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**Manufacturing fuels Central Luzon higher growth**

Central Luzon's economy accelerated to 9.5 percent, posting as the highest growth of the region in the past six years, 2011-2016. This growth is primarily driven by the Manufacturing industry, particularly from the Manufacture of Food, Beverages and Other Transport Equipment. The region's expansion contributed 0.9 percentage point to the country's 6.9 percent growth in 2016.

Industry continued to account for the largest share of the region's economy accounting to 46.4 percent in 2016, higher than its 43.8 share in the previous year. Meanwhile, Services and the Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fishing (AHFF) sectors accounted for 38.6 percent and 15.0 percent, respectively, of the region's total output in 2016.

Among the major economic sectors, Industry accelerated at 16.0 percent, higher by 8.9 percentage points of its previous year's 7.1 percent growth. Manufacturing, the largest sub-industry in the region, continued to grow as it accelerated to 17.4 percent from the previous year's 7.0 percent. Electricity, Gas and Water Supply (EGWS) surged from 2.0 percent in 2015 to 26.3 percent in 2016, followed by Mining and Quarrying which rebounded from negative 39.2 percent in 2015 to 20.4 percent in 2016. Construction, on the other hand, slowed down to 4.4 percent from its 13.4 percent growth in 2015.

Services posted a growth of 5.9 percent, as four of its sub-industry posted expansions in 2016. Other services expanded from 8.0 percent to 8.1 percent, Financial Intermediation from 5.7 percent to 6.5 percent, and Trade and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles, Personal and Household Goods from 4.4 percent to 5.4 percent. While, Public Administration and Defense; Compulsory Social Security hiked from 1.1 percent to 5.8 percent in 2016. On the other hand, Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities and Transportation, Storage and Communication decelerated to 5.7 percent and 4.8 percent, respectively, compared to its previous year's performance.

AHFF maintained its 0.6 percent growth in 2016. Agriculture and Forestry accelerated to 0.9 percent from its previous year's growth of 0.8 percent. However, Fishing declined further by 0.7 percent, a 0.1 percentage point drop from 2015.

Industry contributed most to the region's overall growth rate with 7.0 percentage points followed by Services with 2.4 percentage points and AHFF at 0.1 percentage point.

  
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