

DASHBOARD

Changing News. Your Guide.

AVID Daily E- News

February 26, 2013

Volume 5 No. 47

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

BSP survey shows bullish employment picture

Expectations that the country indeed will get an investment grade this year has created a mood of expansion and for hiring more workers among enterprises, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said. The BSP said the firms covered by its latest survey indicated plans to expand operations and employ more people in the second quarter in the belief an investment grade would help the country attract more foreign direct investments (FDIs). The results of the survey, which the BSP conducted among 1,555 firms nationwide, showed that the employment outlook index, which reflected plans to hire additional workers in the coming quarter, remained in the positive territory and settled at +23 percent. This compares with the +22 percent registered in the previous quarterly survey. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

P2.268-trillion budget eyed for next year

Next year's national budget has been capped at P2.268 trillion, 13% higher than this year's P2.006 trillion as the government gears up to support a targeted 6.5-7.5% economic growth rate. National Budget Memorandum 116, dated Feb. 15, details the macroeconomic assumptions, fiscal targets and department ceilings to be used in setting next year's expenditure plans. The proposed 2014 ceiling is P262.1 billion more than this year's budget, which assumed gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6-7%. The economy expanded by 6.6% last year, rebounding from the lackluster 3.9% posted in 2011 and also well past the government's 5-6% target and its 6.5% outlook. It is expected to perform better in 2014. (BusinessWorld)

Take advantage of EU preferential tariffs, gov't urged

The Philippines should take advantage of preferential tariffs offered by the European Union (EU) under the bloc's new import scheme, which will take effect in 2014. Next year the European Commission is rolling out a new Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) dubbed as "GSP+" that will grant trade concessions for "trade-vulnerable countries" and limit imports to developing countries most in need. "Top gainers for the Philippines, if and when we qualify for GSP+ additional preference, are prepared foodstuff like canned tuna and garments and textiles," Maria Tereza Borja, trade assistant of Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Brussels, Belgium, said in a seminar on the GSP scheme. (Business Mirror)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

PH stock index hits 6,721.33

The local stocks index breached the 6,700-mark for the first time in history on Monday as cash-wash investors sought better yields from equities, driving valuations to dizzying heights. The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange index gained 56.27 points or 0.84 percent to close at the day's peak of 6,721.33. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

P/\$ rate closes at P 40.68/\$1

The peso exchange rate closed slightly higher at P40.68 to the US dollar yesterday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX) from P40.69 last Friday. The weighted average rate appreciated to P40.704 from P40.718. Total volume amounted to \$452.9 million. (Manila Bulletin)

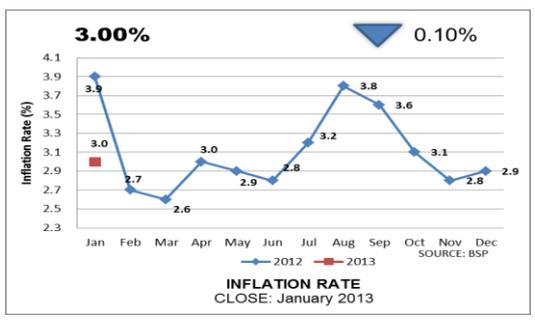
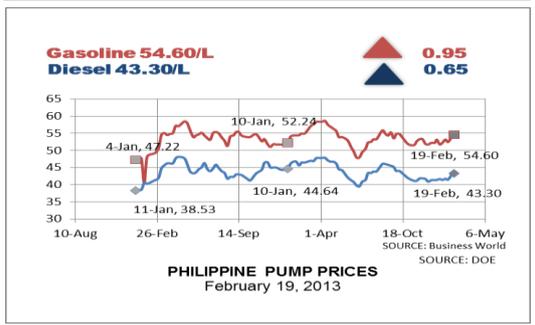
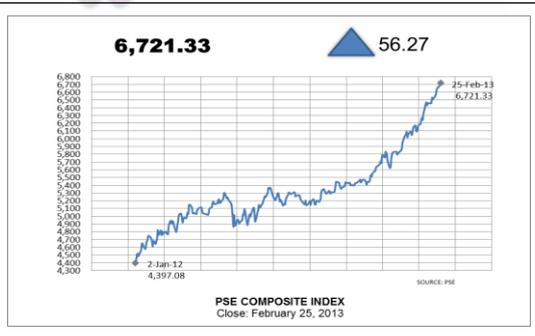
INDUSTRY BUZZ

GM to invest \$7.3-B in South Korea unit

General Motors Co. said it would invest \$ 7.3 billion in its South Korean unit over the next five years — an amount which will likely help relieve concerns that the US automaker was set to reduce its presence in the country. But GM said its 8 trillion won investment in improving manufacturing and engineering capabilities underscores South Korea's importance as a key production and development base, even if the domestic market is relatively small. GM Korea, which has five manufacturing facilities in South Korea, said it will produce six upgraded versions of GM models currently built, including global mini, small and midsize cars. It reiterated it will build GM's first global full battery electric vehicle. (The Philippine Star)

Toyota aims for record global output in 2013

Toyota Motor Corp plans to make a record 8.79 million vehicles under the Toyota and Lexus brands in 2013 and 9.5 million in 2014, a member of the Toyota labor union federation said on Wednesday. The Japanese automaker also plans to produce 3.02 million vehicles in Japan in 2013 and 3.0 million vehicles in 2014, sticking to its pledge to continue making at least 3 million cars at home, said a member of the Federation of All Toyota Workers' Union who spoke on condition of anonymity. Toyota presented the figures to labor unions during pay negotiations, he said. (BusinessWorld)



	Monday, 25 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	7.13%	7.19%	7.79%

