De La Salle University
AKI
Angelo King Institute
for Economic and Business Studies

DLSU-AKI Working Paper Series
2025-05-099

A Profile of the Philippines' Largest 1,000 Firms and the Manufacturing Sector

By:

Jesus Felipe*
Nanditha Mathew**
Jacobe Joaquin Sevilla***

* De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines
** United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute of Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT), Maastricht, The Netherlands
*** De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines

DLSU - Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies

20th Floor, Br. Andrew Gonzalez Hall
2401 Taft Avenue, Manila, 0922, Philippines

Visit Us

https://www.dlsu-aki.com/

A Profile of the Philippines' Largest 1,000 Firms and the Manufacturing Sector

Abstract: We have built two unique databases. The first database contains information about gross sales, profits, and assets, of the largest 1,000 Philippine firms, for 2018-2021. The main data source is the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) database. We have been able to identify all firms. To these series, we add the sector, status as multinational versus local, and status as exporter versus non-exporter. Despite the small number of series, we are able to provide a meaningful portrait of these firms. The analysis indicates that in 2021: (i) 80% of the 1,000 firms earn between PHP2 and PHP16 billion, much less than the largest firms; and 96% of the firms have assets up to PHP 170 billion, much less than the largest firms; (ii) almost one-half of the largest 1,000 firms are domestic companies, engaged in services, and do not export; (iii) The largest companies in the Philippines in terms of sales are multinational firms, engaged in manufacturing, non-exporters. The smallest are multinational firms, service-oriented, exporters; (iv) the largest companies in the Philippines in terms of assets are domestic, service-oriented, non-exporters); (v) the most profitable companies in the Philippines are domestic, service-oriented, non-exporters. Multinational companies, engaged in manufacturing, and exporters, obtain the smallest profit rates.

The second database contains information about the manufacturing sector, disaggregated into 14 subsectors. This database contains sectoral output, exports, employment, wages, and labor productivity. These series were constructed using data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), UNIDO, OECD, and UN Comtrade. The data indicates that (i) the food subsector is the largest producer while electronics is the largest employer and exporter; (ii) most exporters are multinationals in electronics; and (iii) only one product, monolithic integrated circuits, accounts for 30% of Philippine gross exports.

JEL Codes: D22, L11, L25

1. Introduction

We have built two databases that contribute to our understanding of the Philippine economy. The first one contains information on sales, profits, and assets, as well as sector (agriculture, manufacturing, services), status as multinational versus local (domestic) company, and status as exporter versus non-exporter, of the largest 1,000 Philippine firms, for 2018-2021. This is a small number of variables but it allows us to provide a first-ever characterization of the largest companies in the country. The second data base contains information about the Philippine manufacturing sector, disaggregated into 14 subsectors. To put together this second data set, we harmonized data on output, exports, employment, wages, and labor productivity, sourced from national and international databases.

The paper describes how we constructed these two datasets and provides some useful facts on this important group of firms and the manufacturing sector.

2. The Largest 1,000 Philippine Firms

To construct the dataset on the largest 1,000 Philippine firms we collected primary data from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The SEC provides data on gross sales, assets, and profits for the top 1,000 firms in the Philippines. The data set also contains information on liabilities and stockholders' equity but we have not used these two variables in our analysis. It has not been possible to obtain reliable employment figures for all these companies either from a database or from company reports. Each year, registered corporations submit financial data to the SEC. We purchased this data set from the SEC for the years 2013-2021. We also used the data set collected by the daily newspaper BusinessWorld, originally also from the SEC. This data set includes additional information such as whether a firm exports or not, and whether it is a multinational company or a local company, both indicator variables. We purchased this data set from BusinessWorld for the period 2018-2021.

Table 1 provides an overview of the two datasets and variables used in this paper.

Table 1. Firm-Level Datasets[1]

Databases	Indicators	Year Coverage	No. of Firms
Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)	Assets, Gross Sales, Profits, Sector	2013 - 2021	1,000
BusinessWorld (BW)	Assets, Gross Sales, Profits, Sector, Exporter/Non-exporter Multinational/Local	2018 - 2021	1,000

Note: assets are defined as a present economic resource controlled by the entity as a result of past events. An economic resource is a right that has the potential to produce economic benefits.

Source: Authors

The SEC data set does not disclose firm names. It only provides firm codes. The BusinessWorld data set provides firm names. We merged the SEC and BusinessWorld databases in order to (i) identify the names of firms in the SEC data, and (ii) append information on a firm's sector, exporting/non-exporting status, and multinational/local status, to the SEC data. We used annual profits and the five digit Philippine Standard Industrial Classification (PSIC), variables available in both datasets, as the criteria for merging. We made sure that a firm name was linked to the same firm code in the SEC data for all rounds of the data (2018 to 2021). Since the composition of the top 1,000 firms differs every year, we were not able to identify all of the companies in the 2013 to 2017 rounds of the SEC data (rounds for which we do not have BusinessWorld data). Therefore, in this paper we report the results for the 2018 to 2021 rounds.[2]

[1] The databases can be downloaded here: https://www.dlsu-aki.com/aki-research-databases.html, or by scanning the QR code:

[2] BusinessWorld collects financial statements from the SEC API Marketplace at a specified yearly cut off (usually November of every year). Purchased data from the SEC's Top 1,000

2.1 What do we learn about the largest 1,000 Philippine firms?

Table 2 reports the summary statistics of our merged data, with sales, profit rates, and exporter and multinational status from the BusinessWorld data for 2018-2021. These databases report information about both parent companies and individual companies. We analyze both individual firms and conglomerates that own multiple firms. We analyze individual firms so as not to double count sales and other financial figures that are reported by both individual firms and their parent companies. When we do include parent firms in the analysis, we refer to them as 'conglomerates', and individual companies as 'firms.'

In 2021, the top 1,000 companies earned PHP17.3 trillion, while the entire economy's gross output was 58.9 trillion pesos.[3] This represents a share of 29%. Firms in our data earned on average PHP13.4 billion in gross sales in 2021. They had an average profit rate (the ratio of profits to sales) of 12%.

Table 2. Summary Statistics, by Year

Variable	Obs.	Mean	SD	Min	Max
		2018			
Assets	1,000	34.7	154.1	0.04	2,891.8
Sales (PHP Billions)	1,000	12.9	27.4	2.2	384.1
Profit Rate* (%)	1,000	11	31	-730	110
Exporter	1,000	-	-	0	1
Multinational	1,000	-	-	0	1
		2019			
Assets	1,000	37.4	167.65	0.03	3,063.1
Sales (PHP Billions)	1,000	12.3	24.5	1.9	323.3
Profit Rate	1,000	12	33	-539	100
Exporter	1,000	-	-	0	1
Multinational	1,000	-	-	0	1
		2020			
Assets	1,000	38.7	179.03	0.05	3,253.4
Sales (PHP Billions)	1,000	10.8	21.3	1.5	64
Profit Rate	1,000	9	26	-191	100
Exporter	1,000	-	-	0	1
Multinational	1,000	-	-	0	1
		2021			
Assets	1,000	42.1	190.6	0.18	3,466
Sales (PHP Billions)	1,000	13.4	24.3	2.3	292.1
Profit Rate	1,000	12	26	-248	100
Exporter	1,000	-	-	0	1
Multinational	1,000	-	-	0	1

Source: Authors' Calculations, Based on SEC and BusinessWorld
Note: *Calculated as Profit/Sales

companies publications on the other hand include information for all firms that submitted financial statements within a year.

[3] Gross output (intermediate expenses plus value added) is the aggregate counterpart of gross sales. We obtained the gross output figure for the Philippine economy from the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Input-Output Database. We do not have firms' value added to compare with GDP.

Table 3 reports summary statistics by sector. In 2021, 663 of the largest 1,000 firms were services companies, 309 were manufacturing companies, while the remaining companies were in agriculture and mining. On average, manufacturing firms were larger than those in other sectors in terms of sales but smaller in terms of assets.

Table 3. Summary Statistics (2021), by Sector

Variable	Obs.	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing					
Assets	9	11.3	10.9	2.4	35
Sales (PHP Billions)	9	9.4	7.9	2.4	26.2
Profit Rate (%)	9	14	24	-2	85
Exporter	9	-	-	0	1
Multinational	9	-	-	0	1
Mining and Quarrying					
Assets	18	14.8	15.9	1.1	46.4
Sales (PHP Millions)	18	9.5	9.4	2.6	42.7
Profit Rate (%)	18	24	17	-70	57
Exporter	18	-	-	0	1
Multinational	18	-	-	0	1
Manufacturing					
Assets	309	13.5	26.9	0.7	344.3
Sales (PHP Billions)	309	15.8	29	2.3	240
Profit Rate (%)	309	5.3	8.7	-33	64
Exporter	309	-	-	0	1
Multinational	309	-	-	0	1
Services					
Assets	663	56.7	232.1	0.18	3,466
Sales (PHP Billions)	663	12.5	22.2	2.3	292.1
Profit Rate (%)	663	15	31	-248	100
Exporter	663	-	-	0	1
Multinational	663	-	-	0	1

Source: Authors' Calculations, Based on SEC and Orbis Data

In what follows, we discuss five facts that this data set reveals about the 1,000 largest companies.

Fact 1: A highly skewed distribution: 80% of the 1,000 firms earn between PHP2 and PHP16 billion, much less than the largest firms; and 96% of the firms have assets valued up to PHP 170 billion, much less than the largest firms

The sales distribution of the top 1,000 firms is right-skewed (Figure 1A). This means that most firms have relatively low sales (in this context), and a few firms have extremely high sales. The right-skewness of the size distribution is a common finding in the literature on firm size (Cabral & Mata, 2003). The distribution of assets is shown in Figure 1B. The overall assessment is similar to that with sales, i.e., a highly skewed distribution.

Figure 1A. Histogram of the Top 1,000 Philippine Companies. Sales

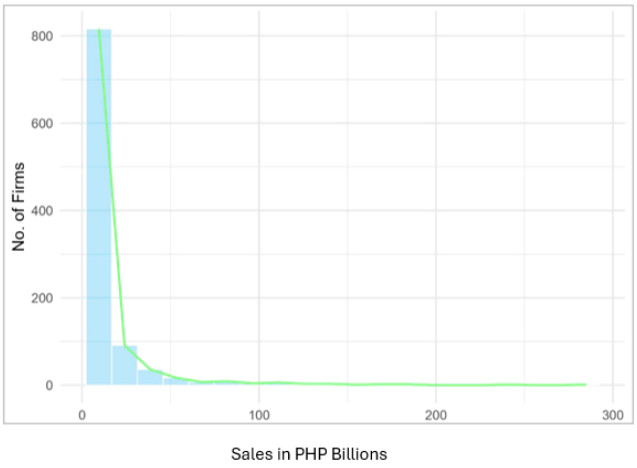


Figure 1B. Histogram of the Top 1,000 Philippine Companies. Assets

Source: Authors' Calculations, based on SEC Data

Table 4 shows the size distribution of the top 1,000 Philippine companies in 2021, corresponding to the histograms shown in Figures 1A and 1B. 816 out of the 1,000 largest firms earned between PHP2 and PHP16.75 billion in 2021. Only two firms earned more than 200 billion—Petron, the country's largest petroleum company, and Manila Electric Co. (MERALCO), the largest electricity provider. For assets, 960 out of the 1,000 largest firms had assets valued between PHP0.18 and PHP173 billion in 2021. The largest companies in terms of assets are BDO, Landbank, Metrobank, BPI, and PNB, all financial institutions, with assets valued up to PHP 3.5 trillion.

Table 4. The Size Distribution of the Top 1,000 Philippine Companies (2021)

Sales		
Lower Bound (Sales in PHP Billions)	Upper Bound (Sales in PHP Billions)	Total
2.25	16.75	816
16.75	31.24	91
31.24	45.73	36
45.73	60.22	17
60.22	74.71	7
74.71	89.21	9
89.21	103.70	4
103.70	118.19	6
118.19	132.68	3
132.68	147.17	3
147.17	161.66	1
161.66	176.16	2
176.16	190.65	2
234.12	248.62	1
277.60	292.09	1
Assets		
Lower Bound (Sales in PHP Billions)	Upper Bound (Sales in PHP Billions)	Total
0.18	173.47	960
173.47	346.76	19
346.76	520.06	8
520.06	693.35	1
693.35	866.64	2
866.64	1039.93	3
1039.93	1213.22	2
1906.38	2079.67	1
2079.67	2252.97	1
2426.26	2599.55	1
3292.71	3466	1

Source: Authors' Calculations, based on SEC Data

Fact 2: Almost one-half of the largest 1,000 firms are domestic companies, engaged in services, and do not export

In 2021, 663 of the top 1,000 firms were services companies, 184 were exporters, and 372 were multinationals. Once we divide the 1,000 firms into subgroups based on the three dimensions, we find that almost half of these companies (476) are domestic, services, non-exporters. This is followed by multinational services firms that do not export (150). The two largest subgroups in manufacturing are domestic manufacturing firms that do not export (110) and multinational manufacturing firms that export (107). This information is shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Breakdown of top 1,000 firms by year, sector and exporting and multinational status (2021)

	Agriculture (n = 9)		Mining (n = 18)	
	Non-Exporter	Exporter	Non-Exporter	Exporter
DOM	2	2	4	12
MNC	1	4	1	1
	Manufacturing (n = 309)		Services (n = 663)	
	Non-Exporter (183)	Exporter (126)	Non-Exporter (626)	Exporter (37)
DOM (129; 478)	110	19	476	2
MNC (180; 185)	73	107	150	35

Source: Authors' Calculations, SEC Data

Focusing on manufacturing and services, Table 6 shows the five largest firms within each of these 8 subgroups. There is a stark contrast between the two most populated manufacturing subgroups—Type I and Type IV firms. While Type I firms are in fuel, food, basic metals, and other resource-based manufacturers, like Petron, San Miguel, and Steel Asia, Type IV firms are mostly electronics manufacturers like Toshiba, TI, and Epson.

Table 6. Largest Firm by Subgroup (Gross Sales)

	Manufacturing		Services	
	Non-Exporter	Exporter	Non-Exporter	Exporter
Local	Type I • **Petron** • San Miguel Brewery • San Miguel Foods • Zenith Foods	Type II • Universal Robina • SFA Semiconductors • Integrated Micro-electronics	Type V • **MERALCO** • **BDO Unibank** • **Mercury Drugs** • Philippine Airlines	Type VI • Acquire Asia Pacific • Seven Seven Global Services

	• Steel Asia Manufacturing	• Monde Nissin	• Puregold Price Club	
MNC	Type III • **Pilipinas Shell** • **PMFTC** • Nestle • Coca-Cola • JT Intl.	Type IV • Toshiba • TI Phils. • PASAR • Epson • House Technologies Industries, Inc.	Type VII • Chevron • SunLife • Philippines • Seven Corp. • AXA Life • Pru Life UK	Type VIII • Sitel Phils. • Syke Asia • RMS Collect • Cognizant Technology Solutions • IBM Business Services

Source: Authors based on SEC Data

It is also worth noting that the six largest Philippine companies are non-exporters: MERALCO, Petron, Shell, BDO Unibank, Philip Morris International, and Mercury Drug (highlighted in bold in Table 6). These companies, together, earned PHP 1.37 billion in gross sales in 2021, equivalent to eight percent of the largest 1,000 firms total gross sales. The seventh largest firm is an exporter—Toshiba, an electronics manufacturer.

Table 7 provides the information with firms classified by assets. The largest are all Type V, finance companies.

Table 7. Largest Firms by Subgroup (Assets)

	Manufacturing		Services	
	Non-Exporter	Exporter	Non-Exporter	Exporter
Local	Type I • Petron • San Miguel Brewery • Monde Nissin • JG Summit Olefins • San Miguel Foods	Type II • Universal Robina • Integrated Micro-electronics • Universal Harvester Inc. • Philbest Canning Corp. • SFA Semicon	Type V • **BDO Unibank** • **Landbank** • **MetroBank** • **BPI** • **PNB**	Type VI • Acquire Asia Pacific • Seven Seven Global Services
MNC	Type III • Pilipinas Shell • Coca-Cola • PMFTC • JT Intl. • Nestle Phils.	Type IV • TI Phils. • PASAR • Taganito Hpal Nickel Corp. • Toshiba • Epson	Type VII • SunLife • AIA • Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. • AXA • Pru Life	Type VIII • SPI Technologies • Sitel • Qualfon • Cognizant • TPPH

Source: Authors based on SEC Data

The dominance of services and non-exporting firms extends to the conglomerates. We apply uniform criteria in linking individual firms in our data to conglomerates: (i) they must be reported in a conglomerate's financial statements, annual reports, or conglomerate 'maps', and (ii) the conglomerate must own more than 30% of the firm directly, or indirectly through another subsidiary. Table 8 shows the share of manufacturing in the total annual sales of the conglomerates that had two or more firms that belonged to the top 1,000 (the remaining share is that of services). We were only able to identify five conglomerates—San Miguel, GT Capital, Monde Nissin, Nutri-Asia, and Century Pacific—with a significant percentage of sales coming from manufacturing.

Table 8. The Sectoral Structure of Philippine Conglomerates

Conglomerate	No. of Firms in Top 1,000	Share of Manufacturing in Total Sales (%)
Century Pacific Food	**2**	**100**
Monde Nissin Corp.	**2**	**100**
San Miguel Group	**22**	**67.44**
Nutri-Asia, Inc.	**2**	**55.69**
GT Capital, Inc.	**10**	**53.66**
LT Group	5	46.83
JG Summit	8	40.05
REBISCO	2	37.66
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	15	34.81
Alliance Global, Inc.	7	17.9
Jollibee Foods	3	12.76
Lopez Group	10	9.44
Ayala Group	8	4.2
SM Investments	12	1.26
COSCO Capital	2	0
Filinvest Development Corp	7	0
Udenna Corp.	2	0
Villar Group	5	0

Source: Authors' Calculations based on SEC Data

Additionally, we find that most of the local conglomerates' subsidiaries are Type V firms in Table 7. In particular, 66 of the 83 firms that we were able to link to the local conglomerates belong to this subgroup. This means that most of the conglomerates are into services and barely engage in any exporting activities. Notable Type V firms, for example, include local banks such as BDO Unibank of the Ayala Group, wholesale and retail firms like SM Investments, and real estate companies like Ayala Land and Vista Residences.

Fact 3: The largest companies in the Philippines in terms of sales are Type III (multinational firms, engaged in manufacturing, non-exporters). The smallest are Type VIII (multinational firms, service-oriented, exporters).

Fact 4: The largest companies in in the Philippines in terms of assets are Type V (domestic, service-oriented, non-exporters), followed by Type VII (multinational, service-oriented, non-exporters).

Fact 5: The most profitable companies in the Philippines are Type V (domestic, service-oriented, non-exporters). Type IV firms (multinational, engaged in manufacturing, exporters) obtain the smallest profit rates.

To test if sales, assets, and profit rates are statistically different across groups, we estimate regressions of these three variables on exporter, multinational, and service dummies and their interaction terms. We calculate profit rates as annual profits divided by annual gross sales.[4] Algebraically:

$$Y_{i,t} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 MNC_{i,t} + \beta_2 Exporter_{i,t} + \beta_3 Services_{i,t} + \beta_4\left(MNC_{i,t} * Exporter_{i,t}\right) + \beta_5\left(MNC_{i,t} * Services_{i,t}\right) + \beta_6\left(Exporter_{i,t} * Services_{i,t}\right) + \beta_7\left(MNC_{i,t} * Exporter_{i,t} * Services_{i,t}\right) + \epsilon_{i,t} \quad (1)$$

where Y denotes sales, assets, and profit rates, in each regression. The coefficients corresponding to the different combinations are:

-Manufacturing-Domestic-Non exporter (reference group): β_0

-Manufacturing-Multinational-Non exporter: $\beta_0 + \beta_1$

-Manufacturing-Domestic-Exporter: $\beta_0 + \beta_2$

-Manufacturing-Multinational-Exporter: $\beta_0 + \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_4$

-Services-Domestic-Non exporter: $\beta_0 + \beta_3$

-Services-Multinational-Non exporter: $\beta_0 + \beta_1 + \beta_3 + \beta_5$

-Services-Domestic-Exporter: $\beta_0 + \beta_2 + \beta_3 + \beta_6$

-Services-Multinational-Exporter: $\beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_3 + \beta_4 + \beta_5 + \beta_6 + \beta_7$

Regression results are summarized in Table 9. Using the results from these regressions we estimate average sales, profit rates, and assets, for the eight sub-groups. These regressions allow us to test if average sales, profit rates, and assets differ across groups. The default group

[4] We also calculated the ratio of profits to assets but got dubious results, e.g., profit rates of 25,000%.

is the combination (group) "manufacturing-domestic-non-exporter", given by the constant terms, shown at the top of Table 9: PHP12.70 billion in sales, 4.40% profit rate, and PHP13.10 billion assets. Columns (1)-(2), (3)-(4), and (5)-(6), give the difference with respect to the reference group and the estimated value of the corresponding combination. For example, the differences between the reference group and the combination manufacturing (MFG)-multinational-non-exporter (first row, in bold), are (columns (1)-(3)-(5)): PHP6.44 billion in sales; 1.12% in profit rate; and PHP-0.83 billion in assets (i.e., lower than the reference group). These differences imply that the estimated sales, profit rates, and assets of the combination manufacturing (MFG)-multinational-non-exporter (columns (2)-(4)-(6)) are, respectively: PHP19.14 billion, 5.47%, and PHP12.26 billion. To guide the reader, we also summarize the other combination bolded, service company (SERV)-multinational-exporter": average annual sales of PHP 6.77 billion, average profit rate of 8.03%, and assets of PHP4.84 billion.

Table 9. Estimation results of Equation (1)

Manufacturing Domestic Non-Exporter	12.70*** (1.14)		4.40*** (1.08)		13.10*** (8.03)	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Subgroup	Estimated Difference in Sales in PHP Billions	Estimated Sales in PHP Billions	Estimated Difference in Profit Rate (%)	Estimated Profit Rate (%)	Estimated Difference in Assets in PHP Billions	Estimated Assets in PHP Billions
MFG, Multinational, Non-Exporter	**6.44*** (1.87)**	**19.14*** (1.48)**	**1.12 (1.77)**	**5.47*** (1.41)**	**-0.83 (13.19)**	**12.26 (10.4)**
MFG, Domestic, Exporter	-1.85 (3.14)	10.85*** (2.93)	1.24 (2.97)	5.60*** (2.76)	-1.86 (22.15)	11.23 (20.64)
MFG, MNC, Exporter	0.86 (1.67)	13.57*** (1.22)	-1.34 (1.58)	3.01** (1.15)	-2.51 (11.77)	10.58 (8.61)
SERV, Domestic, Non-Exporter	-0.02 (1.27)	12.69*** (0.56)	4.11*** (1.21)	8.46*** (5.54)	51.51*** (8.95)	64.60*** (3.96)
SERV, Multinational, Non-Exporter	-2.98* (1.58)	9.73*** (1.09)	-0.34 (1.51)	4.01*** (1.06)	8.22 (11.14)	21.31*** (7.72)
SERV, Domestic, Exporter	-9.18 (8.80)	3.52 (8.72)	0.00 (8.30)	4.34 (8.23)	-11.13 (62.01)	1.95 (61.49)
SERV, MNC, Exporter	**-5.94*** (2.02)**	**6.77*** (1.67)**	**3.67* (1.58)**	**8.03*** (1.57)**	**-8.25 (14.23)**	**4.84 (11.75)**
Observations	3,892		3,691		3,892	
R-squared	0.010		0.009		0.02	

Source: Authors' Calculations, based on SEC Data
Standard errors in parentheses *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Note: *Yi,t* refers to sales , profit rates, or assets, depending on the regression. We exclude agriculture and mining firms from these regressions. The reference sector is manufacturing. For the profit rate regressions, we exclude firms with profit rates higher than the average profit rate plus two standard deviations (SDs).

Column (2) show that multinationals in manufacturing that do not export (Type II firms) are the largest in terms of sales, with an average PHP19.14 billion. Meanwhile multinationals in services that export (Type VIII firms) are the smallest, earning PHP6.77 billion. The results in Column (6) indicate that the largest subgroup in terms of gross assets are domestic companies in services that do not export (Type V), with average assets of PHP64.6 billion. This is followed by multinational firms in services that do not export at PHP21.31 billion. Finally, column (4) shows that domestic companies in services that do not export (Type V) are the most profitable, with an average profit rate of 8.46%. This is followed by multinationals in services that export (Type VIII), at 8.03%. Table 10 shows the most profitable companies in 2021.

Table 10. Most Profitable Companies in the Philippines, 2021

Company	Sector	Profit Rate (%)
Mega World Corp.	Real Estate	68.99
AREIT, Inc.	Financial and Insurance Activities	68.77
Therma Power, Inc.	Financial and Insurance Activities	66.71
SM Investments, Corp.	Financial and Insurance Activities	65.12
SMC Global Power Holdings, Inc.	Financial and Insurance Activities	64.97
Philip Morris Manufacturing, Inc.	Manufacturing	63.52
Double Dragon Corp.	Real Estate	62.71
Filinvest Land, Inc.	Real Estate	61.57
All First Equity Holdings, Inc.	Financial and Insurance Activities	61.36
Aboitiz Power, Inc.	Financial and Insurance Activities	61.15

Source: Authors' Calculations, based on SEC Data
Note: Profit rates are calculated as profit divided by gross sales. We exclude firms with profit rates higher than the average profit rate plus two standard deviations (SDs).

To complement our analysis, we further analyzed profit rates by subsector. This is not shown but the results are available upon request. Real estate is the most profitable subsector with an average profit rate of 26.22%. This is followed by electricity and water supply, which has an average profit rate of 17.43%. Firms belonging to the real estate and utilities sectors are Type V. Wholesale and retail trade firms are less profitable than manufacturing, with average

profit rates of 1.68%. The rest of the services subsectors' average profit rates are not statistically different from manufacturing, the reference sector, 4.62%.

3. The Philippine Manufacturing Sector

We also constructed a database merging information on sectoral, product, and firm-level data for 14 manufacturing subsectors for 2000-2022. This data set includes subsectoral value-added, wages, employment, wage rates, and labor productivity from the Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). [5] [6] The PSA reports figures for the aforementioned indicators for the manufacturing sector as a whole. UNIDO, meanwhile, reports subsectoral data for the indicators, but the data are inconsistent with the aggregate figures reported by the PSA. In order to arrive at subsector-level series consistent with national totals, we use subsectoral weights derived from the UNIDO data and apply them to the PSA data. As an example, in order to arrive at the employment figure of the food subsector, we multiply the PSA's total manufacturing employment estimate times the share of food employment in total manufacturing employment derived from UNIDO's estimates. In the end, we obtain disaggregated series for 14 manufacturing subsectors, such that when totaled, match the aggregate sectoral data reported by the PSA.

We also included gross output and trade-related indicators for the 14 subsectors (exports and foreign-value added), obtained from the OECD ICIO database.[7] We disaggregated manufacturing exports further into products at the HS 6-digit level. We gathered product-level export data from the UN Comtrade database.[8] We then assigned HS 6-digit products to the 14 manufacturing subsectors via concordance tables supplied by the World Integrated Trade Solutions (WITS).[9] We complemented the sectoral data with information for the top 300 manufacturing Philippine firms from the SEC. Table 11 outlines the indicators and data sources of this database.

Table 11. Data Sources of the Manufacturing Subsector Database

Data Sources	Indicators	Time Coverage
OECD ICIO	Output (USD Billions and PHP Billions), Value-Added (Nominal), Gross Exports, Gross Exports of Final Products,	2000-2020

[5] https://openstat.psa.gov.ph/
[6] https://stat.unido.org/
[7] https://www.oecd.org/en/data/datasets/inter-country-input-output-tables.html
[8] https://comtradeplus.un.org/TradeFlow
[9] https://wits.worldbank.org/product_concordance.html

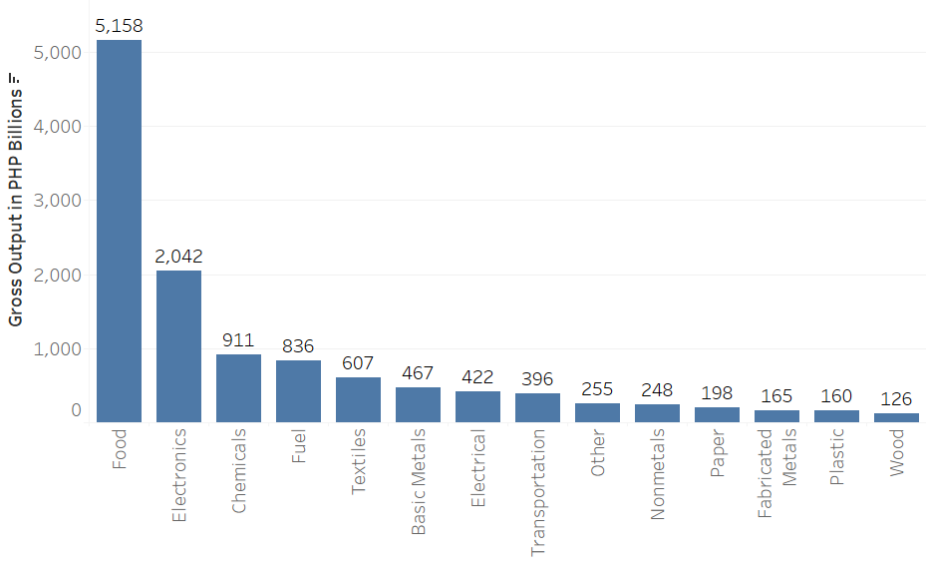
	Gross Exports of Intermediate Products, Share of Gross Exports in Total Output, Foreign Content in Gross Exports, Domestic Content in Gross Exports, Share of Foreign Content in Gross Exports, Share of Domestic Content in Gross Exports	
PSA and UNIDO	Value-Added (Nominal) (PHP Billions), Value-Added (Real) (PHP Billions), Total Compensation (PHP Billions), Employment, Wage Rates, Labor Productivity	2000-2022
UN Comtrade	Share in Total Exports (HS-6 products) (%)	2000-2022

Sources: Authors

Fact 6: Food is the largest producer, while Electronics is the largest employer and exporter

Food and electronics are the largest manufacturing subsectors in the Philippines. While food is the largest sector in terms of gross output, the electronics subsector employs more workers and takes up a larger proportion of the country's gross exports. Figure 2 shows gross output figures by subsector. The Food subsector gross output was PHP 5 billion in 2019. This was followed by electronics, PHP 2 billion. The smallest subsectors in terms of gross output are plastic and wood, with gross output figures of PHP 160 and PHP 126 million, respectively.

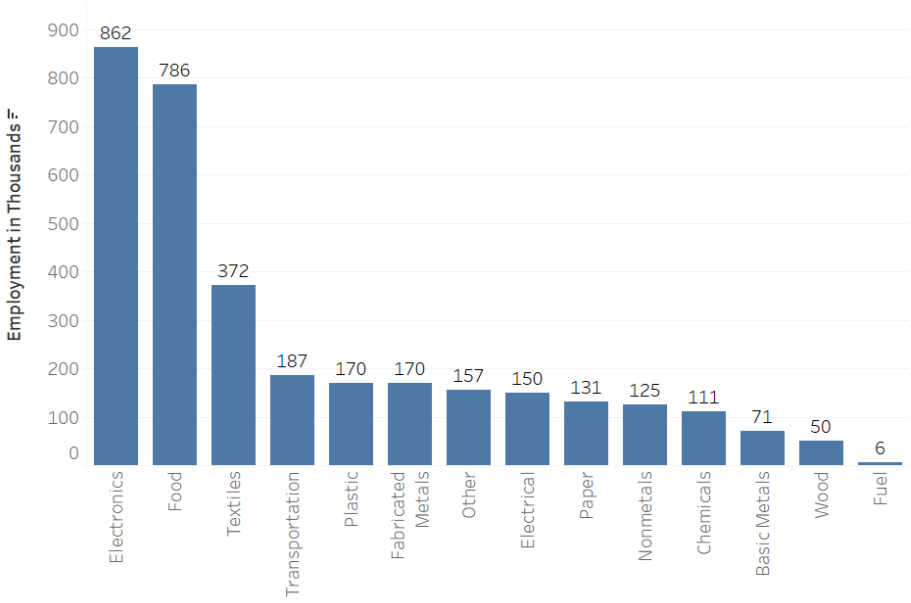
Figure 2. Gross Output by Subsector (2019)



Source: Authors based on OECD Data

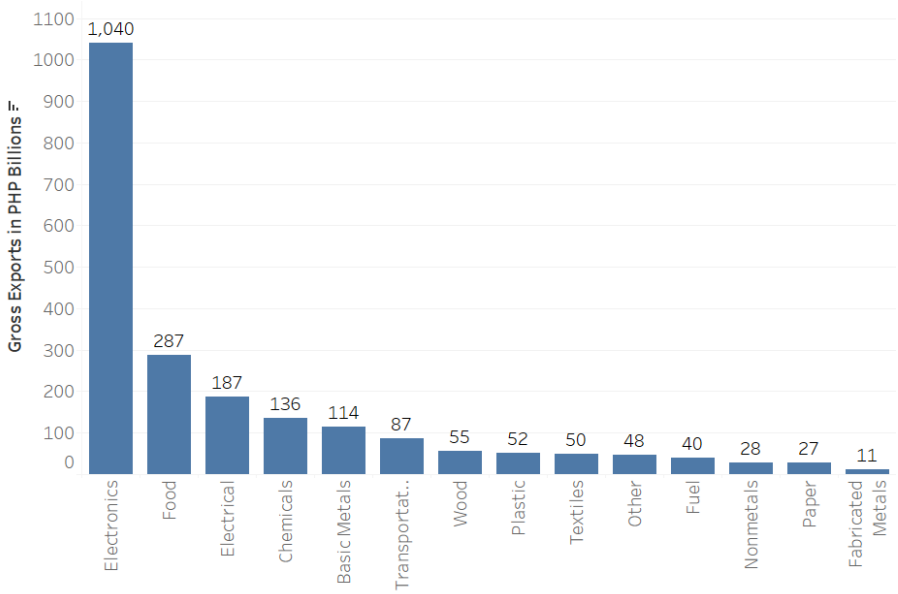
Figure 3 shows employment by subsector. In 2021, the electronics sector employed 862,000 workers. This was followed by Food, which employed 786,000 workers. The smallest subsectors were Wood, with 50,000 workers, and Fuel, with only 6,000 workers. Figure 4 shows gross export figures by subsector. Electronics is the largest exporter, with exports of PHP 1 trillion in 2019. This figure is three times larger than the Food subsector's gross exports at PHP 287 billion.

Figure 2. Employment in Thousands (2021)



Source: Authors based on PSA and UNIDO Data

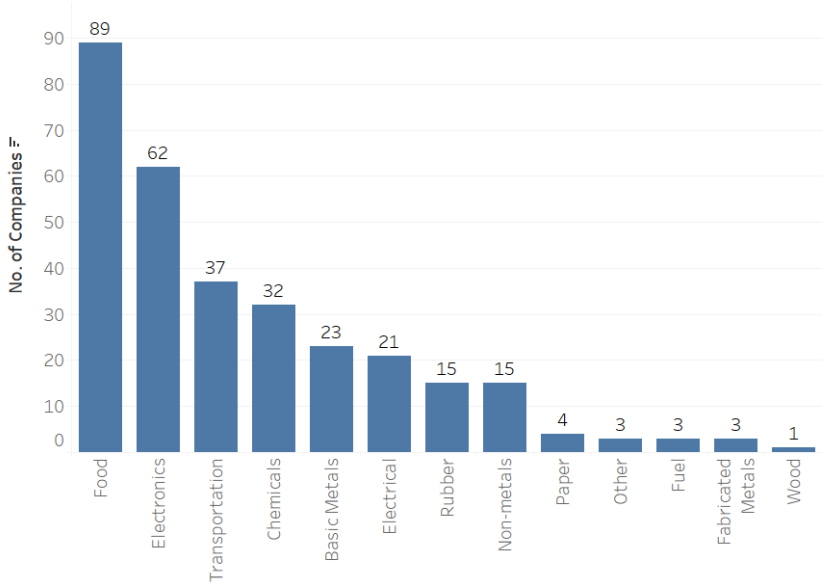
Figure 3. Gross Exports in PHP Billions by Manufacturing Subsector (2019)



Source: Authors based on OECD Data

The dominance of food and electronics is evident even among the top manufacturing firms in the country. Figure 4 tallies the number of firms within each subsector: 89 in Food and 62 in electronics are the largest groups. The largest food manufacturer in the Philippines was San Miguel Food and Beverages, a subsidiary of the San Miguel Corporation, while the largest electronics firm was Toshiba Information Equipment Philippines.

Figure 4. No. Firms by Manufacturing Subsector (2021)



Source: Authors based on SEC Data

Fact 7: Most exporters are multinational firms in electronics, while most non-exporters are domestic food manufacturers

We disaggregate the top 309 Philippine manufacturing firms into four groups based on their multinational and exporting status. The number of firms in each group is shown in Table 12, 126 manufacturing firms exported, while 183 did not export. Of the 126 exporting firms, 107 are multinational. Only 19 domestic manufacturers exported. Meanwhile, 110 of the 183 non-exporting firms were domestic firms.

Table 12. Number of companies per Manufacturing Subgroup

	Manufacturing (n = 309)		
	Non-Exporter	Exporter	**Total**
Domestic	110	19	129
Multinational	73	107	180

Total	183	126	309

Source: Authors based on SEC Data

Table 13 shows the sectoral composition within each subgroup. Food dominates local non-exporters (Type I) and non-exporters (Type II), with at least half of the firms belonging to the Food subsector. In contrast, most multinational exporters (Type IV) are in Electronics, Transportation Equipment, and Electrical equipment.

Table 13. Top 5 subsectors (by no. of firms) by Subgroup

	Manufacturing (n=309)	
	Non-Exporter	Exporter
Local	Type I (n=110) Food (55) Basic Metals (16) Chemicals (15) Other non-metals (8) Electrical Equipment (6)	Type II (n=19) Food (10) Electronics (5) Chemicals (4)
MNC	Type III (n=73) Food (17) Rubber (12) Transportation (12) Electronics (10) Chemicals (7)	Type IV (n=107) Electronics (47) Transportation (22) Electrical Equipment (12) Chemicals (7) Food (7)

Source: Authors based on SEC Data

Table 14 presents the largest firms within each subgroup. The largest companies among Type II firms (domestic exporters) include food manufacturers Universal Robina and Monde Nissin, along with electronics firms, SFA Semiconductors and Integrated Micro-electronics. The largest Type IV firms (multinational exporters), meanwhile, are electronics companies. These companies include Toshiba (a Japanese multinational), and Texas Instruments (an American multinational).

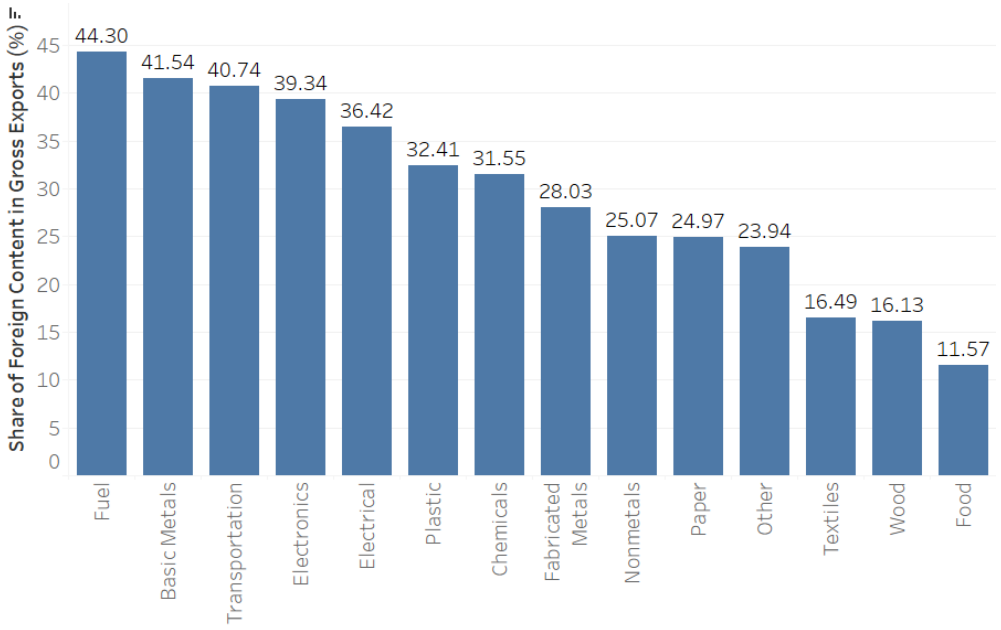
Table 14. Largest Manufacturing Firms by Subgroup

	Manufacturing	
	Non-Exporter	Exporter
Local	Type I Petron San Miguel Brewery San Miguel Foods Zenith Foods Steel Asia Manufacturing	Type II Universal Robina SFA Semiconductors Integrated Micro-electronics Monde Nissin
MNC	Type III Pilipinas Shell PMFTC Nestle Coca-Cola JT Intl.	Type IV Toshiba TI Phils. PASAR Epson House Technologies Industries, Inc.

Source: Authors based on SEC Data

The prevalence of multinational subsidiaries among our exporters is implied in our sectoral data. The electronics sector (a sector dominated by multinationals) contributes most to Philippine manufacturing exports, as discussed earlier. Furthermore, the proportion of foreign content in our gross exports is three times as high in electronics than in food (see Figure 5). This means that the electronics sector is relatively more dependent on foreign inputs in production and exporting, compared to the food and other resource-based sectors (metals, textiles, and wood).

Figure 5. Foreign Content in Gross Exports (%) (2021)



Source: Authors based on OECD ICIO

Fact 8: Monolithic integrated circuits accounts for thirty percent of Philippine total exports

Only one product, monolithic integrated circuits (or semiconductors, an electronics product), makes up 31.68%of Philippine total exports (see Table 15). Parts of data processing equipment, the second largest contributor to export revenues, accounts for 5.9% of total export revenues. These are intermediate products meant to be used to produce final consumer goods such as computers and mobile phones.

Table 15. Top 10 Exports by Sector, Top 5 Sectors (2022)

Sector	Product (HS-6)	% Share in Total Exports
Electronics and Machinery	Monolithic integrated circuits, digital	31.68%
	Parts of data processing equipment	5.90%
	Electronic printed circuits	0.88%
	Parts/access, electr measuring instruments	0.74%
	Transistors, >1 watt	0.70%
	Other Machinery, < 0.01%	0.66%
	Electric capacitors, nes	0.60%
	Photosensitive/PV/LED semiconductor device	0.54%
	Unrecorded sound recording media	0.50%
	Parts of telephone line equipment	0.44%
Electrical Equipment	Ignition sets for vehicles/aircraft/ship	2.61%
	Static converters, nes	1.33%
	Vacuum cleaners	0.83%
	Inductors, electric	0.47%
	Electrical switch, protector for <1kV nes	0.40%
	Electric conductors <80V, with connectors	0.29%
	Metal permanent magnets	0.23%
	Other Electronics, < 0.01%	0.23%
	Electrical switches for <1kV, nes	0.21%
	Fans, motor > 125 W	0.21%
Food and Beverages	Coconut oil, crude	1.53%
	Coconut oil, simply refined	0.72%
	Other Agriculture, < 0.01%	0.57%
	Tuna, preserved	0.37%
	Mucilages & thickeners nes	0.34%
	Pineapples, otherwise preserved	0.28%
	Cigarettes	0.26%
	Pineapple juice	0.20%
	Fruit, otherwise preserved	0.18%
	Single fruit, veg juice	0.17%
Basic and Fab. Metals	Copper cathodes	2.04%
	Nickel oxide sinters	0.68%
	Other Metals, < 0.01%	0.41%
	Copper waste	0.20%
	Locks of base metal, nes	0.12%
	Foil, refined copper, not backed <0.15mm	0.11%
	Ferrous waste, scrap	0.09%
	Structures, iron/steel, nes	0.07%
	Bars, aluminum	0.07%
	Aluminum doors, windows	0.07%
Mining	Nickel ores	1.41%
	Coal except anthracite or bituminous	1.03%
	Lignite, not agglomerated	0.49%
	Copper ores	0.45%
	Petroleum oils, crude	0.38%
	Bituminous coal	0.30%
	Iron ore, unagglomerated	0.24%
	Iron ore, agglomerated	0.14%
	Chromium ores	0.02%

Source: Authors' Calculations, UN Comtrade
Note: Industries and product categories were harmonized using concordance tables from the World Integrated Trade Solutions (WITS) and Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP)

Table 16 shows the top firms within our database that produce monolithic integrated circuits and related equipment (PSIC 26200: *Manufacture of computers and peripheral*

equipment and accessories). Eight of the ten largest firms in the Philippines belonging to this industrial classification are all multinationals. The two domestic firms are SFA Semicon and Integrated Micro-electronics (IME). IME is a subsidiary of the Ayala corporation. Only 5 out of the 45 firms belonging to PSIC26200 are local companies.

These multinational subsidiaries are embedded in global value chains. These firms import intermediate goods from parent companies abroad, and perform end-stage tasks like assembly, testing, cleaning, and distribution. These are so-called "manufacturing-based services", because they are performed after the actual manufacturing process (physical and chemical transformations of raw materials into intermediate inputs and final goods). In the case of monolithic integrated circuits, the manufacturing process within the value chain is more complex than assembly, such as wafer fabrication. The Philippines is yet to open a wafer fabrication facility (San Juan, 2025).

Table 16. Largest firms under PSIC 26200

Company	Multinational	Nationality
TI (Texas Instruments) Phils.	Yes	American
Samsung Electro-mechanics Phils.	Yes	Korean
STMicroelectronics	Yes	Dutch
Rohm Electronics Phils.	Yes	Japanese
Kinpo Electronics Phils.	Yes	Taiwanese
Amkor Tech. Phils.	Yes	American
SFA Semicon Phils.	No	-
Nexperia Phils.	Yes	Chinese
Integrated Micro-electronics Inc.	No	-
Ibiden Phils.	Yes	Japanese

Source: SEC Data

4. A Note on Employment

Although employment data is available for some of the 1,000 largest firms, we found significant inconsistencies in the way employment is reported for each company and preferred not to use it in the analysis. We obtained firm-level employment figures from the Orbis database. Orbis is a commercially available database maintained by Bureau Van Dijck (BvDEP), a subsidiary of Moody's Analytics. BvDEP gathers and organizes firm-level data from public government sources and from the companies' individual registries (Ribeiro et al., 2010).

We cross-checked employment figures in the Orbis database with employment figures reported by the companies (through company websites, financial/company reports, SEC 17-A forms, etc.). We concluded that Orbis and company reports are inconsistent in many cases. Furthermore, it is unclear how employment is defined in the Orbis dataset, and if the criterion for measuring employment is consistent across all companies. The most extreme example is DMCI (a construction company). Orbis reports 11 workers in 2021. However, DMCI reports a total workforce of more than 35,000 employees.[10] Ayala Land is another example. In a 2021 company report, Ayala Land reported 5,756 workers in total (including staff in subsidiaries and across various locations). [11] Orbis reports only 295 workers, possibly corresponding to employment in Ayala Land's parent firm.

Table 17. Comparison of Employment Figures, Select Companies

Company	Orbis	Employment Reported by the Company
DMCI	11	35,495
Ayala Land	295	5,756
Shell Petroleum	489	4,000+
Petron Corporation[12]	232	3,572
Metro Pacific Investments[13]	11	11,562

Source: Orbis data set and Company Reports

[10] DMCI Holdings 2022 Annual Report
[11] Ayala Land Social Data Summary
[12] Petron 2023 Annual Report
[13] Metro Pacific Investments 2022 Sustainability Report

REFERENCES

Cabral, L. M. B., & Mata, J. (2003). On the evolution of the firm size distribution: Facts and theory. *American Economic Review*, *93*(4), 1075-1090.

Ribeiro, S. P., Menghinello, S., & De Backer, K. (2010). The OECD ORBIS database: Responding to the need for firm-level micro-data in the OECD.

San Juan, A. E. (2025, February 24). PEZA, industry groups tie up for wafer fabrication facility. *BusinessMirror*.