



DASHBOARD

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MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

PHL growth rate for 2012 to breach 6%

The World Bank (WB) has raised again its economic growth forecast for the Philippines for this year to "over" 6 percent, as it cited the country as being one of the fastest-growing economies in East Asia. The multilateral lender earlier projected that the Philippine economy, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP), will grow by 4.2 percent in May, 4.6 percent in July and 5 percent in October. "Stronger macroeconomic fundamentals, in particular, as seen in low inflation, and large current-account surpluses and foreign-exchange reserves, have continued to shield the economy from external headwinds, while a more diversified export basket allowed overall exports to grow despite the decline in electronics exports. Overall, the economy is expected to expand by over 6 percent this year from 3.9 percent last year," the bank said in its latest East Asia and Pacific Economic Update released on Wednesday. (BusinessMirror)

Business sentiment edges up in Asia

Business sentiment among Asia's top companies improved slightly in the fourth quarter, reversing two consecutive quarters of declines, while global economic uncertainty remained the biggest concern for the region's firms, a Thomson Reuters/INSEAD survey showed. The Thomson Reuters/INSEAD Asia Business Sentiment Index rose to 63 in the fourth quarter from 62 in the third quarter of 2012, having peaked at 80 in the first quarter of 2011. A reading above 50 indicates an overall positive outlook, while one below 50 points to pessimism. The results showed a stark contrast between companies in Southeast Asia, a region of about 600 million people now benefiting from an increase in foreign investment and which showed some of the highest positive readings, and manufacturing-heavy northeast Asia, which is more susceptible to the global economic downturn and had some of the lowest index readings. (BusinessWorld)

BIR breaches P1-T collection mark

The Bureau of Internal Revenue on Wednesday said its collections broke past the P1-trillion mark last Dec. 17. This means that, based on preliminary data, the BIR collected at least P30.7 billion from Dec. 1 to 17. Earlier this week, the agency reported a yield of P969.34 billion in the 11 months to November. "Considering projections of collections from other sources still unaccounted for as of [Dec. 17], the BIR could have hit the P1-trillion mark much earlier," the BIR said in a statement. (The Philippine Star)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Stocks stage rally as bargain hunting persists

Share prices climbed for a third day as favorable economic news on the local front overshadowed the impasse in US budget talks, prompting investors to hunt for bargain stocks. The main Philippine Stock Exchange index or PSEi added 45.35 points (0.79 percent) to close at 5,797.74 yesterday. (The Philippine Star)

P/\$ rate closes at P41.07/\$1

The peso exchange rate closed lower at P41.07 to the US dollar yesterday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX) from P41.04 the previous day. The weighted average rate depreciated to P41.058 from P41.059. Total volume amounted to \$565.2 million. (Manila Bulletin)

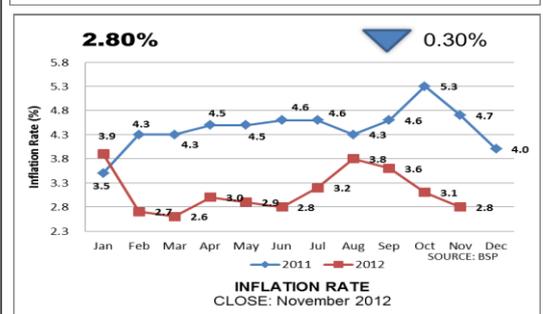
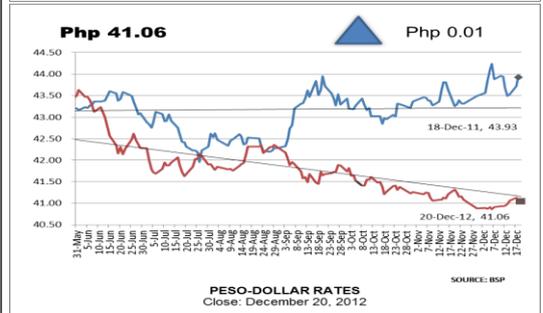
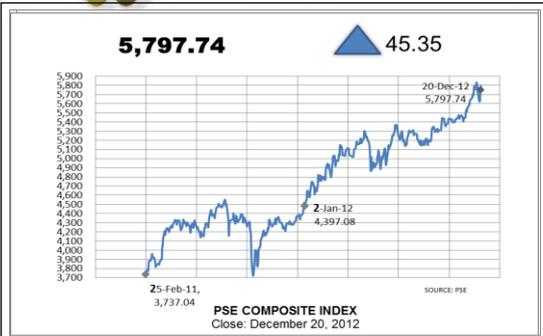
INDUSTRY BUZZ

Vehicle firms expect growth to continue up to next year

Vehicle importers posted an 11-month growth of 14 percent, with the robust sales expected to continue up to next year with the Philippine economy performing better than expected. The Association of Vehicle Importers and Distributors (Avid) reported that the group recorded collective sales of 26,272 units in the January-to-November period. The group sustained its positive growth for the year despite the 25-percent drop in sales in November to 2,268 units. "It was a good year for Avid, driven by the persistently positive economic environment. Expect an even more bullish performance by Avid members as the year ends, and into 2013," Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo, Avid president, said. (BusinessMirror)

Nissan to build new Infiniti model in Britain from 2015

Japanese carmaker Nissan will invest around 250 million pounds to build a new version of its Infiniti luxury brand in Sunderland, northeast England, from 2015, creating 1,000 jobs. Sunderland, which will be able to build 60,000 of the new "Etherea" model per year, is Britain's largest car plant and one of the most productive in Europe. Infiniti brand cars are currently made almost exclusively in Japan, Nissan said on Wednesday. (BusinessWorld)



	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%

