

PRESS RELEASE

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EV economy accelerates to 3.6% in 2008

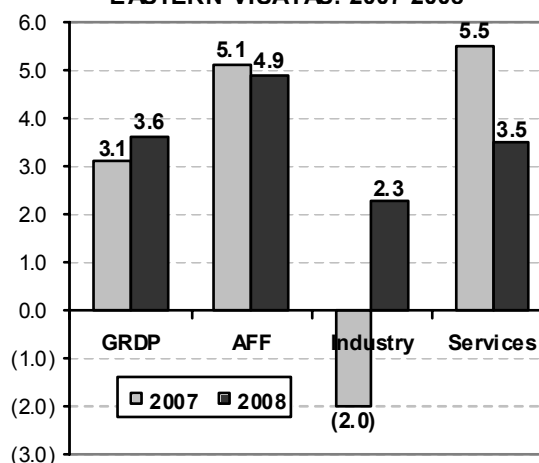
The economy of Eastern Visayas, as measured by the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP), inched up from 3.1 percent in 2007 to 3.6 percent in 2008, registering the only accelerated growth among the regions in the country. Among its sectors, only industry posted an acceleration.

AFF, with 34.4 percentage share to the region's total output, continued to grow but at a slower rate of 4.9 percent in 2008 from 5.1 percent in 2007. This can be attributed largely to the increased production of palay brought about by favorable weather condition, expansion of area planted with hybrid and certified inbred rice seeds, restoration of irrigation systems and increase in aquaculture production and municipal fishing.

Service sector, which accounted for the largest share of the region's economy at 36.5 percent, decelerated from 5.5 percent in 2007 to 3.5 percent in 2008. All its subsectors decelerated except for Ownership of Dwellings and Real Estate (ODRE) and government services which grew from 0.8 percent in 2007 to 1.8 percent in 2008 and 2.7 percent to 6.3 percent, respectively. Transportation, Communication and Storage (TCS) slowed down from 7.2 percent in 2007 to 5.7 in 2008 due to the slowdown in water transport. Trade also decelerated from 9.8 percent in 2007 to 1.7 in 2008, private services from 7.7 percent to 3.9 percent and finance from 15.1 percent to 1.0 percent.

The Industry sector, which comprised 29.1 percent of the region's total output, rebounded from a negative 2.0 percent growth in 2007 to 2.3 percent in 2008. This was brought about by the improved performance of the manufacturing and electricity and water subsectors. Increased production and price of basic metals contributed to a better but still a

**GROSS REGIONAL DOMESTIC PRODUCT
GROWTH RATES BY MAJOR INDUSTRY
EASTERN VISAYAS: 2007-2008**



Source: National Statistical Coordination Board

negative performance of the manufacturing subsector, from a negative 9.7 percent growth in 2007 to a negative 0.5 in 2008. Electricity and water sector increased substantially from 2.9 percent to 16.0 percent in the same period due to the increase in power generation and demand for electricity from Cebu and Luzon. On the other hand, construction subsector slowed down from 21.9 percent in 2007 to 8.9 percent in 2008 while mining and quarrying suffered reversal from 1.5 to negative 52.3 percent on account of the big decline in production of metallurgic chromite.

Eastern Visayas posted a 1.5 percent growth in per capita GRDP, from P6,915 in 2007 to P7,020 in 2008. It ranked second lowest among the seventeen regions in the country.

The GRDP is defined as the aggregate of gross value added (GVA) or income originating from each sector of the regional economy. It is compiled on an annual basis by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

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