

DASHBOARD

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MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

GIR hits record high in July

The country's gross international reserves (GIR) hit a record \$79.3 billion in July, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) reported. The July GIR level was 4.23% higher than the \$76.130 billion recorded in June, and was higher than the central bank's 2012 forecast of \$77.5-78 billion. The BSP, in a statement, said its foreign exchange operations, income from investments and revaluation of its gold holdings due to higher gold prices in the international market drove the GIR higher last month. The National Treasury's foreign currency deposits also added to the increase. Payments by the national government for its maturing foreign exchange obligations and foreign currency withdrawals by authorized agent banks tempered the increase. (BusinessWorld)

Prices of basic goods stable, says DTI

The prices of basic commodities stayed generally stable and within the suggested retail price, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said Thursday. At the same time, the DTI assured the public that there was an adequate supply of goods despite the implementation of a price freeze in areas declared under a state of calamity. During a price monitoring visit at Mega Q-Mart in Quezon City, Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo said that except for prices of vegetables and galunggong (brown scud) as a result of bad weather, the prices of basic commodities remained stable. "Owners of supermarkets, wet markets and major manufacturers assured us that there is enough supply and there is no panic buying happening," Domingo said. He noted the reported shortage of instant noodles and sardines was due to bulk buying for relief operations. Trade department officials said they would meet with manufacturers to discuss the possibility of setting up a supply center where goods could be purchased for relief operations in a bid to avoid supply shortages in supermarkets. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Asian business confidence faltering - survey

Asia has been a ray of sunshine in the global economic gloom, but a confidence survey released Wednesday shows the region's executives are starting to worry as China's growth slows and exports sink. However, confidence levels of 70 remained high in Asian countries like the Philippines and Thailand compared to near 50 in countries like Japan and South Korea. In China, CEO confidence "plummeted" almost seven points to the upper 50s. The results were based on responses from 1,659 chief executive officers in the first two weeks of July, including 193 in Asia. Most YPO members are aged between 35 and 50, and to join candidates must be 44 or younger. (Manila Bulletin)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Index dips below 5,300 points on profit-taking

Profit-taking dampened yesterday's stock market trading, dragging the main composite index below the 5,300 level. At the Philippine Stock Exchange, the composite index tumbled 52.06 points or nearly one percent to close at 5,256.61. Market breadth was negative with decliners overwhelming advancers 122 to 44, while 38 stocks were unchanged. (The Philippine Star)

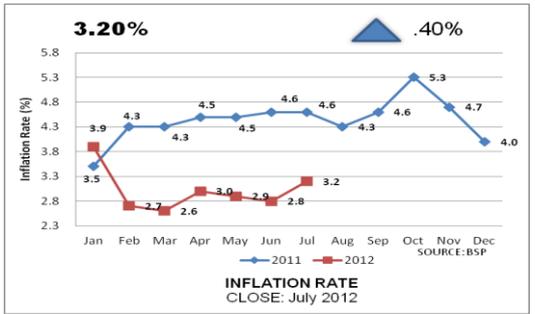
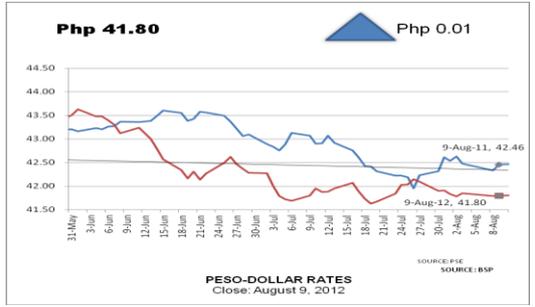
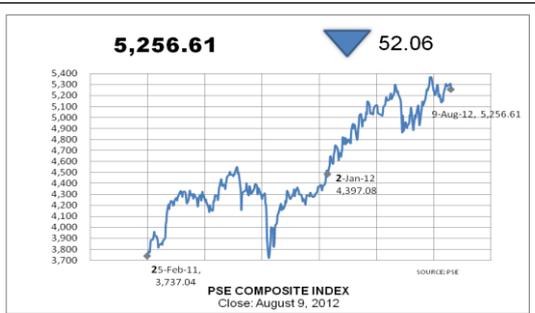
Peso sideways sans leads

The peso ended flat against the dollar yesterday with no leads to guide investors. The local unit gained one centavo to settle at P41.76 per dollar against its P41.77-per-dollar close on Wednesday. "The peso generally moved sideways and within a tight range against the dollar as market players awaited fresh leads that could provide more direction for peso dollar trading," a trader said in a phone interview yesterday. The peso traded within the P41.745 to P41.78-per-dollar band. (BusinessWorld)

INDUSTRY BUZZ

CAMPI hikes sales forecast

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI) has raised its forecast for total industry sales to 185,000 units this year, amid a seven percent rise seen in car sales from January to July. In a statement yesterday, the CAMPI said it revised its total industry sales forecast for the year to a higher 185,000 units from a previous projection of 180,000 units on the back of the auto industry's strong performance in the past seven months. It noted that the group's car sales reached 87,377 units as of end-July, up from the 81,286 units sold in the same seven-month period last year. For the month of July alone, the group sold 14,503 units, 26 percent higher than the previous year's 11,504 units. The CAMPI said its latest sales performance shows that the local automotive industry has fully recovered from the supply problems brought about by the flooding in Thailand last year. "During the first semester of the year, CAMPI's performance has significantly improved. During this time manufacturers have shown signs of recovery from the limitations of supply due to last year's floods in Thailand," CAMPI president Rommel Gutierrez said. (The Philippine Star)



	Thursday, August 9 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	2.01%	2.15%	3.85%
Lending Rates	7.67%	7.73%	7.79%

