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Manufacturing grows 6% in Abu Dhabi

New firms start production with an investment of Dh12.3b

ABU DHABI
BY FAREED RAHMAN
 Senior Reporter

The manufacturing sector in Abu Dhabi achieved growth of 6 per cent in 2018 with 42 new industries starting production with an investment of Dh12.3 billion to boost non-oil GDP, according to the latest report released by the Industrial Development Bureau of the Department of Economic Development (DED) yesterday.

New industries were set up in metals, food, building materials, chemicals and electrical equipment among others. In 2017, 37 new industrial facilities were established in Abu Dhabi with a total investment of Dh5.2 billion, the report shows.

"The growth of 5.9 per cent in the manufacturing sector reflects the vital role of this major sector in the emirate's non-oil economy. Within the past five years, its contribution to non-oil GDP increased from 11.5 per cent in 2017 to 12.1 per cent in 2018," said

Ahmad Hilal Al Baloushi, acting executive director of the Industrial Development Bureau.

He also said the bureau is implementing a number of initiatives to boost the industrial sector by improving business improvement, reducing operational costs and increasing the demand for local products.

"We are trying to develop a new ecosystem for the industries to thrive in Abu Dhabi in different industrial zones like Zones Corp, Kizad through joint venture companies."

Exports

The report also showed that the value of exports from the manufacturing sector touched Dh24.8 billion in 2018 from Dh22.8 billion in 2017, a growth of 8.8 per cent.

On the other hand, imports of manufacturing industries in 2018 reached Dh41 billion from Dh39 billion in 2017. The number of new licences issued last year also went up to 118 from 86 in 2017.

"We expect 2019 to be as good as 2018 for the manufacturing sector. We expect to see the same amount of growth as we have seen in 2018," Al Baloushi told the media yesterday.



Ahmad Khatib/Gulf News

■ The Emirates steel factory in Musaffah, Abu Dhabi. The value of exports from the manufacturing sector touched Dh24.8 billion in 2018.

Industry

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ADAFZ launches 'One Stop Shop'

ABU DHABI: With its user-friendly interface and a variety of other services, the Abu Dhabi Airports Free Zone, ADAFZ, has launched a One Stop Shop, OSS, online portal, to ease the process of setting up businesses within the ADAFZ. Once registered, the portal allows users to view their company's licence, lease, and employee and financial details.

The portal also offers users an array of online services, including a company dashboard that provides access to employment visa-related requests, letter and certificate requests, employment cards and access passes, registration services, and licencing services, the ADAFZ said.

Regarding the services, Rowan Michael Kelly, Senior Vice President of ADAFZ, noted, "The new OSS online portal will support new and existing customers to grow their businesses and take advantage of new opportunities in Abu Dhabi. Understanding the needs of our customers and stakeholders is a top priority for us, and as part of Abu Dhabi Airports, we are committed to enhancing our technological offerings to ensure we continue to deliver world-class business services, in line with our vision of becoming the world's leading airports group." In addition to the services provided through the OSS, entrepreneurs and investors based at the ADAFZ will continue to benefit from unparalleled business incentives, including waivers for corporate tax, personal income tax, and import or re-export duties. This is in addition to being able to take advantage of no restrictions on capital or currency repatriation, a full range of business activities licences, and 100 per cent foreign ownership.

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