

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEi OPEN: 6,476.38 HIGH: 6,524.58 LOW: 6,447.89 CLOSE: 6,521.27 VOL.: 0.749 B VAL(P): 4.369 B 45.77 pts, 0.7% 30 DAYS TO DECEMBER 19, 2023	DECEMBER 19, 2023 JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 33,219.39 ▲ 460.41 1.41 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 16,505.00 ▼ -124.23 -0.75 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 17,576.55 ▼ -75.48 -0.43 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,393.93 ▲ 0.52 0.04 S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 2,568.55 ▲ 1.69 0.07 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 3,119.00 ▲ 5.77 0.19 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 7,489.10 ▲ 62.70 0.84 MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE) 1,465.67 ▲ 0.39 0.03	DECEMBER 18, 2023 Dow Jones 37,306.020 ▲ 0.860 NASDAQ 14,905.194 ▲ 91.274 S&P 500 4,740.560 ▲ 21.370 FTSE 100 7,614.480 ▲ 38.120 Euro Stoxx50 4,065.130 ▼ -5.500	FX OPEN P55.800 HIGH P55.800 LOW P56.000 CLOSE P55.950 W.AVE. P55.917 VOL. 1,306.85 M 8.00 CTVS 30 DAYS TO DECEMBER 19, 2023 SOURCE : BAP	DECEMBER 19, 2023 LATEST BID (0900GMT) JAPAN (YEN) 144.460 ▼ 142.340 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.801 ▼ 7.799 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 31.340 ▼ 31.296 THAILAND (BAHT) 34.980 ▼ 34.960 S. KOREA (WON) 1,307.610 ▼ 1,297.750 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.332 ▼ 1.331 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 15,500 ▲ 15,505 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.679 ▲ 4.690	DECEMBER 19, 2023 US\$/UK POUND 1.2685 ▲ 1.2686 US\$/EURO 1.0941 ▲ 1.0920 US\$/AUST DOLLAR 0.6729 ▲ 0.6734 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3389 ▲ 1.3367 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.8660 ▼ 0.8683	DUBAI CRUDE OIL FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$76.15/BBL UNCHANGED 30 DAYS TO DECEMBER 18, 2023

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • DECEMBER 19, 2023 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)

ALI P34.350 Value P675,507,585 PO.400 ▲ 1.178%	BDO P131.000 Value P429,722,657 P4.100 ▲ 3.231%	ICT P246.000 Value P386,121,948 P2.000 ▲ 0.820%	SM P903.500 Value P269,841,925 -P9.000 ▼ -0.986%	SMPH P33.900 Value P240,932,295 P0.300 ▲ 0.893%	BPI P104.000 Value P220,238,331 P1.800 ▲ 1.761%	AC P715.000 Value P182,859,965 P0.000 — 0.000%	ACEN P4.200 Value P180,755,790 -P0.070 ▼ -1.639%	GTCAP P565.000 Value P126,191,630 P0.000 — 0.000%	JFC P247.800 Value P109,736,990 -P3.800 ▼ -1.510%
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WB sees faster remittance growth

REMITTANCE FLOWS to the Philippines are projected to grow by 5% this year and next year, the World Bank (WB) said, as demand for Filipino migrant workers remains strong.

Data from the World Bank showed the Philippines remained the fourth-largest recipient of foreign remittances in the world this year with \$40 billion, after India (\$125 billion),

Mexico (\$67 billion), and China (\$50 billion).

“Remittance flows to the Philippines — the largest recipient after China in the East Asia and Pacific region — are likely to reach \$40 billion in 2023, growing at over 5% compared to under 4% in 2022,” the multilateral lender said in its latest Migration and Development brief.

For next year, remittance flows to the Philippines are expected to grow by around 5% to \$42 billion.

The latest remittance growth projection is faster than the 2.5% growth penciled in by the World Bank in June.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) expects remittances to grow by 3% this year and in 2024.

The World Bank said remittances to the Philippines account

for about 48% of the total remittances to East Asia and the Pacific Islands, excluding China.

“The sustained growth in remittances flows to the Philippines was an outcome of a well-diversified set of host destinations across the world,” the World Bank said.

Remittances came from key source countries such as Hong Kong, China, Korea, Singapore, as well as the Middle East.

“The impact of the Filipino government’s proactive stance in negotiating specific deals with foreign governments such as Saudi Arabia to protect its workers also contributed to facilitating emigration to that country,” the World Bank said.

The multilateral lender said that remittances account for up to 10% of gross domestic product (GDP) in the Philippines, which

indicates the “growing dependence of the East Asian economies on labor markets in the high-income countries of North America, Europe, East Asia, and Australia as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).”

Remittance costs in the Philippines are also among the cheapest, the multilateral lender noted.

Remittance, S1/3

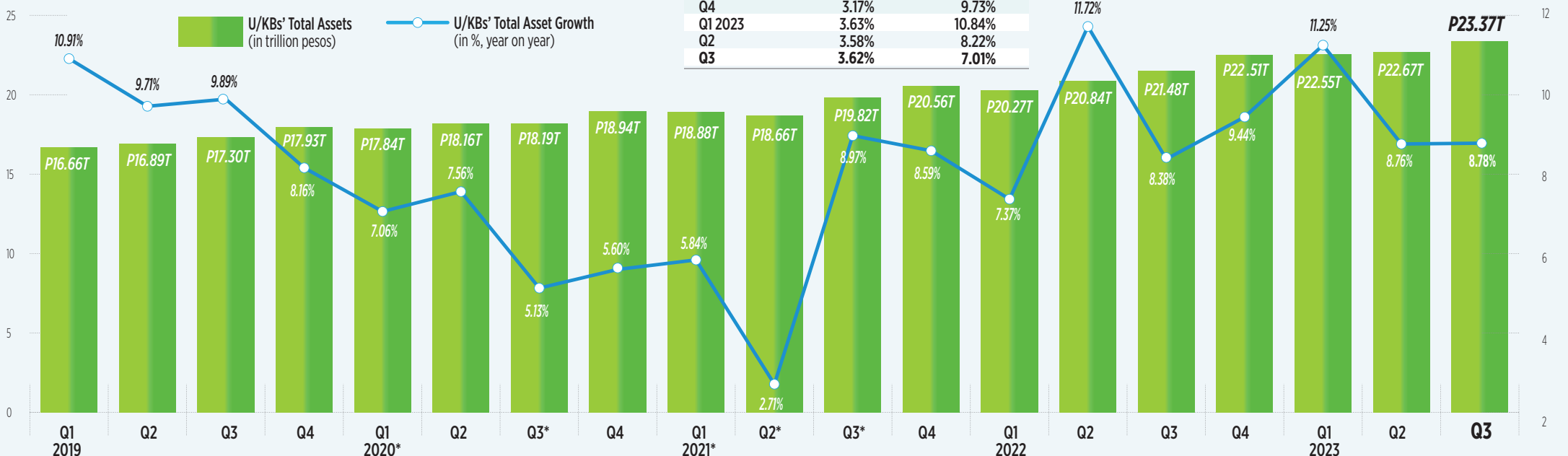
PHL BIG BANKS' ASSET GROWTH RISES, LOAN GROWTH EASES

In the third quarter, the combined assets of the country’s universal and commercial banks (U/KBs) increased by 8.78% year on year to P23.37 trillion. This was higher than the 8.38% growth recorded during the same period last year. However, the total loans issued by these banks only increased by 7.01% to P11.44 trillion, the weakest expansion in six quarters or since the 6.21% recorded in the first quarter of 2022. It was also lower than the 9.74% annual gain recorded from July to September 2022.

NOTES:
* Five of the big banks were excluded in the first quarter of 2020 due to unavailability of data at the time of collection. One during the third quarter of 2020 and first quarter of 2021, four in the second quarter of 2021, and two in the third quarter of 2021 were also unavailable.

** The current method distinguishes bad loans without deductions (gross nonperforming loans) and bad loans minus specific allowance for credit losses (net nonperforming loans). Previously, banks presented bad loan data that already excluded loans that were already fully provisioned as of the last examination by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Period	Gross Nonperforming Loans Ratio (Q1 2019-Q3 2023)**	U/KBs' Total Loans Growth (in %, year on year)
Q1 2019	1.53%	12.38%
Q2	1.58%	10.25%
Q3	1.66%	9.10%
Q4	1.88%	9.30%
Q1 2020*	1.93%	9.73%
Q2	2.02%	5.37%
Q3*	3.57%	-0.74%
Q4	3.68%	-3.96%
Q1 2021*	4.12%	-5.98%
Q2*	4.67%	-5.60%
Q3*	4.49%	3.24%
Q4	3.95%	5.93%
Q1 2022	4.03%	6.21%
Q2	3.75%	12.61%
Q3	2.91%	9.74%
Q4	3.17%	9.73%
Q1 2023	3.63%	10.84%
Q2	3.58%	8.22%
Q3	3.62%	7.01%



Source: BusinessWorld's Quarterly Banking Reports BusinessWorld Research: Abigail Marie P. Yraola BusinessWorld Graphics: Crencio I. Cruz

Publishers, bookshops ride the digital wave spurred by pandemic

By Beatriz Marie D. Cruz
Reporter

ANDREA PASION-FLORES, a 52-year-old publisher based in Manila, is using the internet to sell books like hotcakes directly to consumers.

“Ours is basically a business-to-consumer model,” the entrepreneur, who owns independent Milflores Publishing, said in an e-mail. “The mainstream bookstore just can’t carry all the books that all the publishers produce.”

The digital age and limited movement spurred by the coronavirus pandemic strengthened the more direct publisher-to-reader relationship, said Kevin Ansel Dy, who heads the policy and industry research division of the National Book Development Board.

“The internet has changed how distribution works,” he said in a video interview. “What that means for publishers is that I don’t necessarily have to go through a distributor. I can have more direct contact with my customers. I can have my own little store on Lazada or Shopee.”

The Philippine creative industry contributed 7.3% to the Philippine economy in 2022, slightly lower than a year earlier, according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority. But the gross value was P1.6 trillion or 12.1% higher than in 2021.

Media publishing and printing activities contributed P179.14 billion — 11% of the industry — to the Philippine economy last year.

Katrina Stuart-Santiago, who owns independent bookshop Everything’s Fine, said a direct relationship with buyers has helped the business promote its own books.

Publishers, S1/3



Big banks' Q3 asset growth fastest in two quarters

By Abigail Marie P. Yraola
Researcher

THE COMBINED ASSETS of the Philippines’ biggest banks rose by 8.78% in the third quarter, while lending growth slowed amid high borrowing costs.

The latest edition of BusinessWorld’s quarterly banking

report showed the combined assets of 45 universal and commercial banks (U/KBs) increased by 8.78% year on year to P23.37 trillion in the July-to-September period from P21.48 trillion a year ago.

This was a tad faster than the 8.38% growth logged in the same period last year and 8.76% in the second quarter.

Asset growth was the fastest in two quarters or since 11.25% in the first three months of 2023.

Meanwhile, total loans of these big banks inched up by 7.01% to P11.44 trillion in the third quarter, slower than the 9.74% growth posted a year ago.

The third-quarter loan growth was the slowest in six quarters or

since the 6.21% growth in the first quarter of 2022.

The slowdown in lending was reflected in soaring borrowing costs, which discouraged consumers from taking out loans. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas’ (BSP) key rate stood at a near 16-year high 6.25% in the third quarter.

Banks, S1/3

New vehicle sales growth slows to 7.6% in November

NEW VEHICLE SALES jumped by an annual 7.6% in November, the slowest growth in 21 months as high interest rates weighed on consumer demand.

A joint report by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) showed new vehicle sales rose to 37,683 in November from 35,037 in the same month a year ago.

This was the weakest sales growth in 21 months or since the 7.3% contraction recorded in February 2022.

Month on month, vehicle sales slipped by 1.2% from 38,128 units sold in October.

“Total sales slightly declined on a month-on-month basis, but the industry still displayed a relatively strong performance in November,” CAMPI President Rommel R. Gutierrez said in a statement on Tuesday.

“Vehicle sales are being pushed by continued aggressive marketing activities and supply improvement across all brands,” he added.

However, consumer spending has slowed in recent months, reflecting the impact of soaring interest rates.

Vehicle, S1/5



Spreading light and cheer! Grimace, Birdie, Hamburglar and McDonald’s Philippines Assistant Vice President for Corporate Relations and Impact, Adi Hernandez, pose with the children of Brgy. Matandang Balara, Quezon City during the Share the Light Christmas Celebration launch, a heartfelt initiative by McDonald’s Philippines, its charity of choice, Ronald McDonald House Charities, and its partner Coca-Cola Philippines to brighten the holiday season for Filipino children and families.