



# DASHBOARD

Changing News. Your Guide.

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## MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

### No change to IMF forecast

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has maintained its 2012 growth forecast for the Philippines amid a deteriorating global economic environment, choosing not to follow upgrades announced by two other multilateral lenders. In an updated World Economic Outlook released yesterday, the IMF said it expected the Philippine economy to expand by 4.8% this year and the next. The estimate for 2013 is down slightly from the 4.9% announced last July. The IMF said the global economic slowdown was worsening as it cut its growth forecasts for the second time since April and warned US and European policy makers that failure to fix their economic ills would prolong the slump. It said global output would grow by just 3.3% this year, down from the July estimate of 3.5%. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

### In the global debt market, a stronger Philippines

The Philippines has long been among Asia's most aggressive sovereign borrowers. Now it is about to become one of its most attractive to foreign investors, too. Asia's largest issuer of sovereign debt in the global market is set to return this month with a \$1 billion global peso note offer, tapping a rush by investors for a piece of one of Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economies. That debt issue and another \$500 million of US dollar bonds in the local market are likely to be priced by investors at levels similar to investment-grade nations, such as neighboring Indonesia, even though rating agencies still have a "junk bond" rating on Philippine debt. (Business World)

### NCR retail prices go up slightly

The general retail price index (GRPI) in Metro Manila further rose to 2.4 percent in August from 2.0 percent in July, data from the National Statistics Office (NSO) said. NSO attributed the increase in the retail prices in the prime region on the annual gains in the indices of six commodity groups. NSO said that higher monthly add-ons were seen in the indices of food at 2.7 percent in August from 0.9 percent in July; mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, 4.8 percent from -1.9 percent; manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials and machinery and transport equipment index, 0.1 percent from zero growth and -0.4 percent, respectively; and miscellaneous manufactured articles, 0.3 percent from 0.2 percent. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

## FINANCIAL TRENDS

### Stocks end down on continued profit taking

The main stock index ended in the red for the fourth consecutive day as worries about Europe's debt crisis, signs of weak global growth and expectations of lower US corporate earnings sent most investors on a selling spree. The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) shed 25.3 points to finish at 5,369.60. The broader All Shares index fell 8.68 points to 3,558.58. (Philippine Star)

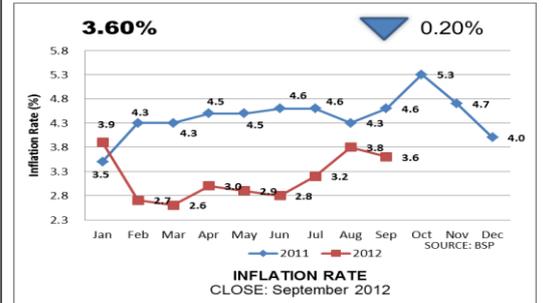
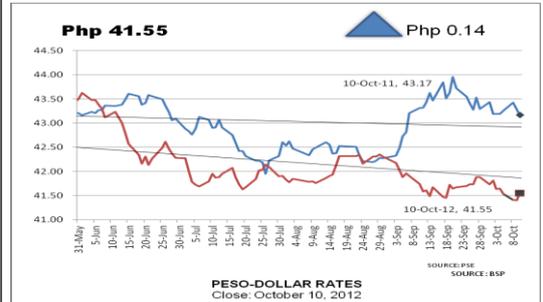
### P/\$ rate closes at P41.55/\$1

The peso exchange rate closed lower at P41.55 to the US dollar yesterday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX) from P41.46 the previous day. The weighted average rate depreciated to P41.545 from P41.408. Total volume amounted to \$807.9 million. (Manila Bulletin)

## INDUSTRY BUZZ

### General Motors moves to bring computer technology in-house

America's biggest automaker plans to hire up to 10,000 computer professionals in the next three-to-five years as it tries to lead the auto industry with cutting-edge technology. It's a bold and expensive move which counters the industry's history of buying software and other electronic applications from outside companies. Experts say it's also the start of a trend as manufacturers realize that software is among the few things that will set them apart from competitors. GM aims to bring 90 percent of its computer technology work into the company by recruiting workers to four new information technology centers around the nation. "We're currently seeking the next generation of game-changers to help us usher in a new age of automotive innovation," says GM chief information officer Randy Mott, who was Hewlett-Packard's CIO until he joined GM in February. Although there are shortages of programmers and software engineers in some parts of the country, GM should be able to recruit enough talent by setting up shop in four different regions, experts say. (Business Mirror)



	Tuesday, October 9 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	0.75%	2.15%	3.85%
Lending Rates	7.44%	7.45%	7.79%

