



\$1/1-10 • 2 SECTIONS, 14 PAGES



P900.000 P1,355.000 **BLOOM** P8.050 **ACEN** P7.990 P35.050 ALI **BDO** P107.900 **ICT** P198.000 P30.400 P98.000 MONDE P11.920 Value Value P181,304,840 Value Value P222,050,662 P208,335,860 Value P208,143,570 P150,297,826 P146,093,239 Value P120,299,780 P117,272,320 Value P104,316,828 P102,429,800 -P2.000 ▼ -1.000% P0.000 **— 0.000**% P38.000 **A** 2.885% P0.400 P0.370 -P0.400 ▼ -1.299% 5.229% 4.856% -P0.450 ▼ -1.268% -P4.000

WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 4, 2023 • www.bworldonline.com

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JANUARY 3, 2023 (PSEi snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)

Factory activity hits 6-month high

NG debt inches up to P13.6T as of end-Nov.

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. **Jocson** Reporter

VOL. XXXVI • ISSUE 115

THE NATIONAL Government's (NG) outstanding debt inched up to another record high of P13.644 trillion as of end-November, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the BTr said the end-November debt was only up by 0.02% or P3.15 billion from the end-October level of P13.641 trillion, "primarily due to the effect of local currency appreciation against the US dollar on foreign currency loans."

Year on year, the debt stock rose by 14.35% from P11.93 trillion.

The NG debt also jumped by 16.33% from the P11.73 trillion seen at end-December 2021.

At end-November, almost three-fourths or 69.1% of the total

outstanding debt came from domestic borrowings while the rest was sourced from foreign creditors.

Domestic debt increased by 11.69% to P9.43 trillion from P8.44 trillion a year ago. Month on month, it inched up by 0.78% from the P9.36 trillion in October.

"For November, the net issuance of government securities added P75.76 billion while peso appreciation trimmed P3.03 billion from the debt stock," the BTr said.

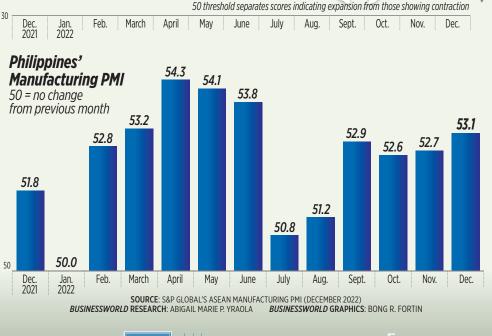
The peso continued to strengthen against the US dollar in November. It hit a record-low close of P59 per dollar on Oct. 17.

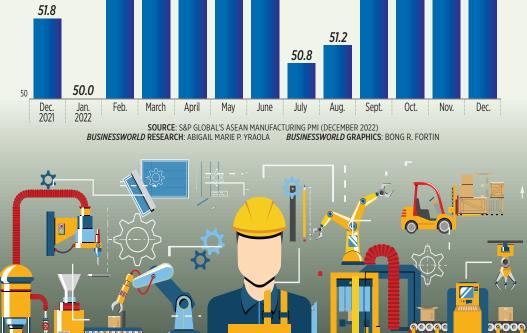
As of end-November, the local currency appreciated by 2.5% to P56.598 against the dollar from the P58.047 at end-October, based on figures from the BTr.

Year to date, domestic debt climbed by 15.39% from P8.17 trillion at end-December 2021.

MANUFACTURING PURCHASING MANAGERS' INDEX (PMI) OF SELECT ASEAN ECONOMIES, DECEMBER 2022







FACTORY ACTIVITY in the Philippines continued to expand in December, hitting a six-month high thanks to a rise in production and new orders, a survey by S&P Global showed on Tuesday.

The S&P Global Philippines Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) jumped to a six-month high of 53.1 in December, from 52.7 in November, indicating a "solid improvement in the health of the Filipino manufacturing sector."

December also marked the 11^{th} straight month of expansion for manufacturing activity.

"The latest PMI data signaled sustained growth across the Filipino manufacturing sector. The release of pent-up demand because of the CO-VID pandemic continued to help the recovery of the manufacturing sector this year. The latest upturns in output and new orders were stronger than the survey averages," Maryam Baluch, economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said in a report.

A PMI reading above 50 denotes improvement in operating conditions compared with the preceding month, while a reading below 50 signals deterioration.

The headline PMI measures manufacturing conditions through the weighted average of five indices: new orders (30%), output (25%), employment (20%), suppliers' delivery times (15%) and stocks of purchases (10%).

Based on the available PMI reports, the Philippines had the highest reading among some of its Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) neighbors for the month.

Indonesia had the second-highest PMI reading with 50.9. On the other hand, Malaysia (47.8), Vietnam (46.4), and Myanmar (42.1) all recorded contractions in December. PMI data for Thailand has not been released.

In the Philippines, S&P Global reported that both production and new orders expanded for a fourth consecutive month.

"A solid expansion in production levels was reported during December. The rate of growth quickened in the month, indicating the fastest rise in output levels since June," it said.

New orders also entered its fourth straight month of expansion as demand conditions remained robust for Philippine-manufactured goods.

However, S&P Global noted that domestic demand drove new orders, while foreign orders shrank for a 10th month in a row.

Philippine firms started hiring new workers again in December.

"Increasing business requirements resulted in firms resuming hiring activity in December, following the first fall in headcounts in eight months during November. While the return to growth was clearly a positive indication of improvement across the Filipino manufacturing sector, the rate of job creation was only fractional overall," S&P Global said.

Factory, S1/9

IMF says carbon pricing may raise \$7-B revenues

THE IMPLEMENTATION of carbon pricing in the Philippines revenues by 2030, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said.

In a report, the IMF said the Philippines will need to implement carbon pricing to achieve a "substantial reduction in emissions."

The Philippines has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030 under the Paris Climate Change agreement.

Ideally, carbon pricing would be the centerpiece of the Philippines' mitigation strategy, as it promotes reduced energy use and a shift towards cleaner energy sources, the IMF said.

The Philippines could start at \$20 per ton in 2023, and increase \$4.30 a year to hit \$50 per ton by 2030, it added.

"The policy could either represent a carbon tax, which would add a charge in proportion to carbon content to existing fuel excises and apply similar carbon charges to other fuels. Or it could represent an ETS (emissions trading system) which is imposed on top of existing fuel taxes, encompassing firms in the power and industry sectors and suppliers of fuels for other sectors," the IMF said.

"A \$50 (around P2,800) carbon price (per ton) could potentially could raise around \$7 billion in raise revenues of 1.05% of GDP (\$7 billion) in 2030 (accounting for the base erosion of pre-exist ing fuel taxes). About 44% and 37% of the revenue would come from new charges on road fuels and coal respectively," it added.

> At this carbon price, the IMF said carbon dioxide emissions would be reduced to 144 million tons or 13% below the baseline levels, with half of the reductions coming from the power sector.

> "Indeed, the reform would raise the renewable share in electricity generation to more than 40% in 2030 — well above the authorities' current target of 30% and the current renewable share of 21%," it added.

Between 2023 and 2030, the IMF said this policy could potentially save 10,400 fatalities from exposure to local air pollution. About half of the averted death rate are Filipinos over 65 years old.

"Overall, carbon taxes have significant practical, environmental, and economic advantages due to ease of administration, price certainty which promotes investment, the potential to raise significant revenues, and coverage of broader emissions sources," it added.

Carbon pricing, S1/9

OUTLOOK 2023

Companies are going green. Now customers have to follow their lead.

By Joseph L. Garcia

WITH CLIMATE CHANGE and pollution changing the planet as we speak, it has become an imperative for people to change the way they live and consume.

Companies that provide these goods and services have adopted more conscious efforts to help preserve the planet. As an example, global beauty conglomerate L'Oreal has reported a

24% reduction in carbon emissions linked to the transport of products in their 2013-2020 Sustainability Commitment Closing Report.

In an interview, L'Oreal Philippines Country Managing Director Yannick Raynaud said a launch was once delayed after products had to be shipped over sea, instead of through air freight as part of efforts to reduce the company's carbon emissions. "It's really significantly higher in terms of CO2 emissions," said Ms. Raynaud of

On a smaller scale, L'Oreal Philippines has committed to using zero plastic in their packaging for orders shipped through online shopping platforms Shopee and Lazada, and through social network Tiktok. "We fight against plastic." she said in an interview on Dec. 9.

To show their seriousness in the matter, she noted the new packaging from skincare brand La Roche Posav uses carton on the outside, with a thin layer of plastic on the inside. The product's cap has been redesigned to use less plastic. Over at Kiehl's, she said that some

products are sold as refills so customers can reuse their containers.

"It's a benefit for the planet, but also for your wallet. It's less expensive. It's a win-win, right?"

L'Oreal has since committed to using 100% biobased ingredients for their formulas by 2030. According to the company's 2021 Annual Report, L'Oreal said it has already achieved 94% of this goal.

The company committed to rejecting animal testing in 1989, 14 years before regulations against the practice came to pass. "The foray of L'Oreal into sustain-

ability started more than 15 years ago, when it was not really in fashion," Ms. Raynaud added.

More than the products themselves, the company has also adopted more sustainable measures internally. Ms. Raynaud said that she refused two carpet samples when they were changing carpets at the office, since the samples shown to her were not up-cyclable nor recyclable.

"It's a mantra for everything we do: in our products, in our brand, but also in how we act." she said.

SM TURNS OVER A GREEN LEAF

Meanwhile, the country's biggest mall operator SM Prime Holdings, Inc., under SM Investments Corp., has also turned over a green leaf.

Early in 2022, they released a line called SM Green Finds, which showed off products made with renewable materials. This was presented at SM Retail, Inc.'s new headquarters which features green facilities such as energy-saving glass, centralized air, lighting automation, and water recycling capabilities.

Green, S1/9