

Export recovery cuts PH trade deficit

This marked the third consecutive quarter of decline in residential real estate loans across all segments. —ALDEN M. MONZON INQ

Imports accounted for 60.1 percent of total external trade while exports made up the remaining 39.9 percent.

"However, this optimism is tempered by uncertainty surrounding US President Donald Trump's trade policies. Many exporters are anxiously awaiting his upcoming announcement on reciprocal tariffs, as

"If the United States exempts the Philippines from tariffs, then that should be positive for our exporters," he said.

"The focus should be on leveraging our US relationship

In January 2025, the trade deficit increased by 17.8 percent compared with the same month in the previous year. INO

Businesses also expected a more constrained funding environment, as the credit access index reverted to negative territory, the central bank said. **BNQ**

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