Chapter 9

PROMOTE TRADE AND INVESTMENTS

Transforming Trade, Empowering Investments

Two years into the implementation of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028, the country has made steady progress in advancing the trade and investment sectors and enhancing the global competitiveness of Philippine exports. Strategic measures have addressed bottlenecks through targeted support programs for product and workforce development, streamlined customs and trade processes, and encouraged more inclusive stakeholder engagement and partnerships across the value chain. On the investment front, business climate has improved with the harmonization of investment promotion efforts, driving sector-specific growth, and attracting Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)-aligned investments.

The government will pursue forward-looking interventions to enhance the export potential of goods and services through targeted capacity-building and research and development initiatives aligned with evolving global demand. High-potential sectors and priority markets will be identified and provided support through comprehensive market mapping and product-market strategies informed by stakeholder feedback, emerging trade agreements, and global trends.

Advocacy campaigns on free trade agreements (FTAs), supported by integrated digital systems, will encourage greater utilization of these partnerships—especially among micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). To accelerate investments, the government will prioritize the Make It Happen in the Philippines (MIH) campaign and harmonize investment promotion efforts around high-impact sectors to drive growth and regional development. Emphasis will also be placed on addressing local-level challenges to fully capitalize on opportunities from recent liberalization reforms.

Accomplishments

Figure 9.1 Progress Report for the Promotion of Trade and Investments

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION FOR A PROSPEROUS, INCLUSIVE, AND RESILIENT ECONOMY

TRANSFORM PRODUCTION SECTORS TO GENERATE MORE QUALITY JOBS AND COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS

GLOBAL POSITION OF PHILIPPINE EXPORT SECTORS RESTORED, SUSTAINED, AND STRENGTHENED

- Resolve key constraints to export growth and competitiveness
- Proactively monitor and implement preventive measures and interventions for distressed firms
- Implement targeted, more granular strategies to increase exports on three fronts: global value chain (GVC) export clusters (industrial, manufacturing, and transportation [IMT], technology, media, and telecommunications [TMT], and health and life sciences [HLS]); food and agri-marine; and labor-intensive manufacturing
- Significantly diversify exports by fortifying the sectoral backward and forward linkages
- Advance purposive, assertive, and forward-looking Free Trade Agreements strategies
- Position the Philippines as the foremost supplier of tradeable intermediate services
- Ensure integrated, whole-of-government commitment to deliver broad access to National Quality Infrastructure

TOTAL INVESTMENTS INCREASED AND TARGETED TO BOOST TRADE, SKILLS UPGRADING, AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Maximize synergy and decisively align national and local government investment promotion strategies
- Launch an aggressive "Make It Happen in the Philippines" campaign and raise awareness of the new business climate ushered in by most recent structural reforms
- Leverage the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP)
- Heighten the country's attractiveness to foreign direct investments (FDI) by developing unique locational assets especially in the rural areas
- Position the Philippines as a prime destination of foreign investments against climate change or environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investments

Legend:
Implemented
Partially implemented
Not implemented

Despite global headwinds, the Philippines made progress in developing the trade sector through strategic diversification, harnessing innovation and strengthening linkages to maximize potential. High inflation and uneven recovery in key markets constrained merchandise exports, which reached USD55.3 billion in 2023 and USD55.0 billion in 2024, slightly below targets but showing steady gains. Non-electronic exports, averaging USD32.94 billion over the past two years, presents opportunities for enhanced competitiveness through focused support. Despite fewer commodities with revealed comparative advantage, the strong performance of services exports—surpassing targets with USD48.33 billion in 2023 and USD51.98 billion in 2024—reflect successful diversification and sector-specific growth.

Strategic diversification has strengthened the country's export prospects. The country pursued FTA negotiations to broaden market access for goods and services exports, notably through the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which advanced regional economic integration and harmonized trade rules among 15 member countries. Likewise, the Philippines-Korea Free Trade Agreement (PH-KR FTA) boosted the competitiveness of Filipino products—particularly agricultural exports—while promoting cooperation in investment and industrial development. To expand global reach and elevate the Philippine brand, the country actively engaged in trade fairs and investment missions. These efforts were complemented by initiatives on product development and exporter capacity-building to meet international standards and compliance requirements.

Prioritizing initiatives to harness innovation broadened the country's export potential. The launch of an FTA portal provided key information on tariff rates and rules of origin, promoting greater FTA utilization and maximizing the country's preferential access to these markets. Customs digitalization—through advanced cargo monitoring systems, electronic declarations, digital payment platforms, and real-time cargo tracking—streamlined trade processes, reduced transaction times, and curbed unfair practices. Digital monitoring systems also facilitated firms' compliance with quality standards, supporting the development of more competitive export products.

Stronger public-private linkages were established to maximize export potential. Ongoing market mapping and business matching activities have connected producers and businesses in key sectors—such as manufacturing, transportation, technology, media, telecommunications, health, and life sciences—to domestic and global markets. These efforts provided businesses with expanded opportunities to supply existing and new markets. Various programs were initiated to facilitate information sharing and joint planning among supply chain actors, as well as capacity-building initiatives, to reinforce the cohesion of supply chain linkages. These programs were distributed to relevant stakeholders through various media tailored to the needs of different firms, including agricultural training delivered via traditional radio programs, digital platforms and in-person sessions.

Harmonized investment promotion efforts revealed opportunities to streamline local regulatory processes. The Inter-Agency Investment Promotion Coordination Committee (IIPCC) developed the Foreign Investment Promotion and Marketing Plan (FIPMP) to harmonize local and national promotion efforts, while Green Lane units were established to fast-track permits. At the local level, 688 Local Economic Development and Investment Promotion Offices (LEDIPOs) and 824 designated officers were mobilized to strengthen investment facilitation. While these efforts mark progress toward a unified promotion strategy, challenges persist—such as fragmented regulations, uneven local government unit (LGU) capacity, and lack of dedicated personnel—which have limited the full impact of reforms. These constraints likely contributed to the foreign direct investment-to-gross domestic product ratio falling short of its 2024 target (2–5%), reaching only 1.94 percent.

Passing game-changing liberalization measures reinforced the policy framework for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). The enactment of key economic liberalization laws—such as the amended Retail Trade Liberalization Act (RTLA), Public Service Act (PSA), and Foreign Investments Act (FIA)—strengthened the Philippines' policy framework for attracting FDI, contributing to improved rankings in the OECD FDI Restrictiveness Index. Despite these reforms, the country's FDI share in ASEAN remained modest at 3.18 percent in 2024, below the 5-10 percent target and behind regional peers like Singapore and Indonesia. To address this, the government launched the *Make It Happen in the Philippines (MIH) 2.0* campaign and enhanced global branding. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) also modernized its registration processes through the Electronic Simplified Processing of Application for Registration of Company (eSPARC), improving ease of doing business. Additionally, the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP) directed investments to targeted sectors, leading to the approval of 41 big-ticket projects under the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Act worth PHP610.88 billion and generating 35,956 jobs.

Transparent regulations and clear guidelines enabled accelerated growth in sustainable finance and investments. The SEC issued guidelines to strengthen sustainable finance and disclosure for Sustainable and Responsible Investment Funds (SRIF), positioning the Philippines as an emerging contender for sustainable investments. This is reflected in the increase of green, social, and sustainability (GSS) bonds issued—from USD10.11 billion in 2023 to USD15.30 billion in 2024—demonstrating rising investor confidence and stronger government support for green financing.

Implementation of the Transformation Agenda

This chapter advocates transformative change through digitalization and connectivity, supported by enhanced collaboration between national and local government units and private sector partnerships. It emphasizes streamlining regulations, developing digital trade platforms, and capacity-building aligned with industry and exporter needs. Additionally, it highlights the private sector's key role in advancing ESG investments to mainstream sustainable practices in banking and investment, fostering inclusive growth and positioning the Philippines as a competitive investment destination.

Action Plan

Building on the gains during the first two years of the PDP, the government is committed to driving a resilient and globally competitive trade and investment sector. Reinforcing ongoing efforts on data-driven product development and a robust campaign strategy will provide opportunities to expand the share of Filipino exports in international markets. Ensuring the availability of inputs by ramping up domestic production capabilities and harnessing innovation pathways will ensure adherence of products to world-class standards.

The government will adopt a more strategic, coordinated approach to investment promotion to drive inclusive growth, trade expansion, and sustainability, supported by the recent economic liberalization reforms. Efforts will focus on aligning national and local strategies, strengthening institutional capacity, and leveraging digital tools and structural reforms to attract high-value, ESG-aligned, and regionally inclusive investments.

Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted.

Updated Strategy Framework

The Updated Strategy Framework (see **Figure 9.2**) has been refined to adopt a more targeted approach towards achieving sectoral targets for the remainder of the Plan period. The updated strategies are designed to ensure that existing opportunities are effectively leveraged to advance strategic initiatives in trade and investments.

Figure 9.2 Updated Strategy Framework to Promote Trade and Investments

Strategies

Outcome 1: Global position of Philippine export sectors restored, sustained, and strengthened

Resolve key constraints to export growth and competitiveness

Intensify efforts to remove regulatory bottlenecks and improve digital platforms for a seamless, efficient trade environment. Priority will be given to assessing and amending trade-related regulations, including sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, and import licensing procedures, to align with trade facilitation objectives. Additionally, the costs and charges imposed by public and private service providers will be reviewed to prevent undue burdens on exporters. Existing inter-agency committees will focus on evaluating the effectiveness of current trade facilitation measures and recommend policy actions to eliminate barriers to trade. Likewise, support initiatives will be designed and implemented to assist firms in complying with registration and licensing requirements set by trading partners, enabling exporters to maximize the benefits of FTAs.

The government will ensure a unified digital architecture that improves efficiency, minimizes user fatigue, and maintains consistent data flow across trade facilitation tools. Seamless interoperability and centralized oversight will prevent parallel processes that burden stakeholders. Upgrading platforms, such as the Tariff Classification Information System-Online Application System (TCIS-OAS), will continue to enhance reliable online issuance of approved, digitally signed advance rulings.

Capacity-building initiatives to improve the capabilities of MSMEs will be prioritized to further maximize the success of the PHX Source platform, which links Philippine exporters to global markets. These efforts will focus on overcoming challenges like low digital literacy, limited technical resources, and weak branding. Ongoing upgrades to the Philippine Tariff Finder (PTF) will also enhance user experience, ensure data accuracy, and maintain its relevance for exporters, importers, and stakeholders worldwide.

The institutionalization of the National Single Window is also expected to streamline trade procedures and lower trade transaction costs. Moreover, the passage of the International Maritime Trade Competitiveness Act will be prioritized to decongest ports, enhance transparency, reduce shipping fees, and rationalize port charges.

Proactively monitor and implement preventive measures and interventions for distressed firms

To proactively support distressed firms, a multi-faceted strategy will be advanced, focusing on early detection, timely monitoring, and preventive interventions. Central to this is the Firm Indicator Risk System (FIRST) (previously referred to as Early Warning System) spearheaded by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Continued coordination is crucial to address funding gaps, fragmented MSME data systems, and limited institutional and technical capacity for effective communication of risk indicators.

Complementing these efforts is the Import Surge Monitoring System (ISMS) of the DTI, which enables agencies to engage with domestic manufacturers affected by rising imports. The expanded Adjustment Measures Program (AMP) will further support enterprise development and workforce resilience through advanced training in adaptive leadership, labor market intelligence, and social dialogue, fostering enterprise-responsive solutions.

A Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system is being developed to streamline client tracking and service delivery and ensure data-driven, responsive, and customized export assistance. Limitations on resources, fragmented data, and technical gaps need to be considered in its design to resolve issues and ensure successful implementation.

Implement targeted, more granular strategies to increase exports on three fronts: global value chain export clusters (industrial, manufacturing, and transportation, technology, media, and telecommunications, and health and life sciences); food and agri-marine; and labor-intensive manufacturing

Expand targeted interventions to maximize export opportunities and resolve sector-specific constraints. Market opportunities mapping will be expanded by leveraging industry insights, trade agreements, and private sector feedback to identify and provide responsive support to priority sectors and markets. Mapping activities should include identifying demands and trends in partner countries as well as pinpointing constraints and needs of exporters to find solutions and alternatives and amplify benefits from these opportunities.

Export capabilities in agri-marine and labor-intensive manufacturing will also be enhanced through tailored support and comprehensive capacity-building. Additionally, the government will focus on strengthening the value chain by delivering capacity building programs, including soft skills training, for agricultural extension workers, farmers, and cooperative leaders. To ensure effectiveness, challenges such as limited availability of trainers and weather-related disruptions will be addressed. Likewise, approaches to promote cooperation and collaboration among exporters will be identified to address commercial scale production.

Addressing sector-specific constraints such as inadequate agricultural extension services will be prioritized. Farmers and fisherfolk will be supported through diverse, need-based online training and extension programs. This includes grants to establish and enhance information centers and kiosks, alongside educational radio-based initiatives.

Significantly diversify exports by capitalizing on opportunities from Free Trade Agreements

Enhance overall export capacity by bridging supply chain segments. Upstream and downstream firms will be encouraged to collaborate to create domestic supply chains and develop innovative products. The conduct of robust supply and demand mapping activities allows insights into emerging export opportunities for the country by examining local production capabilities in relation to global market needs. These efforts will be supported through training on accreditation, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), good business practices, and standards compliance. Initiatives to enhance conformity to technical regulations and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards will be prioritized to facilitate optimal market access. Trade and investments promotional activities and participation in international trade and investments events and missions will be made more effective and its reach expanded with the provision of more resources. In addition, the promotion of consistent branding will reinforce the unique identity of Filipino products and enhance wider recognition. Collaborating with world renowned personalities with Filipino roots will also be explored to elevate the Philippine brand in the global market.

To reduce vulnerability against supply chain disruptions, the government will focus on finding alternative products and enhancing current resources. Addressing concerns on youth readiness and enterprise sustainability with novel approaches such as linking these young entrepreneurs with innovative start-ups to develop products and capacity is also crucial to empowering smallholders in realizing an inclusive, sustainable and resilient value chain.

Advance purposive, assertive, and forward-looking Free Trade Agreement strategies

Broadening and deepening market access by strengthening ties with existing partners while forging new ones. The Philippines will continue to expand its global reach by upgrading existing agreements, fostering deeper trade relations, and expanding digital economy initiatives, with targeted milestones between 2025 and 2027. To build stakeholder support and encourage more firms to explore export markets and benefit from preferential market access, the government will carry out information and advocacy campaigns through the One Country, One Voice (OCOV) consultations and platforms like Usapang Exports.

To strengthen and steer FTA negotiations to champion the interests of the Philippines, ex-ante impact assessments will be undertaken to evaluate trade agreements' potential contribution to the economy. The government will also institutionalize a comprehensive FTA trade policy framework aligned with the PDP to define clear negotiation objectives and guide advocacy efforts. Preparatory activities, including ex-ante assessments and readiness measures such as production enhancement and certification procedures, will be undertaken to identify key sectors and facilitate optimal market access prior to engaging in negotiations. Additionally, institutional capacity will be enhanced by building specialized expertise in emerging areas such as digital trade, labor, and sustainability, enabling negotiators to address complex trade issues effectively.

The Philippines will also collaborate with FTA partners to exchange data on import utilization, enabling better identification of interventions that help exporters fully leverage preferential market access.

Position the Philippines as the foremost supplier of tradeable intermediate services

Strengthen the Philippines' competitive edge by leading in services exports, with a focus on the growing creative and digital sectors. Design will be integrated into industry support programs, including export and intellectual property assistance, to drive business transformation. Regional growth centers will be mobilized to develop a vibrant pool of digital-savvy talent nationwide *(see Chapter 4 Increase Income-earning Ability)*.

Enhance and ensure broad-based access to the National Quality Infrastructure

Harmonize and integrate national standards and certification systems. The passage of the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) Act will institutionalize a unified quality framework that aligns with global standards and enhances export competitiveness. The refinement of Philippine National Standards (PNS) will ensure quality and safety benchmarks, particularly for agriculture and fisheries products. Efforts will also focus on strengthening inspector capacity, sustaining inspection processes, increasing stakeholder awareness, conducting pilot tests with private aquaculture farms, and rolling out the Good Agricultural and Aquaculture Practices certification to establish a credible, inclusive, and export-oriented quality assurance system. Resources will also be directed on establishing and expanding the reach of testing centers, while reducing the cost for obtaining certifications. These efforts aim to assist enterprises comply with international standards and improve their access to global markets.

Outcome 2: Total investments increased and targeted to boost trade, skills upgrading, and sustainability

Maximize synergy and decisively align national and local government investment promotion strategies

Boost investment and regional development through harmonized promotional efforts. Investment promotion will be aligned through the Foreign Investment Promotion and Marketing Plan (FIPMP) and supported by the rollout of the Online Single Portal System (OSPS), which will centralize all investment-related information. Progress of the FIPMP will also be monitored using specific medium- and long-term strategies and indicators. Together, these initiatives aim to accelerate investment flows into priority sectors. Furthermore, local coordination will be enhanced through the issuance of a Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular (MC) directing LGUs to designate LEDIPOs as "green lane" units. The establishment of these "green lanes" essentially serves as a non-fiscal incentive by streamlining permits and licenses, reducing red tape, and expediting investor transactions at the local level. A Joint MC among Investment Facilitation Network agencies will also streamline permit processing. To spur regional growth, new ecozones will be established—including a mega economic zone in Puerto Princesa and a fifth public ecozone in Albay—while the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) will implement guidelines to attract pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers.

Strengthen and broaden promotional branding campaign to boost investment opportunities

Position the Philippines as a prime investment destination. The DTI's *Make It Happen* (MIH) campaign will be scaled up through expanded distribution of promotional materials to LGUs and foreign posts. Implementation of programs in line with structural reforms will also boost investment opportunities and competitiveness. As provided in the amended FIA, the FIPMP will steer the MIH campaign to broaden its reach using both digital and traditional media, with interactive content tailored for multinational corporations. A dedicated monitoring mechanism will be developed to track the progress of the amended RTLA due to rising investor interest. Moreover, the full implementation of the amended PSA will be supported through the issuance and enforcement of sectoral guidelines to encourage investment in liberalized sectors. Lastly, the benefits of the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy (CREATE MORE) Act will be highlighted in an awareness campaign to be conducted in domestic and international roadshows.

Leverage the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP) to attract high-impact investments in critical growth sectors

Through the utilization of the SIPP, investments will be directed to high-impact sectors to advance the nation's development. The 2025–2027 SIPP will prioritize the inclusion of high-value and strategic sectors such as smart/green manufacturing, semiconductors and electronics, green metals, high-tech agriculture, renewable energy, data centers, telecommunication infrastructure, and health care. Investments to these sectors will foster innovation and boost global competitiveness by building on the country's strategic advantages. Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) will also be capacitated to conduct ex-ante cost-benefit analyses and project evaluations to support evidence-based policymaking. Roadshows will also be conducted to highlight the opportunities and incentives under the new SIPP with the aim of attracting more sustainable and strategic investments into priority sectors.

Heighten the country's attractiveness to foreign direct investments by developing unique locational assets, especially in the rural areas

Strengthen investments in rural development through public-private partnerships (PPPs). The Department of Agriculture (DA) and relevant agencies will continue capacity-building efforts to enhance institutional readiness for PPP engagement, focusing on legal frameworks, implementation requirements, and project development across their offices, attached agencies, and corporations.

Strengthen LGU investment promotion capabilities by institutionalizing LEDIPOs. The DILG will advance a LEDIPO Bill in Congress to establish permanent investment officer positions and enhance the investment promotion capabilities of LGUs. These officers will play a key role in mobilizing one-stop shop investment centers to promote investments and assist potential investors that can drive regional development. This initiative aims to provide clear guidelines on available incentives and investment procedures, act as a focal point for assisting investors and coordinating with national agencies, and address long-standing issues such as delays in granting permits and licenses, poor inter-agency coordination, and corruption.

Foster a robust domestic supply chain and increase competitiveness of rural investment locations. The PEZA will continue to conduct reverse trade fairs which will facilitate linkage between locators (businesses operating within economic zones) and domestic manufacturers. These events will expand partnerships with the private sector to develop supply capabilities, initially focused on strategic industries such as automotive, semiconductors, electronics, and dies and moulds. To guide investment toward high-potential areas, the DTI's Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) will identify and promote localities with strong economic and governance indicators, enhancing transparency and investor confidence in rural and emerging locations. Complementing these efforts, investments in logistics infrastructure will be prioritized to better leverage locational assets such as ports and intermodal transport hubs, as well as improve market access and supply chain efficiency *(see Chapter 12 Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure).* Initiatives to strengthen human capital through targeted education and skills training will also be pursued to ensure a competitive workforce aligned with industry needs, further enhancing the attractiveness of these areas to investors *(see Chapter 2.2 Improve Education and Lifelong Learning).*

Position the Philippines as a prime destination of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investments

Unify and strengthen the ESG regulatory framework to tap growing interest in sustainable investments. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and SEC will issue supplemental guidelines on the Sustainable Finance Taxonomy Guidelines, including clear technical screening criteria, to improve ESG reporting and the credibility of sustainable bond issuances. The SEC will also provide education programs and regulatory measures to broaden ESG participation. Partnerships with multilateral organizations like the International Finance Corporation will be deepened to enhance local verification capacity and reduce reliance on foreign certifiers. In addition, tools such as Singapore's ESGpedia blockchain platform, will be explored to enhance data accuracy and prevent greenwashing.

Targets

Table 9.2 presents the indicators and targets promoting trade and investments for 2026-2028. The targets for export indicators responding to Outcome 1 will be revised based on the findings of the midterm assessment, which includes a review of existing export targets and may result in adjustments to better align with current economic conditions and emerging trade opportunities.

The targets for the share of Philippine FDI to ASEAN FDI were adjusted considering global policy uncertainties, heightened economic risks, and the trade tensions. The Global Investment Trends Monitor by UNCTAD[1] indicates that these global headwinds have directed multinational enterprises to adopt a more cautious approach to expansion, resulting in increased competition for limited investment flows, which will impact the Philippines' FDI performance within ASEAN.

Additionally, to ensure consistency and comparability in assessing the thematic bond market, the SEC has revised its indicators for GSS bonds issuance in the remaining Plan period. In measuring market size, the SEC will use the ratio of GSS+ Corporate Bonds to Total Corporate Bonds Outstanding expressed in percentage instead of the USD figures affected by monthly exchange rate changes. This percentage-based metric provides a

[1] Source: https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/diaeiainf2025d1_en.pdf

more stable and accurate view of market trends by minimizing exchange rate distortions.

Table 9.2 Updated Results Matrix: Promote Trade and Investments

Indicator	Baseline Value (Year)	Accomplishment		Targets			Means of Verification	Responsible Agency/ Inter-agency body
		2023	2024	2026	2027	2028		
Outcome 1: Global position of Philippine export sectors restored, sustained, and strengthened								
Merchandise exports increased (USD billion) [a]	54.2 (2021)	55.3	55.0	69.19	73.34	77.74	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Balance of Payments (BOP)	Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
Non-electronics exports increased (USD billion) [b]	32.16 (2021)	31.71	34.17	56.1	63.3	70.9	Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)	DTI
Number of commodities with revealed comparative advantage increased [c]	440 out of 2,891 (2021)	415	For updating	600	640	680	World Bank (WB) World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) database	DTI
Services exports increased (USD billion) [a]	33.6 (2021)	48.33	51.98	51.03	54.10	57.34	BSP Balance of Payments	DTI
Outcome 2: Total investments increased and targeted to boost trade, skills upgrading, and sustainability								
Philippine foreign direct investment (FDI) to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio increased (%)	2.7 (2021)	2.04	1.94	2-5	2-5	2-5	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development FDI and GDP data	DTI-BOI
Share of PH FDI to total Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) FDI increased (%) [d]	6 (2021)	3.58	3.16	3-5	3-5	3-5	ASEAN Stats	DTI-BOI
Rank in Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD) FDI regulatory restrictiveness index improved [e]	3rd most restrictive (2020)	5th most restrictive	For updating	Lower	Lower	Lower	OECD FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index	DTI-BOI
Ratio of Green, Social, and Sustainability	24.95 (2024)	N/A	24.95	26.88	27.84	28.80	SEC Sustainable	SEC

Bonds issued to Total Corporate Bonds Outstanding increased (%)							Finance Market Update	

Pink: New indicator; Green: Exceeded target; Red: Missed target; Yellow: Met or expected to meet the target; and Orange: Revised target.

[a] Targets based on DBCC projections approved during the 183rd DBCC meeting on December 5, 2022.
[b] Refers to total exports excluding electronics exports.
[c] Based on Harmonized System at the 6-digit level.
[d] Data obtained from BOI Submission
[e] The OECD FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index gauges the country's statutory restrictions with values ranging from 0 (least restrictive) to 1 (most restrictive). Countries are ranked from least restrictive to most restrictive where higher numerical ranking indicates more regulatory restrictions. The FDIRRI methodological framework was revised in 2022 and was used to compute the 2023 FDIRRI series.

Legislative Agenda

Table 9.3 presents the priority bills to promote trade and investments.

Table 9.3 Legislative agenda to Promote Trade and Investments

Legislative Agenda	Rationale/Key Features	Responsible Agency
National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) Act	The establishment of an NQI will help boost best practices and competitiveness. Compliance with standards can be advantageous, especially in the context of e-commerce, as this can facilitate access to new markets for the country as well as utilization of current free trade agreements.	DTI, DOST, DAP
International Maritime Trade Competitiveness Act	The proposed measure seeks to curb excessive shipping charges that inflate logistics costs and erode price competitiveness. It establishes the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as the regulatory authority for enforcing policies and accrediting players in international maritime trade, while promoting transparency to prevent arbitrary fees.	MARINA
Establishing and Operationalizing the National Single Window (NSW)	The bill aims to streamline trade procedures, fulfill World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement commitments, and strengthen supply chain resilience by institutionalizing the NSW System and mandating trade regulatory government bodies to comply with its requirements.	BOC
Green Lanes for Strategic Investments Act (HB 8039)	The proposed bill seeks to institutionalize Executive Order No. 18, s. 2023 (Constituting Green Lanes for Strategic Investments) into a law, creating a simplified and streamlined regulatory environment to attract strategic investments in the country.	DTI-BOI
Amendments to RA 7652 otherwise known as the Investors' Lease Act	This seeks to create a more conducive investment climate by liberalizing private land leasing for foreign investors through extending the maximum lease period allowed from 75 years to 99 years, as currently provided under RA 7652.	DTI-BOI
Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) Bill	The bill aims to mandate sustainability reporting for all corporations, promoting transparency and data quality to support ESG investing and create opportunities in the Philippine financial market.	SEC
Institutionalizing the creation of economic and investment promotion officer in local government units	This institutionalizes the appointment of economic and investment promotion officers in local government units, transitioning many LEDIPOs from designated to permanent positions to ensure they can fulfill their roles effectively.	DILG