

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEi OPEN: 6,525.63 HIGH: 6,544.13 LOW: 6,521.06 CLOSE: 6,521.64 VOL.: 1.695 B VAL(P): 3.357 B 9.63 pts. 0.14% 30 DAYS TO JUNE 5, 2023	JUNE 5, 2023 JAPAN (Nikkei 225) 32,217.43 ▲ 693.21 2.20 HONG KONG (Hang Seng) 19,109.50 ▲ 158.56 0.84 TAIWAN (Weighted) 16,714.43 ▲ 7.52 0.05 THAILAND (SET Index)* 1,531.20 ▲ 9.80 0.64 S. KOREA (KSE Composite) 2,615.41 ▲ 14.05 0.54 SINGAPORE (Straits Times) 3,189.01 ▲ 22.71 0.72 SYDNEY (All Ordinaries) 7,216.30 ▲ 71.20 1.00 MALAYSIA (KLC Composite)* 1,381.26 ▼ -1.75 -0.13 <small>* CLOSING PRICES AS OF JUNE 2, 2023</small>	JUNE 2, 2023 Dow Jones 33,762.760 ▲ 701.190 NASDAQ 13,240.766 ▲ 139.784 S&P 500 4,282.370 ▲ 61.350 FTSE 100 7,607.280 ▲ 117.010 Euro Stoxx50 3,998.510 ▲ 47.780	FX OPEN P56.010 HIGH P56.000 LOW P56.245 CLOSE P56.240 W.AVE. P56.127 VOL. \$1,077.65 M SOURCE: BAP	JUNE 5, 2023 LATEST BID (0900GMT) JAPAN (YEN) 140.240 ▼ 139.940 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.838 ▼ 7.838 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 30.700 ▼ 30.667 THAILAND (BAHT) 34.890 ▼ 34.770 S. KOREA (WON) 1,305.300 ▲ 1,305.920 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.352 ▼ 1.350 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 14,885 ▲ 14,985 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.575 — 4.575	JUNE 5, 2023 US\$/UK POUND 1.2404 ▼ 1.2448 US\$/EURO 1.0697 ▼ 1.0705 \$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR 0.6590 ▼ 0.6611 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3436 ▼ 1.3423 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9098 ▲ 0.9086	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$71.68/BBL 30 DAYS TO JUNE 1, 2023

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JUNE 5, 2023 (PSEi snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)

SMPH	P32.900	BPI	P100.700	BDO	P138.100	AC	P670.000	ALI	P25.900	ICT	P199.000	RLC	P14.420	MONDE	P8.200	ANI	P7.350	SM	P928.000
Value	P476,210,520	Value	P251,769,551	Value	P250,935,494	Value	P183,733,205	Value	P160,777,995	Value	P156,307,510	Value	P136,957,230	Value	P127,303,433	Value	P119,766,656	Value	P103,541,385
PO.050	▲ 0.152%	PO.700	▲ 0.700%	-P1.300	▼ -0.933%	P12.000	▲ 1.824%	-P0.050	▼ -0.193%	-P3.800	▼ -1.874%	PO.400	▲ 2.853%	PO.350	▲ 4.459%	-P0.020	▼ -0.271%	P8.000	▲ 0.870%

Growth on track to hit 6-7% — BSP

By Keisha B. Ta-asan
Reporter

THE PHILIPPINES is on track to grow by as much as 7% this year, but a global economic slowdown amid tighter monetary conditions and elevated inflation is a key risk, according to the central bank.

The Philippine economy's growth prospects remained "favorable" in the near term, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said in an e-mailed reply to questions.

"The expected growth over the near term is supported by the expansion in the industry sector as manufacturers signaled greater local demand, as well as the release of pent-up demand from China's reopening," it said.

In April, the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) kept the growth target at 6-7% for 2023 and 6.5-8% for 2024 to 2028. It will meet on June 9 to review its macroeconomic targets.

Improved labor conditions, increased tourism demand and continued face-to-face schooling would support growth

in the country's service sector, said the central bank, which is a member of the DBCC.

"In addition, the scheduled reduction in personal income taxes this year from the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion or TRAIN Law is expected to boost household consumption," the BSP said.

Under the law, there will be personal income tax cuts starting Jan. 1. Taxpayers whose annual taxable income is below P250,000 are exempt from personal income tax. Those whose income is more than P250,000 but less than P8 million

will pay lower taxes between 15% and 30%.

The tax rate on people earning more than P8 million was raised to 35% from 32%.

"Nonetheless, the emerging forecasts for the Philippine economy remain fluid and dominated by significant downside risks, mainly from the projected slowdown in global growth," the BSP said.

Global growth is expected to drop to a three-decade low of 1.7% in 2023, according to the World Bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report.

In its World Economic Outlook in April, the International Monetary Fund expected global expansion at 2.8% this year, lower than its April 2022 projection of 3.6%.

The slower global growth forecasts of these multilateral institutions were due to tighter monetary conditions and elevated inflation all over the world.

In the Philippines, the BSP has increased its key policy rate by 425 basis points (bps) since May last year, bringing it to 6.25%. The Monetary Board paused tightening on May 18, but inflation remains above its 2-4% target.

Growth, S1/5

PEZA-approved outlays hit P14.9 billion in May, poised for 10% growth

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) on Monday said it is on track to hit its 10% growth target for approved investments this year, after greenlighting P14.93 billion worth of 20 new and expansion projects in May.

This brought PEZA's approved investments for January to May to P48.03 billion, which is 2.5 times higher than a year earlier, PEZA Director-General Tereso O. Panga said in an e-mailed statement.

Among the 20 projects approved by the PEZA board on May 26, 11 are into export manufacturing, seven are in the information technology sector, and one each in facility and economic zone development.

The projects will be located in the cities of Makati, Pasig, Taguig and Baguio, and the provinces of Pampanga, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, Cebu, Iloilo and South Cotabato, PEZA said.

The biggest project pre-qualified by the PEZA board for approval by the Fiscal Incentives Review Board is owned by the maker of solar wafer cells with Maxeon 7 technology, it said. The project will be in Sto. Tomas, Batangas province with investments worth P11.63 billion.

"These projects are expected to generate about \$293.55-million (P16.5-billion) exports and create 4,480 direct jobs," the agency said in the statement.

"We are continuously seeing an uptrend with our invest-

ment approvals as we enter the first half of the year," Mr. Panga said. "We are more aggressive in our initiatives to help our investors make the Philippines their smart investment choice, taking the cue from President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., who has been most active in promoting the Philippines in his outbound missions."

PEZA approved 80 projects for January to May that are expected to generate \$1.31 billion in exports and 11,949 jobs, up from 70 projects a year earlier.

The agency said it is partnering with government agencies and industry associations to address the "pain points" that hinder investors to unlock the untapped potentials of the Philippines.

These agencies include the Department of Finance, Commission on Election, National Economic and Development Authority, with which PEZA discussed the concerns of investors.

PEZA has also discussed with Senator Lorna Regina "Loren" B. Legarda the creation of more economic zones in Antique and other provinces to spur development in the countryside.

It had also signed a deal with the Information and Communications Technology department to boost digitalization in the government to ensure the fast delivery of public services and bolster the country's competitiveness, Mr. Panga said.

PEZA, S1/5

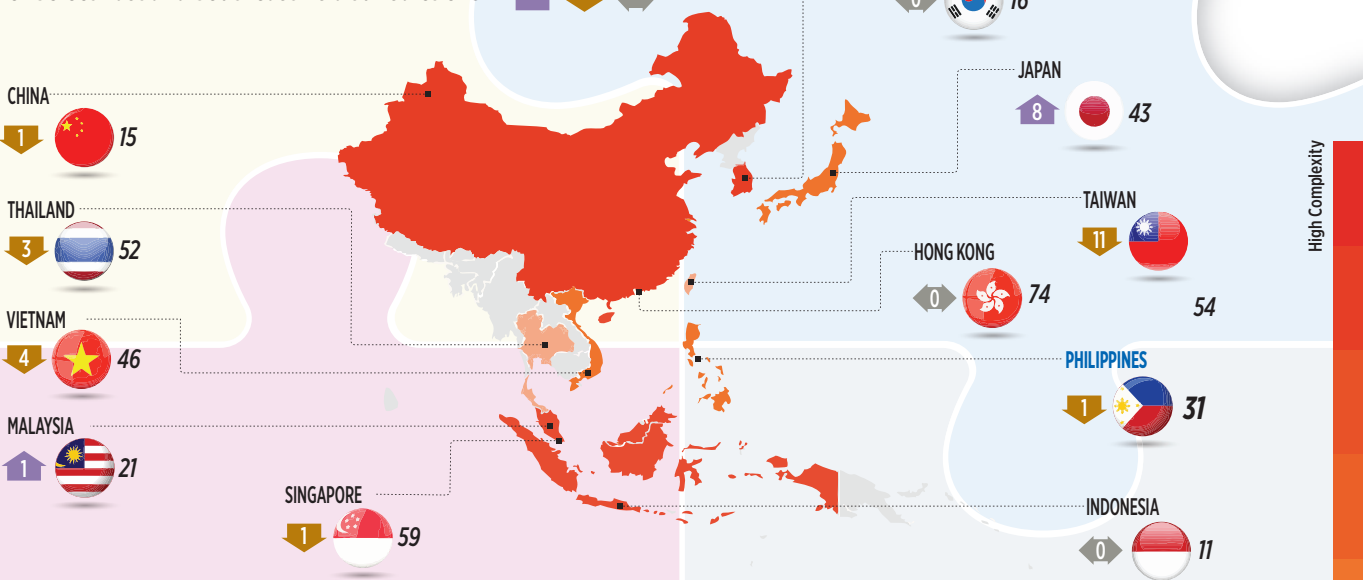
PHILIPPINES RANKS 31ST IN 2023 GLOBAL BUSINESS COMPLEXITY INDEX

The Philippine business environment improved a notch to 31st out of 78 jurisdictions in the 2023 Global Business Complexity Index from Amsterdam-based TMF Group. The index covers accounting and tax, global entity management, and payroll and human resources.

Philippines' Performance (2023)

Business Areas	Score (/10)	Rating
Accounting and Tax	5	Medium
Payroll and Human Resources	5	Medium
Rules, Regulations, and Penalties	7	High

Business Complexity Rankings (out of 78) of Select East and Southeast Asia Jurisdictions



10 Least Complex Jurisdictions

2023 Rank (Out of 78)	Jurisdictions	Rank Changes from 2022
78	Cayman Islands	▲ 1
77	Denmark	▲ 2
76	Curaçao	▲ 0
75	The Netherlands	▲ 19
74	Hong Kong	▲ 0
73	British Virgin Islands	▲ 0
72	United Kingdom	▲ 4
71	New Zealand	▲ 1
70	Jersey	▲ 2
69	Malta	▲ 2

10 Most Complex Jurisdictions

2023 Rank (Out of 78)	Jurisdictions	Rank Changes from 2022
1	France	▲ 7
2	Greece	▲ 4
3	Brazil	▲ 2
4	Mexico	▲ 0
5	Colombia	▲ 0
6	Turkey	▲ 1
7	Peru	▲ 4
8	Italy	▲ 0
9	Bolivia	▲ 0
10	Argentina	▲ 2

NOTES:

- The index was generated from an in-depth survey in 78 jurisdictions. The data are also compared with the survey results used in the previous report which covers three areas of business operations: accounting and tax; global entity management; and payroll and human resources.
- Data for each jurisdiction were statistically weighted and combined to produce an overall complexity score, as well as scores in the three areas.

SOURCE: TMF GROUP'S 2023 GLOBAL BUSINESS COMPLEXITY INDEX (HTTPS://WWW.TMF-GROUP.COM/EN/NEWS-INSIGHTS/GLOBAL-BUSINESS-COMPLEXITY-HUB/) BUSINESSWORLD RESEARCH: THOMAS CHRISTIAN S. MIGNIÑO BUSINESSWORLD GRAPHICS: CRECENCIO I. CRUZ

FUEL PRICE TRACKER (week-on-week change)

Fuel Type	May 23	May 30	June 6
GASOLINE	P0.80	P1.10	P0.60
DIESEL	P0.60	P0.00	P0.30
KEROSENE	P0.10	P0.35	P0.60

• June 6, 12:01 a.m. — Caltex Philippines
• June 6, 6 a.m. — Petron Corp.; Phoenix Petroleum; Philipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.; PTT Philippines Corp.; Seacol Philippines, Inc.
• June 6, 8:07 a.m. — Cleanfuel (Shaw Autogas, Inc.)

Philippine credit card delinquency rate falls

THE COUNTRY'S credit card delinquency rate dropped to 3.26% in the first quarter, even as credit card billings surged, the Credit Card Association of the Philippines (CCAP) said on Monday.

The rate, which refers to the percentage of borrowers who fail to pay the minimum amount due, has been falling since peaking at 8.37% in 2020 at the height of a coronavirus pandemic, CCAP data showed. It was 3.32% in 2022 and 4.03% in 2021.

Card delinquency also refers to the payment of less than the minimum amount of credit card debt for at least three billing cycles.

Card delinquency has been falling even as credit card billings climbed by 47% to P410 billion in the first quarter from a year earlier, CCAP said in a statement.

This was the highest growth since the pandemic, as Filipinos spent more on shopping, traveling and buying goods after two years of lockdowns.

Consumers should be reminded that using a credit card does not give them free money, CCAP Executive Director Alex Ilagan said in the statement. "While Filipinos' spending spree keeps the economic engine chugging along, we must bear in mind that a credit card is not free money."

CCAP, which is made up of 17 credit card issuers, has been conducting credit awareness programs for colleges, universities and companies since 2017 as part of efforts to teach more Filipinos to become responsible borrowers. "Our aim is to educate them as early as possible so they know what credit is and how they can manage their credit cards well when they get theirs," Mr. Ilagan said. "Any organization, not just schools, can reach us for these enlightening seminars."

CCAP has been reminding consumers to use credit cards wisely. This includes not using a credit card beyond one's capabil-

ity, which could lead one to become mired in debt.

Credit card users should also monitor their total monthly spending to avoid exceeding their credit limit.

"A maxed-out credit card can also cause financial strain, especially for people who can only manage to make minimum payments each month," CCAP said. "The minimum monthly payments will likely grow past the cardholder's paying capability, causing them to miss their dues."

Consumers should also settle their bills on time to avoid late fees and other penalties. — Keisha B. Ta-asan



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