

| STOCK MARKET | ASIAN MARKETS | WORLD MARKETS | PESO-DOLLAR RATES | ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE | WORLD CURRENCIES | DUBAI CRUDE OIL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------|------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------------------|-----------|---------|------|----------------------|----------|--------|------|--------------------------|----------|--------|------|---------------------------|----------|---------|------|-------------------------|----------|---------|------|--------------------------|----------|---------|-------|--|-------|-----|-----------|------------|---|-------|--------|-----------|------------|--|---------|-----------|-----------|--|----------|----------|-----------|--|--------------|----------|----------|--|--|---|----------|-------------|---------|---|---------|-----------------------|-------|---|-------|--------------------|--------|---|--------|-----------------|--------|---|--------|----------------|-----------|---|-----------|--------------------|-------|---|-------|--------------------|--------|---|--------|--------------------|-------|---|-------|--|-------|----------|---------------|--------|---|--------|-----------|--------|---|--------|----------------|--------|---|--------|--------------------|--------|---|--------|------------------|--------|---|--------|--|
| PSEI OPEN: 7,400.90 HIGH: 7,473.71 LOW: 7,400.90 CLOSE: 7,458.23 VOL.: 1.073 B VAL(P): 6.993 B 77.93 pts. 1.05% 30 DAYS TO FEBRUARY 8, 2022 | FEBRUARY 8, 2022 <table border="1"> <tr><th>CLOSE</th><th>NET</th><th>%</th></tr> <tr><td>JAPAN (Nikkei 225)</td><td>27,284.52</td><td>▲ 35.65</td><td>0.13</td></tr> <tr><td>HONG KONG (Hang Seng)</td><td>24,329.49</td><td>▼ -250.06</td><td>-1.02</td></tr> <tr><td>TAIWAN (Weighted)</td><td>17,966.56</td><td>▲ 66.26</td><td>0.37</td></tr> <tr><td>THAILAND (SET Index)</td><td>1,683.37</td><td>▲ 6.13</td><td>0.37</td></tr> <tr><td>S. KOREA (KSE Composite)</td><td>2,746.47</td><td>▲ 1.41</td><td>0.05</td></tr> <tr><td>SINGAPORE (Straits Times)</td><td>3,405.11</td><td>▲ 38.63</td><td>1.15</td></tr> <tr><td>SYDNEY (All Ordinaries)</td><td>7,186.70</td><td>▲ 75.90</td><td>1.07</td></tr> <tr><td>MALAYSIA (KLC Composite)</td><td>1,530.09</td><td>▼ -0.56</td><td>-0.04</td></tr> </table> | CLOSE | NET | % | JAPAN (Nikkei 225) | 27,284.52 | ▲ 35.65 | 0.13 | HONG KONG (Hang Seng) | 24,329.49 | ▼ -250.06 | -1.02 | TAIWAN (Weighted) | 17,966.56 | ▲ 66.26 | 0.37 | THAILAND (SET Index) | 1,683.37 | ▲ 6.13 | 0.37 | S. KOREA (KSE Composite) | 2,746.47 | ▲ 1.41 | 0.05 | SINGAPORE (Straits Times) | 3,405.11 | ▲ 38.63 | 1.15 | SYDNEY (All Ordinaries) | 7,186.70 | ▲ 75.90 | 1.07 | MALAYSIA (KLC Composite) | 1,530.09 | ▼ -0.56 | -0.04 | FEBRUARY 7, 2022 <table border="1"> <tr><th>CLOSE</th><th>NET</th></tr> <tr><td>Dow Jones</td><td>35,091.130</td><td>—</td><td>1.390</td></tr> <tr><td>NASDAQ</td><td>14,015.67</td><td>▼ -82.3390</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S&P 500</td><td>4,483.870</td><td>▼ -16.660</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>FTSE 100</td><td>7,573.47</td><td>▲ 57.0700</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Euro Stoxx50</td><td>3,728.97</td><td>▲ 34.850</td><td></td></tr> </table> | CLOSE | NET | Dow Jones | 35,091.130 | — | 1.390 | NASDAQ | 14,015.67 | ▼ -82.3390 | | S&P 500 | 4,483.870 | ▼ -16.660 | | FTSE 100 | 7,573.47 | ▲ 57.0700 | | Euro Stoxx50 | 3,728.97 | ▲ 34.850 | | FX OPEN P51.400 HIGH P51.380 LOW P51.500 CLOSE P51.500 W.AVE. P51.436 VOL. \$1,005.10 M SOURCE : BAP 13.00 ctyvs 30 DAYS TO FEBRUARY 8, 2022 | FEBRUARY 8, 2022 LATEST BID (0900GMT) <table border="1"> <tr><th>PREVIOUS</th></tr> <tr><td>JAPAN (YEN)</td><td>115.340</td><td>▼</td><td>115.030</td></tr> <tr><td>HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR)</td><td>7.795</td><td>▼</td><td>7.794</td></tr> <tr><td>TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR)</td><td>27.828</td><td>▼</td><td>27.852</td></tr> <tr><td>THAILAND (BAHT)</td><td>32.950</td><td>▲</td><td>33.040</td></tr> <tr><td>S. KOREA (WON)</td><td>1,198.070</td><td>▼</td><td>1,199.660</td></tr> <tr><td>SINGAPORE (DOLLAR)</td><td>1.345</td><td>—</td><td>1.345</td></tr> <tr><td>INDONESIA (RUPIAH)</td><td>14,390</td><td>▼</td><td>14,395</td></tr> <tr><td>MALAYSIA (RINGGIT)</td><td>4.185</td><td>▼</td><td>4.184</td></tr> </table> | PREVIOUS | JAPAN (YEN) | 115.340 | ▼ | 115.030 | HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) | 7.795 | ▼ | 7.794 | TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) | 27.828 | ▼ | 27.852 | THAILAND (BAHT) | 32.950 | ▲ | 33.040 | S. KOREA (WON) | 1,198.070 | ▼ | 1,199.660 | SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) | 1.345 | — | 1.345 | INDONESIA (RUPIAH) | 14,390 | ▼ | 14,395 | MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) | 4.185 | ▼ | 4.184 | FEBRUARY 8, 2022 <table border="1"> <tr><th>CLOSE</th><th>PREVIOUS</th></tr> <tr><td>US\$/UK POUND</td><td>1.3545</td><td>▼</td><td>1.3523</td></tr> <tr><td>US\$/EURO</td><td>1.1399</td><td>▼</td><td>1.1416</td></tr> <tr><td>\$/AUST DOLLAR</td><td>0.7127</td><td>▲</td><td>0.7092</td></tr> <tr><td>CANADA DOLLAR/US\$</td><td>1.2682</td><td>▲</td><td>1.2734</td></tr> <tr><td>SWISS FRANC/US\$</td><td>0.9241</td><td>▼</td><td>0.9255</td></tr> </table> | CLOSE | PREVIOUS | US\$/UK POUND | 1.3545 | ▼ | 1.3523 | US\$/EURO | 1.1399 | ▼ | 1.1416 | \$/AUST DOLLAR | 0.7127 | ▲ | 0.7092 | CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ | 1.2682 | ▲ | 1.2734 | SWISS FRANC/US\$ | 0.9241 | ▼ | 0.9255 | FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF FEBRUARY \$90.92/BBL 30 DAYS TO FEBRUARY 7, 2022 ▲ \$0.67 |
| CLOSE | NET | % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| JAPAN (Nikkei 225) | 27,284.52 | ▲ 35.65 | 0.13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HONG KONG (Hang Seng) | 24,329.49 | ▼ -250.06 | -1.02 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TAIWAN (Weighted) | 17,966.56 | ▲ 66.26 | 0.37 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| THAILAND (SET Index) | 1,683.37 | ▲ 6.13 | 0.37 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S. KOREA (KSE Composite) | 2,746.47 | ▲ 1.41 | 0.05 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SINGAPORE (Straits Times) | 3,405.11 | ▲ 38.63 | 1.15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SYDNEY (All Ordinaries) | 7,186.70 | ▲ 75.90 | 1.07 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MALAYSIA (KLC Composite) | 1,530.09 | ▼ -0.56 | -0.04 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CLOSE | NET | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones | 35,091.130 | — | 1.390 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ | 14,015.67 | ▼ -82.3390 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 | 4,483.870 | ▼ -16.660 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FTSE 100 | 7,573.47 | ▲ 57.0700 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Euro Stoxx50 | 3,728.97 | ▲ 34.850 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PREVIOUS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| JAPAN (YEN) | 115.340 | ▼ | 115.030 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) | 7.795 | ▼ | 7.794 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) | 27.828 | ▼ | 27.852 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| THAILAND (BAHT) | 32.950 | ▲ | 33.040 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S. KOREA (WON) | 1,198.070 | ▼ | 1,199.660 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) | 1.345 | — | 1.345 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| INDONESIA (RUPIAH) | 14,390 | ▼ | 14,395 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) | 4.185 | ▼ | 4.184 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CLOSE | PREVIOUS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| US\$/UK POUND | 1.3545 | ▼ | 1.3523 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| US\$/EURO | 1.1399 | ▼ | 1.1416 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| \$/AUST DOLLAR | 0.7127 | ▲ | 0.7092 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ | 1.2682 | ▲ | 1.2734 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SWISS FRANC/US\$ | 0.9241 | ▼ | 0.9255 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VOL. XXXV • ISSUE 142 **WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 9, 2022 • www.bworldonline.com** S1/1-12 • 2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • FEBRUARY 8, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)

| BPI | P101.900 | ICT | P216.000 | SPNEC | P2.180 | MONDE | P15.740 | BDO | P135.500 | SM | P976.000 | EMP | P23.200 | GLO | P3,054.000 | SECB | P118.600 | AP | P36.250 |
|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|--------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|--------|--------------|----------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| Value | P459,718,018 | Value | P439,458,674 | Value | P389,721,140 | Value | P379,980,236 | Value | P378,089,385 | Value | P343,508,865 | Value | P319,982,190 | Value | P308,946,590 | Value | P206,991,977 | Value | P194,511,970 |
| -P0.100 | ▼ -0.098% | P11.600 | ▲ 5.675% | -P0.020 | ▼ -0.909% | P0.140 | ▲ 0.897% | -P0.800 | ▼ -0.587% | P26.000 | ▲ 2.737% | P0.250 | ▲ 1.089% | -P58.000 | ▼ -1.864% | P0.800 | ▲ 0.679% | P0.550 | ▲ 1.541% |

Manufacturing growth eases in Dec.

BSP weighs impact of soaring oil prices on inflation outlook

By Luz Wendy T. Noble
Reporter

THE PHILIPPINE central bank is closely monitoring the impact of the recent rally in global oil prices on domestic inflation, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Benjamin E. Diokno said.

"We continue to monitor global crude oil prices to the extent that they affect inflation and growth prospects. Recent surge in oil prices could affect inflation forecasts adversely only if it is persistently high," Mr. Diokno said in a text message.

Crude oil prices have continued to climb this year, amid resurgent demand and supply disruptions. Brent crude hit a seven-year high of \$94 a barrel during Monday's session, but closed lower at \$92.69.

In January, Mr. Diokno said the BSP's inflation forecast for 2022 and 2023 would hold unless world crude prices settle above \$95 a barrel during the period.

The BSP expects inflation to be within target for 2022 and 2023 at 3.4% and 3.2%, respectively.

Mr. Diokno said present oil prices are due to "short supply, higher demand, partly due to global economic rebound as well as severely harsh winter."

"It's hard to predict how oil prices would look like this spring or summer. As policy makers, we monitor, assess risks and act accordingly. We continue to gather data and assess various scenarios," he said.

Mr. Diokno said geopolitical uncertainty arising from the Russia-Ukraine crisis may also affect oil supply and oil price movements.

"First, it could incentivize some countries — for example, US and Saudi Arabia — to increase oil outputs. Second, higher oil prices accompanied by higher interest rates and currency depreciation could result to world recession; in turn, these could result in lower demand for oil," he said.

In the Philippines, prices of gasoline, diesel, and kerosene have increased by P5.70, P7.95, and P7.20 per liter as of Feb. 1 year to date.

"Oil prices is only one of the variables that affect inflation. Food prices, housing, other utilities contribute more

to the consumer price index (CPI) than oil prices," Mr. Diokno said.

Headline inflation reached 4.5% in 2021, surpassing the 2-4% target range of the central bank and much quicker than the 2.6% in 2020.

In a letter addressed to President Rodrigo R. Duterte explaining why the target was breached, Mr. Diokno said beyond target inflation in 2021 was mainly due to low supply of staple food items and the spike in oil prices.

"The rise of global oil prices will affect supply of goods and services and it will come from the cost of inputs for the production of these said goods and services," UnionBank of the Philippines, Inc. Chief Economist Ruben Carlo O. Asuncion said in a Viber message.

"The broader reopening of most advanced and emerging economies may even increase the demand for energy to produce and cope up with an also rising demand," he added.

Mr. Asuncion said inflation is projected to average 3.5% this year, based on preliminary data and in the absence of more details used for the CPI with a 2018 base by the Philippine Statistics Authority. A 4% reading is also "not unthinkable" by the second half of the year if recovery gains traction, he added.

Asian Institute of Management economist John Paolo R. Rivera said some industries, such as transportation and manufacturing, will bear the brunt of higher oil prices.

"Oil prices are huge explanatory factor for inflation as most industries are dependent on oil. Increase in oil prices increase their production cost, which they will pass to consumers," Mr. Rivera said in a Viber message.

Headline inflation in January slowed to 3% from 3.6% in December. It was the first month that a 2018 base year was used for the CPI.

The Monetary Board will have its first policy review on Feb. 17.

Despite elevated inflation in 2021, the central bank has kept rates untouched for more than a year as it focused on keeping its support for the economy.

The BSP on Tuesday said its quarterly inflation report will be turned into a monetary policy report which will be released a day after the policy reviews in February, May, August, and November.

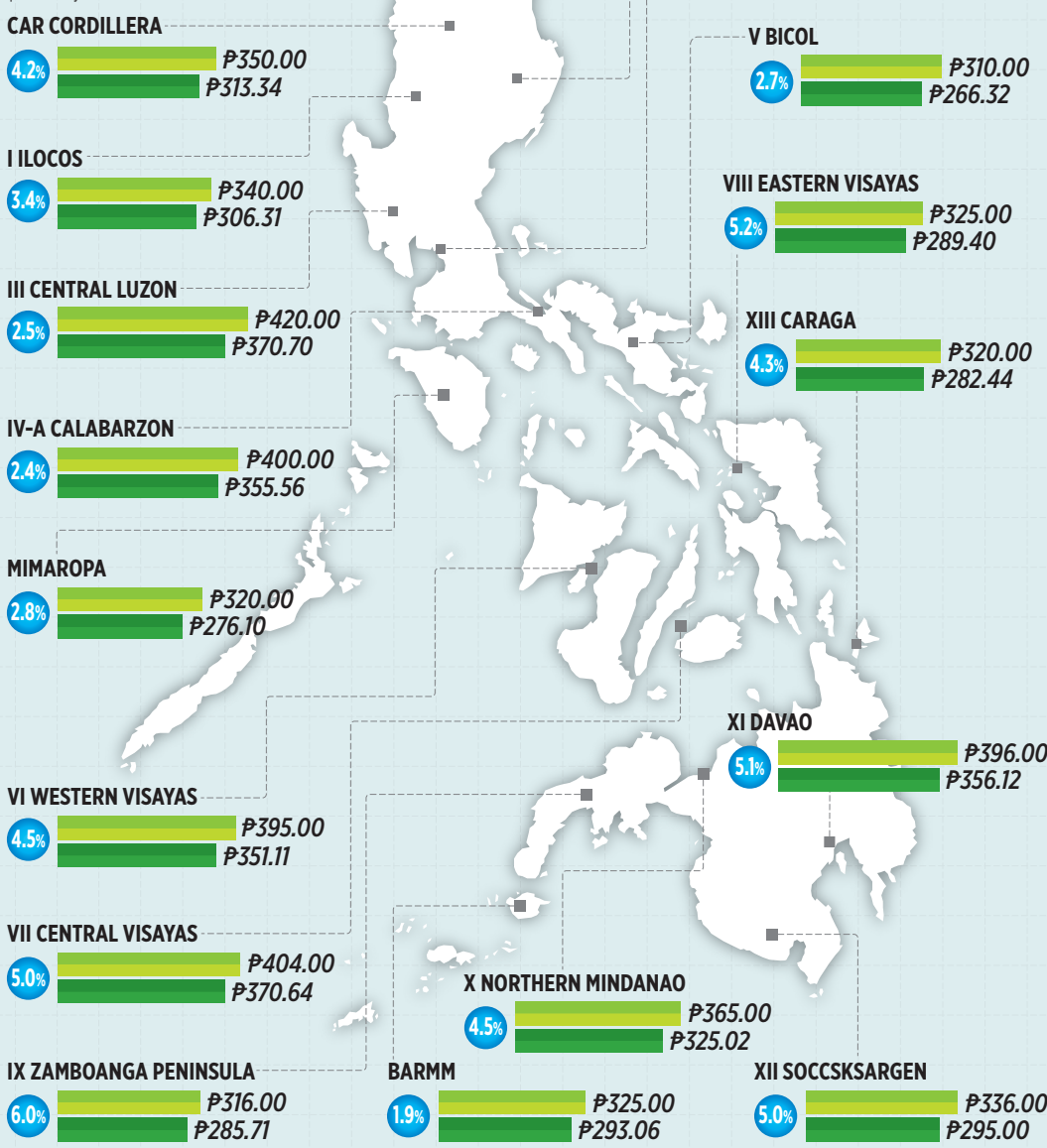
HOW MINIMUM WAGES COMPARE ACROSS REGIONS IN JANUARY (AFTER ACCOUNTING FOR INFLATION THAT MONTH)

The infographic compares the current minimum wages set by the country's Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board and the inflation-adjusted "real" minimum wages as of January based on latest data by the Philippine Statistics Authority. While current minimum wages are determined at the regional level to account for factors such as the companies' capacity to pay and costs of living, real wages are obtained when general price increases (i.e. inflation rates) are accounted for. Regional real wages are 8.1%-14.1% lower in January than their respective current wages.

NOTES:
 - To calculate real wages, the current (nominal) wage received by workers is divided against the latest consumer price index (CPI) data (January 2022) and multiplied by 100.
 - Minimum wage refers to basic pay and cost of living allowance per day.
 - The nominal wages shown here refer to the highest wages in the region (wages widely vary even within the region and sector).
 - The consumer price index (CPI) data are under the rebased 2018 prices. It is the 12th base period and the 1st rebasing for the CPI. This rebasing ensures that the CPI market basket continues to capture goods and services commonly purchased by households over time.

Minimum Wages (January 2022)

Legend:
 ■ Current Wage (in Pesos)
 ■ Real Wage (in Pesos)
 ● Inflation Rate (January 2022, Year On Year)



SOURCE: THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT'S NATIONAL WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION AND THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY
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FACTORY PRODUCTION grew at a slower pace in December but remained in the positive territory for the ninth straight month despite the supply chain disruption in the aftermath of Typhoon Odette.

Preliminary results of the Philippine Statistics Authority's Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries (MISSI) showed factory output, as measured by the volume of production index (VoPI), went up by 17.9% year on year in December.

This was slower than November's revised 25.8% growth and a turnaround from the 14.8% contraction recorded in December 2020.

December was the ninth consecutive month that the VoPI remained in the positive territory or since April's 152.1% surge.

This brought average factory output growth last year to 50.3%, reversing the 40.5% decline in 2020.

The PSA attributed December's growth to year-on-year increases in half of the 22 industry divisions, led by manufacture of wood, bamboo, cane, rattan articles, and related products which jumped by 122.6%.

Other industries that showed growth included machinery and equipment except electrical (to 50% from 40.7%), electrical equipment (49.6% from 44.9%), and coke and refined petroleum products (47.6% from 84.8%).

Meanwhile, the following industries registered declines in December: basic pharmaceutical preparations (-30.2% from -10.5% in November), beverages (-14.6% from -0.8%), and tobacco products (-14.5% from -20.4%).

In comparison, IHS Markit's Philippines Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slightly increased to a nine-month high of 51.8 in December from 51.7 in November. A reading above 50 marks an improvement for the manufacturing sector while anything below indicates deterioration.

The capacity utilization of these factories averaged 67.3% in December, slightly down from 67.8% in November. Of the 22 sectors, 20 averaged a capacity utilization rate of at least 50%.

Analysts said December's growth was due to base effects after factory production nearly grounded to a halt in 2020 amid the strict lockdown restrictions imposed to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

"Base effects appear to still play a part in the recent report with the recovery magnified from the sharp fall in the previous year. In the coming months, we do expect these growth rates to moderate further but remain in expansion as the economy reopens gradually," ING Bank N.V. Manila Senior Economist Nicholas Antonio T. Mapa said in an e-mail.

Manufacturing, S1/10

Meralco customers to see lower power bills in February

TYPICAL HOUSEHOLDS in Metro Manila will see a reduction of around P24 in their electricity bills this month due to lower generation charges, distribution utility Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) said on Tuesday.

Meralco in a statement said the overall rate fell by P0.1185 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to P9.5842 per kWh in February, from the P9.7027 per kWh in January.

A typical household is defined as one that consumes 200 kWh. Households consuming 300 kWh, 400 kWh and 500 kWh can expect to see their February bills reduced by P35, P46, and P56, respectively.

"The generation charge for February decreased by P0.2305 per kWh to P5.1957 per kWh from P5.4262 last month, due to lower charges from Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM), which more than

offset an increase in the rate from Power Supply Agreements (PSAs)," Meralco said.

Meralco noted charges from IPPs fell by P0.3395 per kWh, after Quezon Power resumed operations in January and First Gas -Sta. Rita increased its output after a maintenance outage in December.

"The IPP charges also reflected a reimbursement from SPEX (Shell Philippines Exploration B.V.) to First Gas covering a portion of incremental fuel cost incurred in relation to the use of liquid fuel during unplanned Malampaya gas supply restrictions. These were able to more than offset the increase in Malampaya natural gas prices resulting from its quarterly repricing, and an increase in coal prices," it added.

SPEX is the operator of the Malampaya gas-to-power project.

WESM charges dropped by P13.1277 per kWh after Meralco significantly reduced pur-

chases from the spot market, tempering the impact of higher spot market prices in January.

Meralco said the tight supply condition led to the continued high WESM prices, which triggered the imposition of the secondary price cap 28.37% of the time.

"[Had we purchased more from the spot market], it would've put pressure upwards," Meralco Vice-President and Head of Corporate Communications Agapito Joe D. Zalardriaga said at a media briefing on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, PSA rates went up by P0.1631 per kWh, due to the lower demand that led to a drop in excess energy deliveries from AC Energy, San Miguel Energy Corp., and South Premier Power Corp. and the decline in the average PSA dispatch.

IPPs accounted for 52.2% of Meralco's energy requirement,

followed by PSAs and the WESM with 47.4% and 0.4%, respectively.

Transmission charge for residential customers jumped by P0.0454 per kWh due to higher ancillary service and power delivery service charges. Taxes and other charges went up by P0.0666 per kWh, with the resumption of local franchise tax and higher effective value-added tax (VAT) rates.

The collection of the universal charge-environmental charge worth P0.0025 per kWh is still suspended.

Meralco's distribution, supply, and metering charges have remained unchanged for 79 months now.

The company said the ongoing refund of distribution charges, which was ordered by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), tempered the rate hike for February. — M.C. Luceno

FULL STORY



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