

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEi 7000 6820 6640 6460 6280 6100 69.15 pts. 1.02% 30 DAYS TO APRIL 30, 2024 OPEN: 6,756.32 HIGH: 6,777.27 LOW: 6,700.49 CLOSE: 6,700.49 VOL.: 1.502 B VAL(P): 22.308 B	MAY 1, 2024 JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 38,274.05 ▼ -131.61 -0.34 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) * 17,763.03 ▲ 16.12 0.09 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) * 20,396.60 ▲ -98.92 -0.48 THAILAND (SET INDEX) * 1,367.95 ▲ 5.98 0.44 S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) * 2,692.06 ▲ 4.62 0.17 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) * 3,292.69 ▲ 10.64 0.32 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARYS) * 7,569.90 ▲ -94.20 -1.23 MALAYSIA (KLESE COMPOSITE) * 1,575.97 ▼ -6.69 -0.42 * CLOSING PRICES AS OF APRIL 30, 2024	APRIL 30, 2024 DOW JONES 37,815.920 ▼ -570.170 NASDAQ 15,657.822 ▼ -325.262 S&P 500 5,035.690 ▼ -80.480 FTSE 100 8,144.130 ▼ -2.900 EURO STOXX50 4,395.300 ▼ -17.870	FX 55.30 55.96 56.62 57.28 57.94 58.60 8.50 ctyvs 30 DAYS TO APRIL 30, 2024 OPEN P57.600 HIGH P57.450 LOW P57.770 CLOSE P57.760 W.AVE. P57.583 VOL. \$1,891.40 M SOURCE : BAP	MAY 1, 2024 LATEST BID (0900GMT) PREVIOUS JAPAN (YEN) 157.940 ▼ 156.910 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.824 ▼ 7.822 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 32.590 ▼ 32.570 THAILAND (BAHT) 37.160 ▼ 37.050 S. KOREA (WON) 1,385.590 ▼ 1,380.900 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.364 ▼ 1.360 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 16,255 ▼ 16,255 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.770 ▼ 4.768	MAY 1, 2024 CLOSURE PREVIOUS US\$/UK POUND 1.2490 ▼ 1.2544 US\$/EURO 1.0669 ▼ 1.0726 US\$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR 0.6480 ▼ 0.6531 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3772 ▼ 1.3681 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9206 ▲ 0.9105	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$88.59/BBL 92.00 90.00 88.00 86.00 84.00 82.00 80.00 \$0.03 30 DAYS TO APRIL 30, 2024

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • APRIL 30, 2024 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)

ICT	P331.000	BPI	P127.500	BDO	P148.200	SM	P27.950	ALI	P28.750	SM	P950.000	MER	P369.000	MBT	P70.000	URC	P103.200	AC	P615.000
Value	P544,130,544	Value	P543,834,773	Value	P392,941,407	Value	P379,838,110	Value	P375,138,685	Value	P359,900,130	Value	P280,078,266	Value	P257,327,722	Value	P178,311,190	Value	P161,808,940
	-P5.200 ▼ -1.547%		-P1.500 ▼ -1.163%		-P1.600 ▼ -1.068%		-P0.850 ▼ -2.951%		-P0.750 ▼ -2.542%		-P19.000 ▼ -1.961%		P2.000 ▲ 0.545%		P0.000 — 0.000%		-P1.700 ▼ -1.621%		P5.500 ▲ 0.902%

Marcos calls for review of wage rates

By Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza
Reporter

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on Wednesday ordered regional wage boards to review minimum wage rates, as Filipino workers face stagnant

salary growth despite rising living costs.

The regional boards should consider economic challenges such as inflation in conducting wage reviews, Mr. Marcos said in a speech during a Labor Day ceremony in Malacañang.

"As president, I call on the Regional Tripartite Wages and

Productivity Board to initiate a timely review of the minimum wage rates in their respective regions, with due consideration to the impact of inflation among others, within 60 days prior to the anniversary of their latest wage order," he said.

Mr. Marcos called on the National Wages and Productivity

Commission, which supervises the wage boards, to ensure "a regular and predictable" schedule of wage reviews in order to "reduce uncertainty and enhance fairness for all stakeholders."

The Philippines adjusts daily minimum wages through its wage boards. The wage board in the National Capital Region

(NCR) approved a P40 increase on June 29, 2023, bringing the minimum wage to P610 from P570 for workers in the non-agricultural sector.

However, the slow and meager wage hikes amid rising cost of living have prompted lawmakers to pursue wage hikes through legislation.

Senators have approved a bill on second reading increasing the daily minimum wage in the private sector by P100.

At the House of Representatives, separate bills that seek to increase wages of private sector workers by P150 to P750 have been filed.

Wage rates, S1/9

ERC to suspend WESM trading when Luzon and Visayas are under red alert

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission (ERC) on Tuesday ordered the suspension of trading in the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) during red alerts to prevent a spike in electricity prices.

"Due to the extreme heat, electricity consumption has risen, adding to the price hike. (On Tuesday) the ERC acted to temporarily suspend the operation of the WESM when the system operator or NGCP (National Grid Corp. of the Philippines) declares a red alert," President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. said in Filipino during a speech at a Labor Day event on Wednesday.

In an order dated April 30, the ERC said WESM trading will be suspended for the Luzon and/or Visayas grid during red alerts based on notices issued by the system operator or NGCP.

WESM is the trading floor for electricity. Under the Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, the ERC can suspend the operation of the WESM or declare a temporary WESM failure "in cases of national and international security emergencies or natural calamities."

During the period of market suspension, the ERC said that the administrative price, or the price imposed by the market operator

to the trading participants during market suspension or market intervention, will be applied.

If a dispatch interval is subject to both a price mitigation and the administered price, "the lower of the two prices shall apply in the settlement of transactions for such interval," the ERC said.

"The Commission is working doubly hard to alleviate the impact of El Niño on our power system, and we are finding ways to mitigate the impact of the extremely high demand resulting from the high heat index as these ultimately affect our consumers," ERC Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Monalisa C. Dimalanta was quoted as saying in a statement.

The ERC said the average spot prices per day increased by 11% in Luzon and by 53% in the Visayas when alert notices were issued due to the high heat index. These increases would have "a significant impact in the consumers' electricity bill," it added.

Based on ERC data as of April 25, Luzon grid has been under red alert for 20 hours and 46 minutes and under yellow alert for 57 hours and 50 minutes. There were no yellow and red alerts in Luzon during the same period last year.

WESM, S1/8

'Hot money' outflows rise to \$236M in March

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson
Reporter

MORE FOREIGN PORTFOLIO investments left the Philippines in March, as investors anticipated a delay in rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed.

Transactions on foreign investments registered with the central bank through authorized agent banks posted a net outflow of \$236.02 million in March, significantly higher than the \$70.26-million outflows in the same month a year ago.

This was also a reversal of the \$689.27-million net inflows recorded in February.

Foreign portfolio investments are called "hot money" because of the ease with which they can enter or leave a jurisdiction, as opposed to foreign direct investments, which are considered less fickle.

Central bank data showed that gross outflows for the month nearly doubled (91.4%) to \$1.6 billion from \$859.07 million in February.

Year on year, gross outflows jumped by 24% from the \$1.3-billion outflows in March 2023.

The US received more than half (53.9%) of total outward remittances, equivalent to \$887 million.

Meanwhile, gross inflows declined by 9.1% to \$1.4 billion in March from \$1.5 billion in the previous month. On the other hand, it rose by 12.1% from \$1.25 billion in the year-ago period.

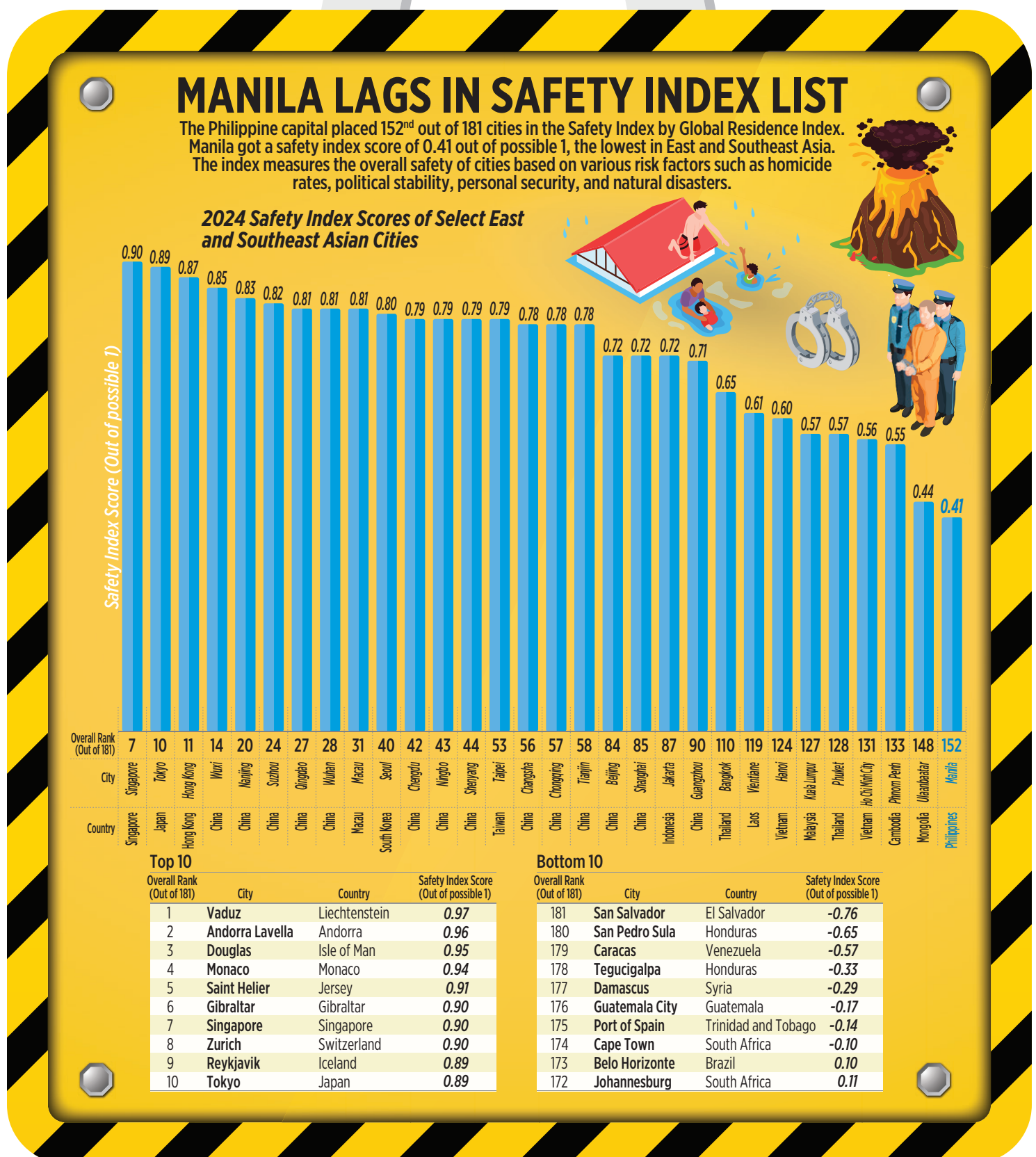
The bulk of investments (56.7%) went to Philippine Stock Exchange-listed securities, mainly banks, holding firms, property, transportation services, and food, beverage and tobacco.

The remaining 43.3% of the inflows went to investments in peso government securities and other instruments. In March, investments mostly came from the United Kingdom, Singapore, the United States, Switzerland, and Luxembourg, which accounted for 83.6% of the total gross inflows.

For the first quarter, hot money yielded a net inflow of \$377.42 million, a turnaround from the \$328.2-million net outflow a year ago.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said more short-term foreign capital exited the country in March as investors had anticipated a delay in rate cuts by the Fed.

'Hot money,' S1/9



Source: Global Residence Index's 2024 Safety Index (https://globalresidenceindex.com/hnwi-index/safety-index/) BusinessWorld Research: Andrea C. Abestano BusinessWorld Graphics: Bong R. Fortin

No need to revise revenue targets yet — Finance chief

THERE IS NO NEED to revise revenue targets yet as the government is still on track to meet its fiscal targets on the back of efforts to enhance tax administration, Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto said.

"Our revenue collection today seems to be on target. No need to revise it yet," Mr. Recto told reporters on Monday.

Latest data from the Treasury showed that the National Government's budget gap widened by 0.65% to P272.6 billion in the first quarter, as state revenues jumped by 14.05% to P933.7 billion.

Broken down, tax revenues rose by 12.83% to P820.3 billion as Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) collection climbed by 17.15% to

P591.8 billion and Bureau of Customs (BoC) collections went up by 2.35% to P218.9 billion.

This year, the government is expected to generate P4.3 trillion in revenues, equivalent to 16.1% of gross domestic product (GDP).

Mr. Recto said he will meet with BIR and Customs officials soon to discuss revenue targets for this year and until 2028.

He noted that the BIR's collections are "pretty good" so far. The agency is responsible for generating about 70% of the government's revenues.

"If you follow that growth rate, there's no need to borrow more. We're hitting the targets. We hope that continues all the way up to

the end of the year," Mr. Recto added.

The BIR is expected to raise P3.055 trillion this year.

EYE ON E-COMMERCE

Mr. Recto said they are also looking for ways to better tax the digital economy. In 2023, the digital economy contributed 8.4% to the country's GDP or equivalent to P2.05 trillion.

"We have to be able to collect those taxes in e-commerce. It's harder to collect from them. That will be part of our strategy," Mr. Recto said.

One of the Finance department's priority measures is the bill seeking to impose a 12% value-added tax on digital transactions.

Senators are set to hold plenary debates on the measure.

The BIR also recently issued a revenue regulation which imposes a withholding tax on the gross remittances made by electronic marketplace operators and digital financial services providers to sellers and merchants.

"It's important that we're able to catch up with how consumers behave and that we're able to collect taxes and revenues through digital platforms as well," Mr. Recto added.

Apart from tax collection, Mr. Recto said the department is also looking at ramping up nontax revenues through privatization, Treasury income and dividends. — Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson