



DASHBOARD

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MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Local executives among the most upbeat globally

Filipino business leader's economic optimism has landed them fourth -- next only to counterparts in Peru, Brazil and the United Arab Emirates -- in a 40-country poll conducted by Grant Thornton International. The survey, conducted last January to February and involving 3,000 businesses, found 82% of local respondents upbeat about the next 12 months, up from 74% three months earlier. "The Philippines has done a good job of staying resilient despite the economic volatility around the world," said Maria Victoria C. Españó, managing partner and CEO of Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A), Grant Thornton's local member firm. "Now that the global mood has also picked up, particularly among more mature economies, and the government seems determined to make up for its underspending last year, I think we're on track to maintaining this upbeat outlook," she added. (BusinessWorld)

NEDA sees 15% annual BPO growth

With more foreign companies looking at cutting costs for their business operations through offshoring, the National Economic and Development Authority disclosed that the business-process outsourcing sector may see a growth of not below 15 percent every year. Based on the 2011 to 2016 Road map of the Business Processing Association of the Philippines, the NEDA said the projection of the association for an annual growth of 15 percent every year would be more feasible in the sector than a low of only 9 percent or a high of 20 percent every year. A 15-percent growth, the BPAP said, would generate 3.15 million direct and indirect jobs and taxes in the amount of \$6 billion every year. The NEDA said this is likely considering the global economic environment. (BusinessMirror)

No more BSP rate cuts this year - US think-tank

New York-based think-tank Global Source Partners believes that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) would no longer cut interest rates further this year after a cumulative 50-basis point reduction in January and March. In a report, Finance undersecretary Romeo Bernardo and economist Margarita Gonzales said soaring oil prices in the world market as well as the strong liquidity in the domestic market would constraint monetary authorities from further cutting interest rates within the year. The report stated that inflation surprised on the downside, dropping to 2.7 percent in March from 2.9 percent in February or within the low end of the BSP forecast range of 2.7 percent to 3.6 percent. (The Philippine Star)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

PH stocks dips further

Local stocks slightly dropped in very thin trading on Wednesday as fresh European debt jitters added to a post-holiday hangover and some shift in funds to initial public offerings. The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange index shed 4.85 points or .01 percent to close at 5,017.44. The main index trimmed larger losses seen earlier in the session but all counters still ended in negative territory as a spike in Spain's borrowing cost rekindled debt concerns in the Euro-zone. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Peso, other Asian currencies climb

The peso strengthened yesterday as corporates sold some of their dollar holdings while the euro, which the local currency tracks, managed to rebound against the greenback. It added eight centavos to close at P42.76 per dollar yesterday against its P42.84-per-dollar finish the previous day. "The peso followed the euro. Both currencies opened weaker on worries over a slowing global growth, but the euro was pushed down further after the yields on Spanish and Italian bonds spiked," a trader said. (BusinessWorld)

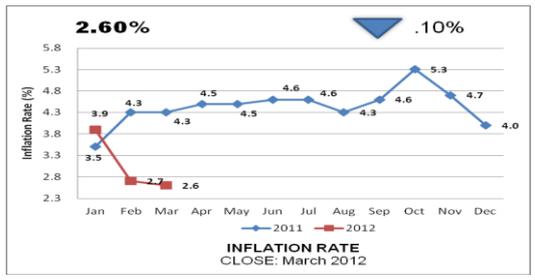
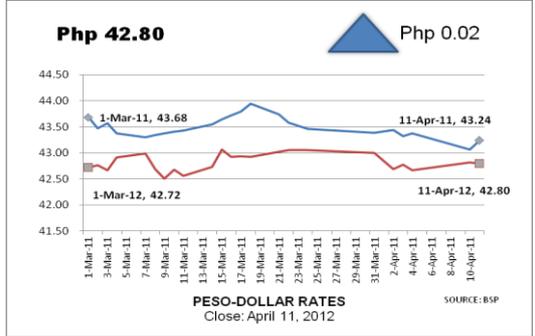
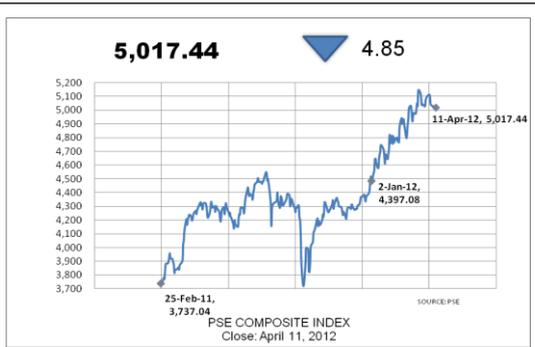
INDUSTRY BUZZ

Toyota Motor aims to spice up cars

Toyota Motor Corp. unveiled on Monday a new framework for vehicle development aimed at making its cars more appealing, while cutting costs by at least 30% through the use of more shared parts. Since taking the helm three years ago, Chief Executive Akio Toyoda has sought to steer Toyota's focus back to making better products, blaming unchecked sales growth in the run-up to the financial crisis for its penchant for building popular but unexciting cars. "The feeling at the time was, 'If we build it, they will come,'" Mr. Toyoda told reporters at the automaker's headquarters in central Japan. "Instead of developing what customers would want next, we were making cars that would rake in sales." (BusinessWorld)

Foton opens four new dealerships nationwide

Foton continues to grow larger and better by providing its customers with high quality commercial vehicles, heavy equipment and construction machineries at very affordable prices. United Asia Automotive Group, Inc., the exclusive distributor of Foton vehicles in the Philippines continues to expand. It has recently inaugurated its 4 new dealership principals in Plaridel, Bulacan, Batangas City, San Pedro, Laguna and Legazpi, Albay. (The Philippine Star)



	Wednesday, April 11 2012	Last Week	Year ago
Overnight Lending, RP	6.00%	6.00%	6.50%
Overnight Borrowing, RRP	4.00%	4.00%	4.50%
91 day T Bill Rates	2.15%	2.15%	3.85%
Lending Rates	7.9364%	7.91%	7.79%

