

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEi OPEN: 6,465.13 HIGH: 6,511.73 LOW: 6,453.49 CLOSE: 6,509.86 VOL: 0.332 B VAL(P): 4,640 B 30 DAYS TO JUNE 6, 2024 68.54 Pts. 1.06%	JUNE 6, 2024 JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 38,703.51 ▲ 213.34 0.55 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 18,476.80 ▲ 51.84 0.28 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 21,902.70 ▲ 417.82 1.94 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,328.41 ▼ -9.91 -0.74 S. KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) * 2,689.50 ▲ 27.40 1.03 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 3,330.81 ▲ 0.80 0.02 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 7,821.80 ▲ 52.80 0.68 MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE) 1,614.73 ▲ 6.20 0.39 * CLOSING PRICE AS OF JUNE 5, 2024	JUNE 5, 2024 DOW JONES 38,807.330 ▲ 96.040 NASDAQ 17,187.905 ▲ 330.858 S&P 500 5,354.030 ▲ 62.690 FTSE 100 8,246.950 ▲ 14.910 EURO STOXX50 4,530.300 ▲ 51.060	FX OPEN P58.680 HIGH P58.540 LOW P58.720 CLOSE P58.611 W.AVE. P58.641 VOL. \$1,378.45 M SOURCE : BAP 30 DAYS TO JUNE 6, 2024 16.90 CTS	JUNE 6, 2024 LATEST BID (0900GMT) JAPAN (YEN) 155.920 ▲ 156.170 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.810 ▲ 7.811 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 32.276 ▲ 32.346 THAILAND (BAHT) 36.480 ▲ 36.670 S. KOREA (WON) 1,366.580 ▲ 1,373.230 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.347 — 1.347 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 16,255 ▲ 16,280 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.692 ▲ 4.696	JUNE 6, 2024 US\$/UK POUND 1.2782 ▲ 1.2771 US\$/EURO 1.0879 ▲ 1.0874 US\$/AUST DOLLAR 0.6648 ▲ 0.6645 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3689 ▲ 1.3685 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.8915 ▼ 0.8921	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$78.21/BBL 30 DAYS TO JUNE 5, 2024 \$0.36

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JUNE 6, 2024 (PSEi snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)

ICT	P353.800	ALI	P28.000	AEV	P37.900	SM	P851.000	CNVRG	P10.400	BDO	P138.000	JFC	P228.800	SMPH	P27.100	MBT	P68.600	BPI	P120.000
Value	P1,048,237,336	Value	P287,032,765	Value	P281,252,130	Value	P221,330,535	Value	P177,423,882	Value	P168,950,539	Value	P160,614,816	Value	P153,015,035	Value	P141,185,149	Value	P125,932,838
	P18.800 ▲ 5.612%		P0.150 ▲ 0.539%		P0.200 ▲ 0.531%		P1.000 ▲ 0.118%		-P0.220 ▼ -2.072%		P0.000 — 0.000%		P5.800 ▲ 2.601%		P0.200 ▲ 0.743%		P0.950 ▲ 1.404%		P0.000 — 0.000%

Jobless rate rises to 3-month high

BSP likely to keep policy stance tight

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson
Reporter

THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas (BSP) is still likely to keep its policy settings tight even as inflation settled within the target for a sixth straight month in May.

"The BSP will likely keep its monetary policy restrictive in the first half of the year as inflation risks (are) seen to persist in the near term," Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Lead Economist Emilio S. Neri, Jr. said in a statement.

Policy easing may only be considered once inflation stabilizes within the 2-4% target in the third or fourth quarter, he added.

"We continue to note the possibility of rate cut delay, given that the Philippine economy maintains a healthy pace of growth," Citi Economist for the Philippines Nalin Chutchotitham said.

The central bank could cut rates as early as August, BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. previously said.

At its May meeting, the Monetary Board kept the benchmark rate steady at a 17-year high of 6.5%. Its next policy review is on June 27.

The central bank raised borrowing costs by 450 basis points (bps) from May 2022 to October 2023 to tame inflation.

"Looking ahead, although we think upward momentum may persist in the next two months given unfavorable base effects, weaker peso and lingering food supply issues, we are still on track to achieve sub-4% as early as August," Mr. Neri said.

This is in line with the BSP's expectation that inflation could breach the 2-4% target band until July amid base effects.

Headline inflation quickened to 3.9% in May from 3.8% in April, its fastest print in six months or since 4.1% in November. May also marked the sixth straight month that inflation settled within the 2-4% target range.

"Some upside risks to inflation remain, from potential adjustments of excise taxes and minimum wages. Hence, we continue to expect the BSP to start cutting policy rates only in August, once inflation has peaked around July," Ms. Chutchotitham said.

The recent peso weakness may also delay the BSP's easing cycle, Ms. Chutchotitham said.

Policy, S1/11

By Abigail Marie P. Yraola
Deputy Research Head

THE PHILIPPINE unemployment rate climbed to a three-month high in April, while the quality of jobs deteriorated, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported on Thursday.

Preliminary data of the PSA's latest Labor Force Survey (LFS) showed national unemployment rate — the share of the jobless Filipinos to the total labor

force — inched up to 4% in April from 3.9% in March but lower than 4.5% a year ago.

April saw the highest unemployment rate in three months or since 4.5% in January.

This translated to 2.04 million unemployed Filipinos in April, up by 41,000 from March. It was 215,000 lower than the 2.26 million jobless a year ago.

For the first four months, the unemployment rate averaged 4%, lower than 4.7% in the same period a year ago.

PSA Undersecretary and National Statistician Claire Dennis S. Mapa said

El Niño was the main culprit for the rise in the unemployment rate, especially in the agriculture sector.

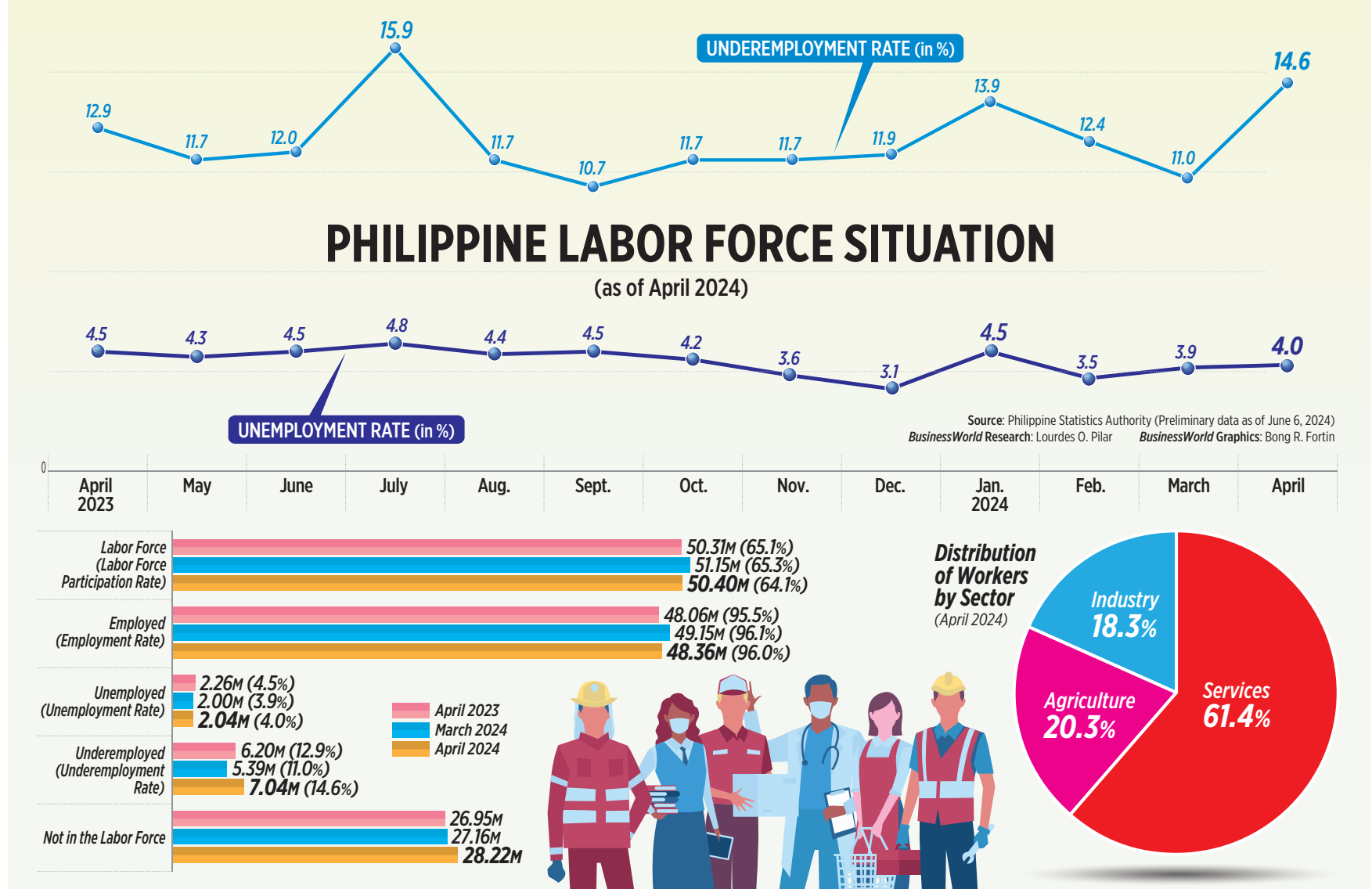
"We saw that the crop production in the first quarter declined due to the impact of El Niño. Because the production was lower, you have that decrease in (the number of) employed," Mr. Mapa said in a mix of English and Filipino during the briefing.

The agriculture sector is the second-largest employer in the country and contributes over a tenth to the economy.

"The slight increase in the unemployment rate, along with the sharp rise in the underemployment rate, reflects economic and seasonal fluctuations, sector-specific downturns, and possible structural changes within the economy," Security Bank Corp. Chief Economist Robert Dan J. Roces said in a Viber message.

Mr. Roces said the impact of El Niño has reduced labor demand in the agricultural sector, which will eventually affect related industries such as food processing and distribution.

Jobless rate, S1/11



PEZA says it approved P6.87 billion worth of projects in May

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) approved 22 new and expansion projects worth P6.87 billion in May, with the value dropping 54% from a year ago.

In a statement on Thursday, the investment promotion agency (IPA) said the approved investments last month are expected to generate \$100.81 million in exports and create 4,616 jobs.

However, it was 54% lower than the P14.93 billion worth of investments approved in May last year.

"The approvals reflect an increase of 10% in new and expansion projects from

20 approved in May 2023 and a 3.04% increase in direct employment from 4,438 recorded in the same month last year," PEZA said.

The 22 approved investments comprise 10 export manufacturing projects, nine information technology and business process management (IT-BPM) projects, two domestic projects, and one facility development project.

"One Japanese enterprise registered a whopping P3.9-billion big-ticket project into the manufacturing of semiconductor devices and other electronic components in Cebu," the IPA said.

In terms of location, 12 projects will be in Calabarzon, three in the National Capital Region, three in Central Visayas, two in Western Visayas, one in Central Luzon, and one in the Davao Region.

According to the IPA, the approved activities range from high-tech manufacturing to IT-BPM facilities.

"This variety not only provides robust employment opportunities but also enhances the overall resilience of the Philippine economy, making it less susceptible to sector-specific downturns," it added.

The projects approved last month brought PEZA's approved investments

for the year to P36.83 billion, a 19.16% decline from the P48.03-billion approved investments in the same period last year.

In the January-to-May period, the IPA has approved 95 new and expansion projects, which are projected to generate \$1 billion worth of exports and 19,000 jobs.

"The rise in the number of approved projects emphasizes PEZA's pivotal role in catalyzing investment inflow and fostering sustainable employment across various sectors," said PEZA Director-General Tereso O. Panga.

PEZA, S1/11

Two million Filipino children living in severe food poverty — UNICEF



AROUND TWO MILLION Filipino children under five years old are living in severe food poverty, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said.

AROUND TWO MILLION Filipino children are living in severe food poverty, putting them at risk of malnutrition, according to a new report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

In a report entitled "Child Food Poverty: Nutrition deprivation in early childhood," UNICEF said 18% of Filipino children under five years old, equivalent to two million, are considered severely food poor since they consume two or fewer of the eight major food groups a day.

The eight food groups include breastmilk, grains and roots, pulses and nuts, dairy products, meat, poultry and fish, eggs, Vita-

min A-rich fruits and vegetables, and other fruits and vegetables.

"Four out of five children in this situation are fed only breast-milk/milk and/or a starchy staple, such as rice, corn, or wheat. Less than 10% of these children are fed fruits and vegetables. And less than 5% are fed nutrient-dense foods such as eggs, fish, poultry, or meat," it said.

At the same time, 35% of Filipino children under five are living in "moderate food poverty" which means they consume three to four food groups a day.

"Children living in severe food poverty are children living on the brink. This can have an irrevers-

ible negative impact on their survival, growth, and brain development. Children who consume just rice and some vegetable soup a day are up to 50% more likely to experience severe forms of malnutrition," UNICEF Representative to Philippines Oyunsakhan Dendevnorov said in a statement.

UNICEF said there are 440 million children under five years old that are living in food poverty around the world. Of this total, 181 million children are living in severe food poverty.

The Philippines is one of 20 countries that account for 65% of the children living in severe food poverty globally, it said.

"Almost two-thirds of the total number of children living in severe child food poverty are concentrated in just 20 of these countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Somalia, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen," it said.

Severe food poverty is not just driven by the inability to buy nutritious food, but also the failure to sustain positive feeding practices.

Children, S1/11