

Question for Written Answer

Name and Constituency of Member of Parliament

Mr Low Thia Khiang, Hougang

Question:

To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry what is the amount of foreign investment committed to the manufacturing sector, by industry, on an annual basis from 1990 to date and what is the net foreign investment amount committed to the sector during the same period.

Answer:

The main performance indicator that EDB tracks for the manufacturing sector is the level of manufacturing fixed asset investment (FAI) commitments from investor companies. EDB releases this investment commitment data through their annual Year-In-Review press conferences held every January. Please see Table 1.

Table 1: Manufacturing FAI Commitments by Industry (\$ bil)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Electronics	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.5	2.6	3.5	3.8
Chemicals	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.1	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.8
Biomedical Manufacturing	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2
Precision Engineering	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8
Transport Engineering	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4
General Manufacturing Industries	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5
Total	2.5	2.9	3.5	3.9	5.8	6.8	8.1	8.5

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Electronics	3.0	3.3	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.2	4.6	4.3
Chemicals	2.5	2.6	2.2	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.6	2.0
Biomedical Manufacturing	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9
Precision Engineering	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.4
Transport Engineering	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.6
General Manufacturing Industries	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3
Total	7.8	8.0	9.2	9.2	9.0	7.5	8.3	8.5

[Source: EDB annual Year-In-Review press statements]

The percentage of foreign investment commitments in the manufacturing sector has averaged about 75% from 1990 to 2005. But at the industry level, EDB does not differentiate between local and foreign sources as EDB aims to develop the industry as a whole.

We understand “net” investment commitments to mean the gross amount of investment commitments less the investment commitments lost due to projects withdrawn or relocated during a certain period. However, it is not possible to comprehensively and systematically track all lost investment commitments as we are a free and open economy. Hence, this information requested is not available.