



DASHBOARD

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MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

BIR misses 2011 collection target by 1.7%

The Bureau of Internal Revenue collected P924.1 billion in 2011, falling short of its target by 1.7 percent, or P15.9 billion. BIR also showed that last year's collection was 12.3-percent higher than the P822.6 billion in revenues recorded in 2010. Despite missing the target for 2011, Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim S. Henares said in a statement that she believed that the BIR was able to put in "a very credible performance." She explained that the BIR's collections included revenue from operations as well as non-BIR operations—referring to final withholding taxes on interest payments due on and documentary stamp taxes due from government debt securities that the Bureau of the Treasury issued. Henares said the BIR collected a total of P890.5 billion from BIR operations, growing 12.9 percent from P788.6 billion in 2010. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Manufacturing output down by 7.8% in Dec.

Factory output declined for the third consecutive month in December as the domestic economy continued showing signs of slowing down. The National Statistics Office's Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries (MISSI) showed that manufacturing output, as measured by the volume of production index (VoPI), contracted by an annual 7.8% in December. This was a reversal of the robust growth posted twelve months earlier, when manufacturing expanded by 15.6%. Nine major sectors contributed to the decline in VoPI, with double-digit decreases posted by machinery except electrical (-27.6%), food manufacturing (-27.3%), paper and paper products (-18.7%), basic metals (-17.9%), fabricated metal products (-17.3%), leather products (-14.5%), and textiles (-10.5%). (BusinessWorld)

Imports decline 6.5% in December

The value of Philippine imports fell in December for the first time since October 2009 on a year-on-year basis, suggesting a softening of domestic consumption and signaling continued weakness in exports. Imports in December fell 6.5% on year to \$4.23 billion due to lower shipments of electronics, transport and telecommunications equipment as well as iron and steel, the National Statistics Office said Tuesday. In December 2010, imports totaled \$4.95 billion. "The numbers continue to be worrisome since they signal that exports might continue to remain weak, probably by another quarter," said Emilio Neri, an economist with the Bank of the Philippine Islands. Philippine exports have been on a decline since February 2011. (Manila Bulletin)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Local share prices climb on Wall Street gains

Philippine stocks rose yesterday, powered higher by the strongest close for US stocks since before the 2008 financial crisis. The main PSE index rose 77.22 points or 1.60 percent to close at 4,897.65. More than five billion shares valued at P6.20 billion during the morning and afternoon sessions. Gainers led losers 99 to 53, with 49 issues closing unchanged. (The Philippine Star)

P/\$ rate closes at P42.83/\$1

The peso exchange rate closed higher at P42.75 to the US dollar yesterday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX) from P42.83 the previous day. The weighted average rate appreciated to P42.722 from P42.267. Total volume amounted to \$856.8 million. (Manila Bulletin)

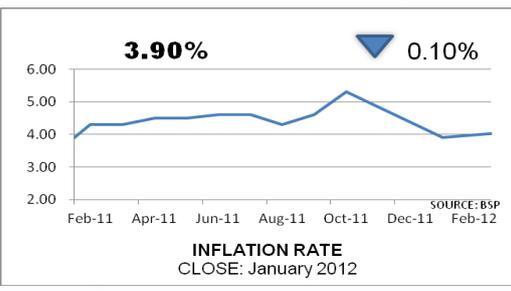
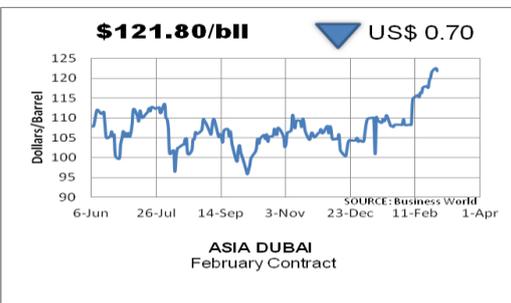
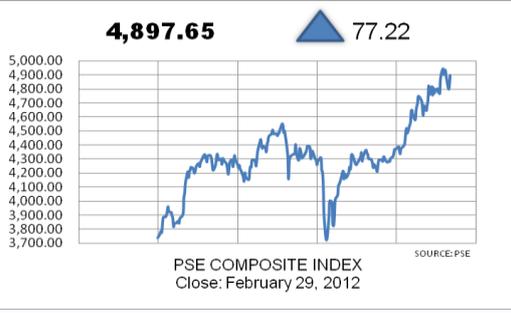
INDUSTRY BUZZ

China consumers embrace the SUV

Chinese consumers bought 2.1 million SUVs last year, up 25.3% from 2010 and representing 11.6% of light vehicle sales, according to J.D. Power and LMC Automotive. That is about half of the 4.1 million SUVs sold in the United States, where SUVs were 32% of the light vehicle market. The increase in sales illustrates China's car market is maturing, analysts say, and presents another opportunity for foreign makers to expand their presence in China. "SUV is certainly the growth segment in China and the manufacturers are on to this," said William Russo, an industry veteran who runs the consultancy firm, Synergistics, in Beijing. "We will see more and more SUVs actually built in China." (BusinessWorld)

Detroit automakers race to keep up with sales

Auto sales are growing so fast that Detroit can barely keep up. Three years after the U.S. auto industry nearly collapsed, sales of cars and trucks are surging. Sales could exceed 14 million this year, above last year's 12.8 million. The result: Carmakers are adding shifts and hiring thousands of workers around the country. Carmakers and parts companies added more than 38,000 jobs last year, with industry employment averaging 717,000 for 2011. And automakers have announced plans to add another 13,000 this year, mostly on night shifts. (BusinessMirror)



	Wednesday, February 29 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	7.5254%	7.79%

