



# DASHBOARD

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AVID Daily E- News

February 10, 2012

Volume 3 No. 4

## MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

### Gov't eyes 5-7% Q1 growth

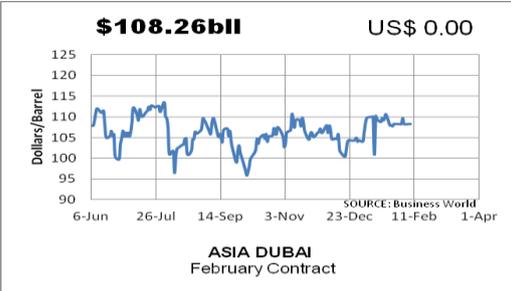
Philippine economic growth for the first quarter may speed up from the 4.6 percent in the corresponding quarter in 2011. Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga Jr. told that a growth of 5 to 7 percent was possible for the first quarter this year with more government spending and private consumption. Paderanga is also director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority. "The government expenditure program is really working well but of course there are some downside risks and we're watching what's happening in Europe, and then of course the oil issue," Paderanga said. "The government expenditure program has already kicked in starting in the fourth quarter so at least we will feel the effects of that [this year]." (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

### BSP likely to slash rates further

DBS as well as First Metro Investments Corp. and the University of Asia and the Pacific see the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas slashing its interest rates by another 25 basis points as early as next month on the back of manageable inflation outlook. In its daily breakfast spread, DBS said the BSP would cut policy rates by another 25 basis points in the second quarter, bringing the overnight borrowing rate back to the record level of four percent and the overnight lending rate to six percent until the end of the year. "We think that monetary easing may not be done just yet and have penciled in another 25 basis point cut in the second quarter before the overnight borrowing rate is held at four percent for the rest of the year," DBS added. (The Philippine Star)

### BIR's 2012 quarterly target set

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), the government's main tax agency, is looking at collecting P232.67 billion in the first three-months of the year, its lowest quarterly goal for 2012. Data from the BIR showed that the agency's collection target for this year's January to March period is higher by 16 percent compared with P199.55 billion actual revenue it raised in the same months last year. Meanwhile, the BIR is expected to raise its highest quarterly collection target for this year in the second-quarter. The agency is expected to collect P302.69 billion during the period, higher by 17 percent compared with P258.45 billion collection in the same quarter in 2011. The BIR collection for 2012 is pegged at an assumption that the Philippine economy, as measured by its gross domestic product (GDP), will grow by 5.5 percent. (Manila Bulletin)



	Thursday, February 9 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	7.6045%	7.79%

## FINANCIAL TRENDS

### Weak investor sentiment dampens local share prices

Local share prices retreated yesterday, weighed down by weak sentiment among investors in the region over the uncertainties surrounding negotiations to resolved Greece's sovereign debt. The main Philippine Stock Exchange index dropped 36.18 points or 0.75 percent to close at 4,769.62. Decliners outpaced advancers 134 to 42, with 33 issues closing unchanged. A total of 14.53 billion shares valued at P8.59 billion were traded. (The Philippine Star)

### Market hopes propel peso to strengthen

The peso strengthened further against the dollar for the sixth straight trading session yesterday, supported by investors' hopes Greece could still muster commitment among its political leaders to austerity measures required for it to bag a second bailout package. The local currency gained three and a-half centavos to close at P42.18 per dollar against its P42.215 to the dollar close last Wednesday. (BusinessWorld)

## INDUSTRY BUZZ

### HARI reports 40% sales hike in Jan.

Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (HARI) got a strong start this year with a 40-percent sales increment in January, keyed by the robust market acceptance for its passenger car models. "We open 2012 with a bang in our sales performance. With strong and continued demand for our best-selling models, the entry of even more exciting ones, a strong peso, sustained consumer spending power, and overall favorable economic environment, we have high hopes that this year will be another good one for Hyundai," Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo, Hari president and CEO, said in a statement. Hari reported that total sales in January jumped 2,153 units, with the PC category delivering an 84-percent increase to 1,286 units from only 698 last year. (BusinessMirror)

### Nissan gains a step on Japanese rivals

Nissan Motor Co. on Wednesday posted a higher profit for the three months ended in December and reaffirmed its full-year estimate, a bullish performance that positions the company as the most profitable of Japan's three major auto makers. Nissan said its net income rose 3.2% to ¥82.67 billion (\$1.08 billion) in the October-December quarter, from ¥80.07 billion a year earlier, due to operating-profit gains in Asia from sales of models such as the company's Leaf electric car in Japan and Teana sedan in China. Japan's No. 2 car maker by volume also kept intact its ¥290 billion net-profit forecast for the fiscal year ending in March. (The Wall Street Journal)

