

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL																																																																																																			
<b>PSEi</b> OPEN: 6,225.75 HIGH: 6,292.39 LOW: 6,206.88 CLOSE: 6,292.39 VOL.: 0.315 B VAL(P): 3,248 B 64.10 PTS. 1.02% 30 DAYS TO DECEMBER 12, 2023	<b>DECEMBER 12, 2023</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>CLOSE</th> <th>NET</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>JAPAN (Nikkei 225)</td> <td>32,843.70</td> <td>▲ 51.90</td> <td>0.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HONG KONG (HANG SENG)</td> <td>16,374.50</td> <td>▲ 173.01</td> <td>1.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TAIWAN (WEIGHTED)</td> <td>17,450.63</td> <td>▲ 32.29</td> <td>0.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THAILAND (SET INDEX)</td> <td>1,373.92</td> <td>▼ -7.07</td> <td>-0.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE)</td> <td>2,535.27</td> <td>▲ 9.91</td> <td>0.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SINGAPORE (ALL ORDINARIES)</td> <td>3,102.31</td> <td>▲ 12.11</td> <td>0.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES)</td> <td>7,235.30</td> <td>▲ 36.30</td> <td>0.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE)</td> <td>1,447.12</td> <td>▲ 0.73</td> <td>0.05</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		CLOSE	NET	%	JAPAN (Nikkei 225)	32,843.70	▲ 51.90	0.16	HONG KONG (HANG SENG)	16,374.50	▲ 173.01	1.07	TAIWAN (WEIGHTED)	17,450.63	▲ 32.29	0.19	THAILAND (SET INDEX)	1,373.92	▼ -7.07	-0.51	S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE)	2,535.27	▲ 9.91	0.39	SINGAPORE (ALL ORDINARIES)	3,102.31	▲ 12.11	0.39	SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES)	7,235.30	▲ 36.30	0.50	MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE)	1,447.12	▲ 0.73	0.05	<b>DECEMBER 11, 2023</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>CLOSE</th> <th>NET</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dow Jones</td> <td>36,404.930</td> <td>▲ 157.060</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NASDAQ</td> <td>14,432.486</td> <td>▲ 28.514</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S&amp;P 500</td> <td>4,622.440</td> <td>▲ 18.070</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FTSE 100</td> <td>7,544.890</td> <td>▼ -9.580</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Euro Stoxx50</td> <td>4,077.390</td> <td>▲ 12.710</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		CLOSE	NET	Dow Jones	36,404.930	▲ 157.060	NASDAQ	14,432.486	▲ 28.514	S&P 500	4,622.440	▲ 18.070	FTSE 100	7,544.890	▼ -9.580	Euro Stoxx50	4,077.390	▲ 12.710	<b>FX</b> OPEN P55.600 HIGH P55.550 LOW P55.570 CLOSE P55.570 W.AVE. P55.604 VOL. 1,005.00 M 8.00 CTVS 30 DAYS TO DECEMBER 12, 2023 SOURCE : BAP	<b>DECEMBER 12, 2023</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>LATEST BID (0900GMT)</th> <th>PREVIOUS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>JAPAN (YEN)</td> <td>145.360</td> <td>▲ 146.140</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR)</td> <td>7.809</td> <td>▲ 7.807</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR)</td> <td>31.467</td> <td>▲ 31.495</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THAILAND (BAHT)</td> <td>35.650</td> <td>▲ 35.680</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S. KOREA (WON)</td> <td>1,311.750</td> <td>▲ 1,319.380</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SINGAPORE (DOLLAR)</td> <td>1.342</td> <td>▲ 1.343</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INDONESIA (RUPIAH)</td> <td>15,615</td> <td>▲ 15,610</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MALAYSIA (RINGGIT)</td> <td>4.682</td> <td>▲ 4.680</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		LATEST BID (0900GMT)	PREVIOUS	JAPAN (YEN)	145.360	▲ 146.140	HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR)	7.809	▲ 7.807	TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR)	31.467	▲ 31.495	THAILAND (BAHT)	35.650	▲ 35.680	S. KOREA (WON)	1,311.750	▲ 1,319.380	SINGAPORE (DOLLAR)	1.342	▲ 1.343	INDONESIA (RUPIAH)	15,615	▲ 15,610	MALAYSIA (RINGGIT)	4.682	▲ 4.680	<b>DECEMBER 12, 2023</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>CLOSE</th> <th>PREVIOUS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>US\$/UK POUND</td> <td>1.2569</td> <td>▲ 1.2548</td> </tr> <tr> <td>US\$/EURO</td> <td>1.0794</td> <td>▲ 1.0767</td> </tr> <tr> <td>US\$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR</td> <td>0.6591</td> <td>▲ 0.6556</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CANADA DOLLAR/US\$</td> <td>1.3564</td> <td>▲ 1.3593</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SWISS FRANC/US\$</td> <td>0.8768</td> <td>▼ 0.8792</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		CLOSE	PREVIOUS	US\$/UK POUND	1.2569	▲ 1.2548	US\$/EURO	1.0794	▲ 1.0767	US\$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.6591	▲ 0.6556	CANADA DOLLAR/US\$	1.3564	▲ 1.3593	SWISS FRANC/US\$	0.8768	▼ 0.8792	<b>DECEMBER 11, 2023</b> FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$76.64/BBL 91.50 86.80 82.10 77.40 72.70 68.00 \$0.55 30 DAYS TO DECEMBER 11, 2023
	CLOSE	NET	%																																																																																																						
JAPAN (Nikkei 225)	32,843.70	▲ 51.90	0.16																																																																																																						
HONG KONG (HANG SENG)	16,374.50	▲ 173.01	1.07																																																																																																						
TAIWAN (WEIGHTED)	17,450.63	▲ 32.29	0.19																																																																																																						
THAILAND (SET INDEX)	1,373.92	▼ -7.07	-0.51																																																																																																						
S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE)	2,535.27	▲ 9.91	0.39																																																																																																						
SINGAPORE (ALL ORDINARIES)	3,102.31	▲ 12.11	0.39																																																																																																						
SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES)	7,235.30	▲ 36.30	0.50																																																																																																						
MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE)	1,447.12	▲ 0.73	0.05																																																																																																						
	CLOSE	NET																																																																																																							
Dow Jones	36,404.930	▲ 157.060																																																																																																							
NASDAQ	14,432.486	▲ 28.514																																																																																																							
S&P 500	4,622.440	▲ 18.070																																																																																																							
FTSE 100	7,544.890	▼ -9.580																																																																																																							
Euro Stoxx50	4,077.390	▲ 12.710																																																																																																							
	LATEST BID (0900GMT)	PREVIOUS																																																																																																							
JAPAN (YEN)	145.360	▲ 146.140																																																																																																							
HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR)	7.809	▲ 7.807																																																																																																							
TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR)	31.467	▲ 31.495																																																																																																							
THAILAND (BAHT)	35.650	▲ 35.680																																																																																																							
S. KOREA (WON)	1,311.750	▲ 1,319.380																																																																																																							
SINGAPORE (DOLLAR)	1.342	▲ 1.343																																																																																																							
INDONESIA (RUPIAH)	15,615	▲ 15,610																																																																																																							
MALAYSIA (RINGGIT)	4.682	▲ 4.680																																																																																																							
	CLOSE	PREVIOUS																																																																																																							
US\$/UK POUND	1.2569	▲ 1.2548																																																																																																							
US\$/EURO	1.0794	▲ 1.0767																																																																																																							
US\$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.6591	▲ 0.6556																																																																																																							
CANADA DOLLAR/US\$	1.3564	▲ 1.3593																																																																																																							
SWISS FRANC/US\$	0.8768	▼ 0.8792																																																																																																							

VOL. XXXVII • ISSUE 100

WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 13, 2023 • www.bworldonline.com

S1/1-10 • 2 SECTIONS, 14 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • DECEMBER 12, 2023 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)

STOCK	VALUE	CHANGE	PERCENTAGE
BDO	P125,000	▲	1.297%
ICT	P232,000	▲	1.310%
ALI	P32,000	▲	0.156%
URC	P115,000	▲	2.770%
BPI	P102,500	▲	3.015%
SMPH	P33,200	▲	1.529%
SM	P839,000	▲	0.479%
GTCAP	P537,000	▼	-1.377%
ACEN	P4,380	▼	-1.794%
JFC	P239,200	▲	0.168%

## October trade gap balloons to \$4.17B

By Justine Irish D. Tabile  
Reporter

THE Philippines' trade-in-goods deficit widened to a three-month high of \$4.17 billion in October, as exports declined by double digits amid sluggish global demand.

Preliminary data from the Philippine Statistics Authority

(PSA) showed the value of merchandise exports fell by 17.5% to \$6.36 billion, from the 6.3% drop in September and a reversal of the 20.1% growth a year ago.

The contraction in exports was the steepest since the 20.2% drop in April.

The value of merchandise imports slid by 4.4% to \$10.54 billion in October, reversing

7.7% growth in October 2022 but slower than the 14.1% drop in September.

October marked the ninth straight month of decline in imports, but the slowest contraction since the 1.2% in March.

This brought the country's trade balance — the difference between imports and exports — to a deficit of \$4.17 billion in October, widening from the

\$3.31-billion deficit a year earlier and the \$3.58-billion gap in September.

The country's balance of trade in goods has been in the red for more than eight years or since the \$64.95-million surplus in May 2015.

For the first 10 months of the year, the trade gap narrowed by 11.9% to \$44.07 billion from a year ago.

This as exports dropped by an annual 7.8% to \$60.91 billion, while imports declined 9.6% to \$104.97 billion in January to October.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee is assuming 1% and 2% growth for exports and imports, respectively, this year.

PSA data showed manufactured goods, which comprised

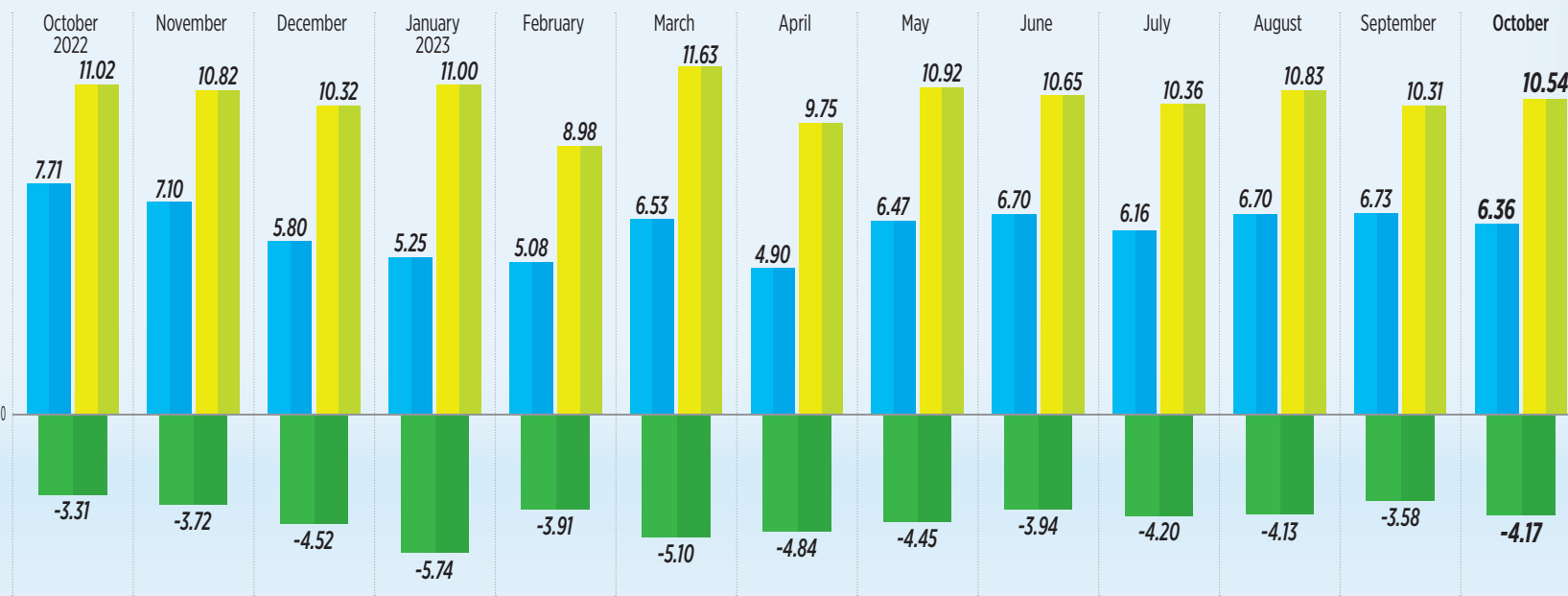
81.5% of the country's total export receipts, declined by 21.1% year on year to \$5.19 billion in October.

"The sharp decline in export growth can be attributed to base effects, but we anticipate ongoing challenges from weak global demand," China Banking Corp. Chief Economist Domini S. Velasquez said in a Viber message.

Trade gap, S1/5

### PHILIPPINE MERCHANDISE TRADE PERFORMANCE (October 2023)

Free on board (FoB) value, in \$ billion

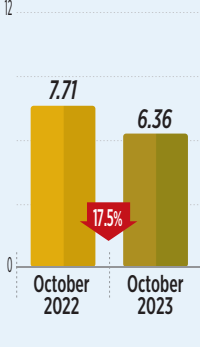


Notes:  
- Trade balance is the difference between exports and imports. Trade deficit occurs when import value is greater than exports, while the opposite happens for trade surplus.  
- Details may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (Preliminary data as of Dec 12, 2023)  
BusinessWorld Research: Lourdes O. Pilar  
BusinessWorld Graphics: Bong R. Fortin

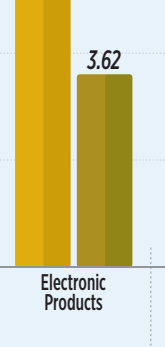
#### Total Exports

(FoB Value, in \$ billion)



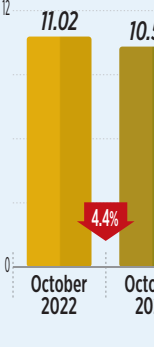
#### Top 5 Exports

(FoB Value, in \$ billion)



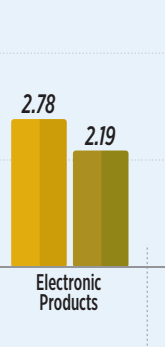
#### Total Imports

(FoB Value, in \$ billion)



#### Top 5 Imports

(FoB Value, in \$ billion)



## NPL ratio inches up to 5-month high in Oct.

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson  
Reporter

THE PHILIPPINE BANKING industry's nonperforming loan (NPL) ratio rose to the highest in five months in October, as soured loans increased due to high borrowing costs.

Preliminary data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed the banking industry's gross NPL ratio inched up to 3.44% in October from 3.4% in the previous month and 3.41% a year ago.

This was also the highest bad loan ratio since 3.46% in May.

Bad loans increased by 9.2% to P449.435 billion from P411.632 billion a year earlier.

Month on month, it inched up by 1.2% from P444.313 billion in September.

Loans are considered nonperforming once they remain unpaid for at least 90 days after the due date. They are deemed as risk assets given borrowers are unlikely to settle such loans.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said the uptick in bad loans and the NPL ratio was

largely due to rising interest rates.

"Policy rate hikes since last year due to higher prices increased the costs and narrowed the profit margins of some borrowers, somewhat reducing the profitability and the ability of some borrowers to pay, partly leading to some pickup in bad loans," he said.

In an off-cycle move in October, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) raised borrowing costs by 25 basis points (bps), bringing the key rate to a 16-year high of 6.5%.

Since May 2022, the central bank has raised the benchmark rate by a total of 450 bps to tame inflation.

"NPLs remain elevated because income is not yet catching up with high interest rates. The cost of borrowing remains high creating difficulties in repaying debts," John Paolo R. Rivera, president and chief economist at Oikonomia Advisory & Research, Inc., said in a Viber message.

BSP data showed past due loans rose by 14.4% to P557.083 billion in October from a year earlier. This brought the ratio to 4.26%, up from 4.03% in 2022.

NPL, S1/5

## ADB approves \$2.1-B loan for Bataan-Cavite bridge

THE ASIAN Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday said it has approved up to \$2.1 billion (P116.8 billion) in financing for the construction of a bridge linking the provinces of Bataan and Cavite across Manila Bay.

"The Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge (BCIB) project, one of the government's flagship infrastructure projects, will complete

the transport loop around Manila Bay and better link Metro Manila to Central Luzon and nearby Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon provinces," the multilateral lender said in a statement.

The project involves the construction of a 32.15-kilometer (km) "climate resilient" bridge, 24 km of marine viaducts and

eight kilometers of approach road.

The ADB said the bridge would reduce travel time to one-and-a-half hours from five hours previously between Bataan and Cavite, and about two hours from four hours between Bataan and Metro Manila.

"The traffic decongestion in Metro Manila and the reduced

travel time will help lower annual greenhouse gas emissions in the country by an estimated 79,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent," it said.

The ADB said the BCIB project would be financed under a multi-tranche financing facility, with the first tranche amount of \$650 million (around P36.2 billion).

ADB, S1/5

## PHL economy seen to grow by 5.6%

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY is expected to be the second fastest-growing economy in Southeast Asia in 2024, according to the Mastercard Economics Institute (MEI).

In its latest "Economic Outlook: Balancing Prices & Priorities" report, MEI gave a Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast of 5.6% for 2024.

This would make the Philippines the second fastest-growing economy in Southeast Asia, just behind Vietnam which is projected to grow by 6.2%.

MEI data showed Philippine GDP will likely expand faster than Indonesia's 5.1%, Malaysia's 4.5%, and Thailand's 3.4%.

Philippine economic managers are targeting 6.5-8% GDP growth next year.

MEI said the Asia-Pacific region is likely to see a modest GDP growth acceleration, although below trend, in 2024.

"While MEI believes that the global economy will feel more 'normal' in 2024 than the prior three years, it is still an economy in the process of rebalancing. This means consumers and corporations will be mindful of how to prioritize their spending and investment in an environment of shifting relative price differentials and higher borrowing costs," it added.

Economy, S1/5



McDonald's Philippines opens its 7th Green and Good flagship store in the country in Ayala Cresendo, Tarlac. Equipped with utility efficient solutions such as a solar power rooftop, solar lampposts, rainwater harvester, among others, McDonald's Green & Good is the company's commitment to do better for the environment by building and operating its restaurants with green innovations.

Seen in photo are Ronald McDonald, Grimace, Birdie, and Hamburglar with a McDonald's Green & Good token made with recycled materials that'll share more information about the initiative through augmented reality.