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STOCK MARKET

PSEi

6850

6690

6530

6370

6210

6050

74.74 PTS. 1.12%

30 DAYS TO AUGUST 1, 2024

OPEN: 6,645.10

HIGH: 6,693.83

LOW: 6,619.70

CLOSE: 6,693.83

VOL: 0.450 B

VAL(P): 4.388 B

ASIAN MARKETS

AUGUST 1, 2024

	CLOSE	NET	%
JAPAN (NIKKEI 225)	38,126.33	▼ -975.49	-2.49
HONG KONG (HANG SENG)	17,304.96	▼ -39.64	-0.23
TAIWAN (WEIGHTED)	22,642.10	▲ 442.75	1.99
THAILAND (SET INDEX)	1,322.75	▲ 1.89	0.14
S. KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE)	2,777.68	▲ 6.99	0.25
SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES)	3,419.84	▼ -36.10	-1.04
SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES)	8,114.70	▲ 22.40	0.28
MALAYSIA (KLCSE COMPOSITE)	1,624.25	▼ -1.32	-0.08

WORLD MARKETS

JULY 31, 2024

	CLOSE	NET
DOW JONES	40,842.790	▲ 99.460
NASDAQ	17,599.400	▲ 451.983
S&P 500	5,522.300	▲ 85.860
FTSE 100	8,367.980	▲ 93.570
EURO STOXX50	4,490.840	▲ 49.790

PESO-DOLLAR RATES

FX

58.20

58.36

58.52

58.68

58.84

59.00

3.20 CTS

30 DAYS TO AUGUST 1, 2024

OPEN P58.320

HIGH P58.260

LOW P58.385

CLOSE P58.333

W.AVE. P58.315

VOL. \$1,170.30 M

SOURCE: BAP

ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE

AUGUST 1, 2024 LATEST BID (0900GMT)

	PREVIOUS
JAPAN (YEN)	149.880 ▲ 150.650
HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR)	7.816 ▼ 7.813
TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR)	32.761 ▼ 32.758
THAILAND (BAHT)	35.600 ▲ 35.670
S. KOREA (WON)	1,367.010 ▲ 1,373.520
SINGAPORE (DOLLAR)	1.338 ▲ 1.339
INDONESIA (RUPIAH)	16,230 ▲ 16,255
MALAYSIA (RINGGIT)	4.567 ▲ 4.592

WORLD CURRENCIES

AUGUST 1, 2024

	CLOSE	PREVIOUS
US\$/UK POUND	1.2763 ▼ 1.2823	
US\$/EURO	1.0782 ▼ 1.0826	
US\$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.6524 ▼ 0.6495	
CANADA DOLLAR/US\$	1.3831 ▼ 1.3845	
SWISS FRANC/US\$	0.8762 ▼ 0.8816	

DUBAI CRUDE OIL

FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY

\$79.55/BBL

900.00

875.00

850.00

825.00

800.00

775.00

750.00

30 DAYS TO JULY 31, 2024

VOL. XXXVIII • ISSUE 5

FRIDAY • AUGUST 2, 2024 • www.bworldonline.com

SI/1-12 • 2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • AUGUST 1, 2024 (PSEi snapshot on SI/4; article on S2/2)															
ALI	P29.400	BDO	P143.700	ICT	P360.000	SM	P907.000	MBT	P68.000	SEVN	P68.200	AREIT	P38.000	ACEN	P5.490
Value	P601,648,110	Value	P353,263,481	Value	P272,191,864	Value	P237,720,500	Value	P185,335,911	Value	P159,297,296	Value	P148,293,345	Value	P137,022,690
-P0.100	▼ -0.339%	P6.700	▲ 4.891%	P4.000	▲ 1.124%	-P1.000	▼ -0.110%	-P0.700	▼ -1.019%	P6.150	▲ 9.911%	P1.000	▲ 2.703%	P0.000	— 0.000%

BPI	P124.800	GTCAP	P600.000
Value	P132,271,048	Value	P125,884,095
P3.500	▲ 2.885%	P10.000	▲ 1.695%

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jolson Reporter

HEADLINE INFLATION likely accelerated in July but re-

mained within the central bank's 2-4% target range, analysts said.

A *BusinessWorld* poll of 15 analysts this week yielded a median estimate of 4% for the consumer price index (CPI) in

July. This matches the lower end of the 4%-4.8% forecast of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

July inflation could be faster than 3.7% in June but slower than 4.7% a year earlier.

July could also mark the eighth straight month that inflation settled within the BSP's 2-4% target.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is set to release inflation data on Tuesday (Aug. 6).

BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. told reporters late on Wednesday that inflation should have peaked in July, based on central bank projections.

*Inflation, SI/5*

ANALYSTS' JULY INFLATION RATE ESTIMATES

Median: 4.0%

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) 2024 Inflation Target: 2.0%-4.0%

BSP July Inflation Estimate: 4.0%-4.8%

BSP 2024 Inflation Forecast: 3.3%

4.6%	4.4%	4.3%	4.2%	4.2%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.9%	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%	3.7%	3.6%	3.4%
Ruben Carlo O. Asuncion Union Bank of the Philippines	Alvin Joseph A. Arago Philippine National Bank	Emilio S. Neri, Jr. Bank of the Philippine Islands	Robert Dan J. Roces Security Bank Corp.	Aris D. Dacanay HSBC Global Research	Michael L. Ricafort Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	Robert Camell ING Bank N.V. Singapore Branch	Oikonomia Advisory & Research, Inc.	Jonathan L. Ravelas Reyes Tacandong & Co.	Zamros Bin Dzulkafli Maybank Investment Banking Group	Nicholas Antonio T. Mapa Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.	Patrick M. Ella Sun Life Investment Management and Trust Corp.	Sarah Tan Moody's Analytics	Ser Percival K. Peña-Reyes Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development	Emmanuel J. Lopez University of Santo Tomas Graduate School

*BusinessWorld Graphics: Bong R. Fortin*

## PHL economy likely grew more than 6% in Q2 – Finance chief

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY likely grew faster in the second quarter amid better state spending and increased household consumption, the Department of Finance (DoF) said.

“If you’re talking about growth rate for the second quarter, I think we’re pretty optimistic. It will be higher than the first (quarter),” Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto told reporters on the sidelines of an event late Tuesday.

In the first quarter, gross domestic product (GDP) expanded at a weaker-than-expected 5.7% due to slower consumption and state spending.

Mr. Recto said he is “crossing his fingers” that GDP growth would be above 6%, driven by consumption, government spending and lower inflation.

The government is targeting 6-7% GDP growth this year.

Headline inflation eased to 3.7% in June due to a slower rise in power and transport costs, ending four straight months of acceleration.

Last week, National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said GDP growth in the April-to-June period would likely be near the lower end of the government’s 6-7% target.

The Philippine Statistics Authority is scheduled to release second-quarter GDP growth data on Aug. 8.

Jonathan L. Ravelas, senior adviser at professional service firm Reyes Tacandong & Co., forecasts GDP growth at 6.1% in the second quarter, driven by infrastructure spending and a recovery in private spending.

However, he expects full-year growth to average at 5.8% this year, and 6.3% for 2025.

IBON Foundation Executive Director Jose Enrique A. Africa said state spending growth in the second quarter might be subdued due to debt service.

“The stimulus effect of higher government spending is also diminished to the extent that these are spent on debt service or on imported materials, equipment or contractors for infrastructure projects,” he said in a Viber message.

The National Government’s debt service bill, which refers to state payments on its domestic and foreign debt, rose by 48% to P1.22 trillion in the January-to-May period from P819.53 billion a year ago. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

## Hot money outflows hit \$27M in June

MORE SHORT-TERM foreign investments flowed out of the Philippines in June, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed.

Transactions on foreign investments registered with the central bank through authorized banks posted a net outflow of \$27.26 million.

This was a reversal of the \$42.86-million net inflow in May, as well as the \$280,000 inflow a year ago.

These foreign portfolio investments are also called “hot money” due to the ease by which these funds enter and leave the economy.

BSP data showed gross outflows of hot money jumped by 20.3% to \$1.07 billion in June from \$889.16 million a year earlier.

*Hot money, SI/11*

## Manufacturing growth slows slightly in July

MANUFACTURING GROWTH slowed slightly in July amid weaker expansion in production and orders, S&P Global said on Thursday.

The S&P Global Philippines Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) stood at 51.2 in July, easing from 51.3 in June.

“The latest index reading signaled only a modest improvement in the health of the Filipino manufacturing sector, and one that was the weakest since March (when PMI stood at 50.9 reading),” it said.

July also marked the 11<sup>th</sup> straight month of improvement in operating conditions. A PMI reading above 50 signals improvement in operating conditions, while a reading below 50 means the opposite.

Among Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries with available data, the Philippines had the third-

highest reading in July after Vietnam (54.7) and Thailand (52.8). Malaysia (49.7), Indonesia (49.3), and Myanmar (48.4) all recorded contractions.

Philippine PMI was also lower than the ASEAN average of 51.6 in July.

“The second half of the year started modestly, with the Filipino manufacturing sector signaling further upticks in output and new orders,” Maryam Baluch, an economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said in a report.

“Though in both cases, the rates of increase were weaker than their respective long-run averages, thereby indicating relatively subdued growth across the sector.”

S&P Global said the latest data showed production activity grew at the slowest pace in the last four months due to longer supplier delivery times.

*Manufacturing, SI/11*