



# DASHBOARD

Changing News. Your Guide.

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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. Documents from the 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. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

### 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)

### 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)

## FINANCIAL TRENDS

### Stocks edge up after three-session drop

Stocks may have room to run higher in the week ahead, tracking gains in overseas markets on optimism that the world's biggest economy is moving into a more sustainable stage of recovery. Global stocks rose last week after strong US jobs data beat expectations. Last week, the Philippine benchmark index fell 0.71 percent to close at 4,980.71. (The Philippine Star)

### P/\$ rate stands at P42.59/\$1

The peso exchange rate stands at P42.59 to the US dollar, the closing rate last Friday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX). The weighted average rate stands at P42.503. (Manila Bulletin)

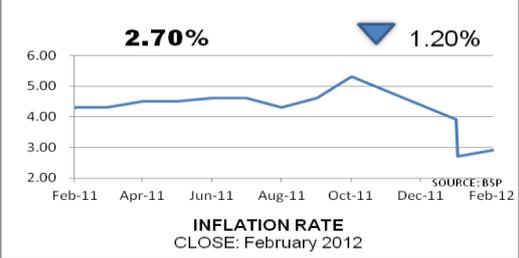
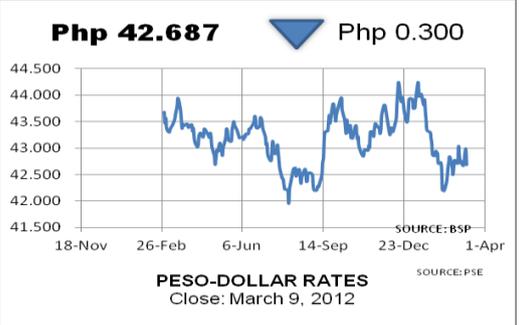
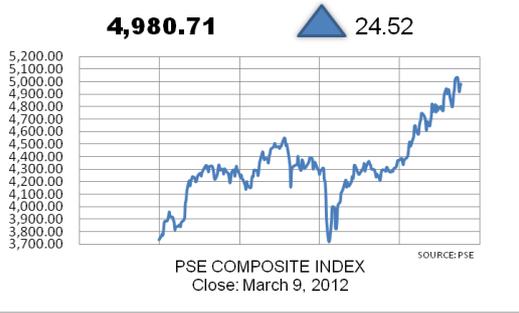
## INDUSTRY BUZZ

### 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. Mercedes sold 54,000 SUVs in China last year and the cars accounted for 27% of its total China sales in 2011, a nearly two-fold percentage point increase since 2007. "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 US 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, reaching a total of 717,000. And automakers have disclosed plans to add another 13,000 this year, mostly on night shifts. But there is a downside. The newfound success is straining the factory network of the Detroit automakers and the companies that make the thousands of parts that go into each vehicle. This could lead to shortages that drive up prices. (The Wall Street Journal)



	Friday, March 9 2012	Year ago
Overnight Lending, RP	6.00%	6.50%
Overnight Borrowing, RRP	4.00%	4.50%
91 day T Bill Rates	2.148%	3.85%
Lending Rates	7.7467%	7.79%

