

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEi OPEN: 6,661.15 HIGH: 6,661.15 LOW: 6,583.65 CLOSE: 6,583.65 VOL.: 1.453 B VAL(P): 8,868 B 106.62 pts. 1.59% 30 DAYS TO AUGUST 31, 2022	AUGUST 31, 2022 JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 28,091.53 ▼ -104.05 -0.37 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 19,954.39 ▲ 5.36 0.03 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 15,095.44 ▲ 141.81 0.95 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,637.71 ▼ -1.74 -0.11 S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 2,472.05 ▼ 21.12 0.86 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 3,220.15 ▼ -19.18 -0.59 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 6,986.80 ▼ -11.50 -0.16 MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE)* 1,512.05 ▲ 10.48 0.70 <small>* CLOSING PRICE AS OF AUGUST 30, 2022</small>	AUGUST 30, 2022 Dow Jones 31,790.870 ▼ -308.120 NASDAQ 11,883.136 ▼ -134.533 S&P 500 3,986.160 ▼ -44.450 FTSE 100 7,361.630 ▼ -65.680 Euro Stoxx50 3,550.730 ▼ -33.400	FX OPEN P56.200 HIGH P56.110 LOW P56.210 CLOSE P56.145 W.AVE. P56.171 VOL. \$810.71 M SOURCE: BAP 8.00 cys 30 DAYS TO AUGUST 31, 2022	AUGUST 31, 2022 LATEST BID (0900GMT) JAPAN (YEN) 138.700 ▼ 138.310 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.848 ▼ 7.847 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 30.386 ▼ 30.349 THAILAND (BAHT) 36.450 ▼ 36.360 S. KOREA (WON) 1,342.500 ▼ 1,346.160 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.398 ▼ 1.395 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 14,840 ▼ 14,840 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.474 ▼ 4.474	AUGUST 31, 2022 US\$/UK POUND 1.1630 ▼ 1.1748 US\$/EURO 0.9990 ▼ 1.0040 \$/AUST DOLLAR 0.6857 ▼ 0.6947 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3115 ▼ 1.2981 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9778 ▼ 0.9703	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$102.80/bbl 30 DAYS TO AUGUST 30, 2022

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • AUGUST 31, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)

SMPH	P37.850	ICT	P181.200	BPI	P94.950	CNVRG	P17.400	ACEN	P7.500	ALI	P28.650	BDO	P128.800	MONDE	P16.500	SPNEC	P1.690	SM	P831.000
Value	P941,531,360	Value	P660,062,344	Value	P542,245,638	Value	P440,513,170	Value	P440,452,541	Value	P418,037,090	Value	P417,932,222	Value	P383,164,002	Value	P365,444,240	Value	P337,925,295
P0.950	▲ 2.575%	-P2.800	▼ -1.522%	P0.550	▲ 0.583%	-P0.560	▼ -3.118%	-P0.230	▼ -2.975%	-P0.250	▼ -0.865%	-P2.600	▼ -1.979%	P0.080	▲ 0.487%	P0.000	— 0.000%	-P44.500	▼ -5.083%

BSP sees 5.9-6.7% inflation in Aug.

HEADLINE INFLATION likely settled within 5.9% to 6.7% in August as food prices continued to rise, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said on Wednesday.

"Inflation for the month was driven by the continued increase in key food prices, but could be offset in part by the decline in global oil prices, the reduction in electricity rates, lower meat and fish prices, and appreciation of the peso," it said in a statement.

If realized, August inflation would exceed the central bank's 2-4% target for the fifth straight month.

The upper end of the inflation forecast or 6.7% would be the fastest in 45 months, or since 6.9% in October 2018.

Headline inflation stood at 6.4% in July.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) will release August inflation data on Sept. 6.

Global oil prices fell for a third straight month in August over concerns that

monetary tightening will hurt economic growth.

As of Aug. 23, pump price adjustments for the month stood at a net decrease of P0.75 a liter, diesel by P1.25 and kerosene by P0.95.

On Tuesday, oil companies raised diesel prices by P6.10 a liter and gasoline by P1.40 a liter.

Meanwhile, Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) said the overall rate for a typical household went down by P0.2087 to P9.5458 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in August.

The BSP also said inflation could be offset by the peso's appreciation against the US dollar.

The peso remained at the P56-a-dollar mark in August, closing the month at P56.145 on Wednesday, down by P5.145 or 10.08% from its P51 finish on Dec. 31, 2021.

"Looking ahead, the BSP will continue to monitor closely emerging price developments to enable timely intervention that could prevent further broadening of price pressures, consistent with BSP's

mandate of price stability conducive to sustainable economic growth."

The central bank has increased borrowing costs by 175 basis points since May as it seeks to bring inflation back within target.

At its August meeting, the Monetary Board raised its average inflation forecast for 2022 to 5.4% from 5%, exceeding the 2-4% target band.

For 2023, the BSP's inflation forecast was lowered to 4% from 4.2%, as well as the 2024 outlook to 3.2% from 3.3%. — **KBT**

Bank lending growth steady at 12% in July

BANK LENDING GROWTH remained steady in July, as borrowing costs remained low, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

Data from the BSP showed outstanding loans of universal and commercial banks, net of reverse repurchase (RRP) placements with the central bank, rose by 12% to P10.21 trillion in July, from P9.12 trillion a year earlier.

The July growth rate was unchanged from June. July also marked the 11th straight month of expansion in lending activities.

Lending, net of RRP placements with the BSP, inched up by 0.6% month on month.

Outstanding loans, inclusive of reverse repurchase agreements, grew by 11.6% in July, a tad slower than the previous month's 11.7%.

Amid the rise in lending, the BSP said domestic liquidity (M3) expanded by 7% to P15.4 trillion in July. The expansion was slower than the revised 7.2% annual growth in June.

M3 — considered as the broadest measure of liquidity in an economy — edged up by 0.3% month on month.

"The sustained growth in bank lending and liquidity will support the recovery of economic activity and domestic demand," BSP Governor Felipe M. Medalla said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Looking ahead, the BSP will continue to ensure that liquidity and credit dynamics remain in line with the BSP's price and financial stability objectives."

BSP data showed outstanding loans to residents net of RRP expanded by 11.9% to P9.92 trillion in July, from P8.86 trillion in the same month last year. The pace of annual expansion was unchanged from June.

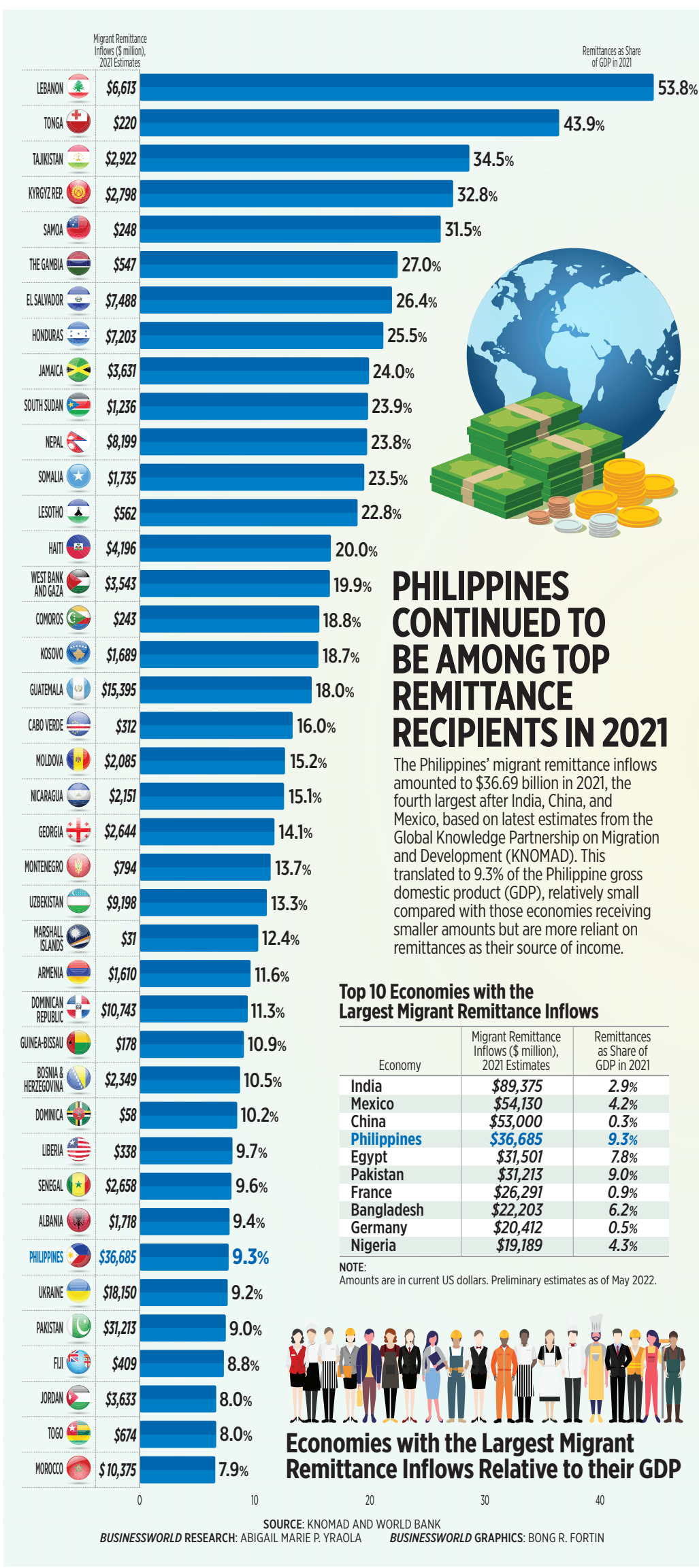
Borrowings for productive activities jumped by 11.6% to P8.98 trillion in July, fueled by a 14% rise in loans for real estate activities to P2.9 trillion; and a 16.2% jump in loans for manufacturing to P1.17 trillion.

Consumer loans to residents also went up by 14.7% to P934.71 billion, faster than 10.9% growth in June. This was driven by a 21% increase in credit card loans and a 39.2% jump in salary-based general purpose consumption loans. Motor vehicle loans inched up by 1% in July.

Meanwhile, outstanding loans to non-residents grew by 14.6% in July, slowing from the 16.4% in June.

ING Bank N.V. Manila Senior Economist Nicholas Antonio T. Mapa in a Viber message said bank lending continues to benefit from the previous easing of monetary policy.

Lending, SI/5



IT-BPM sector targets 1.1M new jobs in 6 years

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson Reporter

THE PHILIPPINES' information technology and business process management (IT-BPM) sector is expected to boost its revenues by as much as 10% this year, and create over 1.1 million jobs in the next six years, as the economy recovers from the coronavirus pandemic.

"The IT-BPM industry has become an indispensable pillar of the Philippine economy... and a very potent source of foreign exchange and exports," IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) President and Chief Executive Officer Jack Madrid said at a virtual press conference on Wednesday.

"We can create more impact in the lives of Filipinos and become an engine of transformation that promises an even brighter future for our country."

IBPAP is projecting an 8-10% increase in revenues and a 7-8% rise in the number of full-time employees by the end of 2022.

In 2021, the IT-BPM industry posted \$29.5 billion in revenues, up by 10.5% from \$26.7 billion in the previous year. The industry's headcount stood at 1.44 million in 2021.

IT-BPM, SI/10

"The Philippine IT-BPM industry is poised to fulfill the vision of the roadmap for 2028 and grow over one million new jobs in the coming six years," Mr. Madrid said.

The target to create 1.1 million direct jobs in the IT-BPM sector by 2028 is part of the Philippine IT-BPM Industry Roadmap 2028. It will be unveiled during the IBPAP's 14th International Innovation Summit on Sept. 27-29.

To achieve these targets, Mr. Madrid noted the importance of favorable government policies on incentives and remote work, more reliable digital infrastructure, talent development and improved ease of doing business.

"There has never been a more important time to address the mismatch of talent supply and demand. We are in a global war for talent," he said. "Our biggest challenge: upskilling and reskilling the existing workforce, and rebranding the Philippines to retain dominance as a provider of high-value digital services."

Mr. Madrid said they need partners in the telecommunication industry to build infrastructure to support the IT-BPM industry outside Metro Manila, where many companies are now keen on expanding.

July price growth for building materials slows

THE GROWTH in wholesale prices of building materials in Metro Manila slowed in July, amid increasing construction activity.

The wholesale price index for construction materials in the National Capital Region (NCR) eased to 8.7% year on year in July, from the almost 14-year high of 8.9% in June, preliminary data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed. This was higher than 2.3% in July 2021.

It was also the slowest rise in bulk prices in two months or since 8.3% in May.

Year to date, bulk prices of building materials have accelerated by 7.1%, faster than 2% in the same period a year ago.

Security Bank Corp. Chief Economist Robert Dan J. Rocas said the latest data confirm the recovery of the construction sector amid economic reopening.

"This means more demand for materials. The subsector has been one of the better performers in terms of employment generation, capital expansion and output year to date," he said in an e-mail.

Mr. Rocas said the slower price growth reflected the easing prices of imported materials in July.

"As such, costs to builders may be easing a bit," he said.

Wholesale prices of fuel and lubricants slowed to 41.3% in July from 48.4% a month earlier. Reinforcing and structural steel prices, likewise, slowed to 14.9% from 16.5% in June.

Other commodity groups that posted slower price growth were galvanized iron sheets (13% in July from 14.6% in June), PVC pipes (9.8% from 11.2%), electrical works (8.4% from 8.7%) and plywood (4.9% from 5.1%).

Building, SI/5