

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 26, 2023 38.66 PTS. 0.54% CLOSE: 7,088.14 HIGH: 7,101.84 LOW: 7,042.70 CLOSE: 7,042.70 VOL.: 1.337 B VAL(P): 5.112 B	JANUARY 26, 2023 JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 27,362.75 ▼ -32.26 -0.12 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 22,566.78 ▲ 522.13 2.37 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) HOLIDAY THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,670.22 ▼ -11.89 -0.71 S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 2,468.65 ▲ 40.08 1.60 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 3,378.31 ▲ 25.54 0.76 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES)* 7,468.30 ▼ -22.10 -0.30 MALAYSIA (KLSX COMPOSITE) 1,498.39 ▼ -1.06 -0.07 <small>* CLOSING PRICE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2023</small>	JANUARY 25, 2023 DOW JONES 33,743.840 ▲ 9.880 NASDAQ 11,313.357 ▼ -20.915 S&P 500 4,016.220 ▼ -0.730 FTSE 100 7,744.870 ▼ -12.490 EURO STOXX50 3,860.980 ▼ -3.590	FX 54.30 54.82 55.34 55.86 56.38 56.90 23.00 CTS 30 DAYS TO JANUARY 26, 2023 SOURCE : BAP OPEN P54.500 HIGH P54.390 LOW P54.580 CLOSE P54.400 W.AVE. P54.482 VOL. \$730.00 M	JANUARY 26, 2023 LATEST BID (0900GMT) JAPAN (YEN) 129.920 ▲ 130.030 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.830 ▲ 7.833 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 30.241 ▲ 30.242 THAILAND (BAHT) 32.720 ▲ 32.830 S. KOREA (WON) 1,232.680 ▲ 1,233.080 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.312 ▲ 1.316 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 14,945 ▲ 14,960 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.243 ▲ 4.261	JANUARY 26, 2023 CLOSE PREVIOUS US\$/UK POUND 1.2385 ▲ 1.2322 US\$/EURO 1.0907 ▲ 1.0877 \$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR 0.7102 ▲ 0.7095 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3401 ▲ 1.3364 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9184 ▼ 0.9234	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$83.50/BBL 84.50 81.20 77.90 74.60 71.30 68.00 \$0.34 30 DAYS TO JANUARY 25, 2023

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JANUARY 26, 2023 (PSEi snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)																			
GTCAP	P525.000	BDO	P122.000	FCG	P0.940	ACEN	P7.400	AC	P748.000	ALI	P32.650	ICT	P211.000	JGS	P56.900	SM	P942.000	SMPH	P37.800
Value	P609,578,615	Value	P374,101,872	Value	P366,855,580	Value	P166,364,681	Value	P162,410,740	Value	P156,591,525	Value	P148,859,302	Value	P138,987,459	Value	P135,335,770	Value	P113,374,140
P14.000	▲ 2.740%	P0.000	— 0.000%	P0.050	▲ 5.618%	-P0.100	▼ -1.333%	-P1.000	▼ -0.134%	-P0.150	▼ -0.457%	-P5.600	▼ -2.585%	P0.400	▲ 0.708%	-P3.000	▼ -0.317%	P0.000	— 0.000%

Philippine growth best since 1976

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jacson Reporter

THE PHILIPPINES weathered record inflation and interest rate increases last year by posting the fastest economic growth since 1976 — one of the strongest in Asia amid a dreary global outlook. Economic output grew by 7.2% in the three months through December from a year earlier, according to the local statistics agency, bringing the full-year expansion to 7.6%. This was better than the 7.5% estimate by economists in a *BusinessWorld* poll.

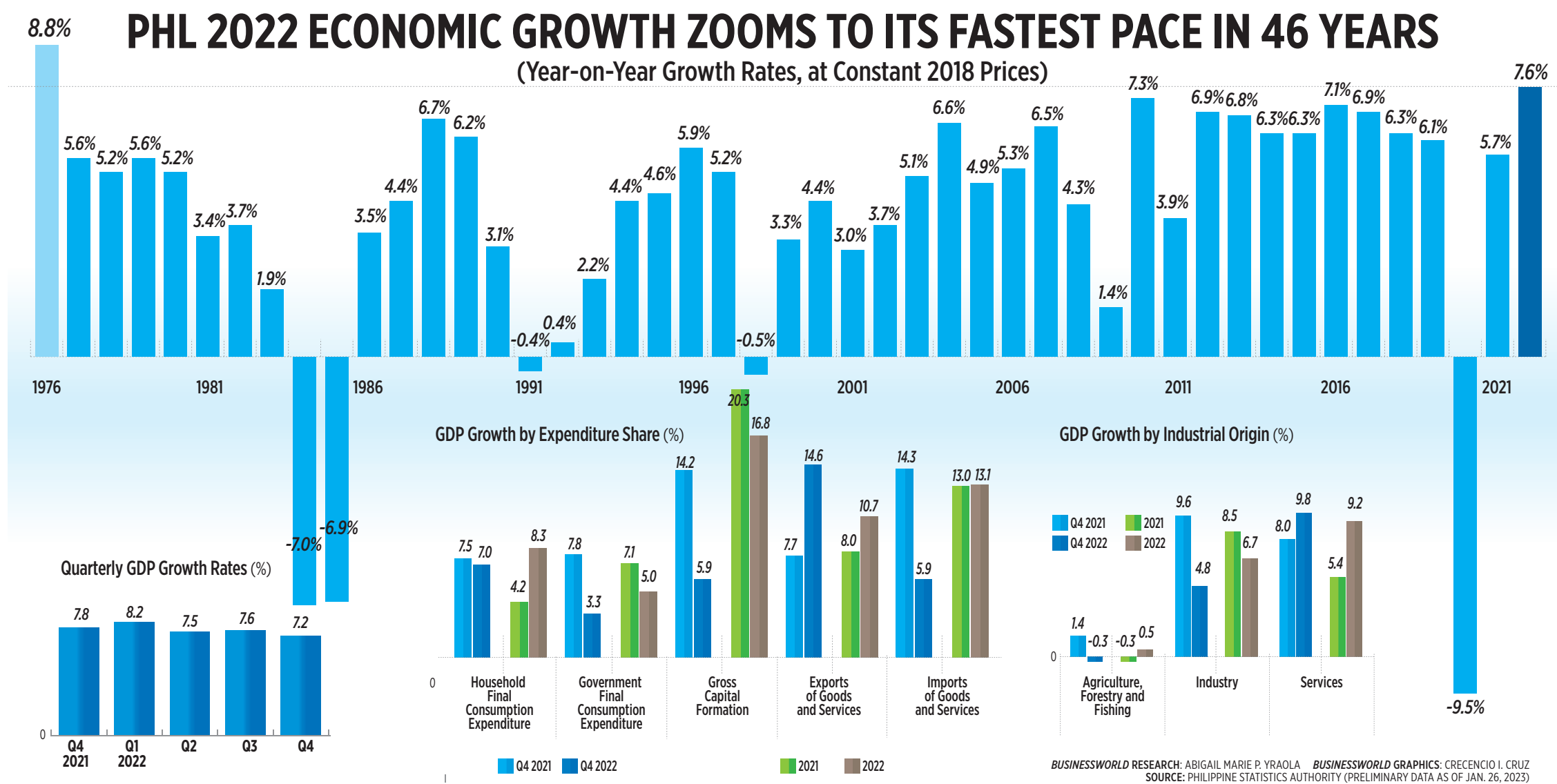
Services and consumption boosted the economy last year as more businesses were allowed to fully reopen amid falling coronavirus infections. The government expects the economy to continue growing, National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan told a news briefing on Thursday. Philippine stocks fell by 0.54% or 38.66 points to close at 7,042.70, while the peso ended at P54.40 a dollar — the strongest in more than seven months. “Our robust performance in the fourth quarter reflected strong domestic demand, with three-fourths contributed by

household consumption and almost a fifth by investment,” Mr. Balisacan said. Improving labor market conditions, increased tourism, “revenge” and holiday spending, and face-to-face classes bolstered growth last quarter, “further reflecting a solid rebound in consumer and investor confidence in the economy,” he added. The country’s 2022 economic performance exceeded the government’s 6.5-7.5% goal and was faster than the 5.7% growth a year earlier. It was the quickest growth since 8.8% in 1976, according to government data. Among Asian countries that released fourth-quarter gross

domestic product (GDP) growth, the Philippines grew the fastest, followed by Vietnam at 5.9% and China at 2.9%, Mr. Balisacan said. On a seasonally adjusted quarterly basis, GDP grew by 2.4% — slower than 2.9% in the third quarter. Inflation was one of the major challenges the economy faced last year, Mr. Balisacan said. “If not for the relatively high inflation and high prices, growth could have been higher by another one to two percentage points.” Inflation quickened to a 14-year high of 8.1% in December, bringing the full-year average to 5.8%, which was also a 14-year

record. December also marked the ninth month in a row that inflation breached the central bank’s 2-4% target. Mr. Balisacan said the country faced supply chain disruptions, while the agriculture sector was battered by typhoons and animal diseases. “There are shortages both in the local economy and global market that led to an unprecedented increase in prices in agricultural products.” But domestic consumption remained strong as the economy reopened. It expanded by 7% in the fourth quarter, slightly slower than 8% in the third quarter and 7.5% a year earlier. For the full year, household consump-

tion rose by 8.3% from a year earlier. Restaurant and hotel spending contributed the most to household expenditures, having gone up by 24.7% last quarter, National Statistician Dennis S. Mapa told the same briefing. “We saw in the fourth quarter a lot of Filipinos traveling, so more food was consumed outside the household.” Government spending also rose by 3.3%, better than 0.8% in the third quarter but slower than 7.8% a year earlier. For the full year, state spending growth eased to 5% from 7.1% a year earlier. *Growth, S1/8*



December trade gap widens; full-year deficit hits record

THE PHILIPPINE trade deficit widened in December from the previous month after exports declined to the lowest in more than two years, while imports continued to fall for the second straight month, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said on Thursday. This brought the 2022 trade balance to a record \$58.32-billion deficit, higher than the \$42.23-billion gap a year earlier. The value of merchandise exports fell by 9.7% year on year to \$5.67 billion in December from a year earlier, ending three straight months of growth. Last month’s export decline was a reversal from 13.2% growth in November and 7.3% advance a year ago. It was also the sharpest drop in more than two years. By value, December exports were the lowest since February 2021. Merchandise imports also declined for the second straight month by 9.9% to \$10.26 billion in December, the steepest in 23 months. It

was worse than the 1.6% fall a month earlier and a turnaround from 37.2% growth a year earlier. Import value that month was the lowest in 10 months. This brought the trade-in-goods deficit — the difference between the value of exports and imports — to \$4.6 billion in December, narrower than the \$5.12-billion gap a year earlier. On a monthly basis, last month’s trade gap widened from November’s \$3.71 billion. Total trade — the sum of exports and imports — also fell by 9.9% to \$15.93 billion in December from a year earlier. It was the first decline since January 2021 and the sharpest since October 2020. Trade value was the lowest in 19 months. For 2022, exports rose by 5.6% to \$78.84 billion from a year earlier, while imports grew by 17.3% to \$137.16 billion. Export growth was better than the state’s 4% growth estimate, while import growth was below its 20% goal. *Trade gap, S1/10*

BUSINESSWORLD B-SIDE

Butt lifts, beauty standards, body dysmorphia

KYLIE JENNER has a face that launched a thousand luscious lips and her sister Kim Kardashian has a behind that launched a thousand Brazilian butt lifts. In this B-Side episode, Dr. Patrick Hsu, the plastic surgeon responsible for Filipino actress Michelle Madrigal’s breast implant removal, talks to *BusinessWorld* reporter Patricia B. Mirasol about the evolving standards of beauty in the age of Instagram. Recorded remotely in August 2022. >>> <https://spoti.fi/3XAFKQL>

Report cites overcrowded Philippine oil market

PHILIPPINE DEMAND for oil would probably grow at an average 3.4% between 2022 and 2031, according to Fitch Solutions Country Risk and Industry Research, citing the country’s overcrowded market. “Net imports are anticipated to grow at around 3.5%, more or less closely in line with demand growth,” it said in a report dated Jan. 25. Oil product imports are expected to hit 78% of total fuel consumption this year amid a relatively strong recovery in oil demand since 2021, it added. The country’s “relatively small oil market” has dampened industry profitability, demand and growth, Fitch Solutions said. “The Philippines’ demand for oil products has not been growing fast in spite of a growing economy and population,” it said. “Oil product demand stayed relatively at around 450,000 barrels per day (bpd) for the past years, growing by an annual average rate of 3.3% between 2010 and 2021.” Potential demand growth for transport fuel such as gasoline and diesel has been hampered by the higher ratio of motorbikes compared with cars. Oil demand growth has also been hindered by the increasing use of biofuels, it added.

The Philippine oil market is overcrowded, with many players involved in oil distribution and trade, according to the report. There were 167 fuel importers and 157 bulk distributors in the Philippines at the end of 2021, according to the Department of Energy (DOE), Fitch Solutions said, citing Energy department data. “Refiners faced increased competition from industry players in wholesale and retail markets where they are free to set oil product prices and sales of smuggled fuels is rampant.” It also cited the country’s fragmented oil market, with more importers, wholesale and retail players. “Companies like Phoenix, Unioil, Insular and Seoail are gaining market shares, far outpacing legacy players like Chevron,” according to the report. In 2021, about 61% of the oil market was controlled by a fragmented group of importers and end-users, with the remaining market share held by Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron Philippines, Inc. it added. “In light of refining capacity losses, the long-term security of supply has become a growing concern for the government as it seeks to build strategic petroleum reserves for oil emergency use,” Fitch Solutions said. *Oil, S1/10*