

DASHBOARD

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MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Poverty scores improve

Fewer Filipino families consider themselves poor, the Social Weather Stations (SWS) said in a new report, dipping below 50% but still some ways off a record low revisited in March 2010. Results of a third-quarter SWS poll made exclusive to Business- World found 47% of the respondents — equivalent to an estimated 9.5 million families — saying they were mahirap or poor, four points down from 51% (est. 10.3 million families) in May. The last time that self-rated poverty fell below 50% was in December last year (45%). The record low is 43%, first hit in March 1987 and again in March 2010. Fewer families also claimed to be poor in terms of food in the latest SWS survey, which recorded an identical four-point drop to 35% (equivalent to an estimated 7.2 million families) in August from 39% (est. 7.9 million) three months earlier. (BusinessWorld)

ADB: seek sustainable, inclusive growth

The Philippines needs to ensure that economic development be felt by the masses by seeking sustainable and inclusive growth, experts attending an Asian Development Bank conference here said recently. Speaking at the ADB Economic Forum at the Lighthouse Marina Resort, here, ADB senior country economist Norio Usui said that in order to fully enjoy the economic growth that the country is experiencing, key policy challenges should be discussed so that the Philippines can embark on a sustainable and inclusive growth. Usui said that although the Philippines has a very strong services sector in the form of business process outsourcing (BPO), "it is not sufficient to address development challenges to inclusive growth." (Manila Bulletin)

House OKs proposed P2-trillion budget for 2013

The House of Representatives was expected to approve on second reading late last night the proposed P2.006-trillion national budget for 2013 with some of the questioned allocations left untouched. The proposed expenditure program is 10.5 percent or P190 billion higher than this year's P1.816 trillion, consisting of P1.251 trillion of programmed new appropriations and P117.5 billion in standby funds. As of press time, the chamber was tackling the proposed budget of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) that was being defended by Cavite Rep. Joseph Emilio Abaya, chairman of the House committee on appropriations. (The Philippine Star)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Philippine stocks seen to consolidate this week

The local stock market is seen consolidating this week as investors await fresh catalysts to buy into the market in a big way. Last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange index shed 30 points, or 0.57 percent, to close at 5,292.06, declining for the last four consecutive sessions. Weak factory data from China and local mining woes also dampened overall sentiment especially toward the end of the week. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Peso firms up against dollar

The Peso firmed up against the dollar on Friday as market participants sold the greenback in anticipation of remittance inflows over the weekend, a trader said. The local unit gained 10.5 centavos to settle at P41.66 per dollar against its P41.765-per-dollar close last Thursday. Dollars traded on Friday amounted to \$928.30 million, higher than the \$885.20 million traded last Thursday. (BusinessWorld)

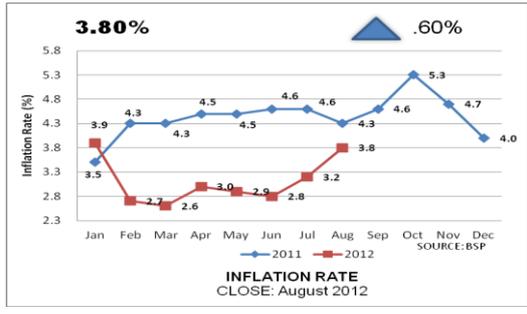
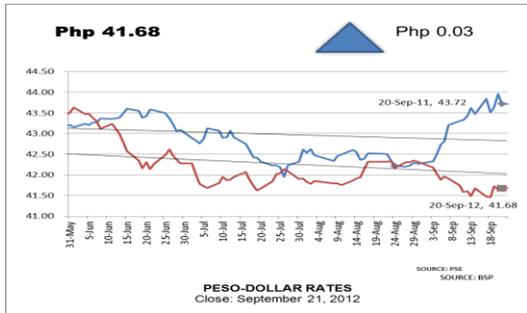
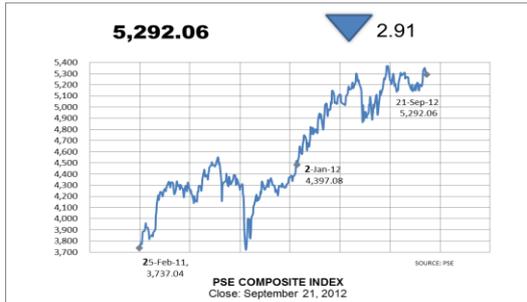
INDUSTRY BUZZ

Isuzu parts plant expanded by yearend

Isuzu Autoparts Manufacturing Corp. will be expanding its transmission assembly factory in the country by yearend as part of measures to meet increasing global demand for the firm's vehicles, a company official told reporters. Incentives such as lower excise tax rates and other fiscal and non-fiscal measures aiming to grow the local automotive industry are included in the proposed automotive industry road map. It is expected to help double the industry output to 300,000 units by 2016 and further to 534,000 units by 2022. (BusinessWorld)

Daimler cuts profit target for Mercedes-Benz

The global economic slowdown is ensnaring two of Germany's luxury auto makers with Daimler on Thursday warning that its Mercedes-Benz division would miss its profit target for the year and Porsche preparing for weaker demand next year. Daimler, owner of the world's third-largest luxury car brand by sales, blamed increasingly tough competition in China and falling demand in Europe for the expected shortfall. Its shares fell 2% in Frankfurt trading on Thursday. (Wall Street Journal)



	Friday, September 21 2012	Last Week	Year ago
Overnight Lending, RP	5.75%	6.00%	6.50%
Overnight Borrowing, RRP	3.75%	4.00%	4.50%
91 day T Bill Rates	2.01%	2.15%	3.85%
Lending Rates	7.49%	7.56%	7.79%

