



DASHBOARD

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MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

PHL poised to become creditor member of IMF

The Philippines looks forward to a more meaningful role as a member of the 180-nation International Monetary Fund, having already made available 163.8 million in special drawing rights or SDRs under a currency exchange mechanism known among members as the Financial Transactions Plan or FTP. According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the country's continued membership at the FTP will pave the way for its admission to the new arrangements to borrow or NAB facility of the IMF. The NAB seeks to help distressed countries or institutions with the potential to impair or un hinge the international monetary system. (BusinessMirror)

Banking industry resources up by 6% to P7.5T

The banking sector's resources rose further in November which, according to regulators, showed that banks in the country would be able to support faster economic growth this year. Officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the growing resources of domestic banks also showed the stability of the industry despite the lingering crisis in the eurozone. Data from the BSP showed that as of end-November, the combined resources of banks operating in the country amounted to P7.5 trillion, rising by 6 percent from P7.05 trillion in the same period last year. The growth in resources was driven by the sustained rise in deposits from the public that indicated the confidence of individual and corporate depositors in the ability of Philippine banks in general to take care of their money, regulators said. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Oil firms warn of higher oil prices this week

Consumers might wake up to higher oil prices this week given continued external developments jacking up international prices, oil firms warned. "It is fair to assume that prices will inevitably have to move upward, due mainly to the tension in Iran," SeaOil Philippines Inc. said. "The announcement of another bailout for Greece is also seen pushing prices upward," it added. For independent oil player Eastern Petroleum Corp., prices of gasoline and diesel might increase by P1 per liter and P0.50 per liter, respectively, an official said. An official of major oil firm Petron Corp. said they might jack up prices by P1 per liter for gasoline and P0.30-0.50 per liter for diesel and kerosene. (The Philippine Star)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Stocks resume climb on news from Europe

On reports of euro zone finance ministers finally approving Greece's second bailout package and Dow Jones' overnight surge. The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) added 0.68% or 33.35 points to close at 4,934.29, while the broader all-share index edged up 0.88% or 29.10 points to 3,325.70. (BusinessWorld)

Peso recovers on good signs in the region

The peso inched up slightly on Wednesday amid a market that has been weighing the impact of latest oil disputes between Europe and Iran, the approval of the second bailout package for Greece, and indications of improving US economy. The local currency closed at intraday high of 42.62 against the US dollar, up by 4.5 centavos from the previous day's finish of 42.665:\$1. Intraday low settled at 42.88:\$1. Volume of trade amounted to \$1.156 billion from \$1.294 billion previously. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

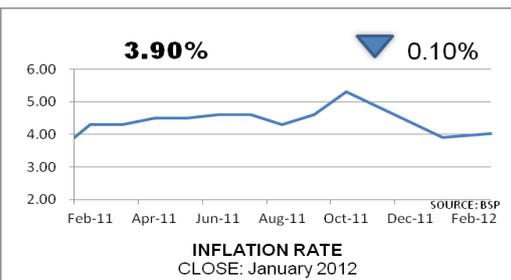
INDUSTRY BUZZ

Sluggish climb for alternative vehicles

The Department of Energy is aligning the shift to alternative transport as one of its banner policies, but as could be gleaned from data, the program's implementation remains on sluggish pace. The deployment of alternative fleets, such as electric vehicles and fuel conversion to compressed natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas are just among those being promoted to de-carbonize the country's transport sector. The energy department judiciously carved this policy in its Fueling Sustainable Transport Program. The agency set specific targets when it comes to the scale of fleets to be converted onto alternative fuels – chiefly 100,000 for EVs in the medium-term and at least 2,000 CNG buses deployment in the short-term. While the conversion of taxi fleets into LPG has so far gained some traction, the targets on CNG and electric vehicles remained fledgling. (Manila Bulletin)

Japan's Mazda dives on report of share issue

Shares in Japan's Mazda Motor tumbled more than 14% after reports that the troubled car maker plans to raise ¥100 billion (\$1.25 billion) in a new share issue. Mazda Motor is to raise the cash as it comes under pressure from the strong yen and slow global demand, according to a report by national television network NHK, which did not cite its sources. The car company will also take out subordinated loans totalling ¥70 billion from various banks. The loans come with higher interest rates but are payable only after satisfying other debts. (BusinessWorld)



	Wednesday, February 22 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	7.7568%	7.79%

