



# DASHBOARD

Changing News. Your Guide.

AVID Daily E- News

February 3, 2012

Volume 2 No 99

## MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

### Jobless rate down slightly last year

Unemployment eased to 7.0% in 2011, despite a weaker economy, from 7.3% the year before, data showed. The National Statistics Office said 2.814 million Filipinos were jobless last year, a modest gain from the 2.859 million in 2010. The figures are the averages of data from four survey rounds -- January, April, July and October. The ranks of the employed rose to 37.2 million and as a percentage of the labor force, they comprised a bigger 93.0% from 92.7% in 2010. "The unemployment rate for 2011 went down slightly because employment opportunities grew faster than the labor force. In particular, services and agriculture provided jobs that were not created by the industry sector," said Cid L. Terosa, senior economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific. (BusinessWorld)

### Bank lending seen growing another 20% in '12

Bank lending in the Philippines is expected to grow by 20 percent this year on the back of the rapid development of more infrastructure projects in the country. This is according to international financial services firm JP Morgan Chase & Co., which is bullish on the Philippine banking sector for 2012. Adrian Mowat, emerging market and Asian equity strategist for JP Morgan, said that banks in the country are likely to see higher demand for loans this year given the need to help finance expensive public infrastructure projects. Because of the banking sector's significant amount of assets and liquidity, Mowat added, it can afford to accommodate higher loan applications. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

### Aquino: Price controls over oil not yet needed

President Aquino said yesterday he could impose price controls if the oil situation worsened into a crisis. "I have the right as President to impose price controls, at times of calamity," he said. But indications suggested this was not yet necessary. The President said that based on the report of the Department of Trade and Industry to him, the only basic commodity to have had a "substantial" price increase was canned sardines. And he said this was due to the inadequate supply of fish needed for canning, and not rising oil prices. "Otherwise, the [price] increases have been moderate so it [price control] is not yet necessary," the president added. (BusinessMirror)

## FINANCIAL TRENDS

### Stocks soar to new high on global optimism

Local stocks soared to a new record high yesterday, tracking the upbeat sentiment in global markets, amid investor optimism on the US economy and the easing debt crisis in the eurozone. The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEI) surged 106.44 points or 2.26 percent to finish at 4,822.08, also boosted by positive earnings outlook on local firms, encouraging US, Chinese and German manufacturing data, and easing concerns over the eurozone (The Philippine Star)

### P/\$ rate closes at P42.66/\$1

The peso exchange rate closed higher at P42.66 to the US dollar yesterday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX) from P42.945 the previous day. The weighted average rate appreciated to P42.713 from P42.90. Total volume amounted to \$1.269.4 billion. (Manila Bulletin)

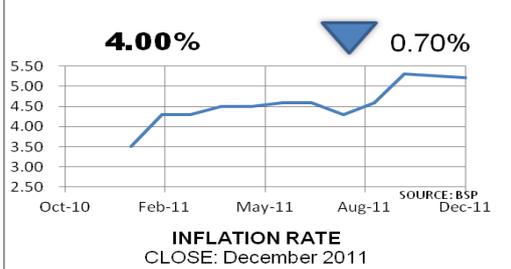
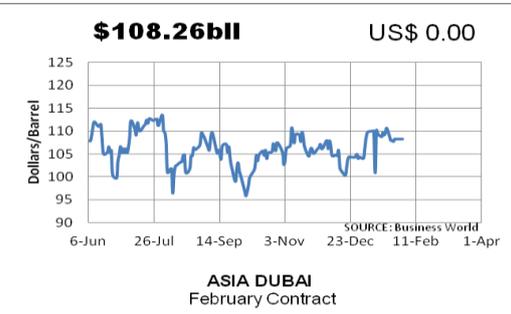
## INDUSTRY BUZZ

### US January auto sales accelerate

In January, U.S. auto sales continued their upward surge, rising 11% over a year ago to their brisk pace in nearly four years. At the same time, several auto makers showed new confidence in the American economy by disclosing billion-dollar expansions of their U.S. factories. On the sales front, Chrysler Group LLC and Volkswagen AG reported increases of more than 40% apiece from a year ago, and most other auto makers posted solid gains. General Motors Co. was the only major company to report a decline; its sales fell 6% from a year ago, when an incentive binge caused a sales spike. All told, auto makers sold 913,287 cars and light trucks in January, according to Autodata Corp. The annualized sales pace in January was 14.18 million vehicles, up from December's rate of 13.56 million. It was the highest level since May 2008, when the sales rate hit 14.28 million vehicles a year, and even surpassed the August 2009 pace, when consumers flocked to showrooms for cash-for-clunker rebates, according to figures from Autodata. (The Wall Street Journal)

### Japan auto sales notch record jump

Japan's auto sales kicked off 2012 with a bang in January, marking a record percentage increase for the month on the back of increased availability and coming government stimulus steps. Marking the fifth straight month of increase, sales totaled 263,267 vehicles in January, up 40.7% from 187,154 in the same month a year earlier, the Japan Automobile Dealers Association said Wednesday. (The Wall Street Journal)



	Thursday, February 2 2012	Year ago
Overnight Lending, RP	6.25%	6.50%
Overnight Borrowing, RRP	4.25%	4.50%
91 day T Bill Rates	0.919%	3.85%
Lending Rates	7.5804%	7.79%

