

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL																																																																																															
PSEi OPEN: 6,525.75 HIGH: 6,525.75 LOW: 6,393.33 CLOSE: 6,393.33 VOL.: 0.968 B VAL(P): 6.776 B 151.12 pts, 2.3% 30 DAYS TO MARCH 14, 2023	MARCH 14, 2023 <table border="1"> <tr><th>CLOSE</th><th>NET</th><th>%</th></tr> <tr><td>JAPAN (NIKKEI 225)</td><td>27,222.04</td><td>-610.92</td><td>-2.19</td></tr> <tr><td>HONG KONG (HANG SENG)</td><td>19,247.96</td><td>-448.01</td><td>-2.27</td></tr> <tr><td>TAIWAN (WEIGHTED)</td><td>15,360.42</td><td>-200.07</td><td>-1.29</td></tr> <tr><td>THAILAND (SET INDEX)</td><td>1,524.34</td><td>-48.73</td><td>-3.10</td></tr> <tr><td>S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE)</td><td>2,348.97</td><td>-61.63</td><td>-2.56</td></tr> <tr><td>SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES)</td><td>3,132.35</td><td>-0.02</td><td>0.00</td></tr> <tr><td>SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES)</td><td>7,008.90</td><td>-99.90</td><td>-1.41</td></tr> <tr><td>MALAYSIA (KLSX COMPOSITE)</td><td>1,393.83</td><td>-28.00</td><td>-1.97</td></tr> </table>	CLOSE	NET	%	JAPAN (NIKKEI 225)	27,222.04	-610.92	-2.19	HONG KONG (HANG SENG)	19,247.96	-448.01	-2.27	TAIWAN (WEIGHTED)	15,360.42	-200.07	-1.29	THAILAND (SET INDEX)	1,524.34	-48.73	-3.10	S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE)	2,348.97	-61.63	-2.56	SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES)	3,132.35	-0.02	0.00	SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES)	7,008.90	-99.90	-1.41	MALAYSIA (KLSX COMPOSITE)	1,393.83	-28.00	-1.97	MARCH 13, 2023 <table border="1"> <tr><th>CLOSE</th><th>NET</th></tr> <tr><td>Dow Jones</td><td>31,819.140</td><td>-90.500</td></tr> <tr><td>NASDAQ</td><td>11,188.843</td><td>49.955</td></tr> <tr><td>S&P 500</td><td>3,855.760</td><td>-5.830</td></tr> <tr><td>FTSE 100</td><td>7,548.630</td><td>-199.720</td></tr> <tr><td>Euro Stoxx50</td><td>3,773.00</td><td>-81.510</td></tr> </table>	CLOSE	NET	Dow Jones	31,819.140	-90.500	NASDAQ	11,188.843	49.955	S&P 500	3,855.760	-5.830	FTSE 100	7,548.630	-199.720	Euro Stoxx50	3,773.00	-81.510	FX OPEN P55.050 HIGH P54.880 LOW P55.140 CLOSE P55.080 W.AVE. P55.025 VOL. \$1,127.40 M SOURCE: BAP 15.00 ctyx 30 DAYS TO MARCH 14, 2023	MARCH 14, 2023 <table border="1"> <tr><th>LATEST BID (0900GMT)</th><th>PREVIOUS</th></tr> <tr><td>JAPAN (YEN)</td><td>134.030</td><td>133.510</td></tr> <tr><td>HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR)</td><td>7.846</td><td>7.848</td></tr> <tr><td>TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR)</td><td>30.523</td><td>30.662</td></tr> <tr><td>THAILAND (BAHT)</td><td>34.500</td><td>34.590</td></tr> <tr><td>S. KOREA (WON)</td><td>1,309.260</td><td>1,305.550</td></tr> <tr><td>SINGAPORE (DOLLAR)</td><td>1.348</td><td>1.347</td></tr> <tr><td>INDONESIA (RUPIAH)</td><td>15,380</td><td>15,360</td></tr> <tr><td>MALAYSIA (RINGGIT)</td><td>4.478</td><td>4.480</td></tr> </table>	LATEST BID (0900GMT)	PREVIOUS	JAPAN (YEN)	134.030	133.510	HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR)	7.846	7.848	TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR)	30.523	30.662	THAILAND (BAHT)	34.500	34.590	S. KOREA (WON)	1,309.260	1,305.550	SINGAPORE (DOLLAR)	1.348	1.347	INDONESIA (RUPIAH)	15,380	15,360	MALAYSIA (RINGGIT)	4.478	4.480	MARCH 14, 2023 <table border="1"> <tr><th>CLOSE</th><th>PREVIOUS</th></tr> <tr><td>US\$/UK POUND</td><td>1.2152</td><td>1.2081</td></tr> <tr><td>US\$/EURO</td><td>1.0702</td><td>1.0672</td></tr> <tr><td>\$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR</td><td>0.6650</td><td>0.6634</td></tr> <tr><td>CANADA DOLLAR/US\$</td><td>1.3738</td><td>1.3761</td></tr> <tr><td>SWISS FRANC/US\$</td><td>0.9124</td><td>0.9137</td></tr> </table>	CLOSE	PREVIOUS	US\$/UK POUND	1.2152	1.2081	US\$/EURO	1.0702	1.0672	\$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.6650	0.6634	CANADA DOLLAR/US\$	1.3738	1.3761	SWISS FRANC/US\$	0.9124	0.9137	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$82.31/BBL 30 DAYS TO MARCH 13, 2023
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S1/1-12 • 2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • MARCH 14, 2023 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)

ALI	P26.300	ICT	P199.900	BDO	P119.400	SM	P34.400	MBT	P57.000	SM	P860.000	GLO	P1,777.000	BPI	P103.800	MER	P303.000	FB	P52.950
Value	P750,752,640	Value	P661,580,731	Value	P591,216,257	Value	P366,504,355	Value	P263,418,348	Value	P254,186,995	Value	P199,083,270	Value	P195,037,737	Value	P174,877,278	Value	P170,570,838
	-P0.050		-P7.500		-P2.600		-P1.300		-P2.400		-P15.000		-P23.000		-P1.300		-P14.800		-P0.550
	-0.190%		-3.616%		-2.131%		-3.641%		-4.040%		-1.714%		-1.278%		-1.237%		-4.657%		-1.028%

Trade gap balloons to \$5.74B in Jan.

By Bernadette Therese M. Gadon
Researcher

THE PHILIPPINES' trade-in-goods deficit widened to a five-month high in January as exports posted their steepest drop in over two years, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported on Tuesday.

Preliminary data from the PSA showed the trade gap — the difference in value between exports and imports — ballooned to \$5.74 billion in January from the \$4.50-billion deficit in December and the \$4.51-billion gap in January last year.

This was also the biggest deficit since the record monthly deficit of \$6.02 billion in August 2022.

PSA data showed the value of merchandise exports fell by 13.5% year on year to \$5.23 billion in January, lower than the revised 7.7% in December, and a reversal from the 8.9% growth recorded in January last year.

January also marked the sharpest decline in exports in 32 months or since the 26.7% decline in May 2020, at the height of the pandemic. By value, it was also the lowest since the \$4.54 billion recorded in May 2020.

Meanwhile, merchandise imports grew by 3.9% annually to \$10.97 billion in January, a turnaround from the revised 9.6% decline in December and much slower than the 25.3% growth in January last year.

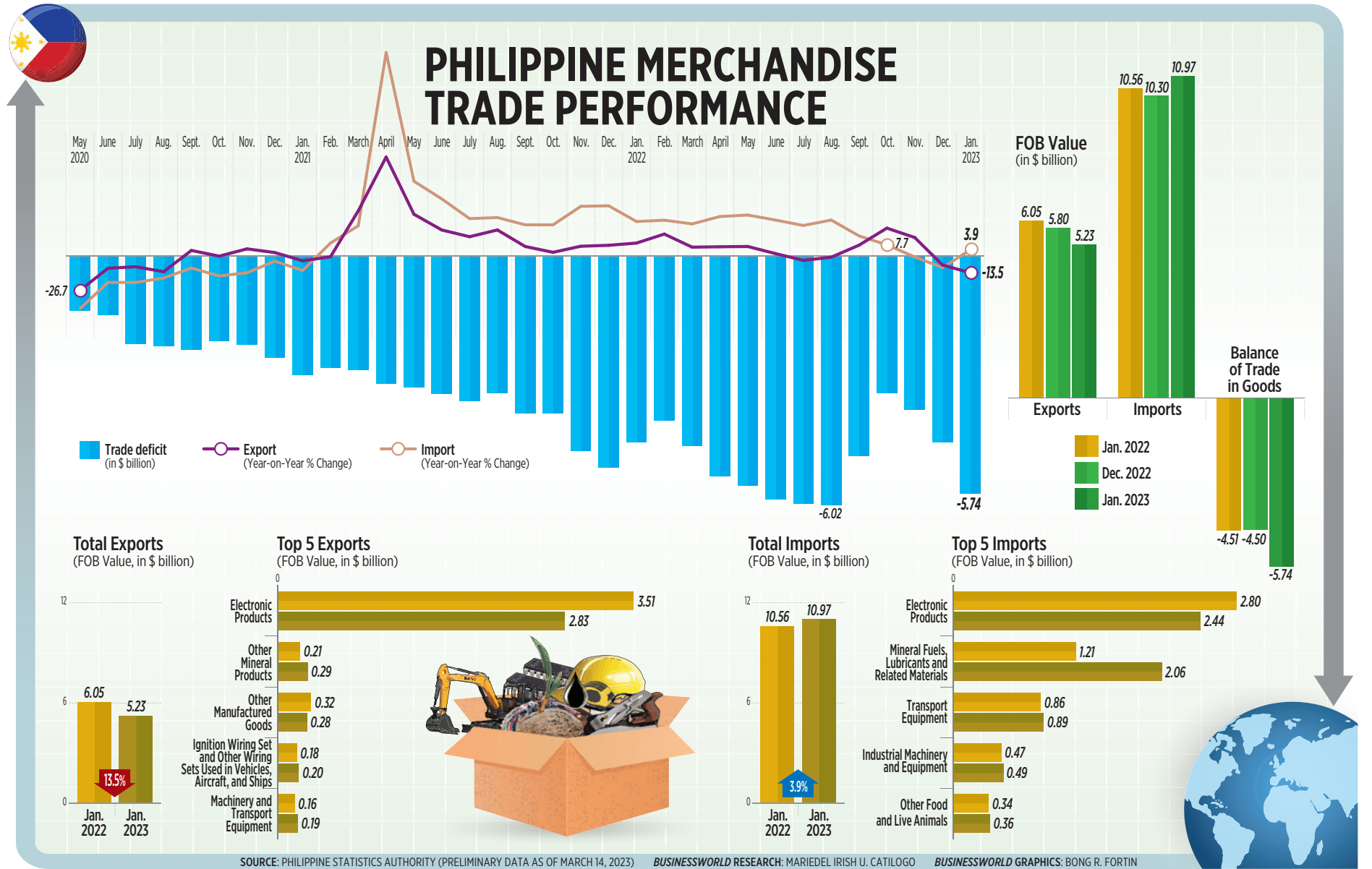
Imports returned to growth in January after two straight months of decline.

The value of imports was the highest in three months or since the \$11.02 billion in October.

University of Asia and the Pacific School of Economics Associate Professor George N. Manzano said the January data reflected the general slowdown in exports around the world.

"When there is a slowdown (in the West), part of the effect is that they will have less appetite for imports. So our exports in general, not only ours but other countries, would be affected as well," he said in an interview over Viber.

Trade, S1/3



PHL banks have no exposure to Silicon Valley Bank — BSP

PHILIPPINE banks have no reported exposure to the collapsed Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), the central bank governor said on Monday.

Banks' foreign currency deposit units' assets are mostly loans, Philippine dollar bonds and sovereign bonds of countries with high credit ratings, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Felipe M. Medalla told Reuters in a mobile text message.

Markets around the world have been rattled by the back-to-back collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and New York's Signature Bank, even after the US government sought to allay fears of systemic risk.

Banking regulators on March 10 closed down SVB, the second-biggest bank failure in the US. Two days later, regulators shuttered Signature Bank, the country's third-largest bank failure.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) assured that developments in the US financial system have no "substantial or material impact" on the Philippine banking industry.

"Banks have diversified deposit bases that include all sectors of the Philippine economy, allowing them to continuously provide the liquidity needs of their clients," BAP said in a statement on Tuesday.

The BAP said banks continue to have capital and liquidity ratios that exceed the requirements set by the BSP.

"The prudential measures implemented by the BSP provide the necessary support that allows the Philippine banking system to withstand economic shocks," the group said.

Meanwhile, the fallout from the collapse of SVB may prompt monetary officials to tighten policy at a slower pace in the coming months, analysts said.

Security Bank Corp. Chief Economist and Assistant Vice-President Robert Dan J. Roces said regulators have minimized the impact of the SVB collapse on the wider financial sector, thereby easing market worries.

"Additionally, the US Fed has made additional funding available to eligible depository institutions to avoid damaging bank runs. So this seems to be contained, as such we do not see any direct local fallout from the SVB collapse," Mr. Roces said.

US authorities have implemented several measures to boost confidence in the banking system after the incident, saying all SVB customers will have access to their deposits.

The Fed also said it would make additional funding available through a new Bank Term Funding Program, which would offer loans up to one year to depository in-

stitutions, backed by Treasuries and other assets these institutions hold.

"However, the material weakness shown by the small banks is enough to cause negative sentiment in markets. The Fed, which still sees inflation as public enemy number one, will continue with its hiking pace, yet current sentiment puts it between a rock and a hard place," Mr. Roces said.

He said the Fed may continue policy tightening, but at a softer pace. Mr. Roces said he expects the Federal Open Market Committee to raise borrowing costs by 25 basis points (bps) on March 21-22.

In an e-mail, ING Bank N.V. Manila Senior Economist Nicholas Antonio T. Mapa said Philippine banks are relatively stable, but although there may be some impact on financial market sentiment.

Silicon Valley, S1/8

Work on Bataan-Cavite bridge set to start this year

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will pursue more than 70,000 projects worth about P890 billion this year, including a bridge project connecting Bataan and Cavite provinces.

The government is planning to begin the construction of the P175-billion Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge by the latter part of 2023, DPWH Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan said during a Palace briefing after a meeting with President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

Mr. Bonoan said the detailed engineering design for the 32-kilometer-long, four-lane, cable-stayed bridge project, which will be funded through official development assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), is now 70% complete.

"We told the President it would be ready within the year, to break ground and (start the) implementation of this very significant bridge," he said.

Mr. Bonoan said the bridge will be built across Manila Bay and will go through Corregidor Island. It will start in Mariveles, Bataan and end in Naic, Cavite.

The DPWH is aiming to finish the project within five years. "We'll try to have this completed before the term of the President ends (by mid-2028)," he said.

Mr. Bonoan said the Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge project is significant because it will give a big boost to the economic activity in Luzon.

The ADB, which will extend a loan to the Philippines for the bridge project, has indicated that the economic rate of return of the bridge is more than 25%.

"The growth corridor is in the southern part of Metro Manila and the other growth corridor is in the north of Manila. With this bridge, I think we will have better access between these two," Mr. Bonoan said.

Bridge, S1/8

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BIR says personal income tax cuts to help boost consumer spending

THE Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) said it expects any revenue losses from the personal income tax cuts this year to be offset by an expected increase in consumer spending.

BIR Commissioner Romeo B. Lumagui said the personal income tax cuts would translate to higher disposable income for the majority of taxpayers.

"(Taxpayers) will effectively have higher take-home pay, and hopefully they will be spending, so consumption tax (will be higher)," he told reporters last week.

Under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law, further reductions in the personal income tax rates took effect on Jan. 1.

Taxpayers with annual taxable income above P250,000 but not over P400,000 now have a

personal income tax rate of 15%, from 20% previously.

The tax rate for those earning above P400,000 but not over P800,000 has been reduced to 20% from 25% previously, while the tax rate for those earning above P800,000 but not over P2 million has been cut to 25% from 30%.

Taxpayers who earn more than P2 million but not above P8 million are subject to an income tax rate of 30% from 32%, previously.

However, the tax rate for individuals earning P8 million and above will be kept at 35%.

Those with income below P250,000 are still exempt from paying personal income tax.

The BIR is targeting to collect a total of P2.6 trillion this year. This is 11% higher than the P2.34 trillion it collected in 2022.

Mr. Lumagui also noted that the government can generate

additional revenues by cracking down on illicit trade and tax evasion.

The BIR collects about 70% of government revenues.

Union Bank of the Philippines, Inc. Chief Economist Ruben Carlo O. Asuncion said in a Viber message that the personal income tax adjustments will lead to additional consumption and demand creation because of higher disposable income.

"The revenue loss in personal income tax this year is presumably incorporated already in the Department of Finance's (DoF) revenue projections. Likely, this will be offset by higher collections due to continuous economic growth and improvements in tax administration," China Banking Corp. Chief Economist Domini S. Velasquez said in a Viber message.

BIR, S1/8