



DASHBOARD

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MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

New credit upgrade looms for PHL

New York-based Moody's Investor Service has upgraded the country's growth path this year averaging higher to 6.3 percent in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) instead of 5.5 percent as earlier anticipated. It also projected next year's local output to be sustained, averaging 5.5 percent. The development promptly triggered reports of a forthcoming credit upgrade. "An improved investment climate that promotes further increases in the capital stock, gains in productivity and employment, and addresses relatively poor infrastructure will help to sustain economic momentum," Moody's said in a credit report that its Singaporean unit sent by email on Tuesday. (BusinessMirror)

NEDA sticks to growth target despite 'Pablo'

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said it remains confident the country's economy will expand 6.5 percent this year and between six to seven percent in 2013 despite the negative impact caused by Typhoon Pablo. In a yearend economic briefing yesterday, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and NEDA director general Arsenio M. Balisacan said the impact on production and infrastructure caused by Typhoon Pablo on Mindanao is estimated so far at P32 billion or roughly 0.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). However, it will not have an immediate impact on 2012 economic growth, he said, as not all the crops were completely destroyed and that the output will only be known in the first or second quarter of the following year. (The Philippine Star)

Unemployment at 6.8%; 2.8-M without jobs

The jobless rate eased to 6.8% in October from July's 7.0% but the ranks of the unemployed remained the same, which analysts described as a failure of economic growth to translate to more jobs. Unemployment was higher than the 6.4% recorded a year earlier, data from the quarterly Labor Force Survey of the National Statistics Office showed. In absolute terms, the number of jobless Filipinos as of October was 2.8 million, the same as July's but up from the 2.6 million a year ago. The number of Filipinos seeking more work -- the underemployed -- stood at 7.2 million. This translated to an underemployment rate of 19.0%, almost unchanged from last year's 19.1% and an improvement from July's 22.7%. (BusinessWorld)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Local shares close 2% up

Local shares closed higher yesterday, tracking sharp gains in US stocks Tuesday amid growing optimism that the US fiscal impasse will be resolved. The main gauge Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) was 115.80 points or 2.05% up to close at 5,752.39, with all the sub-indexes in the green. (Manila Bulletin)

P/\$ rate closes at P41.04/\$1

The peso exchange rate closed higher at P41.04 to the US dollar yesterday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX) from P41.075 the previous day. The weighted average rate depreciated to P41.059 from P41.046. Total volume amounted to \$811.2 million. (Manila Bulletin)

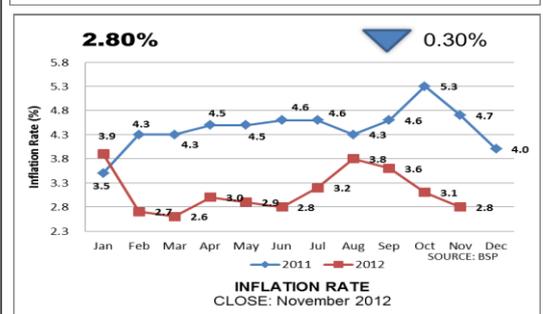
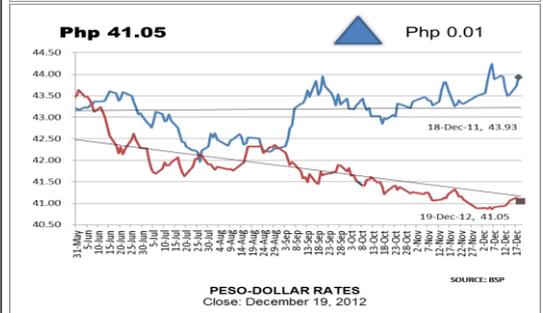
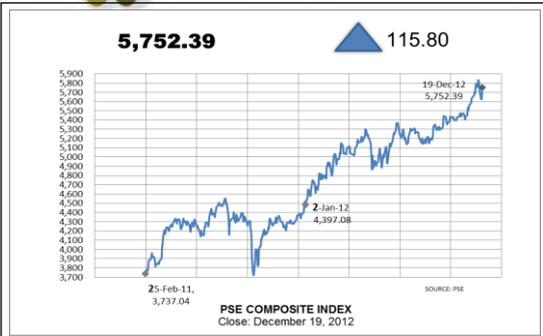
INDUSTRY BUZZ

Isuzu sales up 8.5% in Nov

Sales of Isuzu Philippines Corp. (IPC) went up 8.5 percent in November from a month ago, driven by strong demand for its commercial vehicles. IPC said in a statement yesterday that it sold 1,121 units in November, up from the 1,033 units delivered in October. The firm said the demand for its Crosswind model supported the sales performance in November, having sold 669 units of the Asian utility vehicle (AUV). Apart from the Crosswind, it said the D-Max likewise helped pull up the firm's sales in November, with 216 units of the pick-up sold. (The Philippine Star)

Audi global sales target hit with still one month to go

Audi continues to grow at a double-digit rate as the company reported worldwide deliveries up 10.9 percent on the same month of 2011 to around 123,600 automobiles. Since January, the premium carmaker has handed over around 1,344,750 cars (+12.7 percent) to customers, exceeding last year's record sales after 11 months of the current year. Sales for the whole of 2011 reached 1,302,659 units. Amid difficult market conditions, Audi ended the past month in Europe marginally down on the strong prior-year level (-1.9 percent). Audi's sales total for Europe is up 3.5 percent for the period of January through November. In all other regions, the Ingolstadt carmaker again achieved significant growth in November, most notably in China (up 25.9 percent) and the United States (up 24.4 percent). (Philippine Daily Inquirer)



	Wednesday, 19 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	7.47%	7.53%	7.79%

