



# DASHBOARD

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## MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

### Q1 growth higher than 3.7% – NEDA

The Philippine economy in the first quarter of the year likely grew faster than the 3.7 percent recorded in the fourth quarter of last year, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga Jr. said. In an interview, he said there is also a chance that first quarter growth could beat the 4.6 percent recorded in the same period last year as some indicators point out. He said the government has successfully accelerated spending particularly on infrastructure project from last year's spending level. "Infrastructure spending is all over. Business optimism is high and investor confidence has improved," Paderanga told. He said that he is quite hopeful that growth in the first three months of the year would beat gross domestic product growth in the fourth quarter of last year. At the same time, Paderanga conceded that year-ago figures are "on the high side." (The Philippine Star)

### ADB urges Philippines to address income inequality

The Asian Development Bank has challenged the Philippines and other developing countries in the region to address the serious problem of income inequality, noting that while Asia has become a driver of global growth, the benefits of expansion have only been felt by a few. The ADB said that income inequality comes with adverse social effects that could eventually dampen favorable growth rates of Asian economies. "High and rising inequality can curb medium-term growth by reducing social cohesion, undermining the quality of governance, and increasing pressure for inefficient populist policies," the ADB said in a recent report. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

### Debt profile improves in 2011

The country's debt portfolio significantly improved last year as part of the government's efforts to secure investment grade status. National government debt accounted for 50.9% of the gross domestic product (GDP) last year, surpassing the target of 51.7% and the 52.4% posted in 2010. The debt-to-GDP ratio in 2011 is also the lowest in 13 years, data from the Department of Finance showed. GDP, as a growth measure, is the total value of goods and services produced in the country in a year. Moreover, debt maturities lengthened to 10.18 years in 2011 from the 8.8 years recorded the year before. The latest debt maturities are the longest recorded since at least 2001, giving the government more time to settle its liabilities. Broken down, domestic debt averaged a maturity period of 9.21 years last year, longer than the 6.7 years seen in 2010. Foreign liabilities averaged a maturity period of 11.36 years, an extension from the 11.34 years previously. (BusinessWorld)

## FINANCIAL TRENDS

### Phl stocks climb despite negative sentiment overseas

Local share prices managed to rise in moderately active trading yesterday as the market tried to grapple with negative sentiments overseas. The main PSEi was up 20.16 points or 0.40 percent to close at 5,117.46. Over 1.93 billion shares valued at P6.54 billion changed hands in the morning and afternoon sessions. Loser led winners 87 to 74, while 42 issues were unchanged. The PSEi hit an intra-day low of 5,070.76 before bargain hunters scoured for good buys. (The Philippine Star)

### P/\$ Rate stands At P42.775/\$1

The peso exchange rate closed lower at P42.775 to the US dollar yesterday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX) from P42.66 last Friday. The weighted average rate depreciated to P42.753 from P42.67. Total volume amounted to \$6752.94 million. (Manila Bulletin)

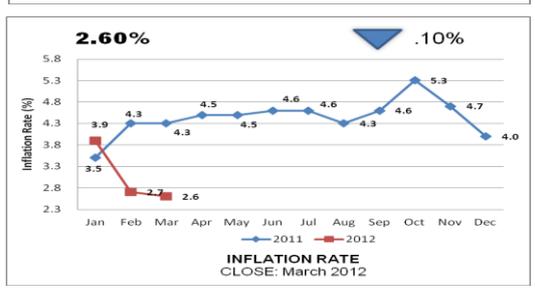
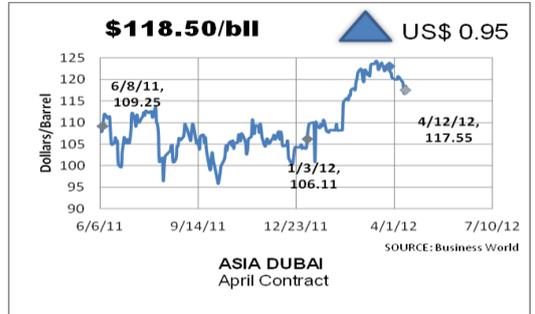
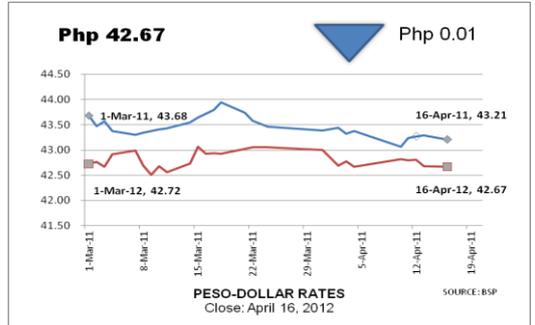
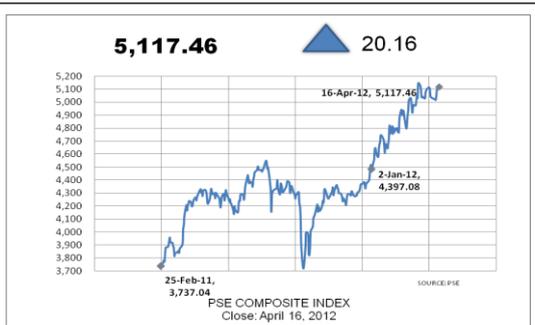
## INDUSTRY BUZZ

### Hybrid and electric cars see record sales in March

Americans are buying record numbers of hybrid and electric cars as gas prices climb and new models arrive in showrooms, giving the vehicles their greatest share yet of the U.S. auto market. Consumers bought a record 52,000 gas-electric hybrids and all-electric cars in March, up from 34,000 during the same month last year. The two categories combined made up 3.64 percent of total U.S. sales, their highest monthly market share ever, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank. The previous high was 3.56 percent in July 2009, when the Cash for Clunkers program encouraged people to trade in old gas guzzlers for more fuel-efficient cars. (The Philippine Star)

### Volkswagen hikes majority stake in truckmaker MAN

Volkswagen further increased its holding in German truck maker MAN SE as Europe's biggest car manufacturer is pressing ahead to forge closer ties between its two major commercial vehicle operations. VW raised its holding of ordinary shares in Munich-based MAN to 73 percent, giving the German car maker control of 71.08 percent of total share capital, MAN said in a statement on Friday. (BusinessWorld)



	Monday, April 16 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	7.94%	7.91%	7.79%

