

# DASHBOARD

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## MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

### FDI to PH double to \$436 M in Feb.

Foreign direct investments (FDI) to the Philippines more than doubled in last February to \$436 million, up 127.1 percent from \$192 million in February 2012, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) reported yesterday. This brought the tally of the first two months of 2013 to over \$1.01 billion. However, the figure is still down 18.7 percent from the previous year's \$1.24 billion. No explanation was given for the decline by BSP. "The sustained inflows of FDI reflect investors' increasing optimism over the country's growth potential notwithstanding the uncertainties on the strength of the global economy," the central bank said in a statement. (The Philippine Star)

### Manufacturing output growth slowed in March

Manufacturing output in the country grew at a slower pace in March amid calls for the government to implement measures to boost the country's industrial sector. The National Statistics Office reported Friday that the volume of production index (VPI) for manufacturing grew 1.2 percent in March, decelerating from 8.3 percent in February and 16.6 percent in January. The slowdown in the growth of the volume of manufacturing output in March came with the measly growth of the country's export sector. The NSO also reported yesterday that merchandise exports for the month reached \$4.33 billion in March, up only 0.1 percent from \$4.32 billion in the same month last year. The measly growth in global demand for Philippine-made goods dampened production of the manufacturing sector. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

### Higher diesel prices loom

Fernando L. Martinez, president of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association, said the price of diesel could go up by as much as P0.60 per liter starting on Tuesday. "That's just the normal ups and downs in the world market due to [the] improving world economy," said Martinez, who is also president of Eastern Petroleum Corp. Based on data from the Department of Energy, the domestic price of gasoline has dropped by P2.05 a liter so far this year, while that for diesel, P2.52 a liter. (Business Mirror)

## FINANCIAL TRENDS

### Knee-jerk reaction to polls seen

The bourse could test higher levels today on perceptions that elections yesterday were generally peaceful, analysts said as voting was under way late in the afternoon. The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) gained 0.65% to close at 7,262.38 on Friday last week -- its 29th all-time high for the year -- from 7,215.35 on May 3, while the broader all-share index rose by 0.61% to 4,517.42 from 4,490.00. (BusinessWorld)

### P/\$ rate stands at P41.12/\$1

The peso exchange rate stands at P41.12 to the US dollar last Friday at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX). The weighted average rate stands at P41.099. (Manila Bulletin)

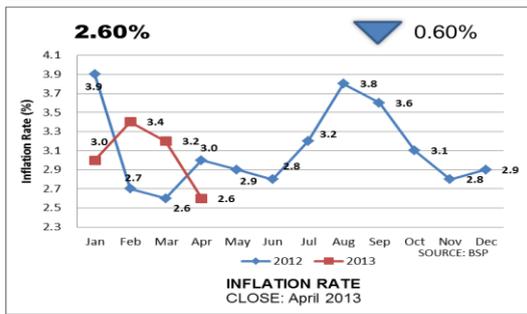
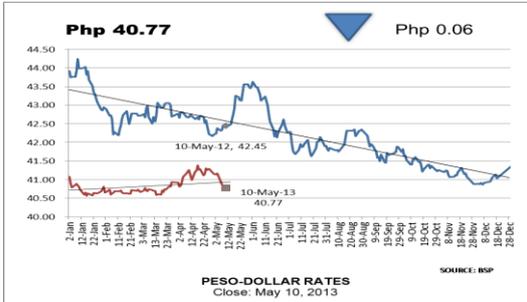
## INDUSTRY BUZZ

### Vehicle sales keep humming in China

China's auto sales in April grew 13% from a year earlier, accelerating from the previous month. But analysts warned of slower growth amid a tepid economic recovery and a crackdown on lavish spending by officials. Sales of passenger and commercial vehicles in the world's largest car market totaled 1.84 million vehicles last month, compared with 1.62 million a year ago, according to the semiofficial China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. That increase exceeds the 11% gain for March. Sales of passenger cars rose 13% to 1.44 million vehicles, the association said last week. (Wall Street Journal)

### Suzuki All-New Alto 800, Swift Dzire break cover

"Smaller cars are the next way to go." This was what Suzuki Philippines Inc., the exclusive manufacturer and distributor of Suzuki automobiles in the country, reiterated when it recently launched its latest subcompact cars—the all-new Suzuki Alto 800 and the Swift Dzire—at the Music Hall of SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City. In an interview with the BusinessMirror, Satoshi Uchida, president of Suzuki Philippines Inc., said, "This year, we are targeting to double our sales and increase our market share by 6 percent. With the launch of the all-new Alto 800 and Swift Dzire, we underscore our commitment in bringing great-value cars to the local market." (Business Mirror)



|                          | Friday, 10 May 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      | 0.22%               | 0.04%     | 3.85%    |
| Lending Rates            | 6.91%               | 6.92%     | 7.79%    |

