



DASHBOARD

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MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

April inflation seen muted

Inflation this month could have stayed at March's two-and-a-half-year low amid stable food prices, a BusinessWorld poll of private sector analysts over the weekend showed. The poll of eight analysts yielded a median inflation rate estimate of 2.6% for April -- the same level recorded in March and well within the 2.1-3% range the central bank gave last Friday. The government is scheduled to report April's inflation rate this Friday. "Food prices have stabilized in recent months, allowing headline inflation to ease significantly," Trinh D. Nguyen, economist of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp., said. Ms. Nguyen said the rise in prices of widely used consumer goods could have eased to 2.5% in April, continuing the "slowing trend" since the start of the year. (BusinessWorld)

Govt borrowings surged 14% in Q1

Borrowing of the Aquino administration surged during the first quarter of the year as the government raised funds to boost its expenditures for the year, data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed. Data showed that the national government's borrowings surged by 14 percent for the first three months of the year to P325.22 billion from the previous year's P284.86 billion. Borrowings from domestic lenders increased by 65 percent to P242.16 billion, from last year's P146.88 billion, while its debt raised from foreign sources dropped by 40 percent to P83.07 billion from P137.98 billion in 2011. The debts were raised to keep up with the government's higher disbursements for the same period. (BusinessMirror)

Trade deficit hits \$562M in Jan-Feb

The Philippines incurred a trade deficit of \$562 million in February 2012, from \$896 million in the same period last year because of an increase in exports, the National Statistics Office (NSO) reported. Total external trade in goods for February reached \$9.423 billion, up by 9.2 percent from P8.626 billion in the same month last year. February exports rose by 14.6 percent to \$4.430 billion in February 2012 from 3.865 billion in February 2011. February imports rose 4.9 percent to \$4.993 billion from \$4.761 billion in the same month last year. However, it decreased by 2.8 percent from \$5.134 billion from the previous month's level. Aggregate imports for the first two months of 2012, rose by 0.6 percent to \$10.126 billion from \$10.063 billion posted during the first two months of 2011. (The Philippine Star)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

ADB meet to showcase country's pluses

The country's hosting of the 45th annual meeting of the board of governors of the Asian Development Bank this week is expected to have minimal effect on stock prices, but it will afford investors the opportunity to look at investment choices for the long term, local bourse officials and analysts yesterday said. The PSE index rose by 0.65% or 33.65 points to close at 5,202.70 last Monday, returning above the 5,200 mark as the market took its lead from Wall Street that surged last Friday. (BusinessWorld)

P/\$ Rate Stands At P42.205/\$1

The peso exchange rate stands at P42.205 to the US dollar, the closing rate on Monday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX). The weighted average rate stands at P42.229. (Manila Bulletin)

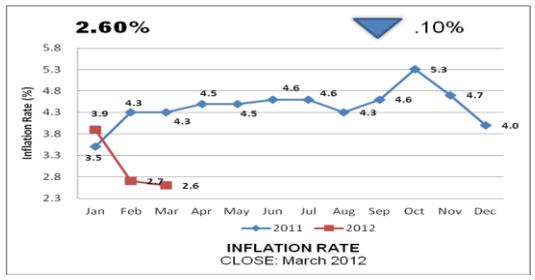
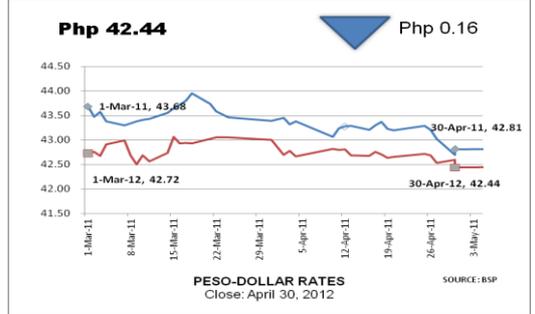
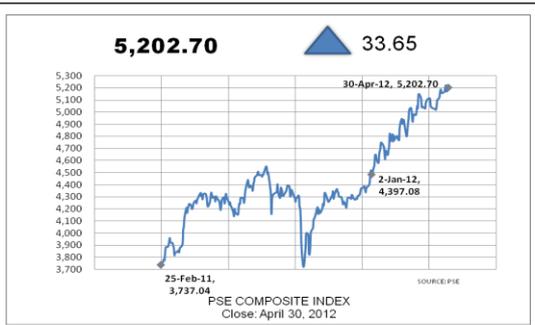
INDUSTRY BUZZ

Honda forecasts profit will double this year

Honda Motor Co. 7267.TO 0.00% forecast it would double net profit to ¥470 billion (\$5.86 billion) this fiscal year, powered by strong demand in Asia and North America, as the auto maker snaps back from production disruptions after natural disasters in Japan and Thailand. "Our North American sales are recovering bit-by-bit, and in Asia—particularly China—we expect to grow faster than the overall market as we enter new segments," Executive Vice President Tetsuo Iwamura said at a news conference held on Friday. Japan's third-biggest car maker by volume, and the first of the country's big three to report earnings, said it expects volume to increase 38% to a record 4.3 million vehicles in the fiscal year ending next March. Honda forecast revenue would rise 30% to ¥10.3 trillion, a five-year high. (The Wall Street Journal)

Mazda Philippines introduces SKYACTIV technology

Mazda Philippines is set to introduce SKYACTIV technology in the all-new Mazda CX-5, which is scheduled to launch this April in the Philippines. SKYACTIV Technology is designed to increase fuel efficiency and engine output while providing optimum driving pleasure and environmental and safety performance. "We are thrilled to bring SKYACTIV technology to the Philippines which will revolutionize the driving experience of our local Mazda customers," said Janinna Mendoza, Mazda's AVP for Marketing. SKYACTIV is a blanket term for Mazda's innovative next-generation technologies that are being developed under the company's long-term vision for technology development -- sustainable Zoom-Zoom. (BusinessWorld)



	Monday, April 30 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	7.92%	7.93%	7.79%

