

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEi OPEN: 6,574.22 HIGH: 6,598.93 LOW: 6,511.93 CLOSE: 6,511.93 VOL: 0.425 B VAL(P): 3.673 B 30.53 PIS. 0.46% 30 DAYS TO MAY 10, 2024	MAY 10, 2024 JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 38,229.11 ▲ 155.13 0.41 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 18,963.68 ▲ 425.87 2.30 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 20,708.84 ▲ 148.07 0.72 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,371.90 ▲ 2.61 0.19 S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 2,727.63 ▲ 15.49 0.57 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 3,290.70 ▲ 24.75 0.76 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARYS) 7,749.00 ▲ 27.40 0.35 MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE) 1,600.67 ▼ -0.55 -0.03	MAY 10, 2024 DOW JONES 39,512.840 ▲ 125.080 NASDAQ 16,340.869 ▼ -5.396 S&P 500 5,222.680 ▲ 8.600 FTSE 100 8,433.760 ▲ 52.410 EURO STOXX50 4,525.050 ▲ 34.710	FX OPEN P57.300 HIGH P57.255 LOW P57.440 CLOSE P57.420 W.AVE. P57.320 VOL. \$1,029.00 M SOURCE : BAP	MAY 10, 2024 LATEST BID (0900GMT) JAPAN (YEN) 155.720 ▲ 155.900 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.813 ▲ 7.816 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 32.405 ▲ 32.434 THAILAND (BAHT) 36.720 ▲ 36.930 S. KOREA (WON) 1,369.650 ▲ 1,371.360 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.354 ▲ 1.357 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 16,040 ▲ 16,040 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.737 ▲ 4.737	MAY 10, 2024 US\$/UK POUND 1.2521 ▲ 1.2474 US\$/EURO 1.0769 ▲ 1.0726 US\$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR 0.6601 ▲ 0.6574 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3670 ▼ 1.3731 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9063 ▼ 0.9094	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$84.85/BBL \$0.21 30 DAYS TO MAY 10, 2024

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • MAY 10, 2024 (PSEi snapshot on SI/4; article on SI/2)

BDO	P138.800	TEL	P1,405.000	SM	P880.000	URC	P110.000	ICT	P345.600	ALI	P27.200	SMPH	P26.750	MBT	P68.700	AC	P587.000	BPI	P122.200
Value	P510,979,856	Value	P374,934,630	Value	P248,755,560	Value	P219,529,358	Value	P200,829,538	Value	P172,490,975	Value	P141,620,205	Value	P122,422,685	Value	P109,142,395	Value	P108,600,889
-P3.000	-2.116%	P50.000	3.690%	P3.000	0.342%	P1.300	1.196%	-P8.400	-2.373%	-P0.650	-2.334%	-P0.200	-0.742%	P0.200	0.292%	P4.500	0.773%	-P0.800	-0.650%

BSP expected to keep rates steady

FDI net inflows soar to over two-year high

NET INFLOWS of foreign direct investment (FDI) in February soared to its highest level in over two years, data from the Philippine central bank showed.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed that FDI net inflows climbed by 29.3% to \$1.364 billion in February from \$1.055 billion in the same month a year ago.

This was its highest level in 26 months or since the \$2.662-billion net inflows recorded in December 2021.

Month on month, FDI net inflows increased by 50% from \$907 million in January.

The BSP said this was mainly due to the expansion in nonresidents' net investments in equity capital (other than reinvestment of earnings), which offset the decline in net investments in debt instruments.

Nonresidents' net investments in equity capital (other than reinvestment of earnings) skyrocketed (927.3%) to \$764 million from \$74 million in the same month in 2023.

Broken down, equity capital withdrawals more than doubled (142.1%) to \$93 million in February from \$38 million a year ago, while placements surged (660.2%) to \$857 million from \$113 million a year ago.

The BSP said that the majority of equity placements in February came mainly from the Netherlands (89%). These were invested mostly in the financial and insurance industries.

On the other hand, nonresidents' net investments in debt instruments of local affiliates plunged by 41.5% to \$533 million in February from \$912 million a year earlier.

BSP data also showed that investments in equity and investment fund shares ballooned (480.4%) to \$830 million in February from \$143 million year on year.

On the other hand, reinvestment of earnings slipped by 3.8% to \$66 million from \$69 million a year ago.

TWO-MONTH PERIOD

For the January-to-February period, total FDI net inflows rose by 48.2% to \$2.271 billion from \$1.533 billion last year.

Investments in equity capital other than reinvestment of earnings surged (350.3%) to \$753 million in the first two months from \$167 million a year ago.

Placements nearly tripled (265.7%) to \$956 million while withdrawals more than doubled (115.5%) to \$203 million.

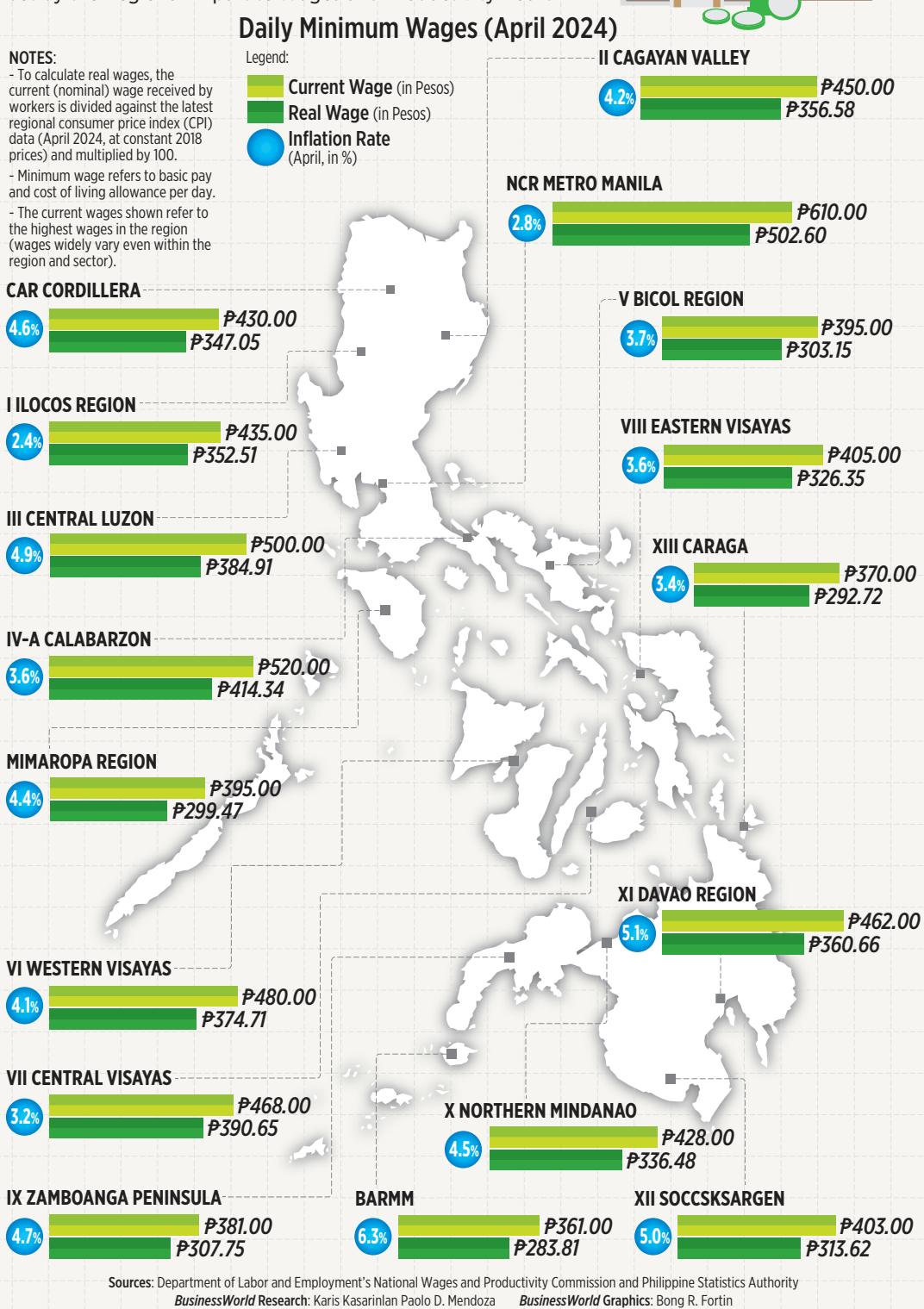
Reinvestment of earnings went up by 7.4% to \$165 million in the two-month period from \$154 million in the same period a year ago.

Investments in debt instruments increased by 11.6% to \$1.353 billion in the January-to-February period from \$1.212 billion last year.

FDI, SI/9

HOW MINIMUM WAGES COMPARED ACROSS REGIONS IN APRIL (AFTER ACCOUNTING FOR INFLATION)

In April, inflation-adjusted wages were 16.5% to 24.2% lower than the current daily minimum wages across the region in the country. Meanwhile, in peso terms, real wages were lower by around P73.25 to P115.09 from the current daily minimum wages set by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board.



By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson Reporter

THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas (BSP) is widely expected to extend its policy pause for a first straight meeting this week as inflation risks remain.

A BusinessWorld poll of 19 analysts conducted last week showed 17 analysts expect the Monetary Board to maintain its target reverse repurchase rate at a 17-year high of 6.5% at its policy review on Thursday.

On the other hand, one analyst expects the BSP to cut rates by 25 basis points (bps), while another sees the central bank raising rates amid persistent inflation.

The central bank has raised borrowing costs by a cumulative 450 bps from May 2022 to October 2023 to tame inflation.

"The Philippine central bank's May 16th meeting is likely to see a hold on interest rates. This aligns with their recent cautious approach and the need to balance inflation control with economic growth," Security Bank Corp. Chief Economist Robert Dan J. Roces said in an e-mail.

Headline inflation quickened for a third straight month to 3.8% in April from 3.7% in March. April marked the fifth straight month that inflation fell within the BSP's 2-4% target range.

Inflation averaged 3.4% in the first four months, still below the central bank's 3.8% full-year forecast.

Bank of the Philippine Islands Lead Economist Emilio S. Neri, Jr. said that the central bank will keep its benchmark rate unchanged as "inflation remains uncertain just as growth indicators generally continue to show resilience."

In a note, Chinabank Research said the BSP would likely maintain its hawkish stance this week, given the risks to inflation and weaker-than-expected gross domestic product (GDP) expansion in the first quarter.

"The country's GDP growth came in weaker than expected at 5.7% in the first quarter but was still a solid print, outperforming some of our regional peers. This should provide the BSP room

Rates, SI/9

Subsidies to GOCCs drop by 36% in March

SUBSIDIES provided to government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) fell by 36.3% in March, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) said.

Data from the BTr showed that budgetary support to GOCCs declined to P6.872 billion in March from P10.795 billion a year earlier.

Month on month, subsidies dropped by 46% from P12.715 billion in February.

The government provides subsidies to GOCCs to help cover operational expenses not covered by their revenue.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) was the top recipient in March, receiving P3.224 billion. This accounted for nearly half or 46.9% of overall subsidies.

This was followed by the National Electrification Administration (NEA) with P2.088 billion in subsidies and the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority with P382 million in subsidies. The two agencies did not receive any subsidies in the previous month.

Other top recipients were the Cultural Center of the Philippines (P156 million), Philippine Heart Center (P152 million), Small Business Corp. (P125 million), Philippine Children's Medical Center

(P118 million), and the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (P104 million).

Other GOCCs that received more than P50 million during the month were the Tourism Promotions Board (P83 million), Light Rail Transit Authority (P72 million), Lung Center of the Philippines (P53 million), and the Philippine Coconut Authority (P50 million).

Meanwhile, the Local Water Utilities Administration, National Food Authority (NEA), National Power Corp., Philippine National Railways, Philippine Postal Corp. and Social Housing Finance Corp. did not receive any subsidies in March.

FIRST-QUARTER SUBSIDIES

In the first three months, subsidies to GOCCs stood at P19.587 billion, 8% lower than P21.308 billion in the same period a year ago.

The NIA received the bulk of subsidies in the first quarter, taking in P10.317 billion. This accounted for more than half (52.7%) of the total subsidies released during the period.

This was followed by the NEA with P2.25 billion and the NEA at P2.088 billion.

Last year, subsidies to GOCCs amounted to P163.54 billion. — Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

BusinessWorld Economic Forum 2024 to uncover next drivers of Philippines' growth

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY has shown resilience despite facing challenges such as the coronavirus pandemic, elevated inflation and high interest rates.

The BusinessWorld Economic Forum will tackle the key issues facing the Philippines today, as well as the next drivers of economic growth when it returns on May 22 (Wednesday) at the Grand Hyatt Manila in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Titled "PH Next: Growth Drivers," the award-winning premier business event from the Philippines' leading business newspaper and multimedia content provider will bring together policy makers, industry leaders, and top executives.

National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan will kickstart the forum by delivering a speech on the "Imperatives for Sustaining Philippines' Economic Growth."



NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan (left) and JG Summit Holdings, Inc. President and Chief Executive Officer Lance Y. Gokongwei will deliver keynote speeches at the BusinessWorld Economic Forum "PH Next: Growth Drivers" on May 22 at the Grand Hyatt Manila.

Lance Y. Gokongwei, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of JG Summit Holdings, Inc., will deliver a keynote speech on "Boosting the Private Sector's Share in Fueling Economic

Growth," sharing his perspective on the role of private enterprises in driving the Philippine economy forward.

Central to the forum will be the panel discussions discussing

the various opportunities for the Philippine economy.

The first panel, "Strengthening the Backbone of Nationwide Progress," will include George Royeca, CEO of ride-hailing service Angkas; Rafa de Mesa, head of economic estates for Aboitiz InfraCapital, Inc.; Jesus Romero, senior executive vice-president and chief operating officer (COO) of Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.; and Emmanuel "Manny" Estrada, vice-president for regulatory development and strategy at Globe.

Another panel discussion on "Digital Economy: A Vital Engine for Future Growth" will feature Grace Vera Cruz, country head of ride-hailing and online payments platform Grab Philippines; Jerry Ngo, CEO of EastWest Bank; Carlos Barrera, CEO of Lazada Philippines; and Mitch Padua, group chief product officer of Maya.

Economic forum, SI/9