



MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Asian economies will surpass US, Europe

The United States could see its standing as a superpower eroded and Asian economies will outstrip those of North America and Europe combined by 2030, according to the best guess of the U.S. intelligence community in its latest forecast. "The spectacular rise of Asian economies is dramatically altering ... U.S. influence," said Christopher Kojm, chairman of the National Intelligence Council, as it released the report Global Trends 2030 on Monday. The report is the intelligence community's analysis of where current trends will take the world in the next 15 to 20 years. Its release was timed for the start of a new presidential administration and it is aimed at helping U.S. policymakers plan for the future. The study said that in a best-case scenario, Americans, together with nearly two-thirds of the world's population, will be middle class, mostly living in cities, connected by advanced technology, protected by advanced health care and linked by countries that work together, perhaps with the United States and China cooperating to lead the way. (The Philippine Star)

Exports continue climbing

Merchandise exports continued to climb in October, the National Statistics Office (NSO) reported yesterday, albeit at a slower pace amid subdued growth in electronics. The government was quick to see recovery signs but analysts said there was no cause for celebration. Electronics manufacturers said that given their sector's numbers, "zero growth" should be expected this year. Outbound shipments stood at \$4.41 billion, up 6.1% from the \$4.16 billion recorded a year earlier. The pace eased from September's 22.8% jump. On a monthly basis, exports contracted by 7.9%. (BusinessWorld)

BSP seen keeping rates unchanged

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is widely expected to keep policy rates unchanged on Thursday considering that further rate cuts may not be good for the domestic economy, according to the DBS Group. Policy interest rates are up on the Monetary Board's agenda in its meeting this afternoon. DBS said in a new research note that in the immediate term, the central bank was less concerned about inflation than about the situation of capital inflows which—in the first place—was what prompted a 25-basis-point reduction in the monetary agency's policy rates last October. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Local stocks close slightly down

After reaching record high on Tuesday, local shares underwent slight price correction yesterday even as most Asian bourses posted new highs on expectations that the Fed will continue its bond-buying program. The main gauge Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) give up 11.71 points or 0.20 percent to close at 5,819.79 in moderate volume. (Manila Bulletin)

P/\$ rate stands at P40.955/\$1

The peso exchange rate stands at P40.955 to the US dollar, the closing rate on Tuesday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX). The weighted average rate stands at P40.944. (Manila Bulletin)

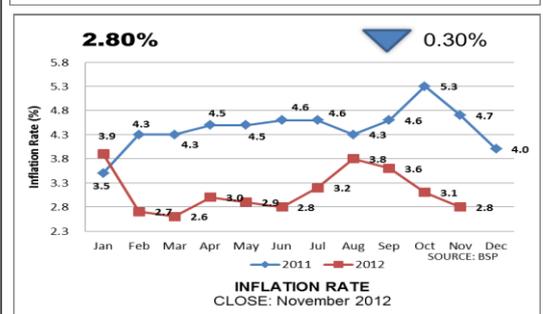
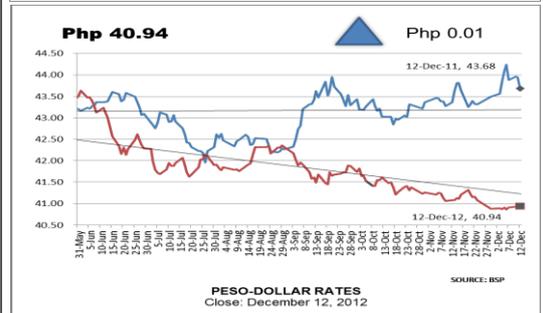
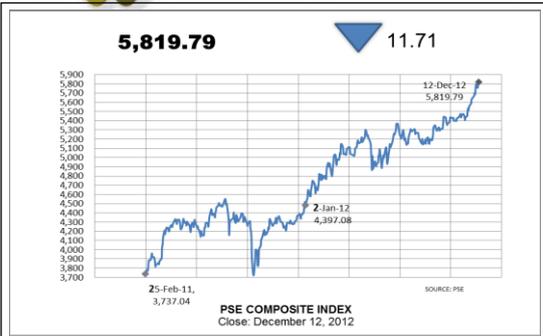
INDUSTRY BUZZ

Hyundai sales rise 8% in Jan. - Nov.

Sales of local Hyundai distributor, Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) rose eight percent in the January to November period from last year driven by the continued purchases of passenger cars (PC). HARI said in a statement yesterday it sold 20,491 units in the 11-month period, higher than the 18,922 units in the comparable period a year ago. It noted that the PC car segment sustained its strong performance with a 27 percent rise to 12,631 units compared to last year. "The progress in the PC segment was mainly attributed to the EON, Accent, and Elantra models," HARI said. Light commercial vehicle (LCV) sales, meanwhile, declined 13 percent to 7,860 units from the previous year. For the month of November alone, HARI's sales were down 25 percent to 1,673 units from last year. (The Philippine Star)

GM to unveil new pickup

General Motors Co is gearing up to show off its new full-size pickup trucks this week just as the No. 1 U.S. automaker is boosting incentives on its rising supply of the current models. GM will unveil the redesigned versions of the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra in Pontiac on Thursday, but consumers will not be able to start buying the new 2014 models until the second quarter next year. Until then, they will have to be satisfied with getting a peek at GM's plans, while also having the option to buy the current version. (BusinessWorld)



	Wednesday, 12 December 2012	Last Week	Year ago
Overnight Lending, RP	5.50%	5.50%	6.50%
Overnight Borrowing, RRP	3.50%	3.50%	4.50%
91 day T Bill Rates	0.20%	0.20%	3.85%
Lending Rates	7.54%	7.56%	7.79%

