

## Tool and die makers see \$2.8-B market by 2034

By Beatriz Marie D. Cruz  
Senior Reporter

THE tool and die market is projected at \$2.8 billion by 2034, driven by the increasing demand for precision components across automotive, electronics, and manufacturing applications, the Philippine Die Manufacturers Association (PDMA) said.

Such a market size would translate to a compound annual growth rate of 8.05%, it said in a statement.

The Philippine tooling market was valued at \$1.3 billion in 2025, the PDMA said.

Globally, the dies and molds segment account for 40.8% of the market, with automotive users taking up over 60% of the mold market.

The Philippine automotive market is expected to account for 1.09 million units by 2034 from 515,400 units in 2025, it added.

The die and mold and automotive industries are among the key growth drivers of domestic manufacturing, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) has said.

"Around the world, industries are rapidly transforming through automation, artificial intelligence-driven systems, precision engineering, smart mobility, and advanced manufacturing technologies," Anidelle Joy M. Alguso, PEZA deputy director general for Finance

and Administration, said in a briefing.

She noted that the electronic manufacturing services and semiconductor manufacturing services (EMS-SMS) industries are key drivers of investment and employment in manufacturing.

PEZA reported that EMS and SMS account for 32.98% of total approved investments. The industry is composed of 471 registered EMS-SMS firms, generating over P1.1 trillion in cumulative investments and 368,000 jobs.

She also noted that the automotive industry has 55 PEZA-registered enterprises, accounting for over P70 billion in investments and 53,000 jobs.

PEZA said the die and mold segment is a critical industry for advanced manufacturing, with 172 die and mold enterprises generating investments valued at P60 billion and about 61,000 jobs.

The agency is looking to strengthen partnerships with industry, academia and government to boost manufacturing industries such as automotive and dies and molds, it said.

"This is why we in PEZA continue to strengthen long-standing partnerships with industry associations, academia, and government institutions through initiatives on workforce, upgrading, advanced manufacturing, precision tooling, innovation, and technology development," Ms. Alguso said.

# PHL needs strategy to manage healthcare worker migration

By Justine Irish D. Tabile  
Senior Reporter

THE Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) said the ageing population will require a rethink of how the government plans to oversee the care economy, with other countries also imposing demands on the roster of Philippine healthcare workers.

"The Philippines should adopt a National Care and Migration Strategy that aligns labor export with domestic care needs," it said in a discussion paper.

"This includes incentivizing the return of skilled care professionals and formalizing employment pathways in local health and elder care systems to mitigate the care drain," it added.

The report said ageing populations in Singapore, Japan, and Australia have reshaped labor

demand for caregiving, domestic work, and healthcare.

"These structural demographic shifts have intensified the reliance on migrant workers, with Filipino women emerging as a critical labor force within the region's global value chains (GVCs)," it said.

However, it noted that despite helping address labor shortages in these countries, workers continue to face "precarious employment conditions, gendered inequalities, and limited access to social protections."

"The sustainability of such labor systems raises critical concerns as ageing societies continue to expand their dependence on migrant labor, highlighting the need for robust policy interventions, mapping of care and value chains, and regional cooperation," it added.

The paper concluded that while the Philippines has a

sophisticated deployment apparatus through the Department of Migrant Workers and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, gaps remain in credential recognition, recruitment regulation, and portability of benefits.

Migrant workers "sustain ageing populations abroad while filling fiscal gaps at home through remittances, yet their work remains undervalued and insufficiently protected," it said.

"Ensuring the sustainability of this care-driven interdependence demands collective action — between states, industries, and regional institutions — to secure equitable, ethical, and technologically supported care systems across the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation region," it added.

PIDS added that the country should strengthen care workforce development and accreditation by harmonizing technical-voca-

tional and higher education curricula with international standards.

"Expanding regional training centers in high-outmigration regions (e.g., NCR, Region III, Region IV-A) will ensure equitable access to skills development," it added.

The paper also cited the role of technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and interactive learning approaches in improving care training standards in the country.

Meanwhile, it called for enhanced social protection and financial literacy programs for migrant workers by integrating comprehensive pre-departure and reintegration modules on financial planning, digital literacy, and remote caregiving technologies.

It also said the government should promote savings and investment mechanisms for returning care workers "to reduce long-term economic vulnerability."

## DENR seeks annual funding of P92.9B for biodiversity plan

THE PHILIPPINES needs about P92.9 billion annually to implement its updated national biodiversity strategy, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Biodiversity Management Bureau said.

The funding requirement, presented during a two-day national conference in Mandaluyong City this month, reflects the needs of the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan targets for 2024-2040, the fourth edition of a roadmap first drawn up in 1997.

The bureau is also proposing an executive order to compel government agencies to allocate resources for the plan's implementation.

The roadmap aims to bring 24% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 16% of coastal and marine areas under effective management by 2040, covering roughly 7.44 million hectares of land and 35.24 million hectares of sea.

It also targets the rehabilitation of at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, freshwater, and

marine ecosystems, and a 5% increase in green space in five major cities.

The plan also calls for establishing and maintaining 10 gene banks, seed banks, and nurseries of native species, as well as cutting poaching in protected areas by 80%, and eradicating or managing at least two priority invasive alien species within protected areas.

It hopes to require publicly listed companies and government financial institutions to

comply with Environmental, Social, and Governance frameworks that include biodiversity elements, while also calling for 10 Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites to be formally recognized.

The government said it will continue reporting progress to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including at the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, in Armenia. — **Pierce Oel A. Montalvo**

## Hotel101-Niseko is set to open on schedule in time for the 2026 winter

All geared towards Hotel101 Global's Vision of 1 million uniform Hotel101 rooms in 100 Countries mainly thru the licensing of its unique and novel HBnB business model that provides longterm recurring revenue stream

482-Room Hotel101-Niseko, Hokkaido, Japan  
(Actual photo)



DoubleDragon Corporation happens to be one of the very few companies that has not only positioned its diversified portfolio of hard assets spread out across the Philippines, but it also happens to be one of the very few companies that has organically developed a novel asset-light concept and highly unique business model in Hotel101 (HBnB) that is exportable to other continents globally.

This year 2026 will be the year with the highest number of room openings in one year. A total of additional 2,229 hotel rooms are slated to be operational this year 2026, 680 rooms in the recently opened Madrid, Spain, to be followed by 519 rooms in Davao, 548 rooms in Cebu and 482 rooms in Niseko Hokkaido Japan.

The 518-room Hotel101-Manila and the 606-room Hotel101-Fort in the Philippines continue to consistently operate at very high occupancy levels.

2026 is set to be the year with DoubleDragon to start generating high volume of recurring revenues from its portfolio of provincial community mall leasing, industrial warehouse leasing, office leasing and its hospitality portfolio in the Philippines and overseas.

The global expansion of Hotel101 is expected to eventually become one of the major US Dollar inflow generators to the Philippine economy.

The DoubleDragon team is committed to put in the necessary hard work, entrepreneurial grit and perseverance towards this vision and eventually aims to make Hotel101 a truly global brand operating in various jurisdictions worldwide, and eventually bring a pinch of pride and honor to our fellow Filipino countrymen.