

# DASHBOARD

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## MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

### Phl grows 6.6% in 2012

The country's economy grew faster than expected in 2012 at 6.6 percent, cementing its status as one of the best performing in Asia. National Statistical Coordination Board secretary-general Jose Albert yesterday told reporters the economy grew 6.8 percent in the final quarter, above the then widely accepted 6.4 percent forecast for the period. The figure was also way above the official target of 5.0-6.0 percent for the year, and the actual 3.9 percent growth in 2011. Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said an important driver was the increasing amount of remittances from some 10 million Filipinos workers overseas. Albert said the strong end to the year was fueled by the services, business, real estate, and manufacturing sectors. (The Philippine Star)

### BSP sees policy leeway

Strong economic growth has given monetary authorities more room to roll out measures to address any market volatility, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) chief yesterday said. Gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 6.8% in the fourth quarter, taking the full-year average to 6.6%. It beat the government's target of 5-6% and forecast of 6.5%. "This gives us more degrees of freedom to adjust our market operations and institute other macroprudential tools as appropriate to ensure that volatilities in financial markets do not translate into excesses in other sectors of the economy," central bank Governor Amando M. Tetangco, Jr. said in a text message. The combination of high economic growth and low inflation, which hit a five-year low of 3.2% in 2012, has given the BSP ample space to implement macroprudential measures, especially with a continued influx of capital flows. (BusinessWorld)

### BSP keeps FX remittance forecast

Despite adjusting the projections for external account indicators such as foreign exchange reserves higher, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is maintaining its five percent growth forecast for overseas Filipinos' remittance for this year and 2014. "It's still five percent (expected) remittance growth," said BSP Deputy Governor Diwa C. Guinigundo. The central bank is keeping both projections but expects remittance inflows will remain steady and continue to boost current account balance and fuel consumption growth. (Manila Bulletin)

## FINANCIAL TRENDS

### Stock market expected to break more records

Coming from numerous successful run-ups that broke the record highs last week, local share prices are expected to climb anew this week. Robust turnover value will likely continue this week as fund managers seek high yield in emerging markets and position ahead of the earnings season, analysts said. Week-on-week, the Philippine Stock Exchange index rallied 2.45 percent or 151 points to end at the 13th all-time high this year at 6,318, marking the first time the bellwether index closed beyond the 6,300 mark. (The Philippine Star)

### P/\$ rate stands at P 40.695/\$1

The peso exchange rate stands at P40.695 to the US dollar last Friday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX). The weighted average rate stands at P40.734. (Manila Bulletin)

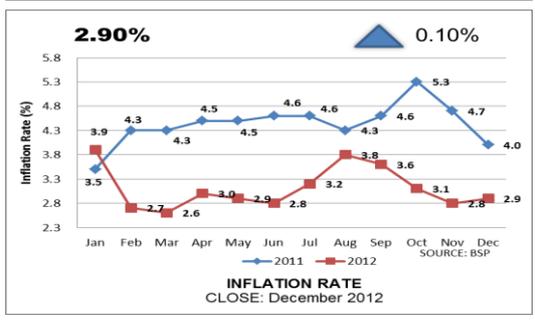
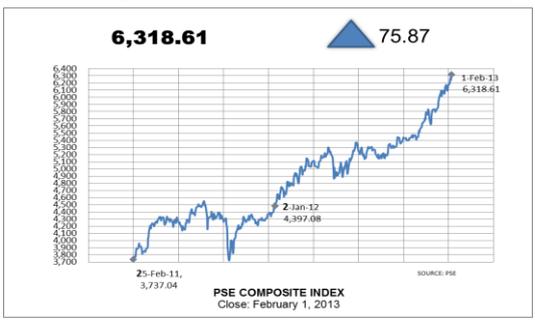
## INDUSTRY BUZZ

### Volvo unveils new campaign for 2013

Volvo begins the new year with A New You campaign which aims to show how Volvo is a unique Scandinavian luxury car brand that understands people. The new campaign helps in communicating to consumers the special attributes that distinguish Volvo from other automakers – quality and distinction. Loi De Guzman, assistant vice president from the Marketing Services Division of Viking Cars Inc. said A New You is an ideal way to express the Volvo brand promise because it captures the essence of three unique characteristics embedded in the company's heritage: people serving people, ingenuity and attainability. (Malaya Business Insight)

### Toyota Motor to recall 1.3 million vehicles

Toyota Motor Corp will recall nearly 1.3 million cars globally for two separate defects, including 752,000 Corolla and Corolla Matrix vehicles in the United States to fix airbags that could be deployed inadvertently, the automaker said on Wednesday. An IC chip in the airbag control unit can malfunction when it receives electrical interference from other parts in the car, causing the airbags to deploy when it is not necessary, Toyota spokesman Naoto Fuse said. Toyota is also recalling certain Corolla and Corolla Matrix vehicles in Japan, Canada, and Mexico. (BusinessWorld)



	Friday, 1 February 2013	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	0.05%	0.20%	3.85%
Lending Rates	7.11%	7.06%	7.79%

