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THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Salt tariff collections surge over 260 percent in 2024

[Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas](#) - The Philippine Star

March 12, 2025 | 12:00am



A salt storage worker from Kawit, Cavite shared that a sack of salt now costs P200 to P300. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban said on Monday that the country is facing shortage on the salt supply.

STAR / Ernie Penaredondo

MANILA, Philippines — The government's salt tariff collections more than tripled in 2024, reaching nearly P8.8 million following the implementation of a higher tariff rate, according to the Bureau of Customs.

BOC data showed that the agency collected P8.79 million in tariffs from imported salt last year, marking a 261-percent increase from P2.43 million in 2023.

The significant rise was attributed to the nine percent tariff rate imposed on imported salt under Republic Act 11985, or the Philippine Salt Industry Development Act.

The higher tariff rate took effect in October 2024, approximately six months after President Marcos signed the law, based on BOC records.

Before the enactment of RA 11985, the country's salt tariff rate was only one percent.

BOC data also revealed that salt tariff collections in the fourth quarter of 2024 surged to P7.75 million, a sharp increase from P835,836 in the same period of 2023.

The fourth-quarter collections alone accounted for 88 percent of total tariffs collected throughout the year. The revenue generated from salt tariffs is critical as it funds the 10-year Salt Industry Development and Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, established under RA 11985.

The fund aims to revitalize the local salt industry by providing machinery and equipment, constructing storage facilities, conducting extension services, and developing modern salt production and processing technologies.

Industry sources, however, lamented that the salt tariff collections last year could have been higher had the implementation of the new rate not been delayed.

The Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. has since proposed a retroactive implementation of the nine percent tariff on shipments that should have been assessed at the higher rate but were instead charged the previous one percent tariff.

Despite the exponential increase, the total salt tariffs collected last year accounted for only 0.37 percent of the P2.35 billion worth of imported salt products.

This is primarily because most imports were sourced from countries covered by free trade agreements (FTAs), which levied them with zero percent tariff.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority identified Australia, China, Thailand and New Zealand as the top salt exporters to the Philippines – all of which are covered by FTAs.

Meanwhile, Marie Annette Dacul, executive director of the University of Asia and the Pacific's Center for Food and Agri Business, emphasized the need for the government to explore alternative strategies to strengthen the local salt industry beyond relying on tariff collections.

The country's salt imports last year fell by 3.6 percent, dropping to 659,443 metric tons from 684,040 metric tons in 2023.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/03/12/2427725/salt-tariff-collections-surge-over-260-percent-2024>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

PH rice output seen shrinking in '24-'25

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare](#) - @inquirerdotnet

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:05 AM March 12, 2025



RICE WATCH Rice vendor Eddie Pascual waits for customers at his stall in Marikina Public Market. — GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

MANILA, Philippines – Local rice production is projected to decrease this current crop year due to unfavorable weather conditions, which could translate to higher retail prices, according to research firm BMI. In a report, BMI said the domestic output is pegged at 1.2 million metric tons (MT) in the 2024/2025 cycle, down by 2.6 percent from 1.23 million MT previously.

In the Philippines, the crop year for rice starts in July and ends in June the following year.

“Although domestic production will ease, we also expect consumption to grow thanks to an increase in imports...” said BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions.

The research firm estimated that imports would account for about 30 percent of domestic production, a significant increase from the 17 percent five years ago.

The US Department of Agriculture had projected the Philippines’ rice imports to reach 5.6 million MT this year, up by almost 2 percent from a year prior, retaining its position as the world’s leading rice importer.

BMI said retail prices are expected to decrease following the declaration of a food security emergency.

The Fitch unit said the emergency declaration “will place further downward pressure on domestic prices, particularly given that stocks in the Philippines are elevated.”

With average rice futures prices anticipated to drop in 2025, BMI said “the easing of global prices is a further upside risk for consumers in the Philippines.”

Last month, the Department of Agriculture made an emergency declaration to address extraordinary price increases despite slashing the import duty to 15 percent last July and declining global rice prices.

The rice price index of the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization averaged 113.6 in January, down by 20.5 percent from 142.8 in the same month last year.

By next year, BMI said domestic output would recover because of improved weather conditions and the extension of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund until 2031. INQ

<https://business.inquirer.net/511950/ph-rice-output-seen-shrinking-in-24-25>

BUSINESS WORLD:

PHL rice production shortfall seen at 6.1 MMT by 2028/29

March 11, 2025 | 8:38 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/MICHAEL VARCAS

THE shortfall in domestic rice production could grow to 6.1 million metric tons (MMT) by 2028/29 due to unfavorable weather in the face of growing demand, putting the Philippines at the mercy of volatile international grain markets, Fitch Solutions BMI reported.

The Philippines is facing a “growing production deficit,” estimated at 3.5 MMT in 2024/25 before expanding further to 6.1 million MT by 2028. In 2014/15, the shortfall had been 1.4 MMT, it said on Thursday.

BMI said “structural challenges” faced by the Philippines include limited availability of arable land, exposure to typhoons and the growing population, making it difficult to achieve self-sufficiency in grains.

Self-sufficiency in rice has decreased “significantly” over the past decade, to 69.7% in 2024/25 from 91.6% in 2014/15, BMI said.

“This is due to limited growth in production combined with strong growth in consumption,” it noted.

BMI said it estimates the five-year average annual growth rate in the period ending 2024/25 at 3.6% for rice consumption and 0.2% for production.

“Through our forecast period between 2025/26 and 2028/29, we expect the average annual growth rate for production to be 2.0%. For consumption we expect this to be 2.5%,” it added.

The Philippines has lowered tariffs and declared an emergency that triggers the release of state rice stocks in response to elevated rice prices.

Philippine inflation eased to 2.1% in February from 2.9% in January as rice inflation dropped to 4.9%, the sharpest decline since April 2020.

Rice growers are currently facing low farmgate prices as traders opt to deal in imported rice. The farmgate price was P15-16 per kilo for freshly harvested grain, according to industry reports last week.

The report also noted that labor productivity in the Philippines is low compared to Thailand and Vietnam due to “manual transplanting being more common and lower levels of mechanization.”

It noted that rice yields in the Philippines are lower than those in Vietnam but are very close to those in the largest exporter, India, and higher than those in Thailand.

BMI said it's a "significant concern" that the Philippines is now the largest importer of rice globally, accounting for 9.7% of global rice imports in 2024/25 based on US Department of Agriculture forecasts, given that 19.5% of the population had insufficient food consumption as of September 2024.

"We also highlight that the Philippines relies entirely on imports for wheat, a further risk for food security," it flagged.

BMI said demographic trends will result in continued strong demand for rice in the medium to long term, noting that spending on rice will grow at a faster rate than food spending overall in 2029. — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/03/11/658773/phl-rice-production-shortfall-seen-at-6-1-mmt-by-2028-29/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Weak chicken farmgate prices offset supply concerns arising from US ban

March 11, 2025 | 8:37 pm



REUTERS

THE farmgate price of chicken is declining, offsetting any potential upward pressure resulting from a temporary ban on poultry imports from several US states, industry groups said.

The United Broiler Raisers Association (UBRA) told *BusinessWorld* that the current farmgate prices of live weight regular sized chicken was P126-P129 per kilo, from P135 a week earlier.

The farmgate prices for day-old chickens, meanwhile, was between P52 and P54.

“It does not follow when there is such a ban that there will be price increases,” UBRA President Elias Jose M. Inciong said via Viber.

Citing bird flu outbreaks, the Department of Agriculture (DA) temporarily banned imports of poultry products such as poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen from Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Maryland, and Missouri.

The US accounts for 33% or 158,159 metric tons (MT) of the Philippines’ 472,211 MT chicken imports in 2024, making it the Philippines’ second-largest chicken supplier.

Meat Importers and Traders Association President Jesus C. Cham told *BusinessWorld* that chicken prices in the Philippines may still rise due to the temporary import ban.

Philippine importers are still grappling with the delay in the allocation of the minimum access volume (MAV) quota on poultry imports, he said via Viber.

He described the current poultry supply situation as “tight.”

Meat traders have been calling on the DA to issue the MAV allocation for 2025 as soon as possible to avoid supply disruptions. MAV quotas should have been released in the first week of January, they said. — **Kyle**

Aristophere T. Atienza

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/03/11/658770/weak-chicken-farmgate-prices-offset-supply-concerns-arising-from-us-ban/>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Research firm forecasts lower PH rice production

By Giselle P. Jordan

March 12, 2025

UNFAVORABLE weather conditions have been cited as reason for British research firm BMI to forecast a 2.6 percent year-on-year decrease in the Philippines' rice production for crop year (CY) 2024-2025.

BMI said it expects 1.2 million metric tons (MT) of domestic rice harvest in CY 2024-2025, lower than the 1.23 million MT in CY 2023-2024. There have been low levels of rainfall due to El Niño in 2024, and typhoons hit the country in the fourth quarter of the same year.

Despite lower rice production, there will be higher consumption, which will be addressed by imports, BMI said.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has projected a 2.8-percent annual increase in the Philippines' rice imports for CY 2024-2025. These are expected to account for 30 percent of domestic consumption, a significant spike from the 17 percent five years ago.

Though the drop in production will push domestic rice prices up, BMI said food security emergency on rice imposed by the Department of Agriculture may stabilize costs of the commodity in the following months.

Rice prices have gone down globally in the past year due to eased export restrictions and a rebound in production in India. In fact, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) All Rice Price Index (Farpi) for January is at 113.6, lower than the 142.8 in the same month last year.

It further declined to 105.9 in February, 24.7 percent lower than the price in the same period last year. This is also the lowest price index since April 2022.

However, rice in Philippines remains expensive. Regular milled rice sold at an average of P47.20 per kilogram (kg) in February. It is higher than the P39.90/kg in February 2023, but lower than the peak of P51.30/kg in April 2024.

High prices compelled the DA to declare a food security emergency, to enable the release rice buffer stocks from the National Food Authority.

BMI believes the measure will lower local rice prices, since the country's stocks have expanded. Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed rice stocks had a 38.9-percent annual increase to 2.1 million MT from 1.51 million MT inventory in the same period last year.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. reduced rice tariffs from 35 to 15 percent in July 2024.

BMI sees average rice prices in the following months to be lower than those of 2024 and 2023.

However, while inflation had eased from 6.2 percent in 2023 to 3.2 percent in 2024, BMI's country risk team expects it to rise to 3.3 percent in 2025.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/03/12/business/top-business/research-firm-forecasts-lower-ph-rice-production/2071333>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

PCA launches ₱29.5 million research project to modernize coconut farming

Ada Pelonia

March 11, 2025

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) will lead a P29.5 million research project aimed at modernizing coconut farming to boost productivity and improve farmers' income.

PCA Administrator and CEO Dexter Buted stressed the crucial role of science and technology in driving innovation and progress in the coconut sector, expressing his support for initiatives that advance data-driven farm management strategies.

The research project titled "Profiling and Evaluation of Coconut Palms for National Coconut Hybridization through Hyperspectral Data and Image Analysis," funded by the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) is set to run for 3 and a half years.

The PCA will collaborate with the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD), and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) to integrate science-based and technology-driven solutions into coconut farm management.

Under this project, the Comprehensive Spectral Library for Coconut would be developed, which is considered the first of its kind in the Philippines.

This database would serve as the foundation for advanced plant health models, allowing precise coconut identification either by type, variety, or reproductive stage, early pest and disease detection, and targeted fertilizer recommendations.

"These advancements are expected to maximize coconut productivity and increase farmers' incomes," the PCA said in a statement.

Furthermore, the agency would lean into developing machine learning methodologies, leading toward Artificial Intelligence (AI) as part of its digital transformation.

The PCA said these AI-driven tools would provide coconut farmers with real-time insights on crop health, pest outbreaks, and yield forecasts, allowing for data-driven decision-making at all levels.

Meanwhile, the agency said it would venture into another proposed project titled "Nationwide Management of Coconut Production and Production Component Resources," which is in the pipeline for P70 million in DOST-PCAARRD funding.

This project would use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing Technology to conduct an automated nationwide coconut inventory, which would map coconut palms down to the barangay level.

It would also identify coconut-related industries, locate potential planting areas, assess crop health, and forecast productivity.

"By replacing manual, labor-intensive surveys, this approach will significantly cut costs, improve data accuracy, and enable efficient resource allocation."

The PCA noted that these science-based monitoring strategies would optimize planting methods, fertilizer application, pest management, and disaster preparedness.

Thus, real-time, location-specific recommendations would empower farmers to boost their productivity while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the coconut industry.

"By harnessing cutting-edge remote sensing technologies, including satellite and drone hyperspectral data, the PCA seeks to modernize farm monitoring, enhance productivity, and promote sustainability in the country's coconut industry."

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/03/11/pca-launches-p29-5-million-research-project-to-modernize-coconut-farming/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

PhilFIDA promotes abaca fiber production in Bicol

Connie Calipay | PNA
March 11, 2025



Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA-5) fiber development officer Brent Baltazar Marbella discusses the history and cultural value of the abaca industry during a two-day workshop at the National Museum of the Philippines-Bicol in Daraga, Albay, on Tuesday (March 4, 2025). The activity was part of the Women’s Month celebration.

LEGAZPI City—The Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority in Bicol (PhilFIDA-5) has intensified its efforts to boost abaca fiber production in Bicol.

In an interview on Tuesday, Brent Baltazar Marbella, PhilFIDA-5 fiber development officer, said they help farmers by linking them directly to processors and providing training on high-quality fiber production.

“We are providing our abaca farmers’ group or associations with direct access to processors or buyers so that they can discuss the right price and the demand needed. This is part of the marketing strategy provided by our office to help our farmers,” he said.

“We provide technical training on abaca production from establishment to processing and harvesting. We also continue to give free planting materials, provision of farm equipment, a particular stripping knife, and a spindle stripping machine. We also give our farmers technical assistance and livelihood training.”

Marbella said they coordinate with local government units and other national government agencies for financial grants and assistance for the farmers.

“The price of abaca fiber depends on the grade that ranges from P45 to P55 per kilogram for fair grade, while good to excellent goes up to P120 per kilogram,” he said.

Marbella added they have already submitted a funding proposal to its mother agency, the Department of Agriculture, for the rehabilitation of the abaca plantation destroyed by weather disturbances Kristine and Pepito in 2024.

In the Bicol Region, Catanduanes leads in fiber production, making 81.76 percent of all abaca produced in the region, followed by Albay with 11.62 percent, Camarines Sur with 4.67 percent, Sorsogon with 1.38 percent, and Camarines Norte with 0.57 percent.

Abaca demo, training

Meanwhile, the National Museum of the Philippines in Bicol (NMP-Bicol) conducted a two-day workshop about abaca processing and weaving for female participants from Sorsogon as part of its Women’s Month celebration.

In an interview also on Tuesday, Jesseshan Aycocho, NMP-Bicol information officer, said the activity aims to highlight women's capacity to extract abaca fiber in the abaca industry, which is traditionally a male-dominated industry.

"If you have observed earlier, we have two women hand-strippers manually extracting abaca fiber through the traditional abaca hand-stripping device. We saw that it's a laborious task, but of course, in celebration of women's month, we want to show our participants and the public that women can also do it," she said.

Aycocho said that as Bicol is one of the largest producers of abaca, it is important to showcase the tangible and intangible cultural heritage attached to abaca.

"This activity is conducted annually, and we would like to make people aware of our own identity by featuring and popularizing the abaca culture. Through this activity, with the help of our women culture bearers, we want the younger generations and other generations to appreciate the stories behind the abaca tradition," Aycocho added.

She said NMP-Bicol, as a cultural and educational institution, would like to support these initiatives to encourage the public to embrace abaca production as part of their culture.

Meanwhile, Leslie Mojar, a participant and a Grade 11 student from Pilar, Sorsogon, said the experience provided her with additional knowledge and skills.

"As a woman and a youth, I am encouraged to work hard. I want to show them that being a woman does not mean being weak —we also have strength, and we are capable of doing difficult tasks like abaca weaving," Mojar said. *With reports from Angelica Joyce Serrano and Lily Nocomora, OJTs/PNA*

Image credits: [Angelica Serrano, OJT/PNA](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/03/11/philfida-promotes-abaca-fiber-production-in-bicol/>

ABANTE TONITE:

DA tinabla hirit na maximum suggested retail price sa sibuyas

March 11, 2025

Hindi pabor ang Department of Agriculture (DA) na magpatupad din ng maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) sa sibuyas para mapigilan ang taas-presyo nito.

Sa panayam kay DA Assistant Secretary Genevieve Velicaria-Guevarra, sinabi nito na wala pa naman silang natatanggap na pormal na petisyon para ipatupad ang MSRP sa sibuyas.

Ngunit inaasahan aniya ang pagbaba ng presyo ng pula at puting sibuyas dahil sa panahon ng anihan kung kaya't hindi na kailangan pa ang MSRP.

“Ngayon po ay tag-ani ng sibuyas. Mayroon talaga tayong mamamataan na pagbaba rian. Hindi po natin nakikita na maglilagay ng MSRP diyan,” ayon kay Guevarra.

Batay sa datos DA Bantay Presyo nitong Marso 10, ang presyo ng lokal na pulang sibuyas sa Metro Manila ay nasa P70 hanggang P180 per kilo. Nasa P60 hanggang P150 naman ang kilo ng lokal na puting sibuyas. Samantala, nasa P60 hanggang P160 per kilo naman ang presyo ng imported na puting sibuyas. (PNA)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2025/03/11/da-tinabla-hirit-na-maximum-suggested-retail-price-sa-sibuyas/>

