



DASHBOARD

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MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

BSP 'hopeful' on growth

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is hopeful the government's 5-6% growth target for this year will be met and is ready to support that goal as long as the inflation outlook remains favorable. Most analysts expect the central bank to hold the main interest rate at a record low of 4.0% when it meets again in April after cutting it at the first two reviews of 2012. The latest data shows exports may be on the road to recovery and inflation is at its lowest in more than two years, figures that coincide with positive developments in the United States and Europe. "The positive export growth reported is welcome. As are the seeming traction in US recovery and the growing confidence in the resolution of the European debt" central bank Governor Amando M. Tetangco, Jr. told. (BusinessWorld)

Deposits increased 4.9% in 2011

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation reported that total deposits in banks rose by P251.2 billion or 4.9% from P5.12 trillion as of end-2010 to P5.37 trillion as of end-2011. Deposits in all bank types grew in terms of industry aggregates. Commercial banks, which accounted for 88.4% of deposits, registered the highest annual deposit growth among banks with its deposit level reaching P4.75 trillion as of December 2011 from P4.51 trillion posted in 2010, a growth of 5.4% for the year. On the other hand, both thrift and rural banks managed to post positive annual deposit growth rates of 1.2% and 1.5% in 2011, respectively. As of end-2011, deposits in thrift banks reached P496.6 billion while deposits in rural banks totaled P125.0 billion. (Manila Bulletin)

Eurogroup formally approves second Greek bailout

The euro area countries Wednesday finally signed-off on Greece's second bailout program, according to a statement from the president of the Eurogroup of finance ministers. A statement from Jean-Claude Juncker, chairman of the Eurogroup said: "All required national and parliamentary procedures have been finalised." It added, the 17 countries had authorized the transitional euro-area rescue fund, the European Financial Stability Facility, to release the first instalment of Greece's bailout. The first installment will be "for a total amount of €39.4 billion, which will be disbursed in several tranches," the statement said. (The Wall Street Journal)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

PSE income drops slightly

The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) reported a slight drop in net income last year to P406.19 million, weighed down by higher costs related to the development of new products and a new trading engine. In a statement issued yesterday, the PSE said operating revenues rose 9.5 percent to P900.76 million. Of the total, P202.86 million came from trading-related fees, which increased 15.2 percent, and P254.03 million from service fees generated by subsidiary Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines (up 17.8 percent). Listing-related income amounted to P429.29 million, 6.8 percent higher than the 2010 figure. (The Philippine Star)

Peso retreats as euro zone woes persist

The peso slumped to a one-and-a-half month low yesterday as market players sought solace in the greenback after Fitch Ratings warned on Wednesday of a possible downgrade for the United Kingdom. After sliding by 22 centavos on Wednesday, the local currency shed 13 centavos to close at P43.01 per dollar against its P42.88-per-dollar close the previous day. This is the peso's weakest close since Jan. 30 when it settled at P43.075 per dollar. The peso has weakened against the dollar since Friday last week when it dropped two centavos to close at P42.59 per dollar. It has lost a total of 44 centavos yesterday against its P42.57-perdollar close last Mar. 8. (BusinessWorld)

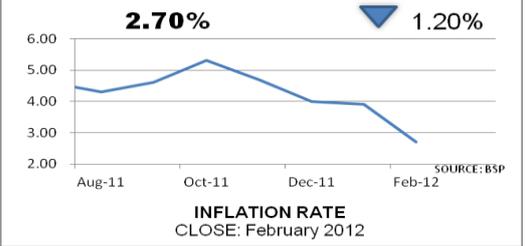
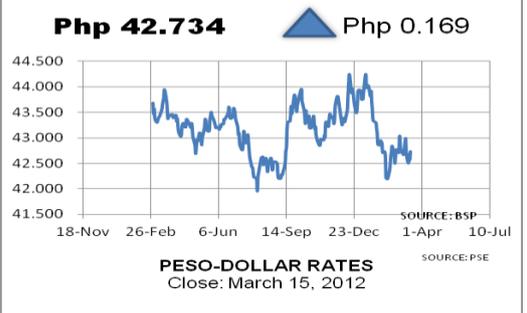
INDUSTRY BUZZ

Hyundai February sales climb 54%

Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. reported a 54 percent increase in sales in February to 2,369 units versus 1,538 units in the same month last year. Its passenger car category primarily boosted company sales with an overwhelming 149 percent increase to 1,695 units as against 682 units only in February last year. Strong sales of i10, Accent, and Elantra car models boosted the February figure. The February sales have brought the total sales for the first two months of the year to 4,522 units or 47 percent higher than the 3,079 units in the same January-February period last year. (Manila Bulletin)

Porsche operating profit up 22%

Sports car maker Porsche AG says it made €2.05 billion in operating earnings in 2011. That's an increase of 22 percent from the year before, measured as operating earnings before interest and taxes. Revenues rose 18 percent to €10.9 billion. Porsche increased vehicle sales by 21 percent to 116,978. Key markets were China, the US, Russia and Germany. Sales of the company's Cayenne sports utility vehicle jumped 49 percent to 59,900. (BusinessMirror)



	Thursday, March 15 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	7.7871%	7.79%

