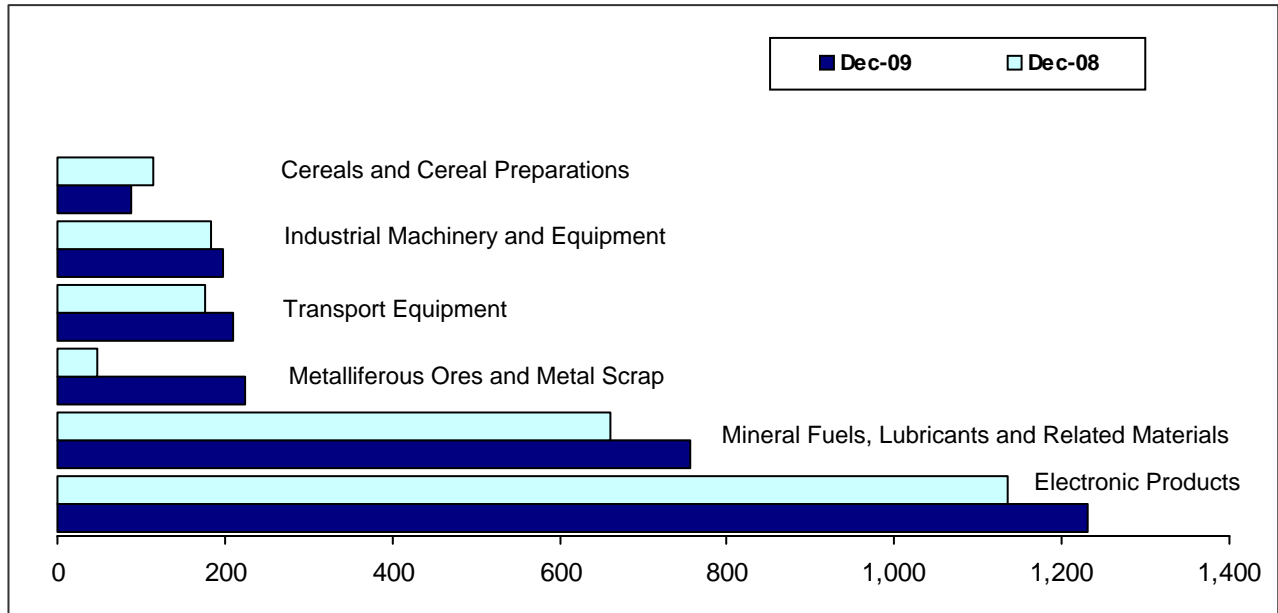


ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS ACCOUNTED FOR 31.6 PERCENT OF IMPORT BILL

Philippine Top Six Imports in December 2009 and 2008
(F.O.B. Value in Million US Dollars)



Accounting for 31.6 percent of the aggregate import bill and the country's major commodity imported in December 2009, payments for **Electronic Products** including consigned and direct importation using the expanded coverage of electronic products amounted to \$1.231 billion in December 2009. It went up by 8.5 percent over last year's figure of \$1.134 billion. This was due to the 2.5 percent decrease in **Components/Devices (Semiconductors)** which comprised the biggest share of 22.5 percent among the major groups of electronic products. **Electronic Products** likewise, exhibited a slight positive growth of 0.9 percent compared to its previous month's level of \$1.220 billion.

Imports of **Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and Related Materials** comprising 19.4 percent of the total imports in December 2009 ranked second. This commodity group grew by 14.6 percent to \$755.96 million from \$659.55 million in December of last year.

Metalliferous Ores and Metal Scrap, amounting to \$223.83 million was the Philippines' third top import for the month with 5.7 percent share to total imports. It accelerated by 359.8 percent, the highest positive growth from among the top ten imports for December 2009 from \$48.68 million in December 2008.

Contributing 5.4 percent to the total import bill and the country's fourth top imports in December 2009 was **Transport Equipment** with payments placed at \$210.12

million. The amount increased by 18.7 percent from last year's recorded value of \$177.02 million.

Fifth in rank and with 5.1 percent share, **Industrial Machinery and Equipment** registered \$197.88 million worth of imports, higher by 7.6 percent from its year ago level of \$183.86 million.

Cereals and Cereal Preparations representing 2.3 percent of the total imports ranked sixth, valued at \$88.98 million contracted by 21.6 percent from its year ago level of \$113.51 million.

Rounding up the list of the top ten imports for December 2009 were **Organic and Inorganic Chemicals** accounting for \$82.73 million, went up by 14.6 percent; **Telecommunication Equipment and Electrical Machinery** including telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment amounting to \$72.35 million expanded by 40.5 percent; **Plastics in Primary and Non-Primary Forms** valued at \$67.60 million jumped by 41.8 percent; and on the other hand, **Iron and Steel** worth \$61.05 million plummeted by 20.6 percent.

Aggregate payment for the country's top ten imports for December 2009 reached \$2.992 billion or 76.9 percent of the total import bill.

DECEMBER 2009 IMPORTS UP BY 17.9 PERCENT

Combined import and export merchandise trade for December 2009 improved by 20.6 percent to \$7.204 billion from \$5.976 billion in December 2008. This was due to the double-digit increase in total merchandise imports by 17.9 percent to \$3.892 billion from \$3.301 billion in December 2008. Total exports likewise rose by 23.8 percent to \$3.312 billion from \$2.675 billion. The balance of trade in goods (BOT-G) in December 2009 recorded a deficit of \$579 million, higher than the last year's recorded deficit of \$626 million. Similarly, on a month-on-month basis, total imports for December 2009 increased by 7.3 percent from \$3.626 billion recorded in November 2009.