



DASHBOARD

Changing News. Your Guide.

AVID Daily E- News

March 11, 2013

Volume 5 No. 56

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Reserves at \$83.818B as of February

The country's gross international reserves (GIR) declined last month from January's record high as the government paid off maturing foreign debt. GIR totaled \$83.818 billion in February, a slight dip from the previous month's \$85.274-billion peak, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed. From a year earlier, however, it was up 8.8%. It also comprised 97.5% of the central bank's full-year forecast of \$86 billion. "The decline in reserves level was due mainly to payments for maturing foreign exchange obligations of the national government and net foreign currency withdrawals by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.," the central bank said. (BusinessWorld)

Moody's upbeat about PH manufacturing sector

Moody's Investors Service is upbeat about manufacturing output in the Philippines, citing nascent growth in the sector resulting from rising investments. "Rising local and foreign investments, and better manufacturing production are helping to drive output higher, aided by solid local demand from consumers," Moody's said in a recently published outlook report for the Asia-Pacific. Substantiating its favorable sentiment, the international debt rating firm said it expects industrial production in the Philippines to have grown year on year by 8 percent in January (official data are scheduled to be released by the National Statistics Office on March 12). "The industrial production series is volatile but, looking through the noise, production has been steadily accelerating since around mid-2012," Moody's said. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

UK firm predicts 5.2% growth for PH in 2013

UK-based accountancy and financial services firm Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) expects the Philippine economy to grow at a faster pace compared to most countries in Southeast Asia this year until 2015 due to strong consumption. In a report titled: Economic Insight for South East Asia, quarterly briefing for the first quarter, the ICAEW said it expects the Philippine economy to expand 5.2 percent this year, driven by strong consumption. "The Philippines (is) enjoying an unusual period of political stability that is helping consumer and business confidence and promoting a positive outlook for the private sector," it said. (The Philippine Star)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Index seen testing new record high this week

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) is expected to test another historic level at 6,900 this week pending the results of the policymaking Monetary Board meeting and a slew of corporate income reports. Week-on-week, benchmark PSEi climbed 2.88 percent or 191 points to 6,833. The main index recorded its 23rd all-time high this year at 6,859 on Wednesday, backed by the historic rally in Wall Street and bullishness in the Philippine economy. (The Philippine Star)

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

The peso exchange rate stands at P40.68 to the US dollar last Friday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX). The weighted average rate stands at P40.716. (Manila Bulletin)

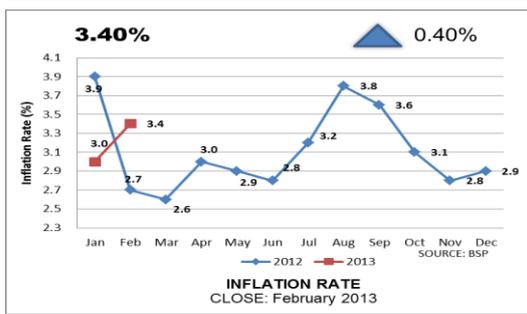
INDUSTRY BUZZ

Asian car makers' smooth ride to Europe

The economic crisis in Europe has a silver lining for Asian carmakers which are gaining sales and market share on the continent at the expense of ailing European competitors, observers said on Wednesday. The Japanese brands Toyota and Nissan for instance have been "surfing on a wave of new products ... that really hit the market at the right time" in Europe, according to IHS Automotive analyst Carlos da Silva. Toyota made a profit in Europe in 2012 and expects to do the same this year, the head of its European operations, Didier Leroy, told the Geneva Motor Show this week. Nissan announced that despite "a shrinking market and ... a really tough financial climate," it had achieved a record European market share of 3.8 percent last year. (BusinessWorld)

Nissan opens new Nismo headquarters

Nissan Motor Co., Ltd., last week kicked off a new era for Nismo, confirming it as Nissan's exclusive global performance road car and motorsport brand and officially opening the new Nismo global headquarters and development center in Yokohama, Japan. Nismo is already well-known to motorsports and performance car enthusiasts in Japan and to millions of global gaming enthusiasts. In a special ceremony, Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn declared the new headquarters open and explained how Nismo will play a more prominent role for the company's performance car and motorsport activities. (Manila Bulletin)



	Friday, 8 March 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	7.21%	7.11%	7.79%

