

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEi 7110 6948 6786 6624 6462 6300 30 DAYS TO JANUARY 19, 2023 32.85 PTS. 0.46% VOL.: 1.868 B VAL(P): 7.027 B	JANUARY 19, 2023 CLOSURE NET % JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 26,405.23 ▼ -385.89 -1.44 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 21,650.98 ▼ -27.02 -0.12 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) * 14,932.93 ▲ 5.92 0.04 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,688.23 ▲ 2.79 0.17 S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 2,380.34 ▲ 12.02 0.51 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 3,275.24 ▼ -14.31 -0.44 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 7,435.30 ▲ 41.90 0.57 MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE) 1,496.22 ▲ 0.72 0.05 <small>* CLOSING PRICE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2023</small>	JANUARY 18, 2023 CLOSURE NET Dow Jones 33,296.960 ▼ -613.890 NASDAQ 10,957.013 ▼ -138.100 S&P 500 3,928.860 ▼ -62.110 FTSE 100 7,830.700 ▼ -20.330 Euro Stoxx50 3,915.110 ▲ 2.700	FX 54.50 55.02 55.54 56.06 56.58 57.10 1.00 CV 30 DAYS TO JANUARY 19, 2023 OPEN P54.700 HIGH P54.530 LOW P54.780 CLOSE P54.630 W.AVE. P54.688 VOL. \$1,249.60 M SOURCE : BAP	JANUARY 19, 2023 LATEST BID (0900GMT) PREVIOUS JAPAN (YEN) 128.320 129.740 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.829 7.826 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 30.353 30.326 THAILAND (BAHT) 33.010 32.920 S. KOREA (WON) 1,235.630 1,235.030 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.324 1.318 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 15,100 15,085 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.303 4.314	JANUARY 19, 2023 CLOSURE PREVIOUS US\$/UK POUND 1.2331 ▼ 1.2332 US\$/EURO 1.0816 ▼ 1.0846 \$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR 0.6888 ▼ 0.7018 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3511 ▼ 1.3365 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9161 ▲ 0.9150	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$83.70/BBL 84.50 81.20 77.90 74.60 71.30 68.00 30 DAYS TO JANUARY 18, 2023 \$1.21

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JANUARY 19, 2023 (PSEi snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)

BDO	SM	JFC	ICT	CNVRG	ACEN	TEL	DMC	ALI	SMPH
P122.700	P930.500	P248.000	P218.000	P19.020	P7.110	P1,485.000	P13.000	P32.000	P38.300
Value P655,951,067	Value P383,060,685	Value P333,484,562	Value P306,035,490	Value P304,000,598	Value P296,476,109	Value P268,350,190	Value P219,632,616	Value P201,468,525	Value P200,084,770
-P0.900 ▼ -0.728%	-P3.500 ▼ -0.375%	-P2.000 ▼ -0.800%	-P3.600 ▼ -1.625%	P0.020 ▲ 0.105%	P0.210 ▲ 3.043%	P5.000 ▲ 0.338%	P0.240 ▲ 1.881%	-P0.450 ▼ -1.387%	P0.000 — 0.000%

Philippines to stem 'recessionary forces'

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on Wednesday said the Philippines would resist global recessionary headwinds, but warned that increasing tensions in the South China Sea were harming trade.

In a speech at the World Economic Forum's (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, the president said he was bullish about the country's economic prospects.

"My belief is that as long as the unemployment rate stays low, we

will be able to resist recessionary forces," he said at the conference, which has been dominated by talk of an impending global recession brought on by rising food and energy prices.

Mr. Marcos said the upskilling of the country's labor force was powering economic growth, including remittances from migrant Filipino workers.

But increasing tensions in the South China Sea were affecting trade on all of the exchanges in the region, he said. "The future

of the region has to be decided by the region, not outside powers."

Mr. Marcos earlier said he expects the domestic economy to grow by about 7% this year, citing strong fundamentals, prudent fiscal management and reforms in key sectors that would cushion against risks from a potential global recession.

The government, which will announce its 2022 economic performance on Jan. 26, expects economic growth last year to have topped its 6.5% to 7.5% goal.

"Our strong macroeconomic fundamentals, fiscal discipline, structural reforms and liberalization of key sectors instituted over the years have enabled us to withstand the negative shocks caused by the pandemic and succeeding economic downturns, and map a route toward a strong recovery," Mr. Marcos said, based on a statement from the presidential palace.

Pent-up domestic demand after the removal of pandemic restrictions propped up economic growth last year and will continue

supporting consumer spending this year, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Felipe M. Medalla said on Jan. 10.

"Our actual projection is 6.5% [for 2023] but there are signs that we might be able to surpass that," Mr. Marcos said in Davos, where he also presented a still unapproved sovereign wealth fund bill to potential investors.

He said they were mainly introducing the idea. "We want people to be aware that this is in the pipeline. This is something

that we can look forward to, and that we will be able to utilize for the continuing development in the Philippines."

The Philippines is grappling with soaring prices of onions, widely used in many local dishes, and prompting the government to approve emergency imports.

Mr. Marcos said prices had started to come down thanks to the imports, but in the long term there was no getting around the need to increase production.

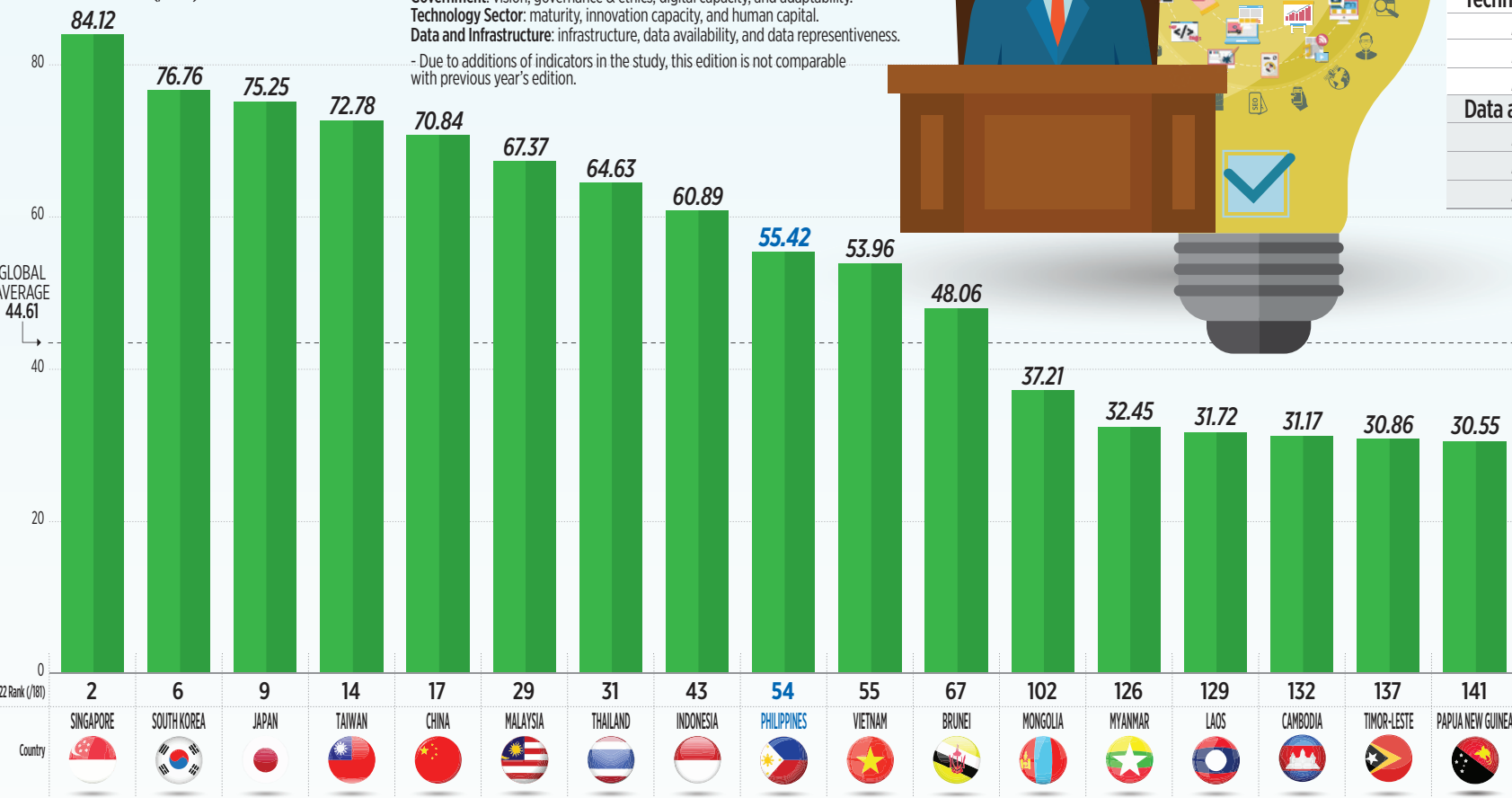
Recessionary, S1/8

HOW THE PHILIPPINES COMPARES IN GOVERNMENT AI READINESS

The Philippines ranked 54th out of 181 countries in the 2022 Government AI Readiness Index by Oxford Insights. It scored 55.42 out of possible 100, above the 44.61 global average score. Among its 17 peers in the East Asia, the Philippines placed ninth.

East Asia's Government AI Readiness Index Scores

2022 Overall Score (/100)



NOTES:
 - The index measures a country's readiness in using artificial intelligence (AI) in public services. The following are the pillars and dimensions of the index:
Government: vision, governance & ethics, digital capacity, and adaptability.
Technology Sector: maturity, innovation capacity, and human capital.
Data and Infrastructure: infrastructure, data availability, and data representativeness.
 - Due to additions of indicators in the study, this edition is not comparable with previous year's edition.

Philippines' Pillar and Dimension Scores (2022)

	(/100)
Overall Score	55.42
Government	65.02
Vision	100.00
Governance and Ethics	53.68
Digital Capacity	58.39
Adaptability	48.02
Technology Sector	36.33
Maturity	26.44
Innovation Capacity	40.21
Human Capital	42.34
Data and Infrastructure	64.90
Infrastructure	69.52
Data Availability	58.68
Data Representativeness	66.48

Top 5

2022 Rank (/181)	Country	2022 Overall Score (/100)
1	United States of America	85.72
2	Singapore	84.12
3	United Kingdom	78.54
4	Finland	77.59
5	Canada	77.39

Bottom 5

2022 Rank (/181)	Country	2022 Overall Score (/100)
181	Afghanistan	13.46
180	Syria	16.04
179	Yemen	17.32
178	Haiti	18.61
177	South Sudan	19.45

SOURCE: OXFORD INSIGHTS' GOVERNMENT AI READINESS INDEX 2022 (HTTPS://WWW.oxfordinsights.com/s/government-ai-readiness-2022-rv.pdf)
 BUSINESSWORLD RESEARCH: ANA OLIVIA A. TIRONA
 BUSINESSWORLD GRAPHICS: BONG R. FORTIN

2022 balance of payment deficit hits record \$7.3B

By Keisha B. Ta-asan Reporter

THE PHILIPPINES posted a \$612-million balance of payment (BoP) surplus in December, bringing the full-year level to a record deficit of \$7.3 billion.

The full-year gap was a reversal of the \$1.3-billion surplus in 2021, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said in a statement on Thursday.

"This cumulative BoP deficit was due to the widening trade in goods deficit as goods imports continued to surpass goods exports on the back of the increase in international commodity prices and resumption in domestic economic activities," it said.

The BoP gives a glimpse into the country's transactions with the rest of the world. A deficit means more funds left the country, while a surplus shows that more money came in.

Gross international reserves rose to \$96.1 billion at the end of December from \$95.1 billion a month earlier.

The end-2022 reserves represented "a more than adequate external liquidity buffer" equivalent to 7.3 months' worth of imports and payments of services and primary income," the BSP said. The level was 5.9 times the country's short-term external debt based on original maturity and 3.9 times based on residual maturity.

The central bank attributed the BoP surplus in December, which was lower than the \$991-million surplus a year earlier and a turnaround from the \$756-million gap a month earlier, to inflows from its net foreign exchange operations and net income from its investments overseas. The narrower trade deficit and the state's global bond sale had led to last month's surplus, Michael L. Ricafort, chief economist at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. said in an e-mail.

Merchandise imports slid by 1.9% to \$10.78 billion in November from a year earlier, while exports jumped by 13.2% to \$7.10 billion, according to data from the local statistics agency.

Deficit, S1/8

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Marcos gets pledges in Davos but investment analysts unimpressed

By Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza Reporter

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has secured investment commitments from at least two foreign companies during his trip to Switzerland, according to the presidential palace.

But investment analysts were unimpressed, saying these commitments were insignificant and could be had without a foreign trip.

New York-based investment firm Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC would set up an office in Manila to support the government's development agenda, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said in a statement on Thursday.

Gokul Laroia, Morgan Stanley chairman for the Asia-Pacific region, made the commitment during a meeting with Mr. Marcos on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, it said.

He expressed interest in a still unapproved sovereign wealth fund bill that Mr. Marcos pitched in Davos, noting that it could boost investments in the infrastructure sector, according to the palace.

"Investment pledges are always good, but until we actually see these pledges on the ground and start to get implemented, only then can we realize and reap real benefits," Ruben Carlo O. Asuncion, chief economist at UnionBank of the Philippines, Inc., said in a Viber message.

Mr. Marcos had also secured a commitment from Emirati logistics company DP World, which is already operating in the Philippines, the palace said. The company seeks to set up an industrial park in Clarkfield, Pampanga province north of the Philippine capital.

"We are committed to investing in the Philippines. We're committed to expand," Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem had told the president on the sidelines of the Davos conference, Malacañang said. "We're interested in the Philippines, in industrial parks."

Mr. Sulayem said DP World, which moves 10% of the global trade and serves at least 69 countries, could add value to the Philippine supply chain, noting that sea transportation is the cheapest means of moving cargo, according to the statement.

Outdated ports continue to be a problem for the archipelagic nation.

Mr. Marcos told Mr. Sulayem the government would decide on possible sites for DP World's expansion.

"If it's viable and those areas are actually useful for your operation, then that would be something that we can immediately develop," Mr. Marcos said, adding that he prefers public-private partnerships for infrastructure development.

The Philippines, he added, had been "slowly improving" the ease of doing business for companies. "I say slow because it's never fast enough, but at least I think we can already see some progress on that."

Davos, S1/8