



DASHBOARD

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MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Global surveys find that Filipino consumers stay confident

Two independent global surveys conducted separately found that Philippine consumers maintained their confidence and positive outlook. The first survey by Nielsen, a leading global provider of information and insights into what consumers watch and buy, found that Philippine consumer confidence index rose by 1.0 point to 119 in the fourth quarter of 2012 from the third quarter last year, reflecting consumers' continued positive outlook. In the other survey, Standard Chartered Bank found "optimism in the Philippines is much stronger than we had expected." The Standard Chartered survey covered ASEAN. "Most of our clients in the Philippines are very optimistic about the economy. 74.5% of all our respondents expect their businesses to do better in 2013 than in 2012. Only 6.1% think that their businesses could do worse in 2013. This is particularly bullish, considering the Philippines registered 6.6% growth in 2012, much higher than the 10-year average of 5.2%. This is generally in line with the conversations we had during our roadshow," It added. (Manila Bulletin)

PHL may find peso relief on capital-goods imports

Philippine demand for capital-goods imports, spurred by faster economic growth, may help counter the effect of surging inflows of funds from abroad and cool the peso's gains, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Assistant Governor Cyd Amador said. "The peso could likely move within a narrower range, be more stable and less volatile," Amador said in an interview on Tuesday in Davao City. "On the one hand, the country's bright growth prospects and expectations of its continuing strength could serve to draw in more foreign money. On the other hand, import requirements of the economy could rise as public and private investments increase," he said. (Business Mirror)

Singapore finance firm raises PH forecast

International financial services firm DBS has revised its 2013 growth projection for the Philippines, citing the country's low interest-rate environment, which is seen to drive consumption and investments the way it did last year. From an earlier forecast of 5.3 percent, the Singapore-based firm now expects the Philippine economy to grow by 6 percent this year. "Positive momentum is expected to spill over to 2013, and we have revised up our GDP (gross domestic product) growth forecast... Notably, conditions remain very conducive for economic growth," DBS said in its latest analysis of Asian economies. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

PHL stocks buck regional downtrend

Local share prices rebounded yesterday, bucking the cautious trading in Asian markets ahead of a European Central Bank's policy meeting. The Philippine Stock Exchange index rose 0.45 or 28.64 points to close at 6,459.99, recovering from a profit taking spree a day ago as investors picked second liners. (The Philippine Star)

P/\$ rate closes at P40.635/\$1

The peso exchange rate closed higher at P40.635 to the US dollar yesterday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX) from P40.655 the previous day. The weighted average rate depreciated to P40.685 from P40.647. Total volume amounted to \$847.3 million. (Manila Bulletin)

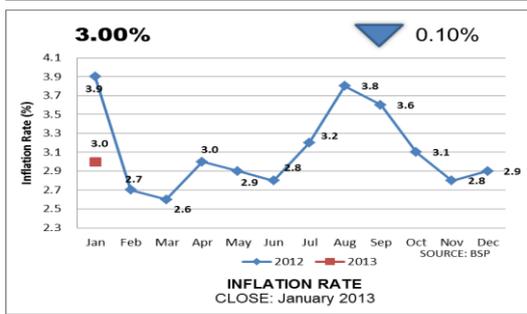
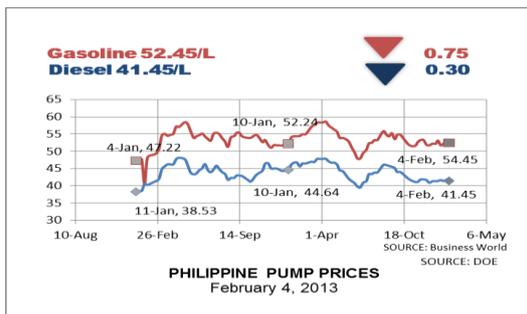
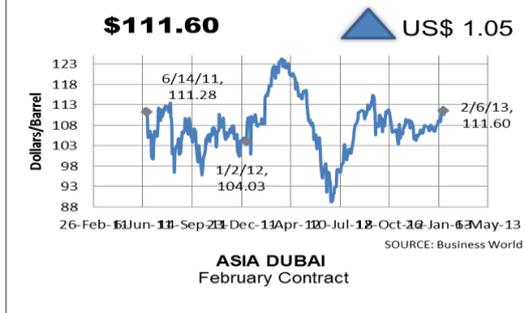
INDUSTRY BUZZ

Toyota banking on weak yen, better US sales for profit

Toyota Motor Corp lifted its annual profit guidance, banking on stronger sales in its key U.S. market and a boost from a weaker yen, which put its Japanese manufacturing in the black for the first time in five years. But the world's best-selling automaker, which shipped a record number of cars last year, said it would not build any new factories over the next three years despite the pickup in its fortunes, after it was burned in the financial crisis. Toyota raised its net profit forecast for the year to March by more than 10 percent to 860 billion yen (\$9.3 billion) on strong U.S. sales of the Camry sedan and other vehicles. (BusinessWorld)

Fiat to make Maserati, Alfa Romeos at Turin

Italian carmaker Fiat will build Maserati and Alfa Romeo models at its flagship Mirafiori plant in Turin, Chief Executive Sergio Marchionne said, safeguarding the under-utilised factory's future for now. Fiat, which controls U.S. carmaker Chrysler, plans to use its idled Italian factories to produce Jeeps, Maseratis and Alfa Romeos for export, as it relies increasingly on overseas sales to offset flagging demand in recession-hit Italy. Marchionne said on Sunday Fiat's two factories in Turin will make cars for export to compete for market share with premium German brands like Volkswagen's Audi and BMW. (BusinessWorld)



	Thursday, 7 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	7.01%	7.07%	7.79%

