

DASHBOARD

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MICROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

April unemployment drops to 6.9%

The country's unemployment rate in April 2012 dropped to 6.9 percent compared to 7.2 percent in April 2011. The National Statistics Office reported that the National Capital Region posted the highest unemployment rate at 10.4 percent. More than half (51.7%) of the unemployed were in age group 15-24 years. Across educational groups, almost one-third (32.8%) of the unemployed were high school graduates, 13.8 percent were college undergraduates, while 21.0 percent were college graduates. NSO said the employment rate reaches 93.1 percent, higher than the April 2011 at 92.8 percent. Among the regions, only the National Capital Region (NCR) had an employment rate below 90.0 percent. Out of the estimated 62.8 million population 15 years old and over in April 2012, 40.6 million were in the labor force, compared to the estimated 39.7 million in April 2011. (Manila Bulletin)

BIR misses May collection goal

The Bureau of Internal Revenue collected P95.55 billion in May, missing its revenue target for the month by 8.5 percent partly because some large taxpayers reported lower sales. The BIR was tasked to collect P104.475 billion in May. However, compared to last year's performance, the BIR's May revenues were up by P6.4 billion or 7.26 percent. The latest figure brought the January to May collections to P440.81 billion, 12.46 percent higher than last year's figure. The agency said that collections from the BIR's Regional Offices have consistently showed double-digit growth. (The Philippine Star)

Key rates on hold, but inflation forecasts up

Monetary authorities kept policy interest rates on hold for the second time this year after cuts totalling 50 basis points (bps) in the first quarter, citing manageable inflation and "robust domestic growth." But they also slightly raised their inflation forecast for this year and the next — though still within target range — due to expected pressures from economic growth and wage increases. "[T]he Monetary Board believes that the benign inflation outlook and robust domestic growth provide adequate room to keep policy rates unchanged," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando M. Tetangco, Jr. told reporters. Inflation averaged 3% as of May against a 3-5% target for the year, while gross domestic product (GDP) grew 6.4% in the first quarter, faster than the previous year's upward-revised 4.9% and an official 5-6% full-year goal. Keeping policy rates at current levels of 4% and 6% for overnight borrowing and lending, respectively would also allow cuts in the first quarter and reserve requirement adjustments to "work their way through the economy", Mr. Tetangco said. (BusinessWorld)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Main stock index falls below 5,000

Local share prices fell below the 5,000 level at the last trading day of the week Friday on heavy selling of select stocks. The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index closed at 4,930.63 points, down 1.8 percent or 90.22 points. The broader all-shares index was also lower by 1.19 percent as all sub-indices closed in the red. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Peso seen in tight range as investors eye Greece

The peso is range-bound this week with its movement against the dollar to be propelled by the result of the Greek election yesterday and the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting this week. The local unit gained a whopping 2.6% or P1.14 last Friday to settle at P42.26 per dollar — a one-and-a-half month high — against its P43.40-per-dollar finish the week before. (BusinessWorld)

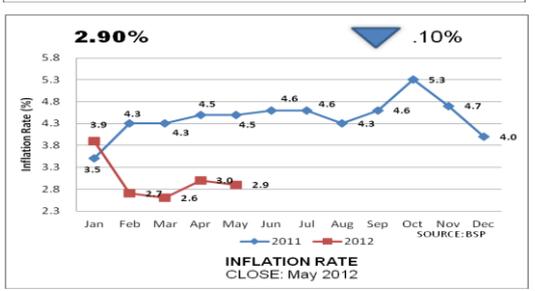
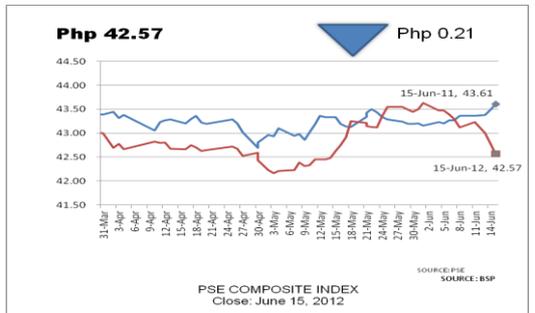
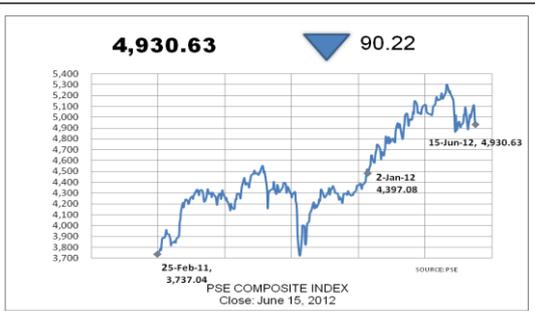
INDUSTRY BUZZ

Hyundai sales up 29% as of end-May

Sales of Hyundai vehicles rose by 29 percent to 10,395 units in the first five months of 2012, from only 8,062 units sold during the same period last year, due largely to the robust performance of the passenger car segment. In a statement Thursday, official distributor Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (HARI) said that for May alone, however, the company's total vehicle sales fell by 8 percent to 1,737 units from the 1,891 units it sold in the same month last year. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Toyota fully recovers from disasters

Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda assured shareholders that Japan's top automaker had recovered from last year's disasters even as power shortages continue to dog the country. The earthquake and tsunami in north-eastern Japan and the flooding in Thailand last year temporarily hobbled production for all the Japanese automakers, but they have since recovered. "We were able to recover more quickly than we expected," Toyoda told a packed hall at the automaker's headquarters. "We want to work to revive Japan and bring more smiles to Japan." He said. (Manila Bulletin)



| | Friday, June 15 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 | 2.17% | 2.15% | 3.85% |
| Lending Rates | 7.78% | 7.79% | 7.79% |

