

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEi OPEN: 6,612.47 HIGH: 6,613.85 LOW: 6,560.22 CLOSE: 6,560.22 VOL.: 0.716 B VAL(P): 3,954 B 55.73 Pts. 0.84% 30 DAYS TO MAY 25, 2023	MAY 25, 2023 JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 30,801.13 ▲ 118.45 0.39 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 18,746.92 ▼ -369.01 -1.93 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 16,292.00 ▲ 132.68 0.82 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,537.99 ▲ 1.48 0.10 S. KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 2,554.69 ▼ -12.76 -0.50 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 3,208.19 ▼ -6.02 -0.19 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 7,138.20 ▼ -75.60 -1.05 MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE) 1,402.48 ▼ -7.14 -0.51	MAY 24, 2023 Dow Jones 32,799.920 ▼ -255.590 NASDAQ 12,484.162 ▼ -76.083 S&P 500 4,115.240 ▼ -30.340 FTSE 100 7,627.100 ▼ -135.850 Euro Stoxx50 3,981.660 ▼ -61.830	FX OPEN P55.790 HIGH P55.740 LOW P56.110 CLOSE P56.065 W.AVE. P55.916 VOL. \$1,637.30 M SOURCE : BAP 29.50 CTS 30 DAYS TO MAY 25, 2023	MAY 25, 2023 LATEST BID (0900GMT) PREVIOUS JAPAN (YEN) 139.510 138.570 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.833 7.829 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 30.790 30.779 THAILAND (BAHT) 34.610 34.500 S. KOREA (WON) 1,326.290 1,316.570 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.352 1.347 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 14,945 14,895 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.621 4.589	MAY 25, 2023 CLOSURE PREVIOUS US\$/UK POUND 1.2369 1.2407 US\$/EURO 1.0727 1.0776 \$/AUSTRALIAN 0.6528 0.6577 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3595 1.3539 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9058 0.9025	DUBAI CRUDE OIL FUTURE PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$76.60/BBL 30 DAYS TO MAY 24, 2023

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S1/1-14 • 2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • MAY 25, 2023 (PSEi snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)

SMPH	P34.000	AC	P691.500	SM	P916.000	JFC	P234.000	BDO	P135.000	CNPF	P22.500	ICT	P200.000	BPI	P103.000	ALI	P26.000	TEL	P1,228.000
Value	P341,032,990	Value	P332,535,395	Value	P321,563,725	Value	P209,160,420	Value	P190,738,464	Value	P167,167,910	Value	P156,763,430	Value	P128,621,170	Value	P127,781,335	Value	P111,866,415
PO.000	0.000%	-P8.000	-1.144%	-P13.000	-1.399%	P4.000	1.739%	-P1.000	-0.735%	-P1.500	-6.250%	-P1.400	-0.695%	-P2.000	-1.905%	-P0.400	-1.515%	-P31.000	-2.462%

More 'hot money' exits PHL in April

MORE SHORT-TERM foreign capital exited the Philippines for a third straight month in April, as investors worried over elevated inflation and high interest rates.

Foreign portfolio investments (FPI) — also known as “hot money” because of the ease by which these funds enter and exit

the economy — yielded a net outflow of \$351.87 million in April, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed. This was a reversal of the \$1.41-billion net inflow in April 2022.

The net outflows in April also increased fivefold from the \$70.26-million outflows

in March. It was also the highest in two months or since the \$549.28-million outflows in February.

The higher net outflow of short-term foreign investments reflected worsening investor sentiment in the Philippines, Security Bank Corp. Chief Econo-

mist Robert Dan J. Roces said in a Viber message.

“Elevated inflation and higher interest rates have raised concerns among investors about the country’s economic outlook, especially in private consumption which is substantial in GDP (gross domestic product),” he said.

The Philippine economic growth eased to 6.4% in the first quarter from 8% a year ago, reflecting slower consumer spending amid elevated inflation and rising rates.

Household final consumption, which contributes around three-fourths to gross domestic

product, rose by 6.3% in the first quarter. However, this was slower than 10% growth a year earlier.

For the first four months of the year, inflation accelerated to 7.9%, from 3.7% a year ago. This is still above the central bank’s 5.5% forecast for the year.

Hot money; S1/9

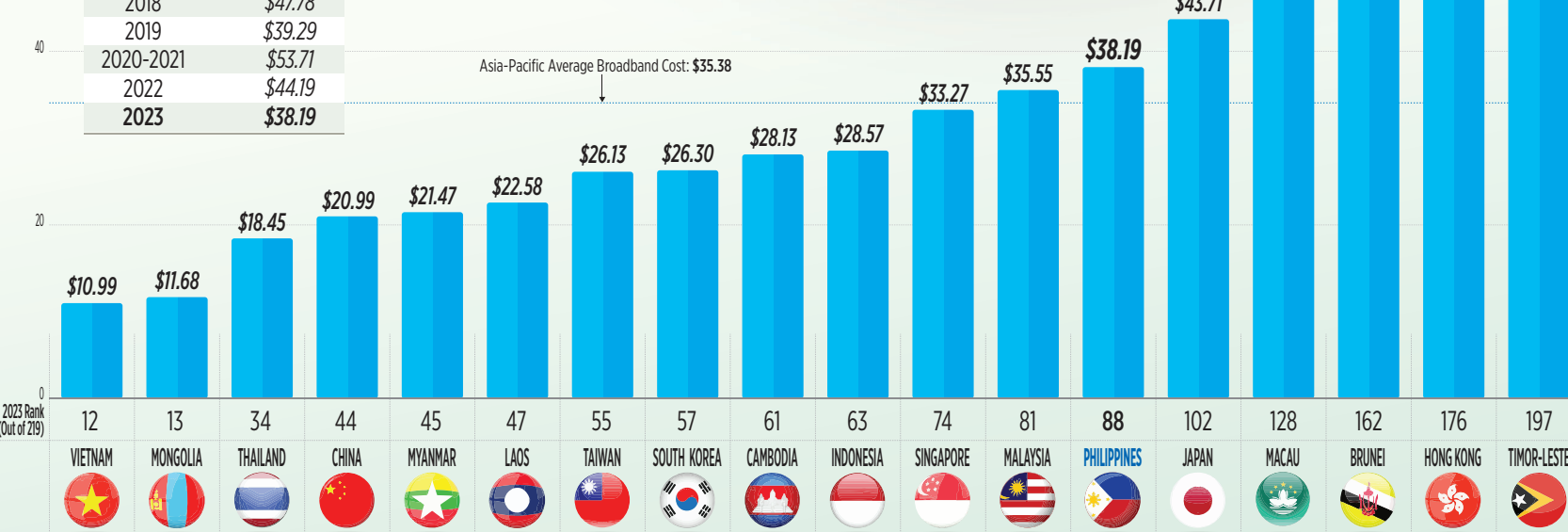
HOW EXPENSIVE IS THE PHILIPPINES' FIXED BROADBAND COMPARED WITH ITS PEERS IN THE REGION?

The country’s average monthly broadband cost amounted to \$38.19 (around P2,099) this year, latest data from consumer comparison site *Cable.co.uk* showed. This put the Philippines the 88th cheapest out of 219 countries in the report. However, it was the sixth most expensive broadband in the East and Southeast Asian region and even surpassed the Asia-Pacific average of \$35.38 per month.

Philippines' Historical Monthly Broadband Cost

Year	Monthly Average Broadband Cost
2017	\$50.54
2018	\$47.78
2019	\$39.29
2020-2021	\$53.71
2022	\$44.19
2023	\$38.19

Monthly Average Broadband Cost in Select East and Southeast Asian Countries



Philippines (2023)

Monthly Average Broadband Cost (Rank)	\$38.19 (88 th)
Cheapest Broadband Package	\$18.18
Most Expensive Broadband Package	\$136.43
Number of Packages Measured	33

Countries with Cheapest Broadband

2023 Rank (Out of 219)	Country	Monthly Average Broadband Cost
1	Sudan	\$2.30
2	Kazakhstan	\$5.11
3	Moldova	\$7.03
4	Belarus	\$7.34
5	Romania	\$7.57
6	Ukraine	\$7.87
7	Iran	\$9.35
8	Nepal	\$9.46
9	Egypt	\$9.67
10	India	\$10.11

Countries with Most Expensive Broadband

2023 Rank (Out of 219)	Country	Monthly Average Broadband Cost
219	Burundi	\$383.79
218	Suriname	\$269.44
217	Zimbabwe	\$201.00
216	Turks and Caicos Islands	\$199.00
215	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	\$193.46
214	Bermuda	\$185.00
213	British Virgin Islands	\$179.00
212	Guinea	\$165.87
211	Cayman Islands	\$156.39
210	Christmas Island	\$146.53

SOURCE: CABLE.CO.UK'S WORLDWIDE BROADBAND PRICE RESEARCH 2023 (HTTPS://WWW.CABLE.CO.UK/BROADBAND/PRICING/WORLDWIDE-COMPARISON)
BUSINESSWORLD RESEARCH: THOMAS CHRISTIAN S. MIGRIÑO
BUSINESSWORLD GRAPHICS: BONG R. FORTIN

Ambitious PHL policies needed to cut investment costs for low-carbon transportation, says ITF

By Arjay L. Balinbin Multimedia Editor

LEIPZIG, Germany — The Philippines can reduce the cost of investment required for its core infrastructure to shift towards low- and zero-emission transportation if it starts to implement more ambitious policies, according to experts from the International Transport Forum (ITF).

“[[This will] require a combination of complementary policies that successfully avoid unnecessary transport activity, shift more trips from fuel-burning to no-carbon transport, and improve the efficiency of transport generally,” said ITF Secretary-General Young Tae Kim during a briefing on Wednesday.

The core transport infrastructure, such as rail lines, roads, and ports, are needed to cater to future demand, according to the ITF’s latest global outlook report.

Implementing more ambitious policies now would lead to a decrease in average core infrastructure investment as a percentage of gross domestic product for Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, to around 1.7% from 1.8% between 2019 and 2050, the report said.

The ITF serves as a policy think tank for all modes of transport. It is an arm of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Measures in the current ambition scenario, according to the ITF, include policies or technological developments aimed at replacing internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, demand management and encouraging mode shift, investing in attractive and sustainable alternatives to private cars, and improving efficiency and operations to reduce carbon intensity.

“All transport decarbonization measures currently in place and already committed to will reduce global transport CO2 by only 3% by 2050,” the organization said in its report. “The transport sector would miss by a wide margin the reduction needed to keep climate change in check.”

ITF, S1/9



THE PHILIPPINE STAR/ERNIE PENAREDONDO

Digital future

BusinessWorld President and Chief Executive Officer Miguel G. Belmonte delivers his welcome remarks at the BusinessWorld Economic Forum 2023 held at Grand Hyatt Manila, Bonifacio Global City, May 25. The forum’s theme was “The Digital Future: Accelerating Business and Sustainability.”

AI may help boost PHL economy by \$90 billion

THE PHILIPPINES should take advantage of the opportunities presented by artificial intelligence (AI), which has the potential to contribute as much as \$90 billion to the economy in the next seven years, a Microsoft Corp. executive said.

“The possibilities that AI present the Philippines are many and exciting. According to the Department of Trade and Industry’s (DTI) predictions, it will be

contributing as much as \$90 billion to the country’s economy by 2030,” Peter Maquera, Microsoft Asia Pacific chief executive officer for Philippines, said during the BusinessWorld Economic Forum 2023 at the Grand Hyatt Manila in Taguig City on Thursday.

Microsoft invested in OpenAI, which developed ChatGPT — a generative AI technology.

AI, S1/9

Infrastructure spending declines by 16.5% in March

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson Reporter

INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING dropped by 16.5% in March, as some releases for the Defense and Education departments are expected in the second and third quarters, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said.

In its National Government (NG) disbursement report, the DBM said expenditures for infrastructure and other capital outlays fell to P83.7 billion in March from P100.2 billion in the same month a year ago.

However, the March figure was 33.5% higher than the P62.7 billion spent in February.

“This was mainly attributed to the timing of releases for the Revised Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program (RAFMP) of the Department of National Defense (DND), as well as payments for completed capital outlay projects of the Department of Education (DepEd),” the DBM said in a press release.

The DBM said that most of the releases under the RAFMP were already taken up in January and the succeeding releases are mostly programmed in the second to third quarters.

“In the case of the DepEd, big-ticket payables for their capital outlay projects are expected starting this third quarter,” it added.

In the first quarter, infrastructure spending was up by 7.3% to P196.7 billion from P183.2 billion a year ago.

Infrastructure spending in the first quarter was also a tad higher than the P195.8-billion program for the period.

The DBM attributed the higher spending to the implementation of road infrastructure projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and rail transport foreign-assisted projects of the Department of Transportation (DoTr).

ING Bank N.V. Manila Senior Economist Nicholas Antonio T. Mapa said that the slower infrastructure spending in March could reflect challenges for the government in sustaining support for the economy.

“For first-quarter growth numbers, overall construction delivered economic expansion; however, public construction largely lagged the strength of private sector outlays,” he said in an e-mail.

The Philippine economy grew by 6.4% in the first quarter, slower than the 8% in the same quarter a year ago.

Construction expanded by 10.8% in the first quarter, easing from the 13.1% growth a year ago. It contributed 0.59 percentage point to gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter, lower than the 0.69 point in the same quarter a year ago.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said elevated inflation also dented infrastructure spending as prices of construction materials rose.

Infrastructure, S1/9