to improve the ease of doing business and encourage entrepreneurial activities in the regions. The continued prioritization of infrastructure development, including the rehabilitation of existing airports, seaports and land transport terminals, is anticipated to support recovery of the tourism sector and help boost competitiveness and productivity in the regions. ■

BSP Regional Offices and Branches ¹



¹ BSP Regional Offices are located in Regions 1 (La Union), VI (Cebu) and XI (Davao). There are BSP branches/offices located in Regions I-XII. These offices/branches have currency units which handle cash transactions in the region.

Philippines: Regional Composition

As of 31 March 2020

Region	Provinces
National Capital Region (NCR)	Cities of Caloocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Manila, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Parañaque, Pasay, Pasig, Quezon, San Juan, Taguig and Valenzuela, and the Municipality of Pateros
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province
Region I – Ilocos Region	Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, and Pangasinan
Region II – Cagayan Valley	Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino
Region III – Central Luzon	Aurora, Tarlac, Pampanga, Zambales, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, and Bulacan
Region IV A – CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon)	Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon
Region IV-B MIMAROPA (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan)	Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Palawan, and Romblon
Region V – Bicol Region	Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, Masbate, Sorsogon, and Catanduanes
Region VI – Western Visayas	Iloilo, Antique, Guimaras, Aklan, Negros Occidental and Capiz
Region VII – Central Visayas	Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental and Siquijor
Region VIII – Eastern Visayas	Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, and Samar (Western Samar)
Region IX – Zamboanga Peninsula	Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Norte, and Zamboanga del Sur
Region X – Northern Mindanao	Bukidnon, Camiguin, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, and Lanao del Norte

Region	Provinces
Region XI – Davao Region	Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Davao de Oro (Compostela Valley), and Davao Occidental
Region XII – SOCCSKSARGEN (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City)	Cotabato (North Cotabato), South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Sarangani
Region XIII – Caraga	Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, and Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands
ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) ²	Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Maguindanao

² Following the Bangsamoro plebiscite of January 2019 and its subsequent ratification, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) will be named Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM, Region 16). As of 31 March 2020, there has been no change in the name of ARMM to BARMM in the Philippine Standard Geographic Code (PSGC) of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Key Regional Developments

Real Sector

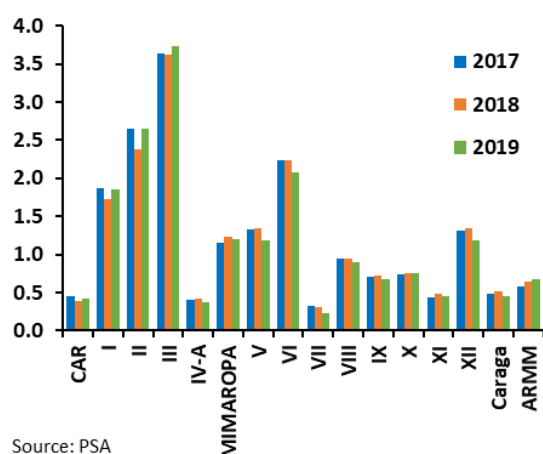
Agriculture, Livestock, Poultry and Fishery

Palay. *Palay* production nationwide contracted further by 1.3 percent in 2019 from its 1.1 percent decline in 2018. The El Niño phenomenon and damages brought by calamities caused a reduction in harvest areas and yields in the affected regions.

Palay production contracts further due to El Niño and bad weather conditions

Chart 1. *Palay* Production

In million metric tons



Source: PSA

Majority of the regions in the country posted declines in their palay production, namely Central Visayas (-27.9 percent), Caraga (-11.9 percent), Bicol Region (-11.7 percent), SOCCSKSARGEN (-11.6 percent), CALABARZON (-9.4 percent), Davao Region (-7.7 percent), Zamboanga Peninsula (-7.0 percent), Western Visayas (-6.9 percent), Eastern Visayas (-4.9 percent), MIMAROPA (-2.9 percent), and Northern Mindanao (-0.03 percent). The negative performance in these regions was due to the following factors:

- Damages and losses due to ill-effects of bad weather conditions in Central Visayas and Davao Region as well as calamities such as Tropical Depressions *Amang* and *Chedeng* in Caraga and Typhoon *Tisoy* and *Ursula* in Bicol region, Eastern Visayas, and MIMAROPA;
- Adverse effects of continuous El Niño phenomenon such as: (a) reduction in areas harvested in Central Visayas, Caraga, CALABARZON, Zamboanga Peninsula, Eastern Visayas, and Northern Mindanao; and (b) insufficient water supply and rainfall in SOCCSKSARGEN, Western Visayas, and MIMAROPA; and
- Lower production due to the decline in farm gate prices of *palay* in Bicol and Eastern Visayas along with the implementation of the Rice Tariffication law.

The weak turnout in these regions was mitigated by favorable growth performance in palay production in the regions of Cagayan Valley (11.1 percent), Ilocos (7.6 percent), CAR (7.0 percent), ARMM (5.7 percent), and Central Luzon (3.2 percent). This could be traced to the following factors:

- Good weather condition resulting in larger area harvested and increased yield per hectare in Cagayan Valley, Ilocos Region, CAR, and ARMM;
- Use of in-bred certified seeds, hybrid seeds, and high yielding seeds in Cagayan Valley, Ilocos, and Central Luzon;
- Sustained support from the Department of Agriculture in Cagayan Valley and interventions implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform and Fisheries (MAFAR), such as the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Program (RCEP), as well as initiatives, of local government units (LGUs) to help the farmers in ARMM; and
- Increased production brought about by increased fertilizer usage, proper irrigation methods, and adequate water supply (e.g., small water impounding project) in Ilocos and Central Luzon.

Table 1. Palay Production

Growth rate and share to total production, in percent

REGION	Growth Rate			Share to total production		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
PHILIPPINES	9.4	-1.1	-1.3	100	100	100
1 CAR	16.2	-12.1	7.0	2.3	2.1	2.2
2 Ilocos Region (I)	3.7	-8.1	7.6	9.7	9.0	9.8
3 Cagayan Valley (II)	13.9	-10.4	11.1	13.8	12.5	14.1
4 Central Luzon (III)	8.7	-0.5	3.2	18.9	19.0	19.8
5 CALABARZON (IV-A)	0.9	2.3	-9.4	2.1	2.2	2.0
6 MIMAROPA	7.4	6.1	-2.9	6.0	6.5	6.4
7 Bicol Region (V)	4.7	1.2	-11.7	6.9	7.1	6.3
8 Western Visayas (VI)	17.6	0.1	-6.9	11.6	11.7	11.0
9 Central Visayas (VII)	40.2	-4.8	-27.9	1.7	1.6	1.2
10 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	-1.0	0.1	-4.9	4.9	5.0	4.8
11 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	20.6	4.0	-7.0	3.6	3.8	3.6
12 Northern Mindanao (X)	4.8	2.1	0.0	3.9	4.0	4.0
13 Davao Region (XI)	3.8	12.6	-7.7	2.2	2.6	2.4
14 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	9.9	1.8	-11.6	6.8	7.0	6.3
15 Caraga	4.4	5.7	-11.9	2.5	2.7	2.4
16 BARMM	6.2	10.5	5.7	3.0	3.3	3.6

Source: PSA

Corn production recovers

Corn. Aggregate corn production grew by 2.7 percent, which is a reversal from the 1.8 percent contraction in 2018 but slower than the growth recorded in 2017 of 9.6 percent. The growth in corn production may be attributed to sustained government support and availability of high quality seeds.

Ten regions posted increases in corn production in 2018, namely ARMM (23.5 percent), Cagayan Valley (14.9 percent), CAR (12.0 percent), Central Luzon (4.7 percent), Ilocos (2.5 percent), Northern Mindanao (1.8 percent), Western Visayas (1.0 percent), Caraga (0.1 percent), and Eastern Visayas (0.03 percent). The improvement from these regions were attributed mainly to the following:

- Favorable weather conditions in ARMM and Ilocos Region;
- Continuing assistance provided to farmers through: (a) distribution of high-yielding corn seeds and hybrid seed varieties [e.g., Open Pollinated Variety (OPV), conventional yellow hybrid, and Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) yellow hybrid], farm equipment, fertilizers and pesticides; (b) technology transfer seminars and trainings to farmers; and (c) other interventions such as the Basic Integration for Harmonized Intervention in Agriculture (BINHI) in ARMM, Central Luzon, Ilocos, Caraga, Northern Luzon, and Eastern Visayas;
- Expansion in harvested area in Cagayan Valley, CAR, and Central Visayas;
- High demand and better market price of corn in Ilocos Region, Western Visayas, and Caraga;

- Adequate irrigation water and sufficient soil moisture in Ilocos and Western Visayas; and
- Availability of financing scheme in Caraga.

However, double-digit contractions were recorded in Zamboanga Peninsula (-28.7 percent), CALABARZON (-23.7 percent), MIMAROPA (-17.8 percent), Central Visayas (-17.3 percent), Bicol (-11.3 percent), Davao Region (-10.9 percent), and SOCCSKSARGEN (-10.0 percent) due to:

- Damages brought about by bad weather condition such as occurrence of El Niño and typhoons such as *Hanna*, *Tisoy* and *Ursula* in Zamboanga Peninsula, MIMAROPA, Central Visayas, Bicol region, SOCCSKSARGEN, and Davao Region;
- Massive infestation of Fall Armyworm (FAW)¹ to both white and yellow corns in Zamboanga Peninsula and Central Visayas; and
- Decrease in area harvested for corn in CALABARZON and shifting to high-value crops in Central Visayas and Bicol region.

Table 2. Corn Production

Growth rate and share to total production, in percent

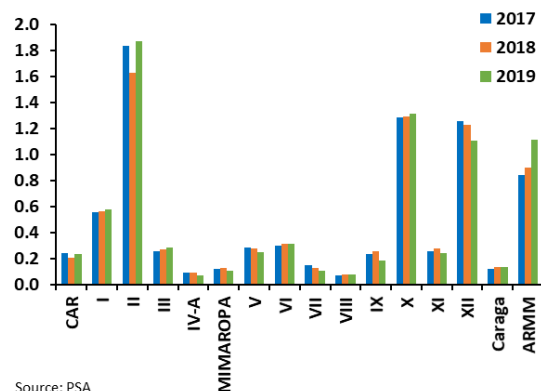
REGION	Growth Rate			Share to total production		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
PHILIPPINES	9.6	-1.8	2.7	100	100	100
1 CAR	21.8	-14.6	12.0	3.1	2.7	2.9
2 Ilocos Region (I)	9.5	0.8	2.5	7.0	7.2	7.2
3 Cagayan Valley (II)	9.5	-11.5	14.9	23.2	20.9	23.4
4 Central Luzon (III)	-0.3	5.1	4.7	3.3	3.5	3.6
5 CALABARZON (IV-A)	-4.2	-1.4	-23.7	1.2	1.2	0.9
6 MIMAROPA	5.7	7.5	-17.8	1.5	1.7	1.3
7 Bicol Region (V)	10.7	-2.5	-11.3	3.6	3.6	3.1
8 Western Visayas (VI)	6.2	3.2	1.0	3.8	4.0	3.9
9 Central Visayas (VII)	-6.5	-12.9	-17.3	1.9	1.6	1.3
10 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	-10.0	1.0	0.0	0.9	1.0	0.9
11 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	-9.5	10.4	-28.7	3.0	3.3	2.3
12 Northern Mindanao (X)	5.2	0.2	1.8	16.3	16.6	16.5
13 Davao Region (XI)	17.2	7.0	-10.9	3.2	3.5	3.1
14 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	9.9	-2.1	-10.0	15.9	15.8	13.9
15 Caraga	-17.0	13.0	0.1	1.5	1.7	1.7
16 ARMM	42.5	7.2	23.5	10.6	11.6	14.0

Source: PSA

¹ Fall Armyworm (FAW), *Spodoptera frugiperda*, is a Lepidopteran pest that feeds in large numbers on leaves and stems of more than 80 plant species, causing major damage to

Chart 2. Corn Production

In million metric tons



Source: PSA

Livestock production. The country's total cattle production contracted further by 1.0 percent in 2019 from its decline in 2018 of 1.1 percent and 1.5 percent in 2017. This is the third consecutive year of poor performance in the cattle production, driven largely by the contraction in Western Visayas (-6.4 percent), Central Visayas (-6.0 percent), MIMAROPA (-6.0 percent), SOCCSKSARGEN (-4.4 percent), CAR (-3.1 percent), Zamboanga Peninsula (-3.0 percent), Central Luzon (-1.7 percent), Central Visayas (-1.7 percent), CALABARZON (-0.8 percent), and Northern Mindanao (-0.6 percent) due to the following factors:

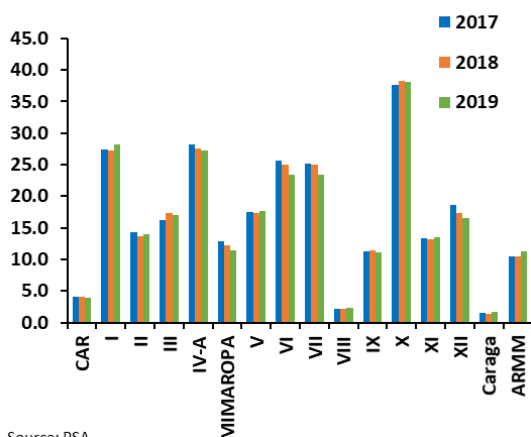
- High cost of production and unfavorable market prices that led raisers to hold their farm stocks in Western Visayas;
- Decrease in slaughter rate of cattle brought about by less demand for beef in Central Visayas and Northern Mindanao;
- Less population of cows and yearlings in both backyard and commercial farms in MIMAROPA, Central Luzon, and SOCCSKSARGEN;

corn, rice, sorghum, sugarcane and also to other vegetable crops and cotton.

- Less stocks available for disposition as some were reserved for breeding and milk production in CAR and Central Luzon; and
- Disposition of smaller sized animals in CAR.

Chart 3. Cattle Production

In thousand metric tons



Source: PSA

Cattle production further contracts

Table 3. Cattle Production

Growth rate and share to total production, in percent

REGION	Growth rate			Share to total production		
	2017	2018 ^a	2019 ^b	2017	2018 ^a	2019 ^b
PHILIPPINES	-1.5	-1.1	-1.0	100	100	100
1 CAR	-4.1	-3.7	-3.1	1.6	1.5	1.5
2 Ilocos Region (I)	-1.4	-0.3	3.5	10.3	10.4	10.8
3 Cagayan Valley (II)	-5.2	-4.5	2.3	5.4	5.2	5.4
4 Central Luzon (III)	-13.8	7.3	-1.7	6.1	6.6	6.6
5 CALABARZON (IV-A)	-1.8	-2.1	-0.8	10.6	10.5	10.5
6 MIMAROPA	2.7	-4.9	-6.0	4.8	4.6	4.4
7 Bicol Region (V)	3.4	-1.6	2.4	6.6	6.6	6.8
8 Western Visayas (VI)	3.5	-2.3	-6.4	9.6	9.5	9.0
9 Central Visayas (VII)	1.8	-1.1	-6.0	9.5	9.5	9.0
10 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	-5.4	-1.9	8.0	0.8	0.8	0.9
11 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	0.2	1.3	-3.0	4.2	4.3	4.2
12 Northern Mindanao (X)	-4.7	1.9	-0.6	14.1	14.5	14.6
13 Davao Region (XI)	3.7	-1.4	2.5	5.0	5.0	5.2
14 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	-1.3	-7.5	-4.4	7.0	6.6	6.3
15 Caraga	-6.5	-8.9	13.9	0.6	0.5	0.6
16 ARMM	-0.1	-0.2	7.1	3.9	4.0	4.3

^b Revised
^a Preliminary
 Source: PSA

On the other hand, the regions that posted improvements in their cattle production in 2019 were Caraga (13.9 percent), Eastern Visayas (8.0 percent), ARMM (7.1 percent), Ilocos (3.5 percent), Davao Region (2.5 percent), Bicol (2.4 percent), and Cagayan Valley (2.3 percent). The improved performance in these areas was due mainly to high demand, favorable market price and various government interventions such as trainings and seminars, disease prevention and control as well as effective breeding practices (e.g., Genetic Improvement Program).²

Chicken production improves

Chicken production. Chicken production rose by 4.9 percent in 2019, slower than the 5.2 percent expansion in 2018 but faster than the 4.3 percent growth in 2017. All, except four regions, posted better performances during the year with Bicol region (16.3 percent) leading the pack, followed by Eastern Visayas (13.3 percent), Western Visayas (6.8 percent), Zamboanga Peninsula (6.5 percent), Davao Region (6.2 percent), Central Luzon (6.2 percent), SOCCSKSARGEN (5.9 percent), CALABARZON (3.7 percent), Northern Mindanao (3.2 percent), Central Visayas (3.1 percent), MIMAROPA (2.8 percent), and ARMM (1.3 percent). Factors behind the accelerated growth include:

- Strict implementation of regulatory protocols and strengthened quality control and inspection activities, particularly the collection of samples for Avian Influenza detection; provision of veterinary drugs and biologics for the treatment, prevention and control of diseases particularly during hot weather conditions in Bicol region;
- Sustained demand of poultry products from hotel and restaurant industries (HRIs) in

genetically improved animal population.

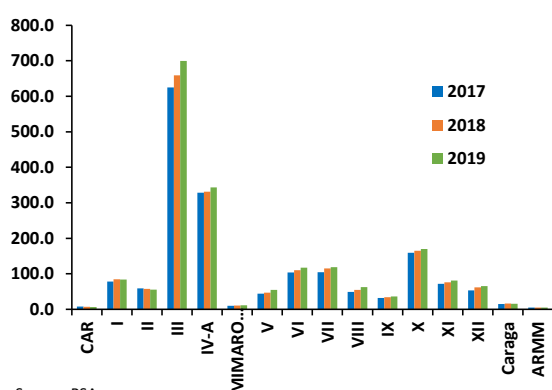
² Genetic Improvement Program includes mass semen distribution and artificial insemination activities to increase

Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas, Davao Region, CALABARZON, and MIMAROPA;

- Absence of poultry disease in Zamboanga Peninsula and ARMM;
- High demand in chicken meat as a substitute for pork following the outbreak of the African Swine Fever (ASF)³ in Central Luzon, Central Visayas, Northern Mindanao, and SOCCSKSARGEN; and
- Farm expansion and re-opening of broiler farms in Davao Region, Central Luzon, and CALABARZON.

Chart 4. Chicken Production

In thousand metric tons



Source: PSA

The four regions that exhibited contractions in chicken production in 2019 were CAR (-9.0 percent), Caraga (-4.7 percent), Cagayan Valley (-4.4 percent), and Ilocos Region (-0.8 percent). The dismal performances in poultry production in these regions were due largely to the closure of some big broiler farms, shift to duck production, tight supply of day-old broilers in commercial farms and unfavorable weather conditions.

Swine production. Overall swine production declined by 1.0 percent, which is a reversal from the 2.4 percent growth posted in 2018 and

1.5 percent in 2017. This could be mainly attributed to the reduced demand for pork due to the ASF outbreak that adversely affected hog production in Central Luzon (-11.6 percent), MIMAROPA (-1.8 percent), Central Visayas (-0.9 percent), Eastern Visayas (-0.6 percent), Caraga (-0.5 percent), Ilocos Region (-0.1 person), and CAR (-0.03 percent).

Table 4. Chicken Production

Growth rate and share to total production, in percent

REGION	Growth rate			Share to total production		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
PHILIPPINES	4.3	5.2	4.9	100	100	100
1 CAR	4.2	-8.2	-9.0	0.5	0.4	0.3
2 Ilocos Region (I)	-0.9	8.8	-0.8	4.5	4.6	4.4
3 Cagayan Valley (II)	-3.1	-1.5	-4.4	3.4	3.2	2.9
4 Central Luzon (III)	5.7	5.5	6.2	35.8	35.9	36.3
5 CALABARZON (IV-A)	0.1	0.7	3.7	18.8	18.0	17.8
6 MIMAROPA	-1.4	7.0	2.8	0.6	0.6	0.6
7 Bicol Region (V)	4.1	7.3	16.3	2.5	2.6	2.8
8 Western Visayas (VI)	8.3	6.0	6.8	5.9	6.0	6.1
9 Central Visayas (VII)	5.1	9.8	3.1	6.0	6.3	6.2
10 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	35.9	11.5	13.3	2.8	3.0	3.2
11 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	5.9	7.0	6.5	1.8	1.9	1.9
12 Northern Mindanao (X)	4.1	3.5	3.2	9.1	9.0	8.8
13 Davao Region (XI)	-0.3	6.4	6.2	4.1	4.2	4.2
14 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	7.1	15.9	5.9	3.1	3.4	3.4
15 Caraga	5.2	11.6	-4.7	0.8	0.9	0.8
16 ARMM	-1.9	5.1	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

Source: PSA

Swine production plummets due to African Swine Fever

The contraction in swine production was partially offset by the positive performance in other regions during the period, namely SOCCSKSARGEN (6.2 percent), CALABARZON (3.7 percent), Western Visayas (2.6 percent), Bicol (2.4 percent), Northern Mindanao (2.2 percent), ARMM (2.0 percent), Cagayan Valley (1.0 percent), Davao Region (0.7 percent), and Zamboanga Peninsula (0.1 percent). The growth recorded in these regions were caused by the following factors:

³ According to the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), ASF is a highly contagious viral disease that affects pigs, warthogs, and boars

Table 5. Swine Production

Growth rate and share to total production, in percent

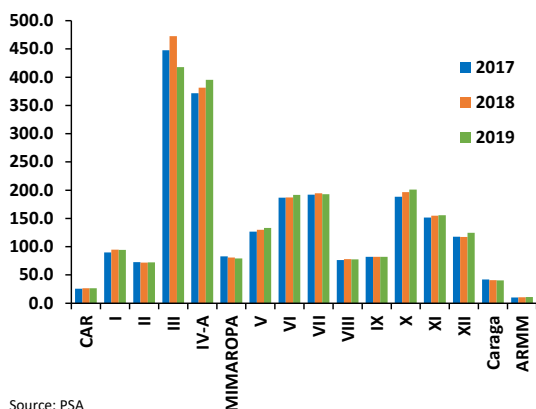
REGION	Growth rate			Share to total production		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
PHILIPPINES	1.5	2.4	-1.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 CAR	-2.0	3.2	0.0	1.1	1.1	1.2
2 Ilocos Region (I)	4.1	5.1	-0.1	4.0	4.1	4.1
3 Cagayan Valley (II)	2.1	-1.5	1.0	3.2	3.1	3.2
4 Central Luzon (III)	-3.2	5.6	-11.6	19.8	20.4	18.2
5 CALABARZON (IV-A)	1.8	2.7	3.7	16.4	16.4	17.2
6 MIMAROPA	4.4	-2.7	-1.8	3.7	3.5	3.5
7 Bicol Region (V)	4.2	2.7	2.4	5.6	5.6	5.8
8 Western Visayas (VI)	-1.1	0.3	2.6	8.2	8.1	8.4
9 Central Visayas (VII)	9.8	1.2	-0.9	8.5	8.4	8.4
10 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	0.1	2.0	-0.6	3.4	3.4	3.4
11 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	2.7	-0.1	0.1	3.6	3.5	3.6
12 Northern Mindanao (X)	6.1	4.3	2.2	8.3	8.5	8.8
13 Davao Region (XI)	1.6	2.1	0.7	6.7	6.7	6.8
14 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	-1.1	-0.4	6.2	5.2	5.1	5.4
15 Caraga	-0.5	-3.6	-0.5	1.9	1.8	1.8
16 ARMM	-2.6	6.1	2.0	0.4	0.5	0.5

Source: PSA

- Increased slaughtering activities and early disposal of stocks owing to fear of ASF infection in SOCCSKSARGEN and Central Visayas;
- Expansion of farms for slaughter due to higher liveweight of hogs, increased swine production and sustained demand for pork in SOCCSKSARGEN, CALABARZON, Western Visayas, ARMM, and Davao Region;
- Absence of hog diseases [e.g, Food and Mouth Disease (FMD) and ASF] due to strict implementation of regulatory protocols and

Chart 5. Swine Production

In hundred thousand metric tons



Source: PSA

strengthened animal quality control and inspection activities as well as intensified monitoring in the entry of live hogs, pork, as well as pork-related products and by-products in Bicol region, Cagayan Valley, and ARMM;

- Total entry ban of pork from other regions to prevent the spread of ASF, which prompted the majority of pork processors to source their raw materials within Northern Mindanao particularly in Bukidnon; and
- Continuous distribution of veterinary drugs and biologics for the treatment, prevention and control of these economically important diseases particularly during hot weather conditions and distribution of semen straws and Artificial Insemination (AI) supplies to livestock raisers for genetically-superior animals in Bicol region.

Fish Production. The fishery subsector grew by 1.5 percent in 2019, higher than the 1.0 percent growth a year ago. The acceleration was due largely to the double-digit growth in Eastern Visayas of 11.2 percent, a reversal from its 15.4 percent decline in 2018. Positive performances were also recorded in Ilocos (9.3 percent), Central Luzon (4.1 percent), ARMM (4.0 percent), Zamboanga Peninsula (3.3 percent), Central Visayas (2.8 percent), CALABARZON (2.7 percent), Western Visayas (0.5 percent), and Northern Mindanao (0.5 percent). The expansion could be traced to the following factors:

- High survival rate of stocks coupled with increased number of fishing trips due to favorable weather and water conditions in Eastern Visayas, Ilocos, Central Luzon, ARMM, Zamboanga Peninsula, and Central Visayas;
- Higher number of fishing boats in Ilocos Region complemented by the provision of additional *bancas* from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Central Luzon as well as the motorized and non-motorized

Table 6. Fish production

Growth rate and share to total production, in percent

REGION	Growth rate			Share to total production		
	2017	2018 ¹	2019	2017	2018 ¹	2019
PHILIPPINES	-1.0	1.0	1.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 NCR	-30.9	19.4	-3.5	2.0	2.4	2.3
2 CAR	-1.3	6.5	-5.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
3 Ilocos Region (I)	2.6	-3.8	9.3	3.7	3.6	3.8
4 Cagayan Valley (II)	-4.6	-6.8	-4.6	1.2	1.1	1.0
5 Central Luzon (III)	5.4	7.7	4.1	6.7	7.1	7.3
6 CALABARZON (IV-A)	0.3	-11.8	2.7	7.7	6.7	6.8
7 MIMAROPA	1.3	3.2	-0.7	11.3	11.6	11.3
8 Bicol Region (V)	1.9	7.4	-7.9	5.5	5.9	5.3
9 Western Visayas (VI)	-1.7	-2.7	0.5	9.0	8.7	8.6
10 Central Visayas (VII)	-17.7	0.1	2.8	3.5	3.5	3.5
11 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	-2.9	-15.4	11.2	3.2	2.6	2.9
12 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	-7.3	3.2	3.3	11.9	12.2	12.4
13 Northern Mindanao (X)	-6.6	-2.1	0.5	3.6	3.5	3.5
14 Davao Region (XI)	-2.3	-8.3	-7.2	1.3	1.2	1.1
15 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	11.6	0.1	-1.7	7.6	7.5	7.3
16 Caraga	-2.3	-0.1	-7.3	1.7	1.7	1.6
17 ARMM	3.9	5.0	4.0	19.9	20.6	21.2

¹ Revised

Source: PSA

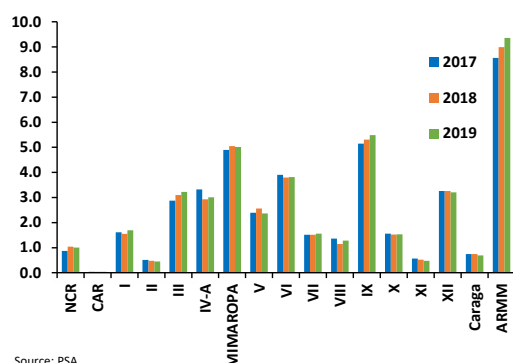
Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) boats assistance in Siquijor;

- Bigger sizes of fish captured and higher prices in Ilocos Region and Central Luzon;
- High demand as a substitute for pork in Ilocos Region and CALABARZON;
- Technical, financial and livelihood assistance extended by the government to fishermen through the Integrated and Sustainable Development for Aquaculture/Capture (ISDA)

Fish production expands

Chart 6. Fish production

In hundred thousand metric tons



Source: PSA

Program in ARMM and payaos, fishing nets and fishing traps in Siquijor; and

- Presence of marine sanctuaries which increased fish catch in Central Visayas.

However, the growth in these regions was almost offset by the dismal performances in fish production in Bicol (-7.9 percent), Caraga (-7.3 percent), Davao Region (-7.2 percent), CAR (-5.5 percent), Cagayan Valley (-4.6 percent), NCR (-3.5 percent), SOCCSKSARGEN (-1.7 percent), and MIMAROPA (-0.7 percent). The negative performance in these regions was due to the following factors:

- Fewer fishing trips and activities brought about by bad weather conditions in Bicol, Davao Region, CAR, and MIMAROPA;
- degradation of coastal ecosystem, illegal fishing activities, water pollution and over exploration of marine grounds for municipal and commercial fishing in Davao Region, Caraga, and Cagayan Valley;
- Lack of capital, unproductive fish ponds, and inadequate pre- and post-harvest facilities for aquaculture products in Caraga and Davao Region;
- Presence of “ice-ice” disease in some parts of Davao Region;
- Decrease in area harvested due to closure of irrigation canal in Lamut, Ifugao;
- Increasing cost of production inputs and enforcement of ban on Danish Seine in Cagayan Valley; and
- Some inland fishermen in the Region shifted to other jobs or activities in MIMAROPA.

Construction

Construction. Construction-related activities in the regions dwindled in 2019 as approved building permits and new residential construction registered year-on-year declines. The weak

construction activity in 2019 may be attributed to the delayed passage of the national budget and bans on public construction related to the May 2019 midterm elections. After a strong growth in 2018 of 13.9 percent, the number of approved building permits nationwide contracted by 6.9 percent to 161,207 in 2019. Similarly, the number of new residential building construction in the country reversed from an expansion of 14 percent in 2018 to a decline of 9.5 percent in 2019.

Chart 7. Approved Building Permits

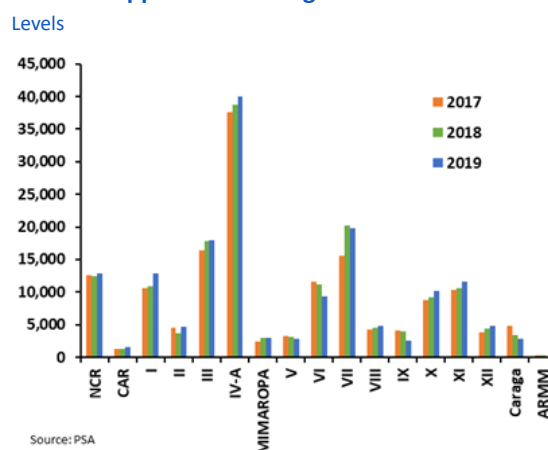


Table 7. Total Number of Approved Building Permits

Levels; growth rate in percent

REGION	Levels			Growth rate		
	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^p	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^p
PHILIPPINES	152,012	173,193	161,207	2.7	13.9	-6.9
1 NCR	12,612	14,094	12,815	-4.2	11.8	-9.1
2 CAR	1,303	1,388	1,487	8.4	6.5	7.1
3 Ilocos Region (I)	10,610	11,157	12,817	20.2	5.2	14.9
4 Cagayan Valley (II)	4,581	4,948	4,725	41.1	8.0	-4.5
5 Central Luzon (III)	16,340	18,778	17,892	12.8	14.9	-4.7
6 CALABARZON (IV-A)	37,612	43,929	39,976	8.4	16.8	-9.0
7 MIMAROPA (IV-B)	2,432	3,131	2,932	-7.7	28.7	-6.4
8 Bicol Region (V)	3,179	4,170	2,810	-9.5	31.2	-32.6
9 Western Visayas (VI)	11,545	13,012	9,271	6.3	12.7	-28.8
10 Central Visayas (VII)	15,517	20,397	19,826	-22.2	31.4	-2.8
11 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	4,268	4,759	4,742	-12.5	11.5	-0.4
12 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	4,025	3,972	2,537	-0.2	-1.3	-36.1
13 Northern Mindanao (X)	8,791	9,829	10,107	-6.3	11.8	2.8
14 Davao Region (XI)	10,304	10,833	11,526	2.1	5.1	6.4
15 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	3,809	4,839	4,834	26.4	27.0	-0.1
16 Caraga	4,847	3,705	2,760	25.5	-23.6	-25.5
17 ARMM	237	252	150	48.1	6.3	-40.5

Note: Sum of details may not add up to totals due to rounding.

r Revised to reflect data updates per PSA

p Preliminary

Source: PSA

On a regional basis, the slump in the number of approved building permits were led largely by the double-digit declines in the following regions: ARMM (-40.5 percent), Zamboanga Peninsula (-36.1 percent), Bicol Region (-32.6 percent), Western Visayas (-28.8 percent) and Caraga (-25.5 percent). Other regions that likewise contributed to the contraction were NCR (-9.1 percent), CALABARZON (-9.0 percent), MIMAROPA (-6.4 percent), Central Luzon (-4.7-percent), Cagayan Valley (-4.5 percent), Central Visayas (-2.8 percent), Eastern Visayas (-0.4 percent) and SOCCSKARGEN (-0.1 percent). These were partly offset by regions that managed

to register modest growths, namely, Ilocos Region (14.9 percent), CAR (7.1 percent), Davao Region (6.4 percent) and Northern Mindanao (2.8 percent).

Construction-related activities fall in 2019

In terms of new residential building construction statistics, among the regions with double-digit contractions and which contributed largely to the overall decline were: ARMM (-47.6 percent), Bicol Region (-38 percent), Caraga (-29.7 percent),

Table 8. Total Number of New Residential Building Construction

Levels; growth rates in percent

REGION	Levels			Growth rate		
	2017	2018 ^f	2019 ^p	2017	2018 ^f	2019 ^p
PHILIPPINES	110,942	126,429	114,449	-1.9	14.0	-9.5
1 NCR	6,477	6,923	6,263	-1.7	6.9	-9.5
2 CAR	952	998	1,076	1.5	4.8	7.8
3 Ilocos (I)	7,614	8,045	8,970	17.2	5.7	11.5
4 Cagayan Valley (II)	3,550	3,684	3,574	56.7	3.8	-3.0
5 Central Luzon (III)	11,386	13,410	12,727	6.6	17.8	-5.1
6 CALABARZON (IV-A)	29,260	34,273	29,677	5.1	17.1	-13.4
7 MIMAROPA (IV-B)	1,569	2,343	1,964	-21.8	49.3	-16.2
8 Bicol (V)	2,168	2,909	1,804	-19.4	34.2	-38.0
9 Western Visayas (VI)	8,935	10,031	6,489	2.2	12.3	-35.3
10 Central Visayas (VII)	12,230	16,831	15,350	-28.6	37.6	-8.8
11 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	2,692	3,053	2,982	-26.7	13.4	-2.3
12 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	3,161	2,523	2,032	-8.5	-20.2	-19.5
13 Northern Mindanao (X)	7,187	8,134	8,413	-10.3	13.2	3.4
14 Davao Region (XI)	7,981	7,827	8,554	0.9	-1.9	9.3
15 SOCCSKARGEN (XII)	1,817	2,567	2,589	16.8	41.3	0.9
16 Caraga	3,759	2,666	1,874	25.2	-29.1	-29.7
17 ARMM	204	212	111	60.6	3.9	-47.6

Note: Sum of details may not add up to totals due to rounding.

^f Revised to reflect data updates per PSA

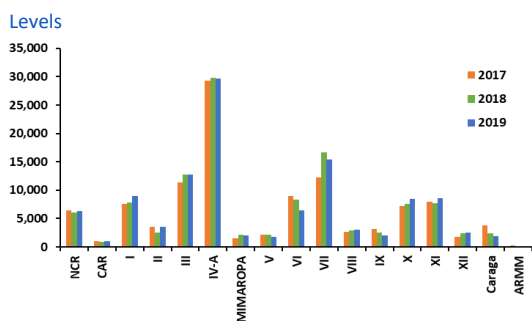
^p Preliminary

Source: PSA

Western Visayas (-28.8 percent), Zamboanga Peninsula (-19.5 percent), MIMAROPA (-16.2 percent) and CALABARZON (-13.4 percent). Other regions which posted declines were NCR (-9.5 percent), Central Visayas (-8.8 percent), Central Luzon (-5.1 percent), Cagayan Valley (-3.0 percent) and Eastern Visayas (-2.3 percent). Meanwhile, there were a few regions which managed to register positive performances, namely, Ilocos Region (11.5 percent), Davao Region (9.3 percent), CAR (7.8 percent), Northern Mindanao (3.4 percent), and SOCCSKSARGEN (0.9 percent).

Despite generally lower inflation rates including for furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house, there was a marked fall in the construction activities in most regions, suggesting a cyclical nature of such investments where major construction activities were done in the previous year. Furthermore, destructive earthquakes in Luzon (i.e., April 2019) and Southern Philippines (i.e., October and December 2019), as well as uncertainties brought about by the May 2019 elections and the budget impasse could have dampened decisions to engage in construction activities during the year.

Chart 8. New Residential Construction



Source: PSA

In terms of cost, it was noted that for 2019, the average cost per square meter of residential construction grew by 2.3 percent to ₱11,215 from

the average cost of ₱10,962 in 2018. Meanwhile, the average cost of non-residential construction per square meter surged by 8.5 percent in 2019 to ₱11,219 from the average cost of ₱10,343 in 2018.

Nonetheless, on 28 March 2019, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP), and the Philippine Contractors Association (PCA) launched the Construction Industry Roadmap 2020-2030 with the theme "Tatag at Tapat 2030," which will ensure the competitiveness and sustainability of the construction industry's growth from boom-bust cycles. The roadmap is also seen to complement the government's "Build Build Build" infrastructure program.⁴ Under the roadmap, the construction industry aims to grow its contribution to the economy from ₱2.3 trillion in 2018 to a cumulative ₱130 trillion by 2030.

Labor and Employment

Employment. The national employment rate in 2019 grew by 0.2 percentage points (ppts) to 94.9 percent from 94.7 percent in 2018. The highest employment rates were recorded in Cagayan Valley and CAR both at 96.5 percent, followed by Zamboanga Peninsula at 96.3 percent, and Davao Region at 96.2 percent.

The employment situation improved in most regions with faster growth registered in Ilocos Region where employment increased by 1.5 ppts to 94.7 percent, NCR by 0.8 ppts to 94.2 percent, Central Luzon by 0.7 ppts to 94.9 percent, and in both Western Visayas and CAR by 0.6 ppts to 95.3 and 96.5 percent, respectively. These employment expansions were due mainly to the "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure projects of the national government, the booming private construction of residential and non-residential

construction-industry-roadmap-2020-2030

⁴ Source: <https://www.dti.gov.ph/media/latestnews/12740->

buildings, as well as the proliferation of hotel and restaurant businesses.

Employment rises slightly

Table 9. Employment Indicators

Averages in percent

REGION	2017			2018 ^f			2019 ^g		
	Employment	Unemployment ^b	Underemployment	Employment	Unemployment ^b	Underemployment	Employment	Unemployment ^b	Underemployment
PHILIPPINES	94.3	5.7	16.1	94.7	5.3	16.4	94.9	5.1	14.0
1 NCR	92.6	7.4	9.3	93.4	6.6	7.3	94.2	5.8	5.4
2 CAR	95.7	4.3	14.8	95.9	4.1	15.2	96.5	3.5	12.2
3 Ilocos Region (I)	91.1	8.9	19.9	93.2	6.8	22.1	94.7	5.3	16.9
4 Cagayan Valley (II)	96.8	3.2	13.6	97.0	3.0	19.6	96.5	3.5	16.1
5 Central Luzon (III)	93.4	6.6	11.4	94.2	5.8	11.4	94.9	5.1	10.2
6 Calabarzon (IV-A)	93.0	7.0	14.0	93.4	6.6	13.4	93.9	6.1	11.8
7 MIMAROPA	95.2	4.8	23.7	95.3	4.7	20.6	95.6	4.4	19.6
8 Bicol Region (V)	95.4	4.6	27.6	95.1	4.9	29.6	94.8	5.2	27.3
9 Western Visayas (VI)	94.6	5.4	16.7	94.7	5.3	18.6	95.3	4.7	11.2
10 Central Visayas (VII)	95.5	4.5	17.5	94.7	5.3	17.8	94.8	5.2	14.9
11 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	95.6	4.4	22.6	95.8	4.2	21.4	95.5	4.5	20.2
12 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	96.0	4.0	17.3	95.9	4.1	18.9	96.3	3.7	16.5
13 Northern Mindanao (X)	94.7	5.3	18.6	95.9	4.1	20.8	95.6	4.4	21.8
14 Davao Region (XI)	95.1	4.9	17.8	95.7	4.3	15.4	96.2	3.8	11.0
15 Soccsksargen (XII)	96.0	4.0	17.9	96.1	3.9	17.0	95.6	4.4	19.7
16 Caraga (XIII)	94.9	5.1	23.1	95.9	4.1	25.2	95.2	4.8	18.5
17 ARMM	96.6	3.4	7.0	96.2	3.8	8.4	93.4	6.6	8.4

Notes

¹ Starting with April 2016 round, the Labor Force Survey (LFS) adopted the 2013 Master Sample Design, with a sample size of approximately 44,000 households as well as population projections based on the 2010 Census of Population and Housing (2010 CPH). Previous survey rounds were derived using 2000 CPH population projection. Starting the January 2017 survey round, Computer Aided Personal Interviewing (CAPI) was utilized in the LFS enumeration.

^f Revised

^g Preliminary

Source: PSA

The unemployment rate in 2019 went down to 5.1 percent from 5.3 percent in 2018. The lowest unemployment rates were posted in Cagayan Valley and CAR both at 3.5 percent, followed by Zamboanga Peninsula at 3.7 percent, and Davao Region at 3.8 percent. The reduction in unemployment may be attributed to the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE's) conduct of nationwide job fairs as well as its strong linkages with local governments' Public Employment Service Offices (PESOs), schools and universities, and private establishments, which

promoted youth employment, regularization of contractual workers, extension of grants and assistance packages such as the Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced (TUPAD)⁵ workers, and other platforms that created jobs.

Meanwhile, the highest unemployment rates were recorded in ARMM at 6.6 percent, CALABARZON at 6.1 percent, and the NCR at 5.8 percent. Some of the reasons may be due to the aging of farmers and increased displacement risk of unskilled and manual farm laborers resulting in part from the government's farm mechanization/modernization programs.

In 2019, underemployment rate eased to 14.0 percent from 16.4 percent a year ago. The lowest underemployment rate posted were in NCR

⁵ TUPAD is a program that aims to provide workers with alternative employment hence additional income for a period of time.

at 5.4 percent and in ARMM at 8.4 percent. This indicated that the quality of work in the regions has improved as most of the job-mismatches have been addressed by the help of DOLE through the conduct of regular job fairs, promotion of the web-based job matching system PhilJobnet, provision of an online information platform for employers and potential employees called the Labor Market Information (LMI), and facilitation of regional wage increases.⁶

On the other hand, the Bicol Region recorded the highest underemployment rate at 27.3 percent as there has been a dearth of available jobs for the K-12 graduates. Underemployment rate was also high in Northern Mindanao, Eastern Visayas, SOCCSKSARGEN, and MIMAROPA at 21.8 percent, 20.2 percent, 19.7 percent, and 19.6 percent, respectively, all exceeding the 2019 underemployment target range of 17.4 to 19.4 percent.

Fiscal Sector

Receipts and Expenditures of LGUs

Receipts and Expenditures of LGUs. The total ending cash balance of LGUs for the fiscal year (FY) 2019 reached ₱405.1 billion, lower by 10.1 percent from the previous year's level of ₱450.3 billion.

NCR, CALABARZON, and Central Luzon post the largest receipts from tax revenues

Total LGU receipts amounted to ₱689.1 billion in FY 2019, of which 69.0 percent or ₱472.9 billion were from external sources, 30.0 percent or ₱207.7 billion were from local sources, and 1.0 percent or ₱8.5 billion came from non-income receipts. In particular, the biggest sources of these receipts were shares from the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) amounting to ₱461.3 billion, and

Table 10. Receipts and Expenditures

In billion pesos

REGION	NCR	CAR	I	II	III	IVA	IVB	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	CARAGA	ARMM	GRAND TOTAL
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	95.2	14.4	33.7	20.9	41.2	63.3	18.6	24.2	24.4	(15.4)	27.0	19.6	19.7	15.8	18.6	19.5	9.6	450.3
RECEIPTS	120.5	18.2	31.6	28.5	66.4	69.5	24.4	34.9	48.6	55.7	31.0	22.4	37.6	31.2	25.0	20.7	22.8	689.1
Local Sources	91.4	2.5	4.4	3.9	20.6	16.1	2.9	4.7	11.1	21.0	3.1	2.8	10.9	7.5	3.3	1.3	0.3	207.7
Tax Revenues	73.9	1.1	2.3	1.6	14.0	13.0	1.4	2.3	5.6	12.7	1.2	1.1	6.0	4.5	1.7	0.6	0.2	143.2
Non-Tax Revenues	17.5	1.4	2.1	2.3	6.6	3.0	1.5	2.4	5.5	8.3	1.8	1.7	4.9	3.1	1.6	0.6	0.1	64.3
External Sources	26.7	15.7	27.3	24.6	45.2	53.3	21.5	27.7	37.3	33.1	27.8	19.0	26.7	23.6	21.6	19.4	22.5	472.9
Share from IRA	25.2	15.1	24.2	24.5	44.2	51.7	21.4	27.6	36.5	32.3	27.5	19.0	25.6	23.5	21.6	19.3	22.2	461.3
Share from GOCCs (PAGCOR and PCSO)	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
Other Share from National Tax Collection	1.3	0.6	3.0	0.0	0.5	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	8.8
Inter-Local Transfer	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	-	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Extraordinary Receipts/Grants/Donations/Aids	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.2
Non-Income Receipts	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.0	2.5	0.3	1.6	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	8.5
Capital Investment Receipts	1.5	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	2.4
Receipts from Loans and Borrowings	1.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.7	0.1	-	1.8	0.2	1.6	-	0.6	-	-	-	0.0	-	6.1
EXPENDITURES	119.9	18.5	24.0	26.7	62.9	89.0	24.1	33.0	48.1	132.7	27.6	20.0	38.0	30.0	22.9	17.7	16.0	751.1
General Services	53.1	8.2	11.4	15.2	31.2	40.7	11.4	14.0	26.1	69.2	14.7	9.7	16.4	15.4	11.3	8.3	8.3	364.5
Economic Services	17.1	5.1	6.5	5.8	14.3	17.6	5.7	9.1	8.8	33.3	6.7	4.6	11.1	7.7	5.8	3.9	4.9	168.0
Social Services	47.4	4.8	5.2	4.8	15.2	26.1	6.0	8.7	11.8	27.8	5.6	4.6	9.4	5.8	4.8	3.9	2.5	194.5
Debt Services	2.3	0.4	0.9	0.9	2.3	4.6	1.0	1.2	1.4	2.5	0.7	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.7	0.2	24.1
ENDING CASH BALANCE	95.8	14.1	41.4	22.8	44.7	59.0	18.9	26.1	25.0	(92.4)	30.3	22.0	19.3	17.0	20.7	24.1	16.4	405.1

Source: Department of Budget and Management, Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing FY 2020

⁶ Institute of Labor Studies Labor Force Report – January 2019.

comprising 97.5 percent of total external sources, as well as tax revenues which amounted to ₱143.2 billion or 69.0 percent of total local sources. Meanwhile, non-income receipts were comprised mainly of receipts from loans and borrowings of ₱6.1 billion.

Out of the total LGU receipts, 17.5 percent came from the NCR amounting to ₱120.5 billion; 10.1 percent or ₱69.5 billion came from CALABARZON; and 9.6 percent or ₱66.4 billion came from Central Luzon. The said regions also topped the list of regions with the largest receipts from tax revenues. Of the ₱461.3 billion total IRA shares, CALABARZON, Central Luzon, and Western Visayas received the highest shares of 11.2 percent, 9.6 percent, and 7.9 percent, respectively. Those with the lowest IRA shares, on the other hand, were Caraga, Zamboanga Peninsula and CAR at 4.2 percent, 4.1 percent, and 3.3 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, the NCR registered the highest non-income receipts at ₱2.5 billion, due mainly to its large capital investment receipts. Total LGU expenditures amounted to ₱751.1 billion, of which 48.5 percent or ₱364.5 billion were spent for general services, 25.9 percent or ₱194.5 billion for social services, 22.4 percent or ₱168.0 billion for economic services, and 3.2 percent or ₱24.1 billion for debt services.

In FY 2019, the regions with the largest amount of disbursements were Central Visayas at ₱132.7 billion, NCR at ₱119.9 billion, and CALABARZON at ₱89.0 billion. The said amounts comprised 17.7 percent, 16.0 percent, and 11.9 percent of the total nationwide LGU expenditures, respectively. Most of the expenditures from these regions were devoted to general services. In contrast, Zamboanga Peninsula, Caraga and ARMM had the lowest expenditures for the review period with shares to

total expenditures of 2.7 percent, 2.4 percent, and 2.1 percent, respectively.

Monetary Sector

Inflation

Inflation rates in all the regions decelerate

Table 11. Inflation Rate

In percent
2012 = 100

REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019
ALL ITEMS				
PHILIPPINES	1.30	2.90	5.20	2.50
1 Metro Manila	0.70	3.70	5.50	2.60
Areas Outside Metro Manila	1.40	2.70	5.10	2.50
2 CAR	1.70	1.80	3.80	2.20
3 Ilocos Region (I)	0.80	2.00	6.00	2.40
4 Cagayan Valley (II)	1.70	2.50	5.50	2.10
5 Central Luzon (III)	1.70	3.10	3.20	2.90
6 CALABARZON (IV-A)	0.90	2.90	4.80	2.60
7 MIMAROPA (IV-B)	2.00	2.20	5.10	3.90
8 Bicol Region (V)	1.00	1.30	7.00	2.80
9 Western Visayas (VI)	1.00	1.80	5.90	2.40
10 Central Visayas (VII)	1.80	2.50	5.60	1.60
11 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	1.10	3.40	5.60	1.50
12 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	2.10	3.00	6.20	1.00
13 Northern Mindanao (X)	2.30	3.00	5.30	2.90
14 Davao Region (XI)	1.50	3.10	5.60	2.50
15 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	2.40	2.00	6.20	2.80
16 Caraga	1.30	1.90	4.20	1.80
17 ARMM	1.80	3.40	7.10	2.60

Source: PSA

Inflation. Average annual inflation rates in all regions slowed markedly in 2019 compared to the previous year. Of the 17 regions, 10 posted notable year-on-year deceleration in inflation rates ranging from -5.2 ppts to -3.1 ppts. Amid the

broad deceleration, inflation rates in thirteen (13) regions managed to remain well within the national government's inflation target range of 3.0 percent \pm 1.0 percentage point for 2019. The four (4) regions which breached the bottom end of the government's inflation target range were the Caraga Region (1.8 percent), Central Visayas (1.6 percent), Eastern Visayas (1.5 percent), and Zamboanga Peninsula (1 percent). The generally low inflation rates recorded by most regions in 2019 was mainly attributed to the slower annual mark-up of inflation rates of most commodity items during the year. This included food and non-alcoholic beverages, alcoholic beverages and tobacco, utilities, transport, and restaurant and miscellaneous goods and services.

The average annual inflation rates recorded in the 17 regions ranged from a low of 1.0 percent (Zamboanga Peninsula) to a high of 3.9 percent (MIMAROPA). The 2019 inflation rate recorded by the Zamboanga Peninsula of 1.0 percent in 2019, which was 5.2 ppts lower than the 6.2 percent inflation rate posted by the region in 2018, was considered the lowest since 2016. The low average inflation rate recorded in the Zamboanga Peninsula region was attributed to the broad-based slowdown in inflation rates of major CPI items such as food and non-alcoholic beverages (1.0 in 2019 from 7.7 percent in 2018), alcoholic beverages and tobacco (6.4 percent from 24.2 percent), health (2.3 percent from 19.0 percent), utilities (0.4 percent from 4.3 percent), and transport (0.1 percent from 5.1 percent). Meanwhile the high inflation mark-up in MIMAROPA was on the back of the higher inflation posted by utilities (5.4 percent in 2019 from 2.3 percent in 2018), alcoholic beverages and tobacco (29.3 percent from 17.4 percent), furnishing and other household maintenance

items (5.4 percent from 2.2 percent), and restaurant and miscellaneous goods and services (6.3 percent from 1.5 percent).

External Sector

Approved Foreign Investments

Approved foreign investments expand further

Approved foreign investments. As reported by investment promotion agencies (IPAs), approved foreign investments (FIs) in the country expanded further by 112.8 percent in 2019, after registering a robust growth of 73.4 percent in 2018. Seven (7) regions (out of 17) as well as some multi-regional locations experienced increases in approved FIs.⁷

Several regions posted notable growth in FIs in 2019 namely, SOCCSKSARGEN (163.5 percent), CALABARZON (156.4 percent), Western Visayas (81.5 percent), Davao Region (43 percent), ARMM (30.5 percent) and Central Luzon (12 percent), while Eastern Visayas posted new pledges during the review period from a pause (i.e., zero approved FIs) in 2018. On the other hand, big declines in approved FIs were observed in Ilocos Region, Zamboanga Peninsula and Caraga (each by 100 percent); Northern Mindanao (96 percent); CAR (90.1 percent); MIMAROPA (88.3 percent); Bicol Region (68 percent); Cagayan Valley (48.8 percent); NCR (36.4 percent) and Central Visayas (23.1 percent).

In terms of share to total approved FIs, top location regions in 2019 (sans "several locations")

⁷ Approved foreign investments (FIs) represent investment commitments and pledges by foreigners regardless of the percentage of ownership of the ordinary shares, which may be realized in the near future, while foreign direct investments (FDI) refer to actual foreign investments generated, with the foreign

investors owning 10 percent or more of the ordinary shares. [Source: PSA. (2018). Foreign investments: fourth quarter 2017, In The Foreign Investments in the Philippines, 22 February 2018, Quezon City, Philippines.]

were CALABARZON (27.8 percent), Central Luzon (7.4 percent), NCR (6.1 percent), and Central Visayas and Northern Mindanao (0.7 percent each). More than half of the total pledges are seen to be invested on projects that would be spread across different regions in the country (i.e., “several locations”) mostly to finance telecommunication projects with nationwide rollouts.⁸ The increase in approved FIs in CALABARZON in 2019 is attributed by the NEDA-CALABARZON to the region’s “provision of an enabling environment through the presence of appropriate infrastructures, ease of doing business, and competitive human capital.”⁹

Approved Investments of Foreign and Filipino Nationals

Approved investments of foreign and Filipino nationals. The combined approved foreign and Filipino nationals’ investments in the country grew by 20.7 percent in 2019, following a strong performance in 2018 of 19.3 percent. Nine (9) regions (out of 17) and “several locations” experienced increases in aggregated approved investments. Positive year-on-year performances were led by CAR (>1,000 percent) due to a 250-megawatt hydropower project, Eastern Visayas (119.3 percent), Bicol Region (111.3 percent), CALABARZON (91.4 percent),

Table 12. Approved Foreign Investments

Levels in million pesos, shares and growth rates in percent to total

REGION	2017	2018	2019	Growth Rate			Share to total		
				2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
PHILIPPINES	105,745.5	183,347.3	390,110.1	-51.7	73.4	112.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 NCR	17,404.6	37,467.2	23,831.5	-53.7	115.3	-36.4	16.5	20.4	6.1
2 CAR	143.7	396.1	39.0	-99.4	175.6	-90.1	0.1	0.2	0.0
3 Ilocos Region (I)	10,131.7	176.0	0.0	66.7	-98.3	-100.0	9.6	0.1	0.0
4 Cagayan Valley (II)	82.5	1,322.7	677.7	-96.2	1,502.6	-48.8	0.1	0.7	0.2
5 Central Luzon (III)	10,623.7	25,666.6	28,754.4	-22.5	141.6	12.0	10.0	14.0	7.4
6 CALABARZON (IV-A)	48,352.0	42,331.8	108,532.3	-48.7	-12.5	156.4	45.8	23.1	27.8
7 MIMAROPA (IV-B)	955.1	1,000.2	116.6	-24.9	4.7	-88.3	0.9	0.5	0.0
8 Bicol Region (V)	240.3	878.8	281.2	--	265.7	-68.0	0.2	0.5	0.1
9 Western Visayas (VI)	6,849.8	873.5	1,585.7	-25.9	-87.2	81.5	6.5	0.5	0.4
10 Central Visayas (VII)	6,102.9	3,728.2	2,868.6	-55.2	-38.9	-23.1	5.8	2.0	0.7
11 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	141.3	0.0	24.2	5,380.8	-100.0	--	0.1	0.0	0.0
12 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	0.0	308.9	0.0	-100.0	--	-100.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
13 Northern Mindanao (X)	2,081.8	64,605.3	2,606.3	36.9	3,003.4	-96.0	2.0	35.2	0.7
14 Davao Region (XI)	687.8	1,274.7	1,823.1	-46.5	85.3	43.0	0.7	0.7	0.5
15 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	657.2	106.3	280.1	-94.0	-83.8	163.5	0.6	0.1	0.1
16 Caraga	409.1	26.4	0.0	-70.7	-93.5	-100.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
17 ARMM	724.7	235.1	306.9	-30.3	-67.6	30.5	0.7	0.1	0.1
Several Locations ¹	157.3	2,000.6	218,382.4	--	1,171.8	10,815.8	0.1	1.1	56.0
No Site Yet ²	0.0	949.0	0.0	--	--	-100.0	0.0	0.5	0.0

Coverage of reports: Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), Board of Investments (BOI), BOI-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BOI-ARMM), Clark Development Corporation (CDC), Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

¹ Locations not indicated in the raw data submitted to PSA.

² As indicated in the raw data submitted to PSA.

-- infinite growth rate

Source: PSA

⁸ Source: PSA. (2020). Foreign Investments – Fourth quarter 2019.

⁹ Source: As cited in BSP. (2020). 2019 Regional Economic Developments in Region IV-A (CALABARZON).

ARMM (84.3 percent), Cagayan Valley (56.8 percent), MIMAROPA (55.6 percent), SOCCSKSARGEN (54.5 percent) and Ilocos Region (7.9 percent).¹⁰

(81.3 percent), NCR (64.9 percent), Davao Region (63.3 percent), Central Visayas (57.8 percent), Western Visayas (46.1 percent) and Central Luzon (44.1 percent).

Combined approved foreign and Filipino investments likewise grow

Meanwhile, notable declines were observed in Caraga (94.6 percent), Northern Mindanao (93.1 percent), Zamboanga Peninsula

In terms of share to total foreign and Filipino approved investments, top location regions in 2019 were in multi-regional locations (39.6 percent), CALABARZON (33.4 percent), Central Luzon (9.2 percent), NCR (5 percent) and CAR (2.6 percent).

Table 13. Approved Foreign and Filipino Investments

Levels in million pesos, shares and growth rates in percent

REGION	2017	2018	2019	Growth rate			Share to total		
				2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
PHILIPPINES	908,744.7	1,084,152.4	1,309,099.4	32.5	19.3	20.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 NCR	128,173.9	188,565.6	66,095.6	-19.4	47.1	-64.9	14.1	17.4	5.0
2 CAR	2,440.8	990.2	33,479.0	-95.7	-59.4	3,280.9	0.3	0.1	2.6
3 Ilocos Region (I)	61,920.9	13,599.0	14,674.7	256.1	-78.0	7.9	6.8	1.3	1.1
4 Cagayan Valley (II)	14,288.2	10,183.9	15,970.1	163.6	-28.7	56.8	1.6	0.9	1.2
5 Central Luzon (III)	181,282.4	215,876.6	120,668.4	101.7	19.1	-44.1	19.9	19.9	9.2
6 CALABARZON (IV-A)	374,748.6	228,452.9	437,167.2	106.3	-39.0	91.4	41.2	21.1	33.4
7 MIMAROPA (IV-B)	3,803.1	3,551.9	5,527.2	-33.3	-6.6	55.6	0.4	0.3	0.4
8 Bicol Region (V)	5,510.9	4,214.0	8,905.6	23.1	-23.5	111.3	0.6	0.4	0.7
9 Western Visayas (VI)	26,738.0	14,748.9	7,942.7	-35.1	-44.8	-46.1	2.9	1.4	0.6
10 Central Visayas (VII)	44,874.1	67,054.3	28,268.6	-12.1	49.4	-57.8	4.9	6.2	2.2
11 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	753.7	6,381.6	13,993.9	-9.2	746.8	119.3	0.1	0.6	1.1
12 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	-	1,689.4	315.7	-100.0	--	-81.3	0.0	0.2	0.0
13 Northern Mindanao (X)	12,633.1	230,695.2	15,859.3	-18.0	1,726.1	-93.1	1.4	21.3	1.2
14 Davao Region (XI)	13,416.2	20,344.2	7,468.9	-52.1	51.6	-63.3	1.5	1.9	0.6
15 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	30,246.7	4,412.7	6,818.5	27.9	-85.4	54.5	3.3	0.4	0.5
16 Caraga	4,286.6	58,248.0	3,130.2	117.1	1,258.8	-94.6	0.5	5.4	0.2
17 ARMM	3,234.5	2,254.6	4,154.6	53.2	-30.3	84.3	0.4	0.2	0.3
Several Locations ¹	393.3	11,940.5	518,659.4	--	2,936.2	4,243.7	0.0	1.1	39.6
No Site Yet ²	-	949.0	-	0.0	--	-100.0	0.0	0.1	0.0

Coverage of reports: Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), Board of Investments (BOI), BOI-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BOI-ARMM), Clark Development Corporation (CDC), Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

¹ Locations not indicated in the raw data submitted to PSA.

² As indicated in the raw data submitted to PSA.

-- infinite growth rate

Source: PSA

¹⁰ Source: BOI. (2019). BOI-approved investments breach historic P1T mark as of October. Available:

<http://boi.gov.ph/boi-approved-investments-breach-historic-p1t-mark-as-of-october/>

Financial Sector

Banking and Microfinance

Banking. Deposit liabilities, which are the primary funding source of the banking system, stayed ample as it reached ₱13.6 trillion in 2019. This was an increase of 6.9 percent from ₱12.7 trillion in the previous year. The NCR had the lion's share at ₱8.9 trillion (65.3 percent of total), followed by CALABARZON (7.3 percent), Central Luzon (5.6 percent), and Central Visayas (5.4 percent). Most regions registered double-digit growth rates

from the past year, led by the Bicol region (17.5 percent), Caraga (16.4 percent), and Central Visayas (15.9 percent).

Deposit liabilities remain ample

Credit allocation remained prudent as loans-to-deposits ratio (LDR) eased slightly to 70.9 percent in 2019 from 72.5 percent in the past year. Most regions registered declines as well, led by Central Luzon (-4.7 percentage points), Davao Region (-3.2 ppts) and Central Visayas (-2.8 ppts).

Table 14. Deposit Liabilities

Levels in million pesos, shares and growth rates in percent

REGION	2017	2018	2019	Growth rate			Share to total		
				2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
PHILIPPINES	11,704,683	12,739,315	13,621,615	11.6	8.8	6.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 NCR	7,879,151	8,542,714	8,898,738	11.5	8.4	4.2	67.3	67.1	65.3
2 CAR	110,175	118,525	134,439	14.3	7.6	13.4	0.9	0.9	1.0
3 Ilocos Region (I)	204,110	235,642	258,835	10.1	15.4	9.8	1.7	1.8	1.9
4 Cagayan Valley (II)	128,293	143,841	156,450	12.5	12.1	8.8	1.1	1.1	1.1
5 Central Luzon (III)	601,811	668,286	762,341	14.1	11.0	14.1	5.1	5.2	5.6
6 CALABARZON (IV-A)	812,384	887,764	988,975	11.1	9.3	11.4	6.9	7.0	7.3
7 MIMAROPA (IV-B)	80,335	91,848	97,838	23.5	14.3	6.5	0.7	0.7	0.7
8 Bicol Region (V)	140,314	154,653	181,742	12.6	10.2	17.5	1.2	1.2	1.3
9 Western Visayas (VI)	319,543	345,152	384,706	90.4	8.0	11.5	2.7	2.7	2.8
10 Central Visayas (VII) ^{1/}	582,732	631,506	732,044	15.3	8.4	15.9	5.0	5.0	5.4
11 Eastern Visayas (VIII) ^{1/}	109,184	119,221	133,150	15.7	9.2	11.7	0.9	0.9	1.0
12 Negros Island Region ^{2/}	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	107,690	117,438	130,462	12.3	9.1	11.1	0.9	0.9	1.0
14 Northern Mindanao (X)	172,437	185,970	207,514	12.8	7.8	11.6	1.5	1.5	1.5
15 Davao Region (XI)	240,357	265,607	299,680	11.9	10.5	12.8	2.1	2.1	2.2
16 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	124,496	132,415	141,417	15.2	6.4	6.8	1.1	1.0	1.0
17 Caraga	78,591	84,046	97,849	13.5	6.9	16.4	0.7	0.7	0.7
18 ARMM	13,079	14,687	15,434	30.6	12.3	5.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

1/ Revocation of EO No. 183 which created the Negros Island Region and transferring Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental to Region VI (Western Visayas) and Region VII (Central Visayas) respectively, per Executive Order No. 38, s. 2017 effective 07 August 2017

2/ Negros Island Region (NIR) created under Executive Order No. 183 dated 29 May 2015, composed of the provinces of Negros Occidental (formerly from Region VI Western Visayas) and Negros Oriental (formerly from Region VII Central Visayas)

Source: DSA-FSS-BSP

The only region with a higher LDR than the nationwide value was NCR (90.6 percent), which reflected flourishing credit activity in the country's economic center. Other regions with high LDR were SOCCSKSARGEN (62.2 percent) and Davao Region (49.9 percent).

LDR ratios ease slightly

On bank density, or the ratio of the number of bank offices to the total number of cities and municipalities, there was a slight improvement to

7.9 percent in 2019 from 7.5 percent in 2018. The NCR, which had the heaviest concentration of banks (225.1 percent), registered the highest increment from the previous year (5.1 pts). Other regions with high bank densities were business and investment hubs such as CALABARZON (13.2 percent), Central Luzon (10.3 percent), Davao Region (10.1 percent), and Central Visayas (6.8 percent). All regions, except for ARMM, registered increases in bank densities which indicated that more banks were able to provide coverage and access to financial consumers.

Table 15. Loans-to-Deposits Ratio

In percent

	REGION	2017	2018	2019
	PHILIPPINES	70.57	72.46	70.88
1	NCR	88.99	90.68	90.64
2	CAR	13.73	16.88	15.73
3	Ilocos Region (I)	24.50	24.15	23.68
4	Cagayan Valley (II)	43.38	45.76	44.05
5	Central Luzon (III)	33.26	36.19	31.45
6	CALABARZON (IV-A)	23.45	26.60	24.93
7	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	33.15	35.11	33.42
8	Bicol Region (V)	33.18	34.69	32.01
9	Western Visayas (VI) ^{1/}	30.77	31.90	30.49
10	Central Visayas (VII) ^{1/}	45.58	46.25	43.45
11	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	26.69	28.05	30.13
12	Negros Island Region ^{2/}	-	-	-
13	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	25.34	25.88	27.26
14	Northern Mindanao (X)	33.30	36.18	36.24
15	Davao Region (XI)	40.80	53.14	49.94
16	SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	49.35	53.63	62.20
17	Caraga	32.11	36.44	35.47
18	ARMM	13.87	11.85	12.22

1/ Revocation of EO No. 183 which created the Negros Island Region and transferring Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental to Region VI (Western Visayas) and Region VII (Central Visayas) respectively, per Executive Order No. 38, s. 2017 effective 07 August 2017

2/ Negros Island Region (NIR) created under Executive Order No. 183 dated 29 May 2015, composed of the provinces of Negros Occidental (formerly from Region VI Western Visayas) and Negros Oriental (formerly from Region VII Central Visayas)

Details may not add up to totals due to rounding-off

Source: DSA-FSS-BSP

Table 16. Bank Density Ratio

In percent

	REGION	2017	2018	2019
	PHILIPPINES	7.19	7.54	7.85
1	NCR	214.60	219.94	225.06
2	CAR	2.30	2.42	2.56
3	Ilocos Region (I)	4.70	4.97	5.20
4	Cagayan Valley (II)	4.20	4.60	5.00
5	Central Luzon (III) ^{2/}	9.30	9.89	10.32
6	CALABARZON (IV-A) ^{3/}	12.20	12.85	13.18
7	MIMAROPA (IV-B) ^{3/}	3.80	4.00	4.14
8	Bicol Region (V)	4.10	4.38	4.67
9	Western Visayas (VI) ^{3/}	5.20	5.29	5.53
10	Central Visayas (VII)	6.00	6.48	6.80
11	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	1.60	1.81	2.00
12	Negros Island Region ^{4/}	-	-	-
13	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	3.10	3.31	3.63
14	Northern Mindanao (X)	4.30	4.40	4.62
15	Davao Region (XI)	9.10	9.59	10.06
16	SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	5.00	5.50	5.86
17	Caraga	2.90	2.96	3.04
18	ARMM	0.20	0.16	0.15

^{1/} Ratio of the Number of Banking Offices to the Number of Municipalities and Cities Per Region

^{2/} Inclusive of the province of Aurora effective May 17, 2002 as provided under Executive Order No. 103

^{3/} Executive Order No. 103 dated May 17, 2002 divided Region IV (Southern Tagalog) into Region IV-A (CALABARZON) and Region IV-B (MIMAROPA). Under Administrative Order No. 129 Palawan was reclassified from Region VI to MIMAROPA effective August 31, 2007.

^{4/} Negros Island Region (NIR) created under Executive Order No.

Source: DSA-FSS-BSP

In terms of the whole banking system, the NCR hosted the most number of bank offices (30.5 percent), followed by CALABARZON (14.5 percent), and Central Luzon (10.3 percent). The same trend was observed for Universal and Commercial banks (NCR: 45.9 percent; CALABARZON: 11.4 percent; and Central Luzon: 8.7 percent). Meanwhile, majority of thrift banks were found in CALABARZON (20.7 percent), NCR (20.1 percent), and Central Luzon (12.4 percent). Most rural and cooperative banks were spread across CALABARZON (16.2), Central Luzon (12.3 percent), Bicol Region (8.5 percent), Central Visayas (8.2 percent), Western Visayas (7.7 percent), and Ilocos Region (7.4 percent).

Bank density improves

Microfinance. The number of microfinance-oriented banks (MOBs) nationwide increased to 2,405 in 2019 from 2,022 in the previous year. The regions with the most number of MOBs were CALABARZON (467 or 19.4 percent of total), Bicol Region (226 or 9.4 percent), Central Luzon (220 or 9.1 percent), Central Visayas (201 or 8.4 percent), and Western Visayas (197 or 8.2 percent). All regions, except for Caraga and ARMM, registered double-digit growth rates, led by Zamboanga Peninsula (53.5 percent), Cagayan Valley (39.8 percent), and Eastern Visayas (28.9 percent).

Table 17. Number of Microfinance-Oriented Banks
Shares and growth rates in percent

REGION	2017	2018	2019	Growth rate			Share to total		
				2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
PHILIPPINES	1,765	2,022	2,405	18.1	14.6	18.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 NCR	130	129	151	0.8	-0.8	17.1	7.4	6.4	6.3
2 CAR	34	39	47	30.8	14.7	20.5	1.9	1.9	2.0
3 Ilocos Region (I)	129	159	179	59.3	23.3	12.6	7.3	7.9	7.4
4 Cagayan Valley (II)	59	83	116	34.1	40.7	39.8	3.3	4.1	4.8
5 Central Luzon (III)	149	177	220	30.7	18.8	24.3	8.4	8.8	9.1
6 CALABARZON (IV-A)	364	419	467	13.8	15.1	11.5	20.6	20.7	19.4
7 MIMAROPA (IV-B)	103	107	119	2.0	3.9	11.2	5.8	5.3	4.9
8 Bicol Region (V)	170	192	226	14.9	12.9	17.7	9.6	9.5	9.4
9 Western Visayas (VI) ^{2/}	147	166	197	31.3	12.9	18.7	8.3	8.2	8.2
10 Central Visayas (VII) ^{2/}	120	165	201	106.9	37.5	21.8	6.8	8.2	8.4
11 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	60	76	98	22.4	26.7	28.9	3.4	3.8	4.1
12 Negros Island Region *	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	39	43	66	5.4	10.3	53.5	2.2	2.1	2.7
14 Northern Mindanao (X)	74	78	94	4.2	5.4	20.5	4.2	3.9	3.9
15 Davao Region (XI)	86	88	110	11.7	2.3	25.0	4.9	4.4	4.6
16 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	37	48	58	32.1	29.7	20.8	2.1	2.4	2.4
17 Caraga	62	52	55	0.0	-16.1	5.8	3.5	2.6	2.3
18 ARMM	2	1	1	0.0	-50.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0

* Revocation of EO No. 183 which created the Negros Island Region and transferring Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental to Region VI (Western Visayas) and Region VII (Central Visayas) respectively, per Executive Order No. 38, s. 2017 effective 07 August 2017

¹ Per Section X151 of the Manual of Regulation for Banks (MORB); Circular Letter No. CL-2017-987
Source: DSA-FSS-BSP

Updated as of 7 May 2020

Microfinance network expands

The expanded network of MOBs translated to more loans released and more clients served. Outstanding microfinance loans reached ₱27.3 billion in 2019, an increase of 20.7 percent from ₱22.6 billion in 2018. Most of these went to CALABARZON (₱18.9 billion or 69.1 percent of total) and NCR (₱4.3 billion or 15.9 percent). Outstanding loans grew for about half of the regions, led by NCR (79.8 percent), SOCCSKSARGEN (44.1 percent), and Bicol Region (42.0 percent). The other half where lending declined was led by Central Luzon (-37.5 percent), Cagayan Valley (-26.5 percent), and CAR (24.6 percent).

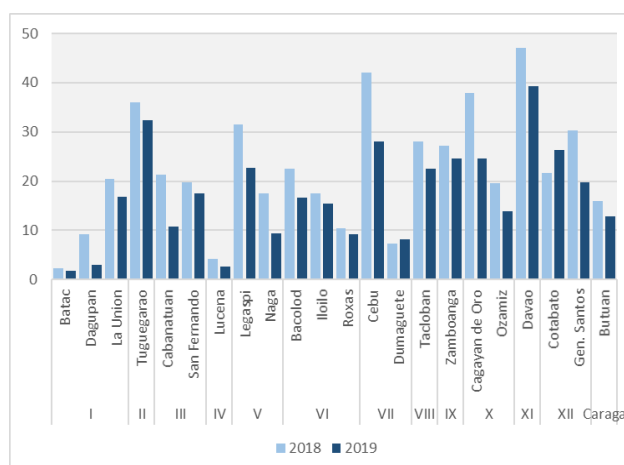
The number of microfinance borrowers likewise increased to 2.4 million in 2019, up by 21.3 percent from 2.0 million in 2018. The majority of them were concentrated in CALABARZON (1.9 million or 80.5 percent of total). Microfinance clients grew in some regions, particularly Central Visayas (72.9 percent) and NCR (65.5 percent), but declined for others such as Eastern Visayas (-49.6 percent) and Central Luzon (-22.0 percent).

The improvement in overall microfinance indicators coincided with the passage in 2019 of Republic Act No. 11211 or the amendments to the BSP's Charter, where financial inclusion officially became a mandate, aside from being a strategic advocacy, of the central bank.

BSP Regional Offices and Branches' Operations

Cash Distribution to BSP Regional Offices and Branches (ROBs). Total currency shipments to BSP ROBs declined by 22.8 percent to ₱378 billion in 2019 from ₱489 billion in 2018, as almost all regions received less currency shipments for the year.¹¹ The reduction in the shipments of currencies was generally due to the decrease in the number of retired unfit notes in view of the implementation of the rationalization of banknote fitness level (BFL) by the BSP Currency Management Sector in mid-2019. In addition, non-availability of certain denominations, cancelled flights and shipments of cargoes also contributed to the drop in the currency shipments for the period. Increases in deposits, coupled with less withdrawals, resulted in lower demand for currencies in some regions.

Chart 9. Currency Shipments
In billion pesos, by region and BSP ROBs



¹¹ Excludes Lucena, Cebu, and Dumaguete.

The Cotabato branch recorded a 21.2 percent increase in currency shipment to ₱26 billion in 2019 as investments and funding from the National Government and other development institutions arose following the establishment of ARMM.

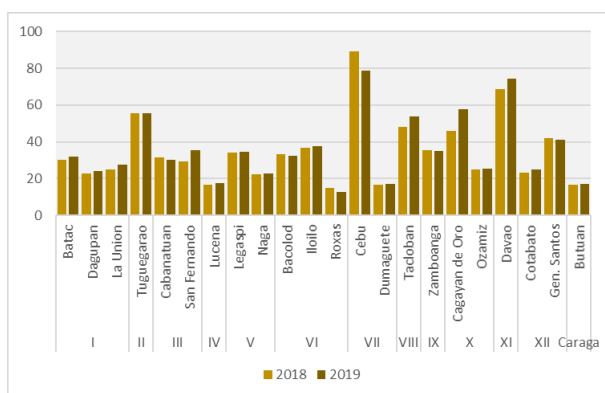
Davao and Cagayan de Oro ROBs historically received the largest share in currency shipments to support the expansion of regional economic activities in their respective jurisdiction. The Davao ROB received 10.4 percent (₱39 billion) while Cagayan de Oro received 6.5 percent (₱25 billion) of the total currency shipments for the year.

Currency Withdrawals by banks from BSP ROBs.

Total currency withdrawals by banks from BSP ROBs increased steadily by two-digit growth rates from 2015 to 2018. However, currency withdrawals decelerated to 3.2 percent in 2019 from the 20.9 percent growth in 2018.¹² For the most part, the implementation of the BFL rationalization led to the slowdown in currency withdrawals in regions as banks addressed their excess liquidity and cash-in-vault limits to promote sufficient circulation of currency.

Chart 10. Currency Withdrawals

In billion pesos, by region and BSP ROBs



¹² Excludes Lucena.

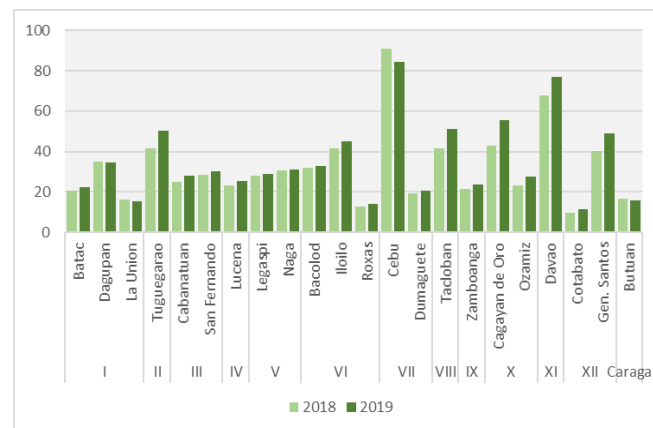
The constant increase in currency withdrawals, nevertheless, continued to support economic activities in the regions, such as the opening of more bank branches and ATMs, more government infrastructure and social projects, rise of tourism-related businesses, and increased private consumption. The 2019 mid-year elections likewise required more withdrawals for the year, in addition to improved economic activity.

Currency Deposits by banks to BSP ROBs.

Similar to currency withdrawals, total currency deposits by banks to BSP ROBs exhibited steady increase from 2015, albeit a slowdown in 2019 in most ROBs. Currency deposits increased by 9.7 percent to reach ₱775 billion in 2019. This was, however, lower than the 22.7 percent growth in 2018, generally due to the rationalization of BFL where

Chart 11. Currency Deposits

In billion pesos, by region and BSP ROBs



the BSP reduced the fitness level of fit notes to meet growing demand.

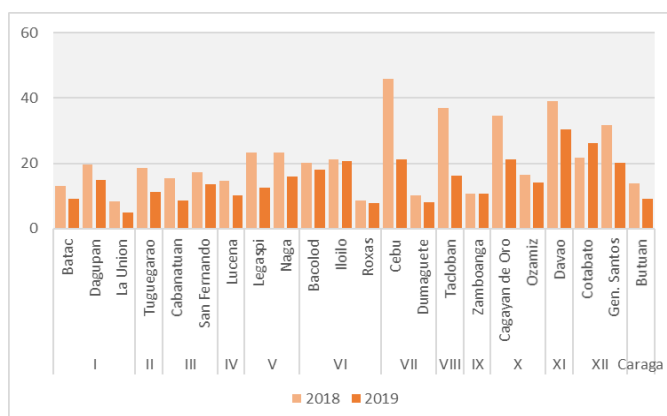
The sustained growth in currency deposits for 2019 can be attributed to the combined improvements in business, banking, and consumer activities across the regions. It is worth noting that in 2019, investments were realized by businesses in investment promotion areas overseen by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Clark

Development Corporation (CDC), and Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), resulting in expanded business and economic activities.

Currency Retirement by BSP ROBs. The total amount of currency retired by the BSP ROBs declined significantly to ₱325 billion in 2019, a 30 percent drop from the 2018 level of ₱464 billion, as client banks conform to the BFL rationalization, which resulted in more notes being re-circulated rather than retired.² The installation of the new Automated Banknote Processing Machine (ABPM) also reduced the volume of unfit notes for manual verification.

Chart 12. Currency Retirement by Banks

In billion pesos, by region and BSP ROBs



CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

Opportunities

- Proposed establishment of the Abra Agri-Tourism Center in Tayum, a 34-hectare agricultural and tourism techno-demonstration and learning site for recreational and production purposes, which will include farm machinery training and service center, solar-powered irrigation facilities, processing center and farmers' training center.
- Provision of assistance package to the Provinces of Kalinga and Ifugao under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) of the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL), which consisted of certified high yield rice seeds and farm machineries.
- Implementation by the Kalinga Irrigation Management Office (KIMO) of around ₱153 million worth of projects in 2020, including the continuing repair of the Upper Chico River Irrigation System (UCRIS), which will boost the production of farmers as it ensures at least two cropping seasons.
- Improvement of Poblacion-Bantay farm-to-market road (FMR) in Paracelis, Mt. Province, which was funded by the World Bank (80 percent), the National Government through the Department of Agriculture (DA, 10 percent), and the provincial government (10 percent).
- Completion of Phase I of the Laya West Communal Irrigation Project (CIP) in Tabuk City, Kalinga, which is now serving 45 hectares of rice production area benefitting 55 farmers, and the implementation of Phase II in 2020.
- Endorsement of two proposed mega projects by the province of Kalinga: (1) the 17-megawatt Upper Tabuk Hydropower Project (UTHPP) at barangay Dupag, which aims to provide better quality and cheaper electricity; and (2) the ₱640-million Bulanao Public Market and Commercial Center project.
- Planned rehabilitation for Baguio City's areas needing immediate strategic actions: environment, traffic and transport, water supply, tourist destinations and geo-hazard areas.
- Rehabilitation of the Banaue Hotel and Youth Hostel in Ifugao in line with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority's (TIEZA) mandate to ensure sustainable tourism infrastructure development.
- Opening of a digital fabrication laboratory (FabLab), a site for digital design, 3D printing, laser cutting and other advanced technological means, at Saint Louis University (SLU) School of Engineering and Architecture in Baguio City in October 2019, to cater to micro-small-medium enterprises (MSME) and engineering and related sciences students in the region and other academic institutions in Northern Luzon.
- Proposed slope protection of Kennon Road by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) – Cordillera, amounting to more than ₱3.0 billion.
- Approval by the LGU of Ifugao in June 2019 of the framework agreement for the proposed SN Aboitiz Power (SNAP) Group's Alimit Hydropower, Ifugao's first large-scale hydropower facility.

Opportunities

- Implementation of 72 livelihood enhancement support subprojects in Kalinga Province, under the foreign-funded Integrated Natural Resources and Environment Management Project (INREMP) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which include production, post-harvest equipment and infrastructure to increase income of households and enhance biodiversity protection.
- Opening of the Cordillera Soil, Plant and Water Laboratory in July 2019 at the Benguet State University (BSU) to provide quality services for soil, water and plant analyses, and science and technology interventions to support agricultural productivity relative to the improvement of soil health and water availability in the region.
- Recognition of the Kiangnan-Tinoc-Buguias Road in Tinoc, Ifugao as the “highest point” of the Philippine Highway System with an elevation of 7,968.07 feet above sea level (2,428.66 m), which is expected to boost tourism in the municipality.
- Provision of solar-powered irrigation systems (SPIS) by the DA to four municipalities in Abra namely La Paz, Danglas, Tayum and Bucay.
- Launch of a smart farming technology in March 2019 by the DA, in partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Korea Agency of Education Promotion and Information Service (EPIS), that will enhance the productivity and production of high quality tomatoes.

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

Challenges

- Delay in the completion of the Wagod-Ammacian-Taggay Communal Irrigation Project (WATA-CIP) in Pinukpuk, Kalinga.
- Declaration of “state of calamity” in the Province of Apayao in November 2019 due to heavy rains that caused massive flooding and landslides, with initial agricultural damage reported to be more than ₱43 million.
- Lower farmgate prices of *palay* and the impact of the African Swine Fever (ASF) which caused decline in the sales of pork meat and other pork products.
- Need for stronger collaboration among regional line agencies to support LGUs in intensifying fire prevention advocacy campaigns given the alarming number of forest fire incidents in the region.
- Continued illegal small-scale mining operations in the region.
- Heavy traffic and other transportation issues that have affected Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay (BLISTT) area, such as the increasing number of private vehicles during weekends and holidays, longer commuting time, inadequate parking facilities, and the need for more diversion routes.
- Possible permanent closure of Kennon Road, which could adversely affect economic activities in the area as well as the riding public due to the absence of regular transportation services plying the route and the regulation of private and public utility vehicles passing through.
- Suspension of all tourism activities in Bauko, Mountain Province due to insurgency problems in the municipality.
- Delays in three road projects in Apayao due mainly to inclement weather and right-of-way concerns.

ILOCOS REGION

Opportunities

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of various assistance in Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur to improve agricultural production and productivity, such as grant of farm machineries to agrarian reform beneficiary organizations, financial assistance to farmers, and construction of flood control structure. • Approval of proposed sub-projects to be implemented under the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP), namely: 1) construction of Pideg Bridge with approaches in Tubao, La Union; 2) construction of storage facilities with solar dryer (Damortis and Bungol Stations) in Sto. Tomas and Balaoan, La Union, respectively; and 3) construction of Sevilla warehouse in the City of San Fernando, La Union. • Opening of the Farmers Multi-Purpose Center in Barangay Poblacion West, Pugo, La Union and Bacnotan Farmers Agri-Tourism Center in Baroro, Bacnotan, La Union. • Rehabilitation of the Rice Processing Complex (RPC) in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan, which allows farmers to lower post-harvest losses, enhance the quality of milled rice and improve the distribution system. • Receipt of shallow tube wells by farmers and irrigators associations and cooperatives from 31 municipalities in Pangasinan, which are expected to irrigate some 100 hectares of farmlands during the dry season. • Distribution of farm machineries to around 126 farmer groups and beneficiaries worth ₱621 million. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of improvement works by the Ilocos Norte Tourism Office in the Province’s heritage sites, historic landscapes, and premier tourist destinations. • Groundbreaking ceremonies for various infrastructure projects in Ilocos Norte: 1) construction of the Provincial Capitol expansion building; 2) reconstruction of the Dap-ayan Food Park; and 3) rehabilitation of the Ferdinand E. Marcos Memorial Stadium. • Launch of the new two-lane Centennial Bongo Bridge along Ilocos Norte-Abra Road. • Construction and improvement of a 1-km road along Cervantes-Sigay Ilocos Sur, opening of the 54-km Daang Kalikasan Road connecting Pangasinan and Zambales, and ongoing rehabilitation of the 22.3-km Pangasinan segment of the Pangasinan-Nueva Ecija road. • Groundbreaking ceremony of a new brewery of San Miguel Corporation (SMC) in San Fabian, Pangasinan, which is expected to initially employ more than 700 workers, with an increase to 2,000-3,000 workers when its agro-industrial commercial and tourism complex becomes operational. • Construction of a 100-room 5-star hotel in Alaminos, Pangasinan, home of the Hundred Islands, which is expected to be completed during the first semester of 2020. • Construction of the Limahong Channel Tourist Center (phase 1). |
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ILOCOS REGION

Challenges

- ASF in 14 towns and 3 cities in Pangasinan province, seven of which have declared a state of calamity due to the virus' impact.
- Typhoon Ineng in Ilocos Norte, which caused a total of ₱231.6 million worth of infrastructural and agricultural damage.
- Need for upgrade/improvement of the Lingayen Airport, specifically the extension of its runway by 300 meters to accommodate 70-seater commercial planes.

CAGAYAN VALLEY

Opportunities

- Completion of the following major infrastructure projects, which will improve road network connectivity, productivity and marketability of local goods and services in the region:
 - Flood Risk Management Project (FRMP)
 - Participatory Irrigation Development Project (PIDP)
 - Pasa Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP)
 - Pigalo Mega Bridge in Isabela, Cabbo Bridge, Uru Bridge, and Panifuan Bridge in Cagayan, and San Antonio Bridge in Batanes
 - Aritao-Carranglan alternate route
 - Pamplona bypass road project
- Various programs to address the need and trend towards information and communications technology (ICT) products and services:
 - Launch of Tech4Ed Centers to provide the unserved and underserved communities with access to digital opportunities
 - Digitaljobs PH Program, which aims to provide online freelance livelihood training for people in the region
 - GovNet, which aims to connect government agencies and enable faster communication, better coordination, and easier access to online services for government agencies
 - Free Wifi Internet Access in Public Places Project, which was programmed for 668 sites in the region
- Ongoing construction projects and projects scheduled for implementation:
 - Construction of the Dalton Pass East Alternate Highway in the Luzon Eastern Seaboard Master Plan
 - Preparation of the feasibility study of the Northeastern Luzon Expressway (NELEX)
 - Cagayan River Alternate Bridges
 - Nueva Vizcaya Road Development Projects
 - Pre-feasibility study/business case on the Cagayan River Railway System
 - China Chico River Pump Irrigation Project (CRPIP)
 - Quirino Integrated Development Project Phase II
 - Nassiping Pump Irrigation Project
 - Dibuluan River Irrigation Project
 - Tumauni River Multi-Purpose Project

Region II

CAGAYAN VALLEY

Challenges

- Possible below normal rainfall conditions until April 2020 and near normal rainfall conditions are projected in most parts of the region from March to July due to El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral condition, which is expected to persist until the end of August 2020. This would require preventive and mitigating measures to lessen possible production damage and avoid food supply disruptions.

Opportunities

- Expected completion of the Clark International Airport New Terminal Building in Pampanga by June 2020, which is designed to accommodate eight million passengers per annum.
- Grant of agri-starter kits to 20 Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and farmer-beneficiaries of the "Responsableng Katutubo at Kabataan Tungo sa Maunlad na Pamayanan (RKKTMP) program in Pampanga, which is part of the after-training support program to the IPs to help them apply the knowledge and skills learned during various trainings.
- Turnover of the solar-powered irrigation system (SPIS) to the Caridad Norte and Sur Small Water Irrigation System Association in Llanera, Nueva Ecija. The project is aimed at improving the irrigation system and rice production in the upland rain-fed areas of Llanera.
- Conduct of training on financial literacy by the Agricultural Training Institute in Central Luzon (ATI-CL) for farmers and fisherfolks from various Central Luzon provinces.
- Establishment of a ₱200-million procurement fund by the Nueva Ecija provincial government, which will buy fresh palay from farmers to stabilize farm gate prices.
- Creation of the RCEF under the RTL, which is expected to benefit at least 35,000 farmers in Bulacan.
- Grant of zero interest loans to about 22,000 farmers in Central Luzon under the DA's Expanded Survival and Recovery
- Start of operation of the Malabon exit of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) Harbor Link C3-R10 in March 2020, which will provide an alternate route for motorists bound for the Port Area in Manila from NLEX.
- Near-completion (71 percent completed) of the Central Luzon Link Expressway (CLLEX) Phase 1, which is a 30-km four-lane express road from Tarlac City to Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, which will reduce travel time between Tarlac City and Cabanatuan City from 70 minutes to 20 minutes.
- Construction of a 2-storey dormitory in Bulacan by TESDA for would-be trainees from far-flung municipalities who cannot avail of skills training programs due to their distance.
- Grant of rights to New Clark City (NCC) in Tarlac to host the 11th Asian Swimming Championships (ASC) in November 2020. Also, the National Government Administrative Center (NGAC) inside NCC is envisioned to house satellite offices of various government offices while the NCC Food Processing Terminal and International Food Market is envisioned to be a "stock exchange" of fresh produce and processed products.
- Planned ₱3-billion township project of the Filinvest Land Inc. (FLI) in Capas, Tarlac, which is expected to generate a million jobs for Filipinos in Central Luzon and in the north.
- Launch of 15 "Business Offers for Investment" with estimated investment requirement of ₱11 billion by the Central Luzon Growth Corridor Foundation, Inc.

Opportunities

Assistance Program for Rice Farmers (SURE Aid).

- Approval of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan to the Philippines for the construction of the Malolos-Clark Railway, which will be co-financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The railway project will connect Manila, Bulacan and Clark and is expected to cut travel time between Manila and Clark to less than one hour from the current two to three hours.
- Upgrade of maritime facilities and tourism accommodations in Subic to sustain the momentum of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Cruise Program.

(CLGFI) through the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Region 3.

- Conduct of the “1st Farm Tourism Congress” in Nueva Ecija, which aims to help participants acquire knowledge and skills in Farm Tourism Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as in developing Farm Tour Packages.
- Ongoing construction of the MRT Line 7 Project, which will connect San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan to MRT 3 North Avenue in Quezon City.
- Planned Subic-Clark Railway Project, which will provide initial freight service between The Subic Bay Freeport Zone and the Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone, is expected to be completed by October 2022.

Region III CENTRAL LUZON

Challenges

- Effect of Typhoon Kammuri (Tisoy) to the country's agriculture industry, which economically displaced almost 21,000 farmers and destroyed about 47 hectares of farmland.
- Lower farm gate price of palay.
- ASF outbreaks in the region, which caused the decline in the region's hog output in 2019 by 12 percent to 417,748 metric tons (MT) from 472,552 MT in 2018.
- Magnitude 6.1 earthquake in Zambales and Pampanga and other close vicinities on 22 April 2019, which caused damage to the Clark airport, and to some buildings, roads, and bridges.

Region IV-A

CALABARZON

Opportunities

- Endorsement of the preparedness plan of DA Region IV-A to combat the negative effects of ASF, which includes mobilization of a Rapid Action Team, financing and compensation policy, and livestock insurance.
- Expected increase in government spending for rehabilitation and recovery of the areas affected by the Taal Volcano eruption.
- Better land use planning is also expected in the coming years as affected LGUs are preparing for their Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA) enhanced Comprehensive Land Use Plans.

Challenges

- Low employment in the agriculture sector due to aging farmers and increasing displacement risk of the unskilled and manual farm laborers.
- ASF in the region, which has affected 10,709 pigs in 49 Barangays.
- Impact of the Taal Volcano eruption on the production of coffee, corn, pineapple, and aquaculture fishing in the region, as well as economic losses and infrastructure damage.
- Closure of Honda Cars Philippines, Inc., which displaced 387 workers and resulted in loss of business for its suppliers and logistics providers.

Region IV-B

MIMAROPA

Opportunities

- Booming tourism industry as interest grows on diverse destinations in the region and the development of retirement villages in the island provinces.
- Provision of RCEF under the RTL will be used to directly support rice farmers and fund innovative undertakings that will further strengthen and modernize the rice industry and improve production efficiency in the region.
- Possible availment of fisherfolk associations/groups of financial assistance thru DA to engage in fish cage project, which will boost the dwindling milkfish production in the region.
- Split of Palawan into three independent provinces will allow for better management of the country's largest province (in terms of land area) and ensure that far-flung LGUs are reached by government services.
- Improvement in crime statistics signifying better peace and order situation in the region.

Region IV-B
MIMAROPA

Challenges

- Need for improvement in the response to natural calamities that affects the AFF industry.
- Limited export portfolio comprising of metals from mining in Palawan.

Opportunities

- Provision of irrigation facilities such as shallow tube wells and pump irrigation system for open source to the rice farmers to mitigate the impact of dry spells. For the corn program, 14 units of the open source pumping set were distributed to 14 farmer-groups in Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Masbate provinces.
- Creation of the Regional Task Force on Rice and Coconut to address the adverse effects on the income of rice and coconut farmers due to the low buying price of palay and coconut. The Regional Development Council (RDC) approved the Task Force's proposed action plan and will continue to monitor the implementation of activities in the plan and engage stakeholders to improve the welfare of the rice and coconut farmers.
- Public-private partnership (PPP) projects on palay procurement:
 - Albay – Establish rice milling and drying facilities to be operated by the Province.
 - Camarines Norte – the National Food Authority (NFA) and LGU Jose Panganiban established a municipal collection center where farmers can deliver their harvested palay.
 - Camarines Sur – Approval of ₱200 million loan for the procurement of palay. There is also a proposal to establish an integrated rice processing hub that utilizes modern technology to increase production, improve the quality of finished products and provide direct market for small farmers.
 - Sorsogon – Procurement of ₱1.5-million worth of fertilizer for distribution to farmer-beneficiaries while procurement of farm machineries is scheduled for post-qualification of bidders.
- Legalization of operation of small-scale miners and fast-tracking of processing of exploration permit applications for large-scale mining through the declaration of “Minahang Bayan” in Camarines Norte by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.
- Approval of the increase in the minimum daily wage rate by ₱25 and the “Kasambahay” monthly salary by ₱1,000.
- Decline in the poverty incidence in the region, from 39.5 percent in 2015 to 26.8 percent in 2018 due to factors such as: a) sustained economic growth; b) increase in salaries and wages; c) improved labor market conditions; and d) implementation of newly-enacted laws like the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act.
- Facilitation and assistance in the conduct of trainings by the Provincial Cooperative and Enterprise Development Office (PCEDO) to support the development of cooperatives.
- Establishment of the Quarrying Regulation Program of Albay to regulate the extraction of the quarry resources (sand, gravel, boulders, etc.) in the Province of Albay and ensure compliance to statutory and regulatory requirements. The program includes the identification and mitigation of the negative impacts of quarry operation.
- Expansion of the banking and microfinance industry in the region.
- Continuing research and development, intervention, and technology programs for rice, corn, high value crops, livestock and poultry and fisheries in the region.

Region V
BICOL REGION

Challenges

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agricultural damage sustained from two typhoons that struck the region in December 2019 and dry spell which affected 36,412.85 ha.• Delay in the implementation of some Farmers Field School (FFS) due to unavailability of irrigation water, conflict of schedules of farmer-participants and loaded tasks assigned to Agriculture Extension Workers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of jobs suited to the educational qualifications of the K to 12 graduates.• Shortage of skilled workers. |
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WESTERN VISAYAS

Opportunities

- Construction/development of various projects:
 - 1 regional local food terminal and 10 Bayanihan Tipon Centers in Panay that aims to provide a direct link between upland food producers and consumers.
 - roads, interchanges, and sea-crossing bridges that will link Panay Island to Guimaras Island (Bridge A) and Guimaras Island to Negros Island (Bridge B)
 - Banate Port in Iloilo that will soon serve as an additional gateway to Negros Occidental
 - PPP projects such as modern slaughterhouse, rehabilitation of public markets, and a waste-to-energy facility
 - Industrial Park (Global Economic Zone) in Dumarao, Capiz, Emerging Business District at Pueblo de Panay, various malls and hotels, new regional evacuation center in Roxas City, and transport terminal in Kalibo
- Proposed projects:
 - Establishment of an Agro-Meteorological station (Agro-Met) in Sta. Barbara, Iloilo, that will provide realistic climatological data to guide farmers
 - P2P Iloilo International Airport-Roxas Airport and vice versa transport by Megaworld Corporation, construction of 5,000-seat Capiz Convention Center and 5 hotels in Roxas City, improvement of Kalibo Municipal Library, and construction of Community-based rehabilitation center in Kalibo.
 - Three convention centers in Iloilo City, affirming the City's potential as prime destination for meetings, incentive
- Implementation/inauguration of various projects:
 - Panay River Basin Integrated Development Project that involves the construction of a high reservoir dam and construction of floodway, conveyance of bulk raw water supply to Metro Roxas Water District (MRWD), and hydropower generation.
 - ₱993.3 million - Barotac Viejo Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP) of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Region-VI which is expected to provide timely and reliable irrigation service to 2,050 hectares of agricultural lands;
 - Iloilo International Airport Project that involves the provision of additional facilities and other necessary improvements to enhance safety, security, access, passenger and cargo movement efficiency at the airport,
 - ₱6.7 billion production facility of San Miguel Brewery (SMB) Inc. in Brgy. Gua-an, Leganes, Iloilo
 - ₱308 million Integrated Waste Management Facility in Passi City, Iloilo
- Launch/opening/establishment of various projects:
 - Iloilo Center for Design, Prototyping and Modeling or Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab) at the Research Hub of Iloilo Science and Technology University (ISAT-U) Main Campus in La Paz, Iloilo City that provides a facility that will enhance product design of clients
 - Opening of the Museum of Philippine Economic History in Iloilo City that features galleries highlighting the industries, trade, and commerce in the Philippines through the years
 - First halfway house with livelihood training center in Guimaras Province

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> travels, conventions and exhibitions (MICE) ○ Increase in bed capacity of the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital in Bacolod City and possible establishment of three primary health care centers in Bacolod City ○ Construction of a US\$300-million ship recycling facility in Hinoba-an, Negros Occidental ○ ₱2-billion 50-megawatt solar power plant in Bacolod City ○ Construction of an international port facility of Frabelle Fishing Corp. in Cadiz City. ○ Runway concreting of the Kabankalan City airport in Negros Occidental ○ Creation of the Negros First Global Institute of Technology in Talisay City, which includes the development and construction of two buildings for classrooms. ○ Development projects by the Bacolod Real Estate Development Corp. such as improvement of the “Roll-on, Roll-off” (RORO) terminal and rehabilitation of the damaged pier aprons to conform with the safe handling methodology of cargoes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organization of the Region-VI Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (RTF-ELCAC) for active involvement of agencies and LGUs in the implementation of Executive Order No. 70 institutionalizing the whole-of-nation approach in attaining inclusive and sustainable peace. ● Lower crime volume in Bacolod City for January to November 2019, which dropped by 34.6 percent compared to the same period in 2018. ● Wage increase for private sector workers in Western Visayas ranging from ₱15 to ₱30. ● Provision of 100 fiberglass boats to Antique fisherfolks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that houses, prepares and enhances the skills and psychological functioning of the Department of Justice-Parole and Probation Administration (DOJ-PPA) clients for their eventual reintegration in the community ○ Capiz Visitors and Convention Bureau, new tourism related establishments and taxi operations, University of the Philippines Visayas-Roxas City Extension, ePerformax in Capiz (one of the leading business-process outsourcing (BPO) service providers in the world), new public market and University of Perpetual Help Delta Roxas Campus at Pueblo de Panay ○ ₱2.7 million cooperative-run coffee processing center in La Castellana, which is expected to benefit hundreds of farmers in the town. ○ Four meat shops and processing centers in Negros Occidental to help the local hog raisers, and Caridad I Meatshop and Frozen Products, a small livelihood project funded by the PRDP of the DA and the Negros Occidental government. ○ First solar-powered irrigation system in Negros Occidental. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction/implementation of various transport-related projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved system of ticketing for public sea vessels by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) ○ Pueblo de Panay point-to-point mini buses ○ Modernized jeepneys that will soon ply the Bacolod and Negros routes. ○ RORO ship daily operation from the Cadiz City commercial port in Negros Occidental to Sta. Fe port in Cebu City. ○ Entry of AirAsia at the Bacolod-Silay Airport in Negros Occidental, making air travel in the region more affordable. |
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Opportunities

- Distribution of Negros Occidental Comprehensive Health Program Cards as part of the provincial government's health care program for the indigents.
- Availability of various technology upgrading assistance from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), through the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program-Innovation Fund to MSMEs in Negros Occidental.
- Support by the provincial government of Negros Occidental to boost its software development program to attract more opportunities for its homegrown talents through the Negros Occidental Language and Information Technology Center.
- Provision of Free internet for Bacolod City residents in public places.
- Strengthened partnership of Negros Occidental provincial government with Taiwan, to help in the development of local farmers by sharing their best practices, granting financial subsidies and providing equipment. Taiwanese investors are also planning to explore investment opportunities in Negros Occidental's aquaculture sector. The province is also strengthening its ties with the Czech Republic to further promote the Negrense culture and tourist sites.
- Introduction of the 7-point "ABANSE Negrense" development agenda of Negros Occidental Provincial Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson: "A" for Agriculture and Food Security; "B" for Building of infrastructure, roads and other structures; "A" for Advancement of economic, trade, investment and employment opportunities; "N" for Nurturing of public health by creating responsive hospital and other social services; "S" for Sustainable environmental management and tourism development; "E" for Education, culture, sports and ICT; and "N" for Negrense brand of good governance and human development.

Challenges

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage on agri-fishery sector of Western Visayas at more than ₱1.4 billion due to Typhoons Ursula and Tisoy. • Need for more farmers to become entrepreneurs in Western Visayas to help them earn more and enhance the market potential of the region’s agricultural products. • Non-compliant land transport terminals in Western Visayas pursuant to the objectives of the Western Visayas Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 of improving transport links and enhancing passenger’s convenience, mobility, security and safety thru modernization of land transport terminals • More than ₱1 billion worth of damage in crops, fisheries, poultry, and livestock in Iloilo Province brought by the El Niño phenomenon. • Rise in suicide deaths in Iloilo Province which in turn pushes provincial government to strengthen mental health crisis response. • Dengue outbreak in the province • Maritime tragedy that killed 31 people and adversely affected the operation of motorboats, which in turn discouraged tourists from going to Guimaras Island. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of insurgencies in some parts of Capiz and Aklan provinces • Ban on entry of live pigs, hog carcass and pork products in the Province due to ASF. • Alert Level 1 of Mount Kanlaon in Negros Island • Continued practice of dynamite fishing especially at fish sanctuaries such as Carmen Reef in Barangay Banquerohan, Cadiz City, Negros Occidental. • Sugar smuggling, which negatively impacts the prices of sugar trading in the market. • Rebel insurgency from the New People's Army, which affected a hundred workers of a mining company in Negros and caused an estimated ₱120 million in damage. • Increase in measles cases in Bacolod City and dengue cases in the Province of Negros Occidental • Planned cancellation of the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) of Maricalum Mining Corporation in Sipalay City, Negros Occidental by DENR due to numerous violations, which may affect the mining company’s employees. |
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Opportunities

- Receipt of P380 million agri-fishery intervention and projects of Bohol from the DA.
- Distribution of various agricultural inputs:
 - 100 goats and 3,100 kilos of grower feeds to farmer beneficiaries in Ayungon, Negros Oriental under the DA Region-7 Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) program
 - Post-harvest equipment and materials such as elevated solar dryer, seaweed dryer, processing utensils, and reefer van by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region-7.
 - Coconut seedlings and agricultural grade salt fertilizers to coconut farmers.
- Minimum wage increase in Central Visayas starting January 2020.
- Continued programs of the DA on extension support, education and training services for rice, corn, livestock and high-valued crops, and for agricultural machinery, equipment and facilities support services to the farmers in the region.
- Increased budget for aquaculture farms allocated by BFAR for production facilities such as hatcheries, nurseries, seaweed laboratory and grow-out ponds. BFAR also intensified technology demonstration on pond culture, marine fish cage, pen culture and shellfish culture.
- Promotion of forestry investments that will sustain the country’s forest-based industry and other forestry services.
- Initiatives to protect the environment:
 - Integrated Social Forestry (ISF) program areas in Bayawan City, Sta. Catalina, Siaton, Amlan, Ayungon, Vallehermoso and Canlaon City to protect the micro-watershed in these areas
 - Locally-established 51 marine protected areas, mangrove rehabilitation and management with 3,000 seedlings of “Bungarol” and 33,500 propagules of “Bakhaw” species distributed and planted in different mangrove sites in the Province.
- Set-up of a 50-hectare model corn farm in Bayawan City to help increase corn productivity.
- Groundbreaking of a 22-kilometer farm-to-market road connecting Barangays Hilaitan to Trinidad in Guihulngan City, which will directly benefit at least 12,000 residents.
- Implementation of Dauin Irrigation System Extension Project.
- Turnover of 130 fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) fishing boats to fishermen in by the DA.
- Declaration of Cebu City as Creative City of Design by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) providing a boost to the tourism sector. The rehabilitation of historical sites, installation of signages and QR codes were also implemented to attract more tourists in the region.
- Increase in office spaces in Cebu from 2020 to 2023 to cater to the demand in the BPO and IT companies.

Opportunities

- Approval of the Cebu-Mactan 4th Bridge and Coastal Road Construction Project by the NEDA Board, which will link Cebu mainland and Mactan.
- Opening of the 200-bed ACES Dumaguete Doctors Hospital.
- Promotion of the Fish Right Program for sustainable fishing, community development and gender empowerment.
- Declaration of Negros Oriental as one of the 10 malaria-free provinces in the country based on standards of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the City Government of Dumaguete and Prime Water Infrastructure Corporation for a 25-year water supply and service.
- Signing of joint venture agreement between Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) with Dumaguete City Water District (DCWD) for the rehabilitation, operation, maintenance and expansion of the existing water distribution system and the development of water waste facilities.
- Groundbreaking of a satellite hospital in Barangay Talay, Dumaguete City and inauguration of a diagnostic center attached to the City Health Office (CHO) for indigent patients.
- Allocation of P300 million for the acquisition of land for the airport, including right-of-way.
- Introduction of electronic classrooms in 18 public elementary schools in Dumaguete City.
- Establishment of new Negosyo Centers and other initiatives by DTI to promote MSME growth.
- Creation of DOST Region-7 Science, Technology Innovation Center to serve as a venue for advancing discovery, innovation and education. In addition, DOST Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) also started initiatives to help MSMEs be more competitive:
 - Technology upgrading on: 1) high speed production of digital embroidered and customized apparel; and 2) efficient production of *bagoong*, peanut butter and chili sauce.
 - Motor reboring technology
 - Turnover of P1 million worth of technological assistance to a *pancit canton* manufacturing in Basay, Negros Oriental
- Higher tourist arrivals and hotel occupancy rates in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental.
- Rehabilitation and upgrade of various infrastructures:
 - Perdices Coliseum and Lorenzo G. Teves Memorial Aqua Center to be used for the City's hosting of the 2020 ASEAN Schools Games
 - Rizal Boulevard in Dumaguete City which is necessary to prevent storm surges and huge waves
 - Dumaguete City's slaughterhouse to meet the accreditation requirements of the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS).
- Increase in tourist arrivals by nearly 20 percent in 2019 and hotel occupancy by 10 percent in Dumaguete City, boosted by the City's recognition as the 2018 Philippine Sports Tourism Government Organizer of the Year for its excellent track record of hosting international, national and local events that promoted sports tourism.

Opportunities

- Various power-related projects in the pipeline:
 - The 40 mega-watt (MW) Dauin Geothermal Project by the Energy Development Corporation
 - 3.2 MW Amlan Hydropower (Plant A), 1.5 MW (Plant B) and 0.8 MW (Plant C)
 - The 50 MW Tanjay Wind Power Project by Constellation Energy Corporation.
- Creation and launch of Negros Oriental Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NOTF-ELCAC) in the Province, in line with President Duterte’s Executive Order No. 70 to attain inclusive and sustainable peace via a whole-of-nation approach.
- Groundbreaking of DOST–PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration) Synoptic Station in Caipilan, Siquijor to monitor weather conditions and provide information for safety and control for the would-be operation of Siquijor’s international airport.
- Construction of pathways to some of Siquijor’s hidden scenic destinations by the DPWH to spur the tourism activity in the Province.
- On-going construction of Coast Guard radar station in Bayawan City.
- Launch of the first “Dagyan sa Barangay” in Negros Oriental which involves a series of government dialogues with the stakeholders at the grassroots level.
- Proposed construction of an international seaport at Bacong, Negros Oriental.
- Approval of the projects of All Natural Coco Products, Inc. in Bacong, Negros Oriental (₱1.34 billion) and Allied Care Experts (ACE) Dumaguete Doctors, Inc. in Dumaguete City (₱849.16 million) by the Board of Investments (BOI).

Region VII

CENTRAL VISAYAS

Challenges

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banning entry of pork products from Luzon and in some parts of Mindanao to Cebu and Bohol due to ASF. • Presence of paralytic poison in shellfish found in the coastal areas of Dauis and Tagbilaran, Bohol. • Declaration of state of calamity in the town of Mabinay, Negros Oriental after armyworms attacked 28 of the mountainous town's 32 barangays, affecting variety of crops as well as grasslands. • El Niño phenomenon that lasted until the second cropping season. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road right-of-way acquisition problems of the DPWH on the ongoing Segment 3 project of the Metro Cebu Expressway. • Possible ceasing of operations for semi-conductor and electronics companies due to lack of raw material, which are sourced mostly from China and Hong Kong. • Terrorist threat level 2 in Negros Oriental. • Increase in dengue cases in Negros Oriental. |
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Opportunities

- Increase in daily minimum wage from ₱305.00/day to ₱325.00/day for Eastern Visayas workers and ₱2,000 wage increase for domestic house helpers.
- Opening of new business establishments such as Robinsons Mall-Ormoc, SM-Ormoc, Gaisano Mall-Real Street, Tacloban, Primark Mall, J & F Department Store, Wilcon Depot, Mandaue Foam, 7-Eleven Stores, etc.
- Introduction of Leyte EconoMiCs (More Income in the Countryside) program of the Province of Leyte, which aims to reduce the poverty incidence by adopting a community-based approach to capacitate the poor and marginalized villages through packages of goods and services.
- Roll-out of PhilHealth's Primary Care Accreditation/ Konsulta, Sulit at Tama (KonSulTa) Package, wherein PhilHealth members can avail of free check-ups, laboratory exams, diagnostics, etc. from accredited rural health units and private clinics.
- Provision of RCEF under the RTL
- Absence of ASF cases in the region
- Continuous conduct of impact evaluation on the following programs:
 - Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project-Phase III (ARISP-III) in Eastern Visayas, which aims to provide a range of support services to the farmer-beneficiaries of agrarian land distribution under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) via the construction of basic economic infrastructure, irrigation, post-harvest facilities and farm-to-market roads, to
- Launch of 10 modern buses by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Region-VIII for Calbayog and 15 coasters for Catbalogan, which utilizes cashless or automatic fare collection.
- Various planned or ongoing/completed projects:
 - ₱80-million San Juanico Bridge Aesthetic Lighting Project, which is set to be completed by March-April 2020
 - Rehabilitation of the Leyte Landing Memorial Park in Palo, Leyte
 - Construction of road networks to tourism destinations under the Tourism Road Infrastructure Projects (TRIP), a project convergence between the Department of Tourism (DOT) and DPWH
 - Modernization of the Region's biggest public hospital, the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC).
 - Road heightening and tide embankment project, to protect coastal communities and reduce damages from future storm surges
 - Upgrade of the Ormoc City Airport, which was inaugurated in July 2019
 - Continuous rehabilitation of the Calbayog City Airport in the Province of Samar
 - Construction of the new Passenger Terminal Building (PTB) of the Daniel Z. Romualdez Airport (DZR Airport) in Tacloban City which is expected to commence in August 2020 and be completed by December 2021.
- Passage of Republic Act No. 11198, which divided the Province of Southern Leyte into two legislative districts.

Opportunities

- enhance production and augment the income of farmers.
 - Agri-Pinoy Livestock Program (A-PLP) in Samar Island, which ensures prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases to reduce mortalities in livestock and poultry industry thus, increasing the income of livestock and poultry farmers in the region.
- Provision of 18 six-wheeler heavy-duty dump trucks by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to 18 selected agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOs) in Region VIII to develop farmers' awarded lands.
- Improvement in the peace and order situation in the region.
- Possible establishment of Japan-Philippine Automotive Technology and Electro-Mechanical Engineering Laboratory for the underprivileged Southern Leyteños in Southern Leyte State University (SLSU), through grant aid from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- Planned conversion of the old EVRMC Building into an Integrated Rehabilitation Center for Drug and Criminal Offenders
- Creation of a regional task force, led by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region-VIII, to address the flooding problem in the region.
- Conduct of feasibility study on National Broadband Project (NBP) fiber build specifically in Eastern Visayas.
- PPP of Leyte Metropolitan Water District (LMWD) and Prime Water Infrastructure Corporation to improve water treatment facilities and increase water supply consumers in Tacloban City and nearby municipalities.
- Completion of the final master development plan for the Leyte Ecological Industrial Zone (LEIZ) by April 2020, which will identify specific suitable areas in Leyte where copper processing and allied activities may be located.
- Endorsement of a master plan for Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Development (SUID) in Metro Ormoc, which envisions Ormoc City as the "agro-commercial and industrial gateway in Eastern Visayas and the renewable energy capital of the Philippines with a growth inclusive economy, in a disaster resilient environment administered by an accountable local government." Five priority programs/projects were identified such as: 1) Comprehensive Development and Operationalization of Ormoc Airport and Aviation Complex; 2) Ipil Port Development; 3) Urban Redevelopment of the Poblacion/City Center into a Smart and Sustainable Central Mixed-Use District and Multi-Nodal Urban Development; 4) Renewable Energy Production/Solid Waste Management Facility; and 5) Flood Control/River Improvement of Pagsanga-an River Management.

Region VIII

EASTERN VISAYAS

Challenges

- Sluggish growth of the Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry sector in the region
- Frequent issuances of the BFAR Region-VIII of Red Tide Advisories in some identified Bays in Leyte and Samar Provinces
- Threats of ASF from other regions
- Damage to agriculture, housing and infrastructures brought about by Typhoons Tisoy and Ursula in December 2019.
- Increase in the fare for public utility vans (PUVs) in the region by ₱2.00/km.
- Temporary closure of Robinsons Place in Tacloban City due to a fire which engulfed 60 percent of the mall.

ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA

Opportunities

- Abundance of tuna, sardines, banana, coconut, fruits, poultry, and livestock products. Also, wide inland and coastal areas, which are abundant of fish, nutrients for biological productivity, and other marine biodiversity
- Presence of major food producers, processors and canneries in the region that would give added value to the Region’s abundant agricultural products.
- Absence of Avian Flu, and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) cases.
- Presence of huge, unharnessed deposits of precious minerals such as gold, silver, copper, chromite, iron, manganese, coal, clay, limestone and marble.
- Proposed construction of at least two new residential subdivisions and a condominium by large real estate developers like FillInvest, Camella Homes and Futura.
- Strategic location of the region to become the country’s gateway to key cities of the BIMP-EAGA member-countries, such as Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia.
- Planned establishment of a world-class international seaport that would serve as the major hub for the transshipment of cargoes to the different BIMP-EAGA (Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area) countries.
- Presence of Zamboanga Special Economic Zone Authority, which would pave way to the realization of the 100-hectare Halal Hub in Zamboanga City that would produce and market the Region’s halal certified products to BIMP–EAGA member-countries.
- Entry of a major mall (SM Mindpro) in Zamboanga City which is seen to generate more income and employment opportunities in the region.

ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA

Challenges

- Minimal share of the region in the country's GDP due to low value-added of its agricultural products and minimal agricultural and fishery production.
- Inability of the Region to take full advantage of its strategic location and abundant natural resources for greater economic growth, particularly in trade, investments, and tourism.
- Prevalent occurrence of power outages due to deficiency of energy supply from the Mindanao Grid.
- Low industry and services competitiveness brought about by poor and insufficient infrastructure support for urban and rural growth and inter-regional connectivity; vulnerability to natural disasters; lack of investors; lack of promotion; and peace and order problem.
- Need to improve and sustain better quality basic services to support the efforts in reducing poverty.
- Lack of proper solid waste disposal system.

NORTHERN MINDANAO

Opportunities

- Completion of the 23-km Barandias-Dominorog Road, which cut the travel time in half from Kalilangan, Bukidnon to Cagayan de Oro City (CDO).
- Continued development of post-harvest facilities, construction and rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads, and the construction, repair and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities in some areas that will improve production in the region.
- The establishment of Farm Business School (FBS) by the DA in partnership with LGUs in the region, which aims to build farmer capacity in entrepreneurial and management skills and help educate the farmers to fully utilize their farmlands and increase their production.
- Launch of the “Sikat Saka” program, a direct credit window from Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) with support from the DA, which will benefit small palay farmers in the region.
- Increased demand for yellow corn as a feed component. Demand for specialized corn varieties, such as sweet corn and popcorn, also provides alternatives to corn growers in the region.
- Provision of seeds of high yielding varieties to corn farmers in the region.
- Establishment of a ₱25 million cattle research, development and extension center in Northern Mindanao at Central Mindanao University (CMU), Musuan, Bukidnon funded by DOST Region-10, which aims to discover other indigenous plants that can be tapped as organic source of feeds for animals for healthier livestock,
- Construction of the following alternate routes in the region to decongest traffic and reduce travel time, as well as bring development in traversed areas:
 - CDO Diversion Road from Balubal to Indahag
 - CDO Eastern Interior Road from JR Borja Extension, Gusa to Sayre Highway, Upper Puerto
 - New Opol Diversion Road from Opol, Misamis Oriental to Canitoan, Cagayan de Oro City
 - 39 km Buenavista – Impasug-ong Road from Buenavista, Agusan del Norte to Impasug-ong, Bukidnon
 - 46 km Cagayan de Oro –Laguindingan Airport Mountain Diversion Road
 - Ozamis Coastal Bypass Road
- Ongoing construction of the Panguil Bay Bridge, to accelerate and sustain economic growth in Northern Mindanao, especially in the Provinces of Lanao del Norte and Misamis Occidental.
- Construction of the Bukidnon Airport in Don Carlos, Bukidnon, with phase 1 completion targeted in May 2020, is expected to spur economic activity in the Province and nearby areas once operational.
- Increased demand for certain fish species fueled by the increasing number of high-end restaurants in the region.
- Continued support provided by various government agencies and LGUs in the fingerling re-stocking of rivers and lakes that will likely increase inland fish production.
- Intensified campaign and coordination of LGUs against illegal fishing activities and destructive fishing methods.

Opportunities

and to know the extent of usage of agrochemicals and antimicrobials through livestock research.

- Potential increases in the cattle industry production with the DA's priority programs, which include: conservation and improvement of genetic materials; sustenance of disease-free environment to ensure food security; promotion of technologies that can provide value-adding to commodities and address climate change; and establishing and upgrading of facilities to support development of stock.

- Sustained government programs and support provided to farmers in the region such as animal dispersal, artificial insemination, massive vaccination, and deworming.
- Setting-up of quarantine areas at the borders of major swine-producing provinces such as Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon to help reduce the threat of diseases affecting swine production.
- Increased demand for organic chicken meat and eggs.

NORTHERN MINDANAO

Challenges

- Unfavorable and extreme weather conditions, which are increasing in frequency and intensity, pose a major challenge for the agriculture and fisheries sector.
- Low adoption of modern and productive technologies and infestation of pests and diseases in some areas, as well as the high cost of farm inputs.
- Security issues in some parts of the region and in nearby areas caused by insurgents.
- Increase in production-related costs and farm gate prices pose threats to swine farming in the region.
- Persistent notion of peace and order problems, which have kept a number of businesses from expanding into Mindanao.
- Transport of cattle breeds imported from New Zealand to Mindanao poses serious bio-security concerns and unnecessary risk to the Region’s cattle industry.

DAVAO REGION

Opportunities

- Improvement of agricultural productivity and well-being of farmers and fisherfolks through various initiatives:
 - Provision of RCEF under the RTL and formulation of the Rice Industry Roadmap;
 - Implementation of “Crop Diversified Strategy;”
 - Implementation of “Pantawid Magsasaka Program” that will provide continuous assistance to palay farmers;
 - Promotion of Agripreneurship among farmers; and
 - Institutionalization of early warning systems and protocols.
- Upcoming projects in Davao City to improve tourism and investments, including the Samal-Davao Bridge, the Davao City Coastal Bypass Road, Davao Monorail, and Davao Sasa Wharf Modernization.
- Employment levels to remain favorable with the growing industry and services sectors in the region.
- Continued strong demand for office, retail and residential spaces especially in Davao City, which benefits the real property industry.
- Full enforcement of the Philippine Building Code in building construction, and promoting disaster resiliency in communities.

DAVAO REGION

Challenges

- Prolonged El Niño Neutral Condition, which will likely continue until December 2020.
- Negative impact of ASF local pork production and consumption.
- Stiff international competition faced by the Region’s banana industry due to issues on banana plant diseases that lessens production volume, and increases labor cost.
- Occurrence of strong earthquakes in the last quarter of 2019 that affected the Region’s real estate, as consumers feared living in condominiums, evidenced by several cancellations of prospective buyers and numerous selling of condominium units by existing owners.
- Concerns on peace and order, and public safety after the lifting of Mindanao Martial Law in December 2019.

SOCCKSARGEN

Opportunities

- Numerous investment prospects for farm implements, pre- and post-harvest facilities, and other agricultural-related products in the strategic agro-industrial towns of the region.
- Increase in the number of cooperatives operating in the region that offer credit grants to farmers at low interest rates.
- Operationalization of the Philippine National Halal Laboratory and Science Center at Barangay Paraiso, Koronadal City, which is expected to boost the Halal industry of the region.
- Potential conversion of African oil palm and banana plantation areas in the region into economic zones.
- Ongoing repair and rehabilitation of the General Santos International Airport and Sultan Sa Barongis-Lambayong Bridge of the Midsayap-Marbel Road, which shall enhance the interconnectivity between SOCCSKSARGEN and BARMM regions.
- Enactment of “No Use of Plastics” ordinances by some LGUs in the region, which opens opportunities for environment-friendly MSMEs.
- Planned Kabulnan-2 Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (K2MIPP), which is expected to catalyze vast investment opportunities and advance urban development prospects in Sultan Kudarat Province.

Challenges

- Relentless conversion of prime agricultural lands into residential/non-agricultural uses.
- Lack of capability by producers to develop their raw materials to profitable products by value-adding, as well as low diversification and linkages.
- Threat of ASF in the Region.
- Low productivity and returns to agricultural employment due to the following:
 - Limited financial capacity access to government credit facilities;
 - Low adoption level of technology and good agricultural practices (GAP);
 - Inadequate and underdeveloped farm-to-market roads;
 - Weak implementation and promotion of integrated diversified farming system for expansion of production areas for priority industry clusters.
- Issuance of DILG Memorandum Circular prohibiting tricycles, pedicabs, and motorized pedicabs from operating on national highways.
- Unpredictable and volatile peace and order situation in the BARMM, which could spill over to some areas of the region.
- Traffic congestion caused by the ongoing construction, expansion, improvement, and rehabilitation of roads, bridges, and drainage systems in different parts of the region.

Opportunities

- Ongoing groundworks for the soon-to-rise Gaisano Capital-Butuan as well as the expansion of Gaisano Butuan at J. Rosales Avenue.
- Upcoming operation of SM Butuan, which will provide job opportunities and help spur economic activities of the region.
- Operation of RORO transport services in the Province of Dinagat Island to/from Surigao City, which is expected to increase tourist arrivals.
- Construction of Allied Care Experts Medical Center-Butuan City, which will house a first class medical facility.
- Launch of the Credit Surety Fund in the Province of Dinagat Islands, which will help cooperatives and its members expand their businesses and operations.
- Endorsement of proposed projects of the region under the Roads Leveraging Linkages of Industry and Trade (ROLL-IT), which are expected to open trade and industry opportunities to all Caraganons.
- Anticipated commencement of the construction of the Mindanao Railway Project, which is expected to spur economic activity in the region and ease transportation services across neighboring provinces and regions in Mindanao.
- Ongoing construction of the remaining strategic roads and infrastructure investments in the Province of Dinagat Islands.
- Construction of the Philippine Army Camp in Tago, Surigao del Sur, which is expected to manage insurgencies in the Province and allow more investments, particularly in the mining industry.

Region XIII

CARAGA

Challenges

- Continued decline of the Region's agriculture and fishery sectors.
- Need to diversify exports by attracting investors who will put up processing plants, to enable the Region to export raw and processed materials.
- Presence of insurgences in the far-flung municipalities of the Region, which pose a challenge to the economic development of some LGUs as this hinders the establishment of government infrastructure that would fuel economic activity.

AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

Opportunities

- Development and institutionalization of the Islam-based financial system through R.A. 11439, otherwise known as “An Act Providing for the Regulation and Organization of Islamic Banks”, which is expected to attract financial investors from Arab and other Muslim countries thereby increasing the Region’s chance of becoming the center for Islamic investment center in the country.
- Continuing financial and technical support from international development partners such as the United Nations (UN), the World Bank, and the ADB, among others.
- Construction of a ₱176-billion international airport and seaport in Cotabato City by the China Engineering Construction Company (CECC) under the PPP scheme.
- Introduction of the e-BARMM system, which would improve accountability and transparency in the implementation of projects of the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) through geo-tagging and road-mapping.
- Launch of the BARMM Full Disclosure Policy Portal (BARMM-FDPP) that would enable BARMM constituents to understand government financial transactions and how the local government budget is spent and managed.
- Introduction of Project Tabang or the “Tulong Alay sa Bangsamorong Nangangailangan” that would bring the Bangsamoro government closer to its constituents through immediate provision of basic services such as health and education.
- Approval of the Bangsamoro Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board’s (BTWPB) Wage Order BARMM-01, which would increase the minimum pay rate of daily wage earners for both agricultural and non-agricultural workers.
- Formation of the BARMM Inter-governmental Relations (IRGB), which will serve as an avenue for the Bangsamoro government and the national government to coordinate and resolve issues on inter-governmental relations through consultations and negotiations.
- Decommissioning of at least 1,060 MILF-BIAF combatants as part of sustaining peace and order in the Region.

AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

Challenges

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transition of leadership from revolutionary to parliamentary form of governance.• Mandatory termination or phasing-out of at least 6,000 regular workers from the defunct ARMM to BARMM.• Delayed rehabilitation and reconstruction of Marawi City. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Threats to peace, security, public order, and safety due to presence of extremist groups and breakaway factions.• Reorganization of LGUs after the ratification of Bangsamoro Organic Law. |
|---|---|

Conclusion

In 2019, the occurrence of weak El Niño until August, as well as the onslaught of typhoons and earthquakes throughout the year brought damages not only to agricultural production and livelihood, but also to residential and business infrastructures in affected areas. Early into 2020, the Taal volcano eruption hampered economic and tourism activities, caused production losses in coffee, corn, pineapple, and aquaculture fishing, and displaced communities in nearby provinces. Such weather - related disturbances and calamities continue to expose the vulnerability of the regions and pose risks to their overall development. This ultimately highlights the need to build up socio - economic resilience and disaster preparedness of local governments and communities.

Apart from the adverse effects of climate change and natural calamities, regions that are heavily dependent on the agri-fishery sector also had to cope with the outbreak of plant and animal diseases (e.g., African Swine Fever, Fusarium wilt, etc.), pest infestation, increasing cost of farm inputs, and lower farmgate prices (e.g., palay), among others. In order to mitigate the negative impact of these conditions on agricultural productivity and the food supply chain, several measures and collaborative efforts are being undertaken by the national and local governments, nongovernment organizations, the private sector, and other stakeholders. These include provision of sufficient water supply; construction of farm-to-market roads; development of climate - resilient crop varieties, use of modern and adaptive technologies and agri - fishery facilities; distribution of post - harvest equipment, machineries, certified high yield seeds, and fertilizers; and provision of accessible and affordable credit window for farmers and fisherfolk. Additional provision from the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, sourced from the tariff collections on rice imports, were also used to directly support rice farmers and fund innovative undertakings that will further strengthen and modernize the rice industry and improve production efficiency in the regions.

Meanwhile, to further boost competitiveness and promote regional development, there continues to be a need for reliable and affordable power supply; better interconnectivity between rural/far - flung areas and the regions' major economic centers through adequate infrastructure and efficient transport systems; improved ease of doing business; and lasting peace and order situation. Enhancing the mobility of goods and services through timely implementation of infrastructure and road construction, rehabilitation and preservation projects as well as construction and upgrading of airports and sea ports are envisioned to improve the productive capacity of the regional economies, create jobs, increase incomes, and

strengthen the investment climate leading to sustained inclusive growth. Moreover, as the tourism industry continues to be a major source of income and job opportunities in many regions, interventions such as upgrading of facilities and enhancing accessibility of tourism destinations by opening new and improving existing air, land and sea routes remain crucial.

Nonetheless, considering the ravaging impact of the 2019 corona virus disease (COVID-19) on public health, employment, income, mobility, and the economy in general, the government and private sector are expected to adopt policies and strategies that would enable the country to transition to the “new normal” and to manage the risks emerging from the highly uncertain nature of the pandemic. For instance, to ensure unhampered food supply, efficient transport and logistics systems involving sufficient and strategically-located facilities (e.g., wholesale food terminals and trading centers, warehouses, cold storage and refrigeration facilities, mobile storage, mobile marketplaces, rolling stores, and foodbanks) must be put in place. The government’s recovery and resilience plans for all sectors are embodied in the document published by the Inter-Agency Task Force Technical Working Group for Anticipatory and Forward Planning.

All of these programs and projects are geared towards the creation of resilient, healthy, secure, and prosperous communities in the regions. ■

1. Palay Production

*for periods indicated
in million metric tons*

	REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019
	PHILIPPINES	17.63	19.28	19.07	18.81
1	CAR	0.38	0.45	0.39	0.42
2	Ilocos Region (I)	1.81	1.87	1.72	1.85
3	Cagayan Valley (II)	2.33	2.66	2.38	2.64
4	Central Luzon (III)	3.34	3.63	3.62	3.73
5	CALABARZON (IV-A)	0.41	0.41	0.42	0.38
6	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	1.08	1.16	1.23	1.20
7	Bicol Region (V)	1.28	1.34	1.35	1.19
8	Western Visayas (VI)	1.90	2.23	2.23	2.08
9	Central Visayas (VII)	0.23	0.33	0.31	0.22
10	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.90
11	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	0.58	0.70	0.73	0.68
12	Northern Mindanao (X)	0.71	0.75	0.76	0.76
13	Davao Region (XI)	0.42	0.43	0.49	0.45
14	SOCCKSARGEN (XII)	1.20	1.32	1.34	1.19
15	Caraga	0.46	0.48	0.51	0.45
16	ARMM	0.54	0.58	0.64	0.67

Source: PSA

2. Corn Production

*for periods indicated
in million metric tons*

	REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019
	PHILIPPINES	7.22	7.91	7.77	7.98
1	CAR	0.20	0.24	0.21	0.23
2	Ilocos Region (I)	0.51	0.56	0.56	0.57
3	Cagayan Valley (II)	1.68	1.84	1.63	1.87
4	Central Luzon (III)	0.26	0.26	0.27	0.28
5	CALABARZON (IV-A)	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.07
6	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	0.11	0.12	0.13	0.11
7	Bicol Region (V)	0.26	0.29	0.28	0.25
8	Western Visayas (VI)	0.28	0.30	0.31	0.31
9	Central Visayas (VII)	0.16	0.15	0.13	0.11
10	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07
11	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	0.26	0.23	0.26	0.18
12	Northern Mindanao (X)	1.22	1.29	1.29	1.31
13	Davao Region (XI)	0.22	0.26	0.27	0.24
14	SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	1.14	1.26	1.23	1.11
15	Caraga	0.14	0.12	0.14	0.14
16	ARMM	0.59	0.84	0.90	1.11

Source: PSA

3. Cattle Production

*for periods indicated
in thousand metric tons in liveweight*

	REGION	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^p
	PHILIPPINES	270.42	266.30	263.31	260.62
1	CAR	4.33	4.16	4.00	3.88
2	Ilocos Region (I)	27.77	27.38	27.29	28.24
3	Cagayan Valley (II)	15.11	14.33	13.68	13.99
4	Central Luzon (III)	18.79	16.20	17.39	17.09
5	CALABARZON (IV-A)	28.66	28.13	27.53	27.31
6	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	12.47	12.80	12.18	11.45
7	Bicol Region (V)	16.97	17.55	17.27	17.69
8	Western Visayas (VI)	24.71	25.57	24.97	23.38
9	Central Visayas (VII)	24.78	25.23	24.96	23.46
10	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	2.31	2.18	2.14	2.31
11	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	11.22	11.24	11.39	11.05
12	Northern Mindanao (X)	39.41	37.54	38.25	38.03
13	Davao Region (XI)	12.83	13.31	13.12	13.45
14	SOCCKSARGEN (XII)	18.91	18.66	17.27	16.50
15	Caraga	1.68	1.57	1.43	1.63
16	ARMM	10.48	10.47	10.45	11.19

^r Revised

^p Preliminary

Source: PSA

4. Chicken Production

*for periods indicated
in thousand metric tons in liveweight*

	REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019 ^P
	PHILIPPINES	1,674.51	1,745.89	1,836.66	1,927.41
1	CAR	7.60	7.92	7.28	6.62
2	Ilocos Region (I)	78.76	78.08	84.93	84.23
3	Cagayan Valley (II)	60.64	58.78	57.89	55.37
4	Central Luzon (III)	590.99	624.69	658.91	699.66
5	CALABARZON (IV-A)	328.43	328.65	330.94	343.27
6	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	10.30	10.15	10.87	11.17
7	Bicol Region (V)	42.24	43.97	47.18	54.88
8	Western Visayas (VI)	95.83	103.82	110.01	117.44
9	Central Visayas (VII)	99.74	104.84	115.11	118.63
10	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	36.29	49.32	55.00	62.32
11	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	30.20	31.99	34.24	36.48
12	Northern Mindanao (X)	152.80	159.09	164.67	170.02
13	Davao Region (XI)	72.01	71.76	76.34	81.09
14	SOCCKSARGEN (XII)	49.84	53.40	61.92	65.56
15	Caraga	13.86	14.59	16.28	15.51
16	ARMM	4.94	4.85	5.10	5.16

^P Preliminary

Source: PSA

5. Swine Production

*for periods indicated
in thousand metric tons in liveweight*

	REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019 ^P
	PHILIPPINES	2,231.66	2,265.02	2,319.76	2,296.65
1	CAR	26.36	25.83	26.66	26.65
2	Ilocos Region (I)	86.55	90.07	94.68	94.57
3	Cagayan Valley (II)	71.36	72.87	71.81	72.49
4	Central Luzon (III)	462.43	447.52	472.55	417.75
5	CALABARZON (IV-A)	365.06	371.71	381.59	395.55
6	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	79.59	83.05	80.84	79.38
7	Bicol Region (V)	121.54	126.60	130.06	133.25
8	Western Visayas (VI)	188.76	186.60	187.11	191.90
9	Central Visayas (VII)	175.11	192.20	194.47	192.76
10	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	76.39	76.45	77.97	77.52
11	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	80.05	82.20	82.08	82.14
12	Northern Mindanao (X)	177.67	188.45	196.62	200.97
13	Davao Region (XI)	149.16	151.60	154.78	155.89
14	SOCCKSARGEN (XII)	119.05	117.74	117.29	124.59
15	Caraga	42.39	42.19	40.69	40.50
16	ARMM	10.21	9.95	10.56	10.77

^P Preliminary

Source: PSA

6. Fish Production

*for periods indicated
in hundred thousand metric tons*

	REGION	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019
	PHILIPPINES	43.56	43.13	43.57	44.21
1	NCR	1.26	0.87	1.04	1.00
2	CAR	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
3	Ilocos Region (I)	1.57	1.61	1.55	1.70
4	Cagayan Valley (II)	0.53	0.51	0.48	0.45
5	Central Luzon (III)	2.73	2.87	3.10	3.22
6	CALABARZON (IV-A)	3.31	3.32	2.93	3.01
7	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	4.83	4.89	5.05	5.01
8	Bicol Region (V)	2.34	2.39	2.57	2.36
9	Western Visayas (VI)	3.97	3.90	3.79	3.81
10	Central Visayas (VII)	1.84	1.51	1.52	1.56
11	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	1.40	1.36	1.15	1.28
12	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	5.55	5.15	5.31	5.49
13	Northern Mindanao (X)	1.67	1.56	1.52	1.53
14	Davao Region (XI)	0.58	0.57	0.52	0.48
15	SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	2.92	3.26	3.26	3.21
16	Caraga	0.76	0.75	0.74	0.69
17	ARMM	8.24	8.56	8.99	9.36

^r Revised

Source: PSA

7. Total Number of Approved Building Permits

levels and growth rates

REGION	Levels				Growth rate			
	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^p	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^p
PHILIPPINES	147,998	152,012	173,193	161,207	12.1	2.7	13.9	-6.9
1 NCR	13,166	12,612	14,094	12,815	2.4	-4.2	11.8	-9.1
2 CAR	1,202	1,303	1,388	1,487	7.0	8.4	6.5	7.1
3 Ilocos Region (I)	8,825	10,610	11,157	12,817	10.5	20.2	5.2	14.9
4 Cagayan Valley (II)	3,246	4,581	4,948	4,725	2.0	41.1	8.0	-4.5
5 Central Luzon (III)	14,481	16,340	18,778	17,892	3.5	12.8	14.9	-4.7
6 CALABARZON (IV-A)	34,713	37,612	43,929	39,976	5.3	8.4	16.8	-9.0
7 MIMAROPA (IV-B)	2,634	2,432	3,131	2,932	-8.4	-7.7	28.7	-6.4
8 Bicol Region (V)	3,513	3,179	4,170	2,810	0.7	-9.5	31.2	-32.6
9 Western Visayas (VI)	10,863	11,545	13,012	9,271	-10.5	6.3	12.7	-28.8
10 Central Visayas (VII)	19,941	15,517	20,397	19,826	15.4	-22.2	31.4	-2.8
11 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	4,879	4,268	4,759	4,742	-1.2	-12.5	11.5	-0.4
12 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	4,032	4,025	3,972	2,537	-10.5	-0.2	-1.3	-36.1
13 Northern Mindanao (X)	9,378	8,791	9,829	10,107	9.1	-6.3	11.8	2.8
14 Davao Region (XI)	10,091	10,304	10,833	11,526	24.3	2.1	5.1	6.4
15 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	3,013	3,809	4,839	4,834	5.9	26.4	27.0	-0.1
16 Caraga	3,861	4,847	3,705	2,760	-15.1	25.5	-23.6	-25.5
17 ARMM	160	237	252	150	49.5	48.1	6.3	-40.5

Note: Sum of details may not add up to totals due to rounding.

r Revised to reflect data updates per PSA

p Preliminary

Source: PSA

8. Total Number of New Residential Building Construction

for periods indicated

REGION	Levels				Growth rate			
	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^p	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^p
PHILIPPINES	113,097	110,942	126,429	114,449	16.4	-1.9	14.0	-9.5
1 NCR	6,587	6,477	6,923	6,263	2.4	-1.7	6.9	-9.5
2 CAR	938	952	998	1,076	13.6	1.5	4.8	7.8
3 Ilocos (I)	6,498	7,614	8,045	8,970	12.0	17.2	5.7	11.5
4 Cagayan Valley (II)	2,265	3,550	3,684	3,574	3.5	56.7	3.8	-3.0
5 Central Luzon (III)	10,685	11,386	13,410	12,727	0.6	6.6	17.8	-5.1
6 CALABARZON (IV-A)	27,829	29,260	34,273	29,677	7.7	5.1	17.1	-13.4
7 MIMAROPA (IV-B)	2,007	1,569	2,343	1,964	7.2	-21.8	49.3	-16.2
8 Bicol (V)	2,690	2,168	2,909	1,804	0.0	-19.4	34.2	-38.0
9 Western Visayas (VI)	8,744	8,935	10,031	6,489	68.4	2.2	12.3	-35.3
10 Central Visayas (VII)	17,122	12,230	16,831	15,350	77.9	-28.6	37.6	-8.8
11 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	3,671	2,692	3,053	2,982	-4.8	-26.7	13.4	-2.3
12 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	3,456	3,161	2,523	2,032	-5.8	-8.5	-20.2	-19.5
13 Northern Mindanao (X)	8,014	7,187	8,134	8,413	9.6	-10.3	13.2	3.4
14 Davao Region (XI)	7,906	7,981	7,827	8,554	32.6	0.9	-1.9	9.3
15 SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	1,556	1,817	2,567	2,589	0.8	16.8	41.3	0.9
16 Caraga	3,002	3,759	2,666	1,874	-17.6	25.2	-29.1	-29.7
17 ARMM	127	204	212	111	39.6	60.6	3.9	-47.6

Note: Sum of details may not add up to totals due to rounding.

^r Revised to reflect data updates per PSA

^p Preliminary

Source: PSA

9. Employment Indicators

*for periods indicated
averages in percent*

REGION	2016			2017			2018 ^r			2019 ^p		
	Employment	Unemployment	Underemployment	Employment	Unemployment	Underemployment	Employment	Unemployment	Underemployment	Employment	Unemployment	Underemployment
PHILIPPINES	94.55	5.45	18.32	94.29	5.71	16.13	94.70	5.30	16.36	94.94	5.06	13.98
1 NCR	93.33	6.67	8.74	92.59	7.41	9.32	93.40	6.60	7.25	94.16	5.84	5.36
2 CAR	95.61	4.39	23.08	95.71	4.29	14.76	95.90	4.10	15.24	96.49	3.51	12.17
3 Ilocos Region (I)	93.81	6.19	17.42	91.13	8.87	19.85	93.20	6.80	22.14	94.69	5.31	16.90
4 Cagayan Valley (II)	96.92	3.08	12.79	96.85	3.15	13.58	97.00	3.00	19.58	96.53	3.47	16.11
5 Central Luzon (III)	93.40	6.60	16.10	93.37	6.63	11.42	94.23	5.77	11.36	94.95	5.05	10.19
6 Calabarzon (IV-A)	92.85	7.15	15.60	93.03	6.97	13.97	93.44	6.56	13.37	93.89	6.11	11.79
Mimaropa (IV-B)	95.91	4.10	21.80	95.24	4.80	23.70	95.34	4.66	20.58	95.59	4.41	19.56
8 Bicol Region (V)	95.38	4.62	30.23	95.43	4.57	27.65	95.10	4.90	29.65	94.76	5.24	27.29
9 Western Visayas (VI)	95.20	4.80	19.27	94.60	5.40	16.70	94.66	5.34	18.58	95.29	4.71	11.19
10 Central Visayas (VII)	95.09	4.91	14.74	95.50	4.50	17.50	94.67	5.33	17.77	94.75	5.25	14.95
11 Eastern Visayas (VIII)	95.53	4.47	29.87	95.56	4.44	22.64	95.79	4.21	21.41	95.52	4.48	20.19
12 Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	96.24	3.76	22.46	96.04	3.96	17.32	95.87	4.13	18.86	96.29	3.71	16.48
13 Northern Mindanao (X)	94.76	5.24	27.88	94.71	5.29	18.57	95.95	4.05	20.76	95.58	4.42	21.78
14 Davao Region (XI)	95.51	4.49	16.81	95.14	4.86	17.77	95.70	4.30	15.42	96.22	3.78	11.05
15 Soccsksargen (XII)	95.89	4.11	23.74	96.05	3.95	17.94	96.07	3.93	17.02	95.63	4.37	19.71
16 Caraga (XIII)	95.03	4.97	28.01	94.93	5.07	23.10	95.93	4.07	25.22	95.15	4.85	18.53
17 ARMM	96.06	3.94	13.54	96.55	3.45	7.03	96.25	3.75	8.37	93.42	6.58	8.41

^r Revised

^p Preliminary

Source: PSA

10. Receipts and Expenditures

in billion pesos

REGION	NCR	CAR	I	II	III	IVA	IVB	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	CARAGA	ARMM	GRAND TOTAL
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	95.2	14.4	33.7	20.9	41.2	63.3	18.6	24.2	24.4	(15.4)	27.0	19.6	19.7	15.8	18.6	19.5	9.6	450.4
RECEIPTS	120.5	18.2	31.6	28.5	66.4	69.5	24.4	34.9	48.6	55.7	31.0	22.4	37.6	31.2	25.0	20.7	22.8	689.1
Local Sources	91.4	2.5	4.4	3.9	20.6	16.1	2.9	4.7	11.1	21.0	3.1	2.8	10.9	7.5	3.3	1.3	0.3	207.7
Tax Revenues	73.9	1.1	2.3	1.6	14.0	13.0	1.4	2.3	5.6	12.7	1.2	1.1	6.0	4.5	1.7	0.6	0.2	143.3
Non-Tax Revenues	17.5	1.4	2.1	2.3	6.6	3.0	1.5	2.4	5.5	8.3	1.8	1.7	4.9	3.1	1.6	0.6	0.1	64.4
External Sources	26.7	15.7	27.3	24.6	45.2	53.3	21.5	27.7	37.3	33.1	27.8	19.0	26.7	23.6	21.6	19.4	22.5	472.9
Share from IRA	25.2	15.1	24.2	24.5	44.2	51.7	21.4	27.6	36.5	32.3	27.5	19.0	25.6	23.5	21.6	19.3	22.2	461.3
Share from GOCCs (PAGCOR and PCSO)	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
Other Share from National Tax Collection	1.2	0.6	3.0	0.0	0.5	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	8.7
Inter-Local Transfer	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	-	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Extraordinary Receipts/Grants/Donations/Aids	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.2
Non-Income Receipts	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.0	2.5	0.3	1.6	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	8.5
Capital Investment Receipts	1.5	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4
Receipts from Loans and Borrowings	1.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.7	0.1	-	1.8	0.2	1.6	-	0.6	-	-	-	0.0	-	6.1
EXPENDITURES	119.9	18.5	24.0	26.7	62.9	89.0	24.1	33.0	48.1	132.7	27.6	20.0	38.0	30.0	22.9	17.7	16.0	751.1
General Services	53.1	8.2	11.4	15.2	31.2	40.7	11.4	14.0	26.1	69.2	14.7	9.7	16.4	15.4	11.3	8.3	8.3	364.5
Economic Services	17.1	5.1	6.5	5.8	14.3	17.6	5.7	9.1	8.8	33.3	6.7	4.6	11.1	7.7	5.8	3.9	4.9	168.0
Social Services	47.4	4.8	5.2	4.8	15.2	26.1	6.0	8.7	11.8	27.8	5.6	4.6	9.4	5.8	4.8	3.9	2.5	194.5
Debt Services	2.3	0.4	0.9	0.9	2.3	4.6	1.0	1.2	1.4	2.5	0.7	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.7	0.2	24.1
ENDING CASH BALANCE	95.8	14.1	41.4	22.8	44.7	59.0	18.9	26.1	25.0	(92.4)	30.3	22.0	19.3	17.0	20.7	24.1	16.4	405.1

Source: Department of Budget and Management, Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing FY 2020

Table F.6 Statement of Receipts and Expenditures, By Regional Level of LGUs, 2019

11. Inflation Rate

2012 = 100

in percent

	REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019
ALL ITEMS					
	PHILIPPINES	1.30	2.90	5.20	2.50
1	Metro Manila	0.70	3.70	5.50	2.60
	Areas Outside Metro Manila	1.40	2.70	5.10	2.50
2	CAR	1.70	1.80	3.80	2.20
3	Ilocos Region (I)	0.80	2.00	6.00	2.40
4	Cagayan Valley (II)	1.70	2.50	5.50	2.10
5	Central Luzon (III)	1.70	3.10	3.20	2.90
6	CALABARZON (IV-A)	0.90	2.90	4.80	2.60
7	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	2.00	2.20	5.10	3.90
8	Bicol Region (V)	1.00	1.30	7.00	2.80
9	Western Visayas (VI)	1.00	1.80	5.90	2.40
10	Central Visayas (VII)	1.80	2.50	5.60	1.60
11	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	1.10	3.40	5.60	1.50
12	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	2.10	3.00	6.20	1.00
13	Northern Mindanao (X)	2.30	3.00	5.30	2.90
14	Davao Region (XI)	1.50	3.10	5.60	2.50
15	SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	2.40	2.00	6.20	2.80
16	Caraga	1.30	1.90	4.20	1.80
17	ARMM	1.80	3.40	7.10	2.60

Source: PSA

12. Approved Foreign Investments

*for periods indicated
in million pesos*

	REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019 ^P
	PHILIPPINES	219,038.60	105,745.46	183,347.35	390,110.07
1	NCR	37,572.42	17,404.60	37,467.17	23,831.50
2	CAR	24,667.79	143.70	396.09	39.00
3	Ilocos Region (I)	6,078.41	10,131.70	175.96	-
4	Cagayan Valley (II)	2,164.50	82.54	1,322.74	677.70
5	Central Luzon (III)	13,716.72	10,623.75	25,666.56	28,754.40
6	CALABARZON (IV-A)	94,336.66	48,351.98	42,331.83	108,532.30
7	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	1,272.28	955.07	1,000.17	116.60
8	Bicol Region (V)	0.0	240.27	878.76	281.20
9	Western Visayas (VI)	9,243.05	6,849.84	873.54	1,585.70
10	Central Visayas (VII)	13,613.66	6,102.94	3,728.22	2,868.60
11	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	2.58	141.25	0.0	24.20
12	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	205.99	0.0	308.93	-
13	Northern Mindanao (X)	1,520.70	2,081.76	64,605.25	2,606.30
14	Davao Region (XI)	1,285.26	687.81	1,274.66	1,823.10
15	SOCCKSARGEN (XII)	10,922.55	657.21	106.30	280.10
16	Caraga	1,395.95	409.05	26.40	-
17	ARMM	1,040.08	724.69	235.15	306.90
	Several Locations ¹	0.0	157.31	2,000.62	218,382.44
	No Site Yet ²	0.0	0.0	949.00	0.0

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

Coverage of reports: Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), Board of Investments (BOI), BOI-Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BOI-ARMM), Clark Development Corporation (CDC), Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

^P Preliminary

. Rounds off to zero

¹ Locations not indicated in the raw data submitted to PSA.

² As indicated in the raw data submitted to PSA.

Source: PSA

13. Approved Foreign and Filipino Investments

*for periods indicated
in million pesos*

	REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019 ^P
	PHILIPPINES	685,952.5	908,744.7	1,084,152.4	1,309,099.4
1	NCR	159,018.1	128,173.9	188,565.6	66,095.6
2	CAR	57,421.4	2,440.8	990.2	33,479.0
3	Ilocos Region (I)	17,388.6	61,920.9	13,599.0	14,674.7
4	Cagayan Valley (II)	5,421.4	14,288.2	10,183.9	15,970.1
5	Central Luzon (III)	89,888.5	181,282.4	215,876.6	120,668.4
6	CALABARZON (IV-A)	181,680.9	374,748.6	228,452.9	437,167.2
7	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	5,700.0	3,803.1	3,551.9	5,527.2
8	Bicol Region (V)	4,476.9	5,510.9	4,214.0	8,905.6
9	Western Visayas (VI)	41,221.6	26,738.0	14,748.9	7,942.7
10	Central Visayas (VII)	51,031.0	44,874.1	67,054.3	28,268.6
11	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	829.8	753.7	6,381.6	13,993.9
12	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	728.8	-	1,689.4	315.7
13	Northern Mindanao (X)	15,413.4	12,633.1	230,695.2	15,859.3
14	Davao Region (XI)	27,998.9	13,416.2	20,344.2	7,468.9
15	SOCCKSARGEN (XII)	23,647.3	30,246.7	4,412.7	6,818.5
16	Caraga	1,974.3	4,286.6	58,248.0	3,130.2
17	ARMM	2,111.4	3,234.5	2,254.6	4,154.6
	Several Locations ¹	0.0	393.3	11,940.5	518,659.4
	No Site Yet ²	0.0	-	949.0	-

Source: PSA

Coverage of reports: Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), Board of Investments (BOI), BOI-Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BOI-ARMM), Clark Development Corporation (CDC), Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), Philippine Economic Zone

¹ Locations not indicated in the raw data submitted to PSA.

² As indicated in the raw data submitted to PSA.

^P preliminary

14. Deposit Liabilities

in million pesos

	REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019
	PHILIPPINES	10,491,828	11,704,683	12,739,315	13,621,615
1	NCR	7,069,117	7,879,151	8,542,714	8,898,738
2	CAR	96,425	110,175	118,525	134,439
3	Ilocos Region (I)	185,367	204,110	235,642	258,835
4	Cagayan Valley (II)	113,997	128,293	143,841	156,450
5	Central Luzon (III)	527,290	601,811	668,286	762,341
6	CALABARZON (IV-A)	731,257	812,384	887,764	988,975
7	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	65,056	80,335	91,848	97,838
8	Bicol Region (V)	124,626	140,314	154,653	181,742
9	Western Visayas (VI)	167,858	319,543	345,152	384,706
10	Central Visayas (VII) ^{1/}	505,395	582,732	631,506	732,044
11	Eastern Visayas (VIII) ^{1/}	94,334	109,184	119,221	133,150
12	Negros Island Region ^{2/}	160,275	-	-	-
13	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	95,866	107,690	117,438	130,462
14	Northern Mindanao (X)	152,816	172,437	185,970	207,514
15	Davao Region (XI)	214,789	240,357	265,607	299,680
16	SOCCKSARGEN (XII)	108,077	124,496	132,415	141,417
17	Caraga	69,266	78,591	84,046	97,849
18	ARMM	10,017	13,079	14,687	15,434

1/ Revocation of EO No. 183 which created the Negros Island Region and transferring Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental to Region VI (Western Visayas) and Region VII (Central Visayas) respectively, per Executive Order No. 38, s. 2017 effective 07 August 2017

2/ Negros Island Region (NIR) created under Executive Order No. 183 dated 29 May 2015, composed of the provinces of Negros Occidental (formerly from Region VI Western Visayas) and Negros Oriental (formerly from Region VII Central Visayas)

Source: DSA-FSS-BSP

15. Loans-to-Deposits Ratio

in percent

	REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019
	PHILIPPINES	65.00	70.57	72.46	70.88
1	NCR	81.75	88.99	90.68	90.64
2	CAR	14.10	13.73	16.88	15.73
3	Ilocos Region (I)	22.46	24.50	24.15	23.68
4	Cagayan Valley (II)	43.01	43.38	45.76	44.05
5	Central Luzon (III)	29.55	33.26	36.19	31.45
6	CALABARZON (IV-A)	19.63	23.45	26.60	24.93
7	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	33.68	33.15	35.11	33.42
8	Bicol Region (V)	34.07	33.18	34.69	32.01
9	Western Visayas (VI) ^{1/}	28.12	30.77	31.90	30.49
10	Central Visayas (VII) ^{1/}	42.42	45.58	46.25	43.45
11	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	24.79	26.69	28.05	30.13
12	Negros Island Region ^{2/}	27.54	-	-	-
13	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	29.75	25.34	25.88	27.26
14	Northern Mindanao (X)	32.38	33.30	36.18	36.24
15	Davao Region (XI)	42.48	40.80	53.14	49.94
16	SOCCKSARGEN (XII)	46.45	49.35	53.63	62.20
17	Caraga	32.50	32.11	36.44	35.47
18	ARMM	15.85	13.87	11.85	12.22

1/ Revocation of EO No. 183 which created the Negros Island Region and transferring Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental to Region VI (Western Visayas) and Region VII (Central Visayas) respectively, per Executive Order No. 38, s. 2017 effective 07 August 2017

2/ Negros Island Region (NIR) created under Executive Order No. 183 dated 29 May 2015, composed of the provinces of Negros Occidental (formerly from Region VI Western Visayas) and Negros Oriental (formerly from Region VII Central Visayas)

Details may not add up to totals due to rounding-off

Source: DSA-FSS-BSP

16. Bank Density Ratio ^{1/}

in percent

	REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019
	PHILIPPINES	6.81	7.19	7.54	7.85
1	NCR	206.12	214.60	219.94	225.06
2	CAR	2.14	2.30	2.42	2.56
3	Ilocos Region (I)	4.16	4.70	4.97	5.20
4	Cagayan Valley (II)	3.85	4.20	4.60	5.00
5	Central Luzon (III) ^{2/}	8.82	9.30	9.89	10.32
6	CALABARZON (IV-A) ^{3/}	11.73	12.20	12.85	13.18
7	MIMAROPA (IV-B) ^{3/}	3.66	3.80	4.00	4.14
8	Bicol Region (V)	3.75	4.10	4.38	4.67
9	Western Visayas (VI) ^{3/}	4.50	5.20	5.29	5.53
10	Central Visayas (VII)	5.87	6.00	6.48	6.80
11	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	1.47	1.60	1.81	2.00
12	Negros Island Region ^{4/}	5.21	-	-	-
13	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	3.06	3.10	3.31	3.63
14	Northern Mindanao (X)	4.12	4.30	4.40	4.62
15	Davao Region (XI)	8.65	9.10	9.59	10.06
16	SOCCKSARGEN (XII)	4.64	5.00	5.50	5.86
17	Caraga	2.85	2.90	2.96	3.04
18	ARMM	0.16	0.20	0.16	0.15

^{1/} Ratio of the Number of Banking Offices to the Number of Municipalities and Cities

^{2/} Inclusive of the province of Aurora effective May 17, 2002 as provided under

^{3/} Executive Order No. 103 dated May 17, 2002 divided Region IV (Southern Tagalog) into Region IV-A (CALABARZON) and Region IV-B (MIMAROPA). Under Administrative Order No. 129 Palawan was reclassified from Region VI to

^{4/} Negros Island Region (NIR) created under Executive Order No. 183 dated 29 May

Source: DSA-FSS-BSP

17. Number of Microfinance Oriented Banks

REGION		Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19
PHILIPPINES		1,495	1,765	2,022	2,405
1	NCR	129	130	129	151
2	CAR	26	34	39	47
3	Ilocos Region (I)	81	129	159	179
4	Cagayan Valley (II)	44	59	83	116
5	Central Luzon (III)	114	149	177	220
6	CALABARZON (IV-A)	320	364	419	467
7	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	101	103	107	119
8	Bicol Region (V)	148	170	192	226
9	Western Visayas (VI) ^{2/}	112	147	166	197
10	Central Visayas (VII) ^{2/}	58	120	165	201
11	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	49	60	76	98
12	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	37	39	43	66
13	Northern Mindanao (X)	71	74	78	94
14	Davao Region (XI)	77	86	88	110
15	SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	28	37	48	58
16	Caraga	62	62	52	55
17	ARMM	2	2	1	1
18	Region NIR (Negros Island Region) *	36	-	-	-

* Revocation of EO No. 183 which created the Negros Island Region and transferring Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental to Region VI (Western Visayas) and Region VII (Central Visayas) respectively, per

¹ Per Section X151 of the Manual of Regulation for Banks (MORB); Circular Letter No. CL-2017-987

Source: DSA-FSS-BSP

Updated as of 7 May 2020

18. Microfinance Loans Outstanding in the Banking System

*for periods indicated
in million pesos*

	REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019
	PHILIPPINES	13,740.80	17,110.93	22,615.42	27,294.69
1	NCR	630.39	909.84	2,408.05	4,330.72
2	CAR	0.77	1.36	0.78	0.59
3	Ilocos Region (I)	8.04	5.82	5.18	4.52
4	Cagayan Valley (II)	106.59	115.28	144.26	106.10
5	Central Luzon (III)	342.71	497.13	515.07	321.80
6	CALABARZON (IV-A)	9,846.56	12,455.30	16,348.61	18,868.52
7	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	35.13	23.99	17.11	16.44
8	Bicol Region (V)	328.60	337.79	340.15	483.08
9	Western Visayas (VI) ^{2/}	619.35	754.25	857.84	979.49
10	Central Visayas (VII) ^{2/}	404.17	431.93	253.09	302.59
11	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	20.28	21.74	25.24	22.10
12	Negros Island Region	91.02			
13	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	388.17	562.49	711.78	858.39
14	Northern Mindanao (X)	288.85	332.44	306.77	314.83
15	Davao Region (XI)	169.01	179.14	175.55	151.81
16	SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	104.02	122.15	156.41	225.44
17	Caraga	357.13	360.30	349.54	308.28
18	ARMM				

Notes:

Regional grouping based on the location of bank's head office

Executive Order No. 183 (s. 2015) created the Negros Island Region.

Executive Order No. 38 (s. 2017) revoked Executive Order No. 183.

^{2/}Revocation of EO No. 183 which created the Negros Island Region and transferring Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental to Region VI (Western Visayas) and Region VII (Central Visayas) respectively, per Executive Order No. 38, s. 2017 effective 07 August 2017

Source: DSA-FSS-BSP

19. Microfinance Borrowers in the Banking System

for periods indicated

	REGION	2016	2017	2018	2019
	PHILIPPINES	1,686,152	1,956,276	1,986,683	2,410,677
1	NCR	30,423	27,595	60,784	100,611
2	CAR	51	53	31	27
3	Ilocos Region (I)	1,320	780	701	695
4	Cagayan Valley (II)	13,430	12,014	10,722	10,317
5	Central Luzon (III)	58,077	62,143	58,687	45,802
6	CALABARZON (IV-A)	1,288,983	1,553,541	1,566,569	1,940,752
7	MIMAROPA (IV-B)	3,467	2,881	2,331	2,273
8	Bicol Region (V)	30,901	28,520	28,218	30,020
9	Western Visayas (VI) ^{2/}	66,803	72,467	77,770	75,997
10	Central Visayas (VII) ^{2/}	26,593	34,675	29,031	50,191
11	Eastern Visayas (VIII)	1,325	1,352	1,390	701
12	Negros Island Region	8,445			
13	Zamboanga Peninsula (IX)	35,207	41,471	44,534	53,240
14	Northern Mindanao (X)	21,971	21,635	12,984	12,237
15	Davao Region (XI)	8,598	8,409	7,945	7,469
16	SOCCSKSARGEN (XII)	16,517	16,681	19,231	20,234
17	Caraga	74,041	72,059	65,755	60,111
18	ARMM				

Notes:

Regional grouping based on the location of bank's head office

Executive Order No. 183 (s. 2015) created the Negros Island Region.

Executive Order No. 38 (s. 2017) revoked Executive Order No. 183.

^{2/} Revocation of EO No. 183 which created the Negros Island Region and transferring Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental to Region VI (Western Visayas) and Region VII (Central Visayas) respectively, per Executive Order No. 38, s. 2017 effective 07 August 2017

Source: DSA-FSS-BSP