



STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEi OPEN: 5,971.74 HIGH: 5,980.82 LOW: 5,920.47 CLOSE: 5,973.78 VOL.: 0.417 B VAL(P): 4,094 B 11.79 pts. 0.19% 30 DAYS TO OCTOBER 31, 2023	NOVEMBER 2, 2023 JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 31,949.89 ▲ 348.24 1.10 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 17,230.59 ▲ 128.81 0.75 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 16,396.95 ▲ 358.39 2.23 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,405.87 ▲ 25.91 1.88 S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 2,343.12 ▲ 41.56 1.81 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 3,082.53 ▲ 5.76 0.19 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 6,899.70 ▲ 61.40 0.90 MALAYSIA (KLSX COMPOSITE) 1,439.77 ▲ 4.44 0.31	NOVEMBER 1, 2023 DOW JONES 33,274.580 ▲ 221.710 NASDAQ 13,061.469 ▲ 210.231 S&P 500 4,237.860 ▲ 44.060 FTSE 100 7,342.430 ▲ 20.710 EURO STOXX50 3,841.370 ▲ 29.510	FX OPEN P56.800 HIGH P56.725 LOW P56.855 CLOSE P56.730 W.AVE. P56.808 VOL. \$860.90 M 22.50 CTS 30 DAYS TO OCTOBER 31, 2023 SOURCE: BAP	NOVEMBER 2, 2023 LATEST BID (0900GMT) JAPAN (YEN) 150.270 ▲ 151.210 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.824 ▲ 7.823 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 32.309 ▲ 32.474 THAILAND (BAHT) 35.930 ▲ 36.180 S. KOREA (WON) 1,337.280 ▲ 1,357.760 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.365 ▲ 1.370 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 15,850 ▲ 15,930 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.750 ▲ 4.769	NOVEMBER 2, 2023 PREVIOUS US\$/UK POUND 1.2177 ▲ 1.2139 US\$/EURO 1.0612 ▲ 1.0552 US\$/AUST DOLLAR 0.6437 ▲ 0.6340 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3817 ▲ 1.3884 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9040 ▼ 0.9093	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$86.29/BBL 30 DAYS TO NOVEMBER 1, 2023 \$1.77

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • OCTOBER 31, 2023 (PSEi snapshot on S1/3; article on S2/2)

Symbol	Value	Change	Symbol	Value	Change	Symbol	Value	Change	Symbol	Value	Change	Symbol	Value	Change	Symbol	Value	Change												
BDO	P127,500		BPI	P100,500		ALI	P27,850		ICT	P201,200		JFC	P205,000		SMPH	P30,000		SM	P801,000		URC	P109,300		MER	P355,000		AC	P605,500	
Value	P455,548,106		Value	P406,097,391		Value	P390,582,395		Value	P292,531,354		Value	P275,586,876		Value	P250,143,045		Value	P232,689,880		Value	P144,182,975		Value	P118,122,280		Value	P107,265,320	
-P1,000	▼ -0.778%		P1,600	▲ 1.618%		P1,050	▲ 3.918%		P1,700	▲ 0.852%		-P4,200	▼ -2.008%		P0,000	— 0.000%		-P4,500	▼ -0.559%		-P0,700	▼ -0.636%		P2,800	▲ 0.795%		P2,500	▲ 0.415%	

Inflation likely eased in October — poll

By Keisha B. Ta-asan
Reporter

HEADLINE INFLATION likely eased to below 6% in October

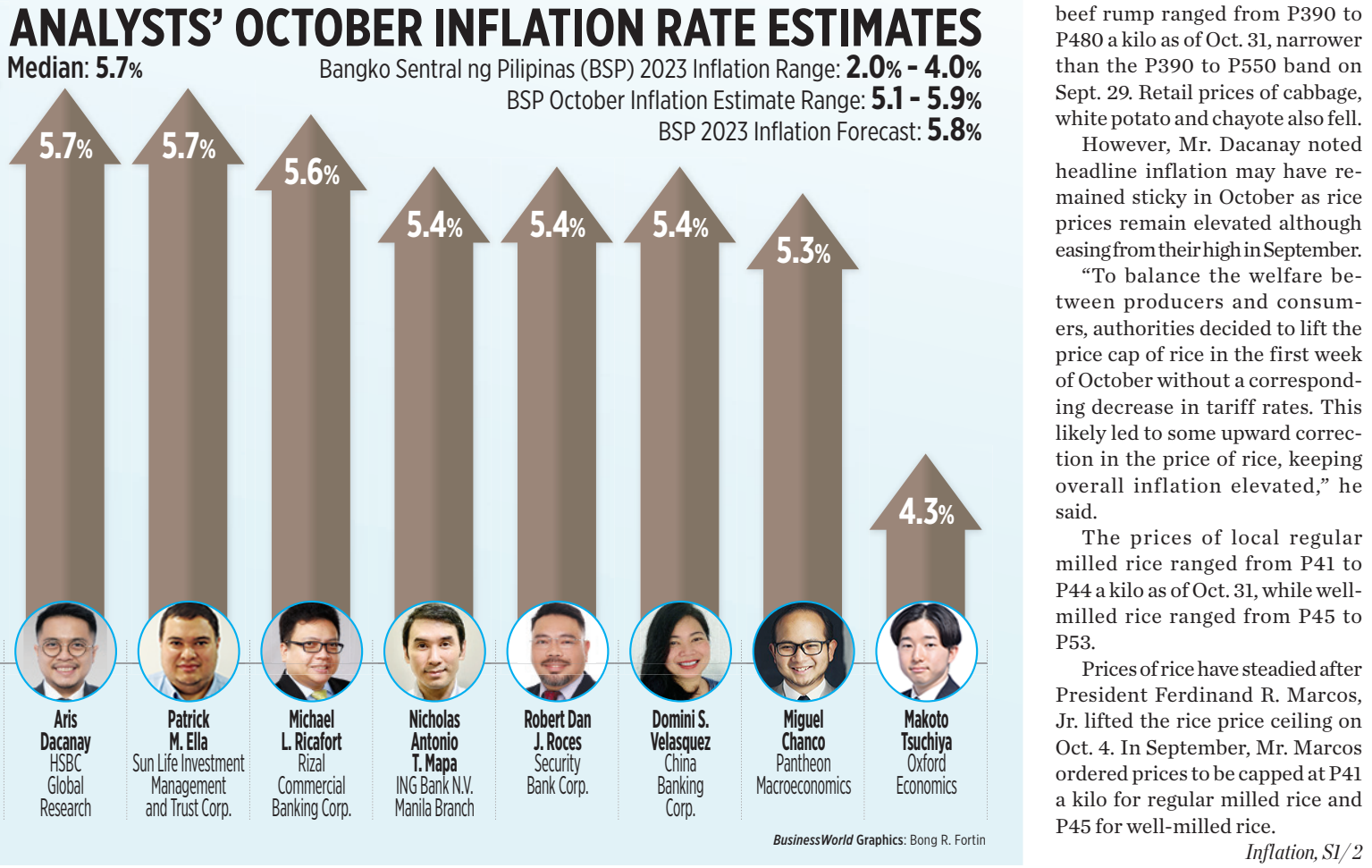
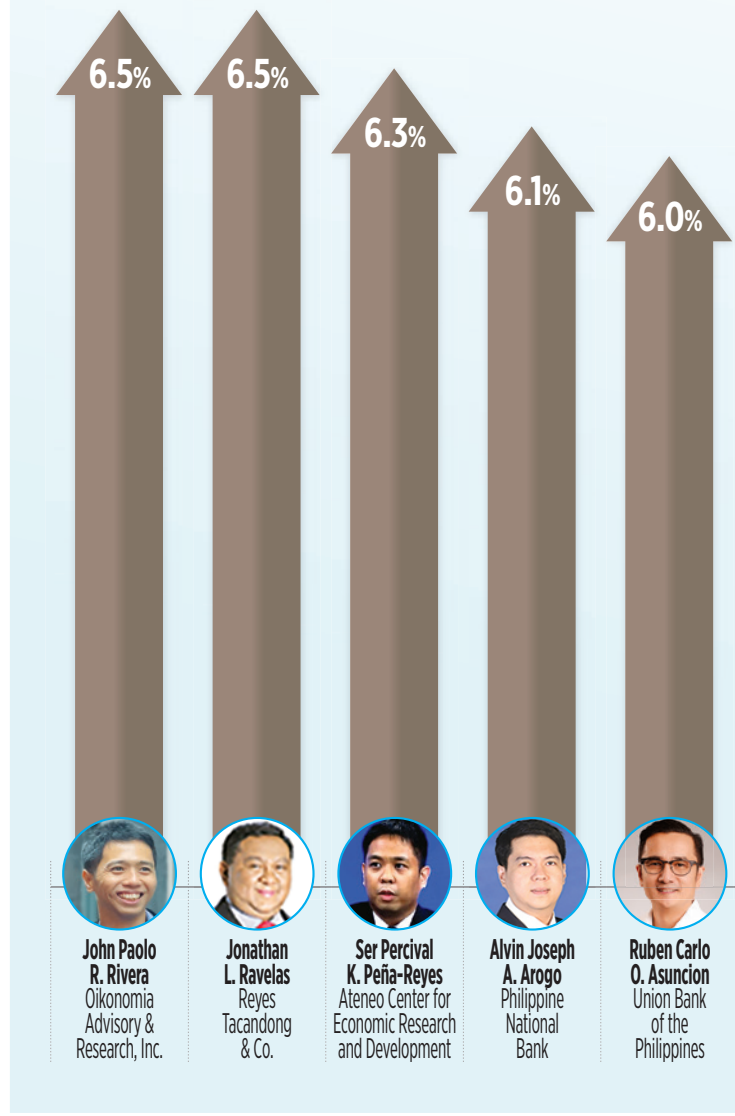
due to lower prices of some food items and a rollback in pump prices, analysts said. A *BusinessWorld* poll of 13 analysts conducted this week yielded a median estimate of 5.7% for the consumer price index (CPI) in October. This is within the

5.1-5.9% forecast of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) for the month. If realized, October inflation would be slower than 6.1% in September and 7.7% in the same month last year. It would also be the slowest rate in two months or since 5.3% in August. However, October would still mark the 19th straight month

inflation breached the central bank's 2-4% target band. The local statistics agency will release the October consumer price index (CPI) data on Nov. 7 (Tuesday). "Although still elevated, headline inflation likely eased to 5.7% from 6.1% in the previous month. Global oil prices have tapered from the peak in September, which led

to lower fuel prices domestically," HSBG economist for ASEAN Aris Dacanay said in an e-mail. In October alone, oil companies cut pump prices for gasoline by P3.1 per liter, diesel by P0.45 per liter, and kerosene by P4.40 per liter, data from the Energy department showed. "Our latest data show some easing in the cost of essential

food items such as rice, meat, and vegetables, as well as reductions in electricity and pump prices this October. While these factors could alleviate inflationary pressures, they may not be substantial enough to warrant diminished vigilance from the central bank given upside risks," Security Bank Corp. Chief Economist Robert Dan J. Rocas said. Data from the Agriculture department showed that prices of beef rump ranged from P390 to P480 a kilo as of Oct. 31, narrower than the P390 to P550 band on Sept. 29. Retail prices of cabbage, white potato and chayote also fell.



Maybank projects 5.2% GDP growth for PHL this year

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY is unlikely to reach the government's 6-7% growth target this year, although it is still expected to be the fastest-growing economy in Southeast Asia, Maybank Investment Banking Group (Maybank) said. In a report dated Oct. 27, Maybank said it sees Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) expanding by 5.2% this year, well below the government's goal. Maybank's 5.2% growth forecast for the Philippines is the fastest in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region this year, ahead of Indonesia (5%), Vietnam (4.8%), Malaysia (4%), Thailand (2.9%), and Singapore (0.8%). It is also above the ASEAN-6 GDP average of 4%, as well as the 4.5% forecast for ASEAN-5, which excludes Singapore. In the first half, Philippine GDP growth averaged 5.3%. In order to reach the lower end of the government's target, the economy would need to grow by 6.6% in the second half. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is set to release third-quarter GDP data on Thursday (Nov. 9). For 2024, Maybank projects Philippine GDP to expand by 6.5%, which is the lower end of the government's 6.5-8% target. This would still make it the fastest-growing economy in the region for next year, ahead of Vietnam (6%), Indonesia (5.2%), Malaysia (4.4%), Thailand (3.6%) and Singapore (2.2%).

Meanwhile, Maybank said that its outlook for trade in the region will also be "brighter" for next year amid signs of recovery. "Recent data suggest that green shoots are sprouting, brightening the outlook for trade-sensitive ASEAN economies going into 2024," it said. Growth drivers include the strong US economy and the normalization in global consumer spending. "Replacement tech cycle; falling US inventories; and bottoming out of commodity and chip prices will help drive ASEAN export growth going into 2024," it added. Maybank said uneven global growth is one of the risks that could derail trade recovery next year, noting the weak activity in the European Union and subdued demand in China. Maybank noted Singapore, Vietnam, and Malaysia are more exposed to a trade slowdown. "Exports are a meaningful driver in Thailand as well, but less so in Indonesia and the Philippines, which have larger domestic markets," it added. Other risks to the trade outlook include elevated interest rates in the US, tensions between the US and China, and spillovers from the Israel-Hamas war. "Risks from China's real estate sector could yet flare up and sour regional financial market sentiment. We cannot rule out the risk of a shallow US recession in 2024, even as our base case has shifted to a US soft landing," it added. *Maybank, S1/2*

Agricultural output may have contracted in Q3

THE PHILIPPINES' overall agricultural output likely shrank in the third quarter as bad weather affected crop production and farmers grappled with rising costs, analysts said. "The third-quarter agricultural performance could be a contraction close to 1% to 2%," Roy S. Kempis, retired Pampanga State Agricultural University professor, said in a Viber message. If realized, this would be a reversal of the 1.8% increase in the value of production in agriculture and fisheries at constant 2018 prices in the third quarter of 2022. This would also mark the second straight quarter of contraction, after agricultural production fell by 1.3% in the second quarter this year. For the first half, the value of production in agriculture and fisheries inched up by 0.4%. The Department of Agriculture (DA) set a 2.3%-2.5% agricultural output growth target for this year. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is set to release third-quarter data on farm output on Nov. 8. The agriculture sector contributes about a 10th of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and provides around a quarter of all jobs. Mr. Kempis said heavy rains in the third quarter caused widespread flooding, which damaged crops and aquaculture assets in several provinces. "Lower productive efficiency of livestock and poultry (during this period) is also attributed to weather disturbances during the months of July to September," he added. The southwest monsoon along with typhoons Egay (international name: Doksuri) and Falcon (international name: Khanun) caused around P12 billion in agricultural damage and losses, the DA said in a Sept. 15 report. Affected regions with major agricultural losses were Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Western Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccsksargen, and Caraga. *Agricultural output, S1/2*

PHL trade in goods seen to remain weak until yearend

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocsen Reporter
"is expected to contribute to a slowdown in global goods trade by about four percentage points in 2023." "Of concern for the Philippines is that slowing growth in the region's largest trading partners, including China where growth for 2023 is projected to be 5.1%, will lead to weaker external demand for the country's export commodities," he added. Data from the local statistics authority showed that the trade deficit narrowed to \$36.31 billion in the first eight months of the year from the \$41.86-billion deficit a year ago. As of end-August, exports declined by 6.6% to \$47.81 billion while imports fell by 9.6% to \$84.12 billion. For this year, the government is projecting 1% growth for exports and 2% growth for imports. Pantheon Macroeconomics Chief Emerging Asia Economist Miguel Chanco said the Philippines may find it difficult to meet its export and import growth assumptions. "If you're talking about in nominal (i.e. not real terms), then the government's export and import forecasts will almost be impossible to meet," he said in an e-mail. "In real terms, though, 1% full-year export growth seems doable, though I'm questioning whether 2% growth for imports is as achievable, simply because we're seeing a notable slowdown in domestic demand this year, on all fronts, from private consumption to fixed investment," he added. Mr. Chanco noted other major exporting countries are showing signs of a rebound. "The only silver lining is that we're starting to see signs from other major exporters regionally, such as Singapore and Malaysia, that electronics exports are starting to bottom out and should start to show signs of a recovery, however modest, before the end of this year," he said. "The risks will remain weighted to the downside, considering China's resistance to enact more aggressive stimulus measures to shore up demand," he added. Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPF) President Danilo C. Lachica said it is still projecting flat growth for electronics exports this year. *Trade, S1/2*