

Poultry, hog production up in Q3; cattle down

LIVESTOCK production was mixed in the third quarter, with hog, chicken, and chicken egg output growing on a seasonally adjusted basis and cattle production declining, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Seasonally adjusted volumes, which strip out the effect of factors like trader demand, disease outbreaks, and natural calamities, show the underlying trends

in production, allowing for clearer comparisons across quarters.

Citing preliminary data, the PSA said the seasonally adjusted volume of hog production in the third quarter was 411,130 metric tons (MT) on a liveweight basis, up 1.2% from the previous quarter.

This is the first time the hog industry has shown quarter-on-quarter growth since the third quarter of 2023.

Seasonally adjusted chicken production rose 3.6% quarter on quarter to 582,330 MT (liveweight).

Seasonally adjusted chicken egg production was 212,060 MT, up 3.3% quarter on quarter.

Cattle was the sole decliner on a seasonally adjusted basis, falling 1.6% quarter on quarter to 58,310 MT (liveweight). — **Vonn Andrei E. Villamiel**



FREPIK

Cuts to bring infra budget down to 4.7% of economy next year, senators told

THE infrastructure budget will account for only 4.7% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2026, below economic managers’ target of 5%, Sen. Sherwin T. Gatchalian told the Senate plenary on Monday.

“Because of the flood control issue and the reduction in the flood control budget, we will only hit 4.7% of GDP for 2026. So as much as possible, we diverted some of the flood control projects to other infrastructure projects,” he said.

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto told reporters on the sidelines of

the Senate session on Monday that the infrastructure spending cuts are headlined by the P255.53-billion reduction in the budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Mr. Gatchalian said the government diverted funds originally set aside for flood control projects to classrooms, airports, and seaports.

“Admittedly because of the sheer size... it has been difficult to divert (the flood control funding to) other infrastructure projects,” he said.

Mr. Gatchalian said infrastructure spending will be restored to 5% of GDP in the following year as the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) and the DPWH overhaul the spending plan.

“Once the DEPDev has organized its master planning and the DPWH reforms its processes, we will revert to the minimum 5% of GDP on infrastructure spending in the following year,” he said.

In 2027, infrastructure spending is expected to hit P1.692 trillion or 5.1% of GDP. — **Aaron Michael C. Sy**

Online sellers call DTI trustmark redundant, doubt it deters scams

REDUNDANT government policies are increasing the compliance burden on online sellers as overseas competition intensifies, an industry association said.

The Online Negosyo Empowerment Community (ONEC), which counts among its numbers online sellers and micro-entrepreneurs, called for the regulatory environment to be more friendly to online sellers.

“I believe that our country should be friendly to our businessmen because those are the ones that give jobs and pay taxes. Businesses should grow and not close, which is what is happening to small sellers right now,” Anna C. Magkawas, lead

convenor of ONEC, told reporters on Monday.

The group pointed to the Department of Trade and Industry’s E-commerce Trustmark as a “redundant” policy.

“The current trustmark proposal is redundant, duplicating existing consumer laws, product standards, intellectual property protections, and platform verification systems,” ONEC said.

“With trustmark voluntary only until Dec. 31, the group urges that it be declared permanently voluntary, not required by platforms, aspirational, and private-sector-led, with the government focusing instead on enforcing existing laws,” it added.

ONEC said eligibility for the e-commerce trustmark duplicates requirements for other permits online sellers need to obtain before selling on major platforms.

With similar requirements, the trustmark’s purpose of deterring scammers is defeated; instead, the group urged the government to be stricter in enforcing existing regulations and not add layers of bureaucracy that not every online seller can comply with.

“The DTI has good advocacy, which is consumer protection, but again... there are more things that should be prioritized now,” said Ms. Magkawas. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

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NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS’ MEETING

Dear Stockholder:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Stockholders’ Meeting of **ALTERNERGY HOLDINGS CORPORATION** will be held on 10 December 2025, Wednesday, at 10:00 a.m. via remote communication using the Zoom application. The meeting ID and password will be sent to successful registrants of the Meeting through electronic mail.

The Agenda for the Meeting is as follows:

1.

Call to Order;

2.

Secretary’s Proof of the Required Notice;

3.

Proof of the Presence of a Quorum;

4.

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Stockholders’ Meetings;

5.

Report of Management and the Board of Directors and Approval of the Audited Financial Statements as of the period ending 30 June 2025;

6.

Ratification of All Acts, Transactions and Resolutions by the Board of Directors and Management since the 2024 Annual Stockholders’ Meeting;

7.

Election of Directors;

8.

Appointment of External Auditor;

9.

Other Matters;

10.

Adjournment.

A brief explanation and rationale for each item of the Agenda is attached as Annex “A” of the Information Statement.

Only stockholders of record and in good standing as of 12 November 2025 will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting.

The Guidelines for Registration and Participation in the Meeting, as well as the contact details for any inquiries, are attached as Annex “B” of the Information Statement. Registration will run from 19 November 2025 until 30 November 2025. Stockholders are encouraged to register online at least forty five (45) minutes before the Meeting.

For your convenience, the Corporation will be using the alternative mode for distributing and providing copies of this Notice, Information Statement and other materials for the Annual Stockholders’ Meeting. In accordance with the Notice of the Securities and Exchange Commission dated 12 March 2025 regarding the Alternative Mode for Distributing and Providing Copies of the Notice of Meeting, Information Statement, and Other Documents in connection with the Holding of Annual Stockholders’ Meeting and Special Stockholders’ Meeting for the year 2025, a copy of the Definitive Information Statement, Management Report, SEC Form 17A, Audited Financial Statements and other pertinent documents will be available for viewing and downloading at the Corporation’s website www.alternergy.com and PSE Edge at https://edge.pse.com.ph/companyDisclosures/form.do?cmpry_id=701.

All stockholders are cordially invited to attend the Meeting. Should you, however, be unable to attend, you may designate an authorized representative by submitting a scanned copy of your proxy form to ahc.shareholderregistration@alternergy.com no later than 2 December 2025. All proxies will be validated on 5 December 2025.

Lastly, a visual and audio recording of the Meeting will be secured in compliance with the requirement of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

ANNA M. MAGKAWAS

Corporate Secretary

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PHILIPPINE STAR/DO GUMBAN

PHL among highest-cost producers of pork, chicken in Asia, PIDS says

PORK and chicken production costs in the Philippines are among the highest in the region due to high feed costs, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) said.

In a report on the livestock, poultry and dairy (LPD) industries, the government think tank said hog farms in the Philippines consistently post higher costs than counterparts in China, Thailand and Vietnam.

Citing data from 2017 to 2020, PIDS said backyard hog farms have operating costs of P148.26 per kilo post-slaughter. Commercial farm costs are about P112.40 per kilo due to the benefits of scale.

China commercial farm costs are the equivalent of P106.97 per kilo, with Thailand at P97.53. Vietnam commercial farm costs are P120.44 per kilo.

Major pork exporters such as Spain and Denmark produce hogs at a cost equivalent to P86.50 per kilo, PIDS said.

A more recent estimate from the Department of Agriculture puts production costs for hogs at P165 to P180 per kilo.

According to PIDS, hog feed accounts for about 57% of operating expenses.

The study said that while growers in the Philippines pay less for grower stock, this advantage is offset by more expensive feed.

High feed costs similarly affect chicken production. For broiler farms, PIDS estimated production costs at around P71 per kilo (on a liveweight basis) for commercial operators and up to P78 per kilo for backyard growers, with estimates based on 2018 data.

By dressed weight, the average production cost for large-scale broiler farms in the Philippines is P92.36 per kilo. The equivalent

numbers for China, Vietnam, and Thailand are P86.70, P76.55, and P66.88, respectively.

“The Philippines is not a competitive producer of broilers compared to Asian benchmark countries; the costs of feed and day-old chicks are the largest cost contributors,” the report said.

The study linked high costs to elevated corn prices, a primary ingredient in animal feed. Corn prices in the Philippines remain higher than in neighboring countries, pushing up the cost of manufactured feed used in both swine and poultry farming.

“Corn... is priced relatively low in Thailand but relatively high in the Philippines, partly due to high corn tariffs ... the price of corn is a major driver of feed costs, indirectly affecting the cost of pig and chicken meat,” the study said.

According to PIDS, corn prices in the Philippines are among the highest in the region, with wholesale prices ranging from \$0.42 to \$0.44 per kilo, compared with \$0.28 to \$0.38 in China, \$0.22 to \$0.29 in Vietnam, and \$0.19 to \$0.24 in Thailand.

PIDS is urging the government to undertake a comprehensive review of trade policies affecting the value chain to “enhance the competitiveness of the LPD industries.”

“For instance, the protection policy for corn increases the cost of domestically produced feed, thereby raising the cost of livestock and poultry farming... to improve efficiency and ensure equitable treatment of stakeholders, including consumers, trade policies should be carefully recalibrated alongside production support measures,” PIDS said. — **Vonn Andrei E. Villamiel**

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The National Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (NSTW) is the major annual gathering of the local scientific communities that brings together scientists, technology experts, researchers, students, science communicators, and other stakeholders. It serves as a platform for information exchange on the latest discoveries and developments within both local and international scientific communities.

Established through Proclamation No. 2214 in 1982. However, in 1993, Presidential Proclamation No. 169 moved the observance of NSTW to the third week of July. Finally, in August 2019, Presidential Proclamation No. 780 changed the celebration of NSTW from the third

week of July to the fourth week of November.

This year, Laoag City, as one of the adopters of the smart and sustainable communities program, will host the NSTW from Nov. 18-21, 2025.

For more information and/ or to register to the 2025 NSTW, please scan the QR codes above.