

FDI inflows slide 8% in September

Legend:

Banks' NPL ratio falls to 26-month low in Oct.

THE PHILIPPINE BANKING industry's bad loans fell for the eighth straight month in October, bringing the nonperforming loan (NPL) ratio to its lowest in 26 months, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed.

Based on BSP data, banks' gross NPL ratio dropped to 3.41% in October, from 4.42% a year ago

and 3.42% in September. The October bad loan ratio was or since 2.84% in August 2020. Soured loans declined 14.9% to P411.632 billion in October, from P483.98 billion a year earlier. This was also 0.7% lower than P414.606 billion in September.

Loans are considered nonperforming once they remain unpaid for at least 90 days after the due date. They are deemed as risk assets as borrowers are unlikely to settle these loans.

HOW MINIMUM WAGES COMPARED ACROSS REGIONS IN NOVEMBER (AFTER ACCOUNTING FOR INFLATION THAT MONTH)

This infographic compares the current minimum wages set by the country's Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board and the inflation-adjusted minimum wages as of November, based on latest data by the Philippine Statistics Authority. While the current minimum wages are determined at the regional level to account for factors such as companies' capacity to pay and costs of living, real wages are obtained after factoring in general price increases (i.e. inflation rates). Inflation-adjusted wages were 12.5%-19% lower in November than their respective current salaries.

Daily Minimum Wages (November 2022)

 To calculate real wages, the current (nominal) wage received by workers is divided against the latest regional consumer price index (CPI)

NOTES:

II CAGAYAN VALLEY

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) net inflows dropped by 8% in September, amid monetary tightening and a looming global economic slowdown.

Data released by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) on Monday showed FDI net inflows declined by 7.9% to \$626 million in September from \$680 in the same month in 2021. This was also 19.1% lower than the \$774-million FDI net inflows in August.

The September figure was the lowest monthly net inflow of FDI in two months, or since the \$502 million in July

the lowest in more than two years

NPL, S1/11

Foreign chambers urge Senate action on Open Access bill

THE JOINT Foreign Chambers (JFC) called for Senate action on the proposed Open Access in Data Transmission Act, which is aimed at improving internet service in the country.

The House of Representatives on Monday approved House Bill No. 6 or the Open Access bill on third and final reading.

"The members of the JFC expressed optimism that since the bill was approved early in the 19th Congress, the Senate will have enough time to deliberate and approve the measure, especially considering no less than the Senate President filed a counterpart to the Open Access bill filed by House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Jr.," the foreign chambers said in a statement.

The Open Access bill was also approved by the House in the 17th and 18th Congress, but failed to hurdle the Senate both times.

The measure seeks to promote fair and open competition by easing barriers to entry in the telecommunications industry. Senate, SI/II

Challengers sought for SMC's Nasugbu-Bauan project

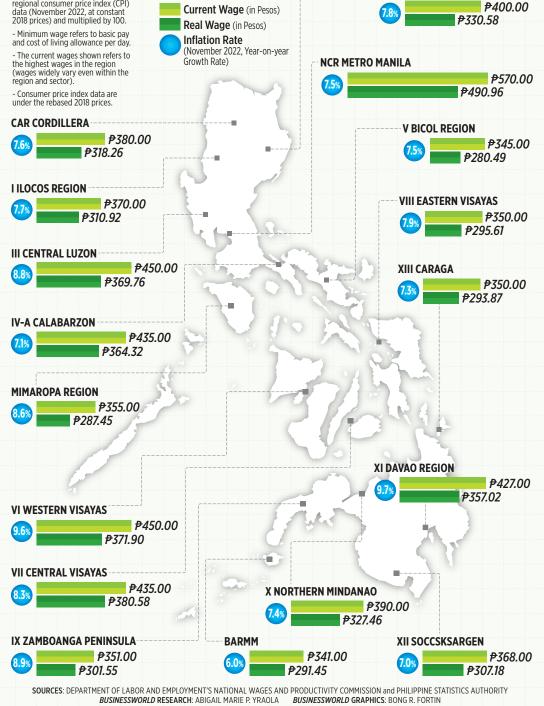
THE BATANGAS GOVERN-MENT is looking for challengers for San Miguel Holdings Corp.'s proposal to build a 60.90-kilometer toll road from Nasugbu to Bauan.

In a newspaper advisory, the provincial government called for the submission of comparative proposals for the Nasugbu-Bauan Expressway (NBEX) joint-venture project with San Miguel Holdings, a unit of San Miguel Corp. (SMC).

The Batangas Provincial Selection Committee completed negotiations with San Miguel Holdings, the original proponent for the NBEX project, on Oct. 6 as part of the competitive challenge process.

"Under the negotiated terms of the joint-venture agreement, the private sector proponent will finance, design, construct, supervise, operate and maintain [the toll road] for a concession period of 35 years," Batangas Provincial Selection Committee Chairperson Celia L. Atienza said in the advisory.





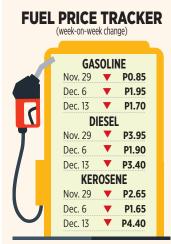
million in July.

"The decline in FDI net inflows reflected the decrease in non-residents' net investments in debt instruments, which more than offset the growth in their net equity capital placements," the central bank said in a statement.

BSP data showed non-residents' net investments in debt instruments of local affiliates fell by 36.8% to \$351 million in September, from \$555 million in the same month in 2021.

Meanwhile, investments in equity and investment fund shares more than doubled to \$276 million in September, from \$125 million a year ago.

Reinvestment of earnings also slipped by 4.8% year on year to \$88 million in September. *FDI, S1/11*



Dec. 13, 12:01 a.m. — Caltex Philippines
Dec. 13, 6 a.m. — Petron Corp.; Phoenix
Petroleum; Pilipinas Shell Petroleum
Corp.; PTT Philippines Corp.;
Seaoil Philippines, Inc.
Dec. 13, 8:01 a.m. — Cleanfuel (Shaw Autogas, Inc.)

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