

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEI OPEN: 7,094.36 HIGH: 7,180.72 LOW: 7,094.36 CLOSE: 7,175.36 VOL: 0.713 B VAL(P): 6.688 B	SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 36,203.22 ▼ -379.54 -1.03 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 17,660.02 ▲ 237.90 1.37 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) HOLIDAY THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,436.60 ▲ 1.07 0.07 S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) HOLIDAY SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 3,593.42 ▲ 22.99 0.64 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 8,140.90 ▲ 19.30 0.24 MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE) 1,664.28 ▲ 12.13 0.73	SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 CLOSE NET % DOW JONES 41,622.080 ▲ 288.300 NASDAQ 17,592.127 ▼ -91.849 S&P 500 5,633.090 ▲ 7.070 FTSE 100 8,278.440 ▲ 5.350 EURO Stoxx 50 4,416.650 ▲ -8.070	FX OPEN P55.780 HIGH P55.655 LOW P55.840 CLOSE P55.695 W.AVE. P55.764 19.30 ctsv VOL \$1,260.20	SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 LATEST BID (0900GMT) JAPAN (YEN) 140.550 ▼ 139.930 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.792 7.794 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 31.848 ▲ 31.855 THAILAND (BAHT) 33.290 ▼ 33.180 S. KOREA (WON) 1,316.870 ▲ 1,318.560 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.293 ▲ 1.295 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 15,330 ▲ 15,395 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.250 ▲ 4.298	SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 CLOSE PREVIOUS US\$/UK POUND 1.3215 ▲ 1.3194 US\$/EURO 1.1135 ▲ 1.1127 US\$/AUST DOLLAR 0.6763 ▲ 0.6740 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3582 ▲ 1.3575 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.8438 ▼ 0.8440	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$72.45/BBL

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SI/1-12 • 2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 (PSEi snapshot on S1/3; article on S2/2)

ICT P405,000 Value P725,239,076 -P8.400 ▼ -2.032%	PLUS P19,900 Value P721,507,740 P1.900 ▲ 10.556%	BDO P161,000 Value P595,840,339 P1.100 ▲ 0.688%	AC P660,000 Value P568,738,705 P26,000 ▲ 4.101%	SM P970,000 Value P365,290,780 P21,500 ▲ 2.267%	GTCAP P722,000 Value P341,035,440 P12,000 ▲ 1.690%	SMPH P32,550 Value P227,063,245 P0.750 ▲ 2.358%	OGP P13,340 Value P186,689,792 P0.080 ▲ 0.603%	URC P94,600 Value P182,323,302 P1.800 ▲ 1.940%	TEL P1,453,000 Value P159,625,745 -P7,000 ▼ -0.479%
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Vehicle sales up by 6.6% in August

By Justine Irish D. Tabilo
Reporter

PHILIPPINE automotive sales grew by an annual 6.6% in August, despite a decline in passenger car sales, according to an industry report.

A joint report by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) showed vehicle sales rose to 39,155 units in August from 36,714 units in the same month last year.

Month on month, car sales inched down by 0.4% from the 39,331 units sold in July.

August sales were damped by the 5.6% drop in passenger car sales to 9,529 units from 10,094 units sold a year ago.

Month on month, passenger car sales slumped by 12.76% from 10,923 units in July.

However, this was offset by the 11.3% annual jump in commercial vehicle sales to 29,626 units in

August from 26,620 a year ago. Commercial vehicles accounted for 75.66% of the industry's total sales.

Month on month, sales of commercial vehicles increased by 4.3%.

Broken down, light commercial vehicle sales went up by 5.2% to 628 units.

while sales of Asian utility vehicles (AUV) surged by 53.5% to 6,829 units.

Sales of medium trucks slid by 4.9% to 312, while sales of heavy trucks fell by 64.8% to 45. Light-duty truck and bus sales went up by 5.2% to 628 units.

For the first eight months, vehicle sales went up by 10.3% to

304,765 units from 276,215 units a year ago, CAMPI-TMA data showed.

Passenger car sales jumped by 14% to 80,327 units in the January-to-August period, while commercial vehicle sales increased by 9.1% to 224,438 units.

Vehicle sales, SI/5

BSP may cut RRR this year — Metrobank

THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas (BSP) could reduce local banks' reserve requirement ratio (RRR) to as low as 7% this year, Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank) said.

"While we expect the central bank to continue cutting rates in the coming months, we believe BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. is also planning to reduce banks' reserve requirements, as he previously hinted," Metrobank Chief Economist Nicholas Antonio T. Mapa said in a commentary.

"We think (Mr.) Remolona might lower (RRR) by 250 basis points (bps) or 2.5 percentage points before the end of the year, with the first reduction likely to happen soon."

The RRR is the percentage of bank deposits and deposit substitute liabilities that banks cannot lend out and must set aside in deposits with the BSP.

In June last year, the BSP reduced the ratio for big banks and nonbank financial institutions with quasi-banking functions by 250 bps to 9.5%.

The central bank has brought down the RRR for universal and commercial banks to a single-digit level from a high of 20% in 2018.

"Since RR changes are not considered policy moves, we believe the upcoming RR reduction could happen on any Thursday (when the Monetary Board meets weekly)," Mr. Mapa said.

The BSP chief earlier said they are seeking to bring down the banks' RRR to as low as 5%, but added the timing is yet to be decided.

"Adjustments to the RR were once considered a policy adjustment. However, with the advent of the BSP's interest rate corridor system and its accompanying liquidity management facilities, any RR reduction has been relegated to a simple operational adjustment," Mr. Mapa said.

The start of RRR cuts "may not necessarily be announced during the regular policy cycle," he added.

"With the BSP in easing mode, we expect RR reductions to be announced shortly after the Fed policy meeting or perhaps after the Philippines' September inflation data is released, which could show inflation drop to around 2.3%."

The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) is having its meeting from Sept. 17-18.

Philippine headline inflation eased to 3.3% in August from a nine-month high of 4.4% in July, latest data from the local statistics authority showed.

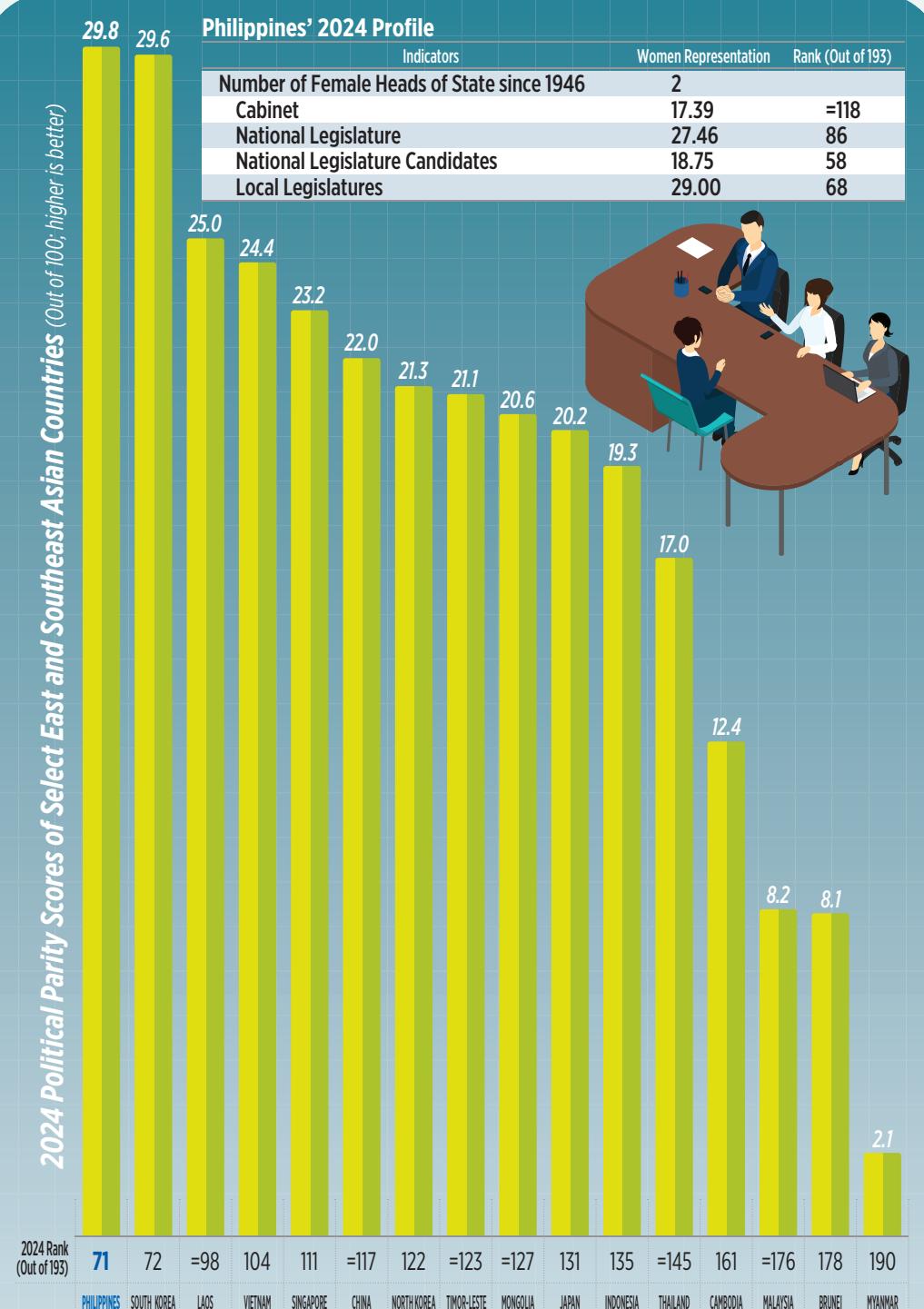
The BSP earlier said it expects inflation to ease further from August onwards. It expects full-year inflation to settle at 3.4%.

"Now that the BSP is looking to bring down its borrowing costs from elevated levels to more normal and supportive levels, the time appears ripe for another round of RR reductions," Mr. Mapa added.

RRR, SI/5

PHILIPPINES STILL LEADS EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA IN WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT

The Philippines ranks 71st among 193 United Nations (UN) member states in the 2024 Women's Power Index by think tank Council on Foreign Relations. This index measures women's representation in government, focusing on the numerical presence of women rather than their impact or policy preferences. In a scale ranging from 0 to 100 (where a score of 100 represents women having at least 50% representation in all levels of government), the Philippines achieved a score of 29.8, leading in the region.



Philippine credit rating upgrade possible if GDP grows faster than expected

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson
Reporter

THE PHILIPPINES' credit rating may be upgraded if the economy grows faster than expected, S&P Global Ratings said.

"On the upside for us, the Philippines' ratings could be raised if the economic recovery is even faster than what we currently project and if the government achieves even faster fiscal consolidation," YeeFarn Phua, director at S&P Global Ratings, said in a webinar on Tuesday.

The Philippines currently holds a "BBB+" rating with a "stable" outlook from the debt watcher.

"The outlook on the sovereign ratings remains stable. Basically, this stable outlook reflects our expectation that the economy

will continue to grow healthily," Mr. Phua said.

The credit rater expects Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) growth to average 5.8% this year and 6.1% in 2025. These are both below the government's 6.7% and 6.5-7.5% growth targets for this year and next, respectively.

In the second quarter of the year, Philippine GDP grew by 6.3%, the fastest since 6.4% in the first quarter of 2023. This brought the first semester growth to 6%.

Mr. Phua said the outlook is also "balanced" by the fact that we believe fiscal performance will also improve over the next 24 months.

The National Government's (NG) budget deficit widened by 7.2% to P642.8 billion in the January-to-July period, latest data from the Treasury showed.

Credit rating, SI/5



The countdown to Christmas has begun!

SM Supermalls is kicking off the 100 Days of Christmas celebration, and the holiday magic is already lighting up the malls. Visit your nearest SM mall to experience the dazzling 100 Days illumination and join in the excitement as they celebrate the most wonderful time of the year!

Filipino youth worry about climate change, education — survey

AROUND 44% of young Filipinos expect future generations to be "worse off than today," amid rising concern over climate change, education and lack of jobs, according to a survey by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Results of the U-Report survey also showed 37% of Filipino youth think the next generations will be "better off than today" while 19% believe conditions will be the same.

"While youth are split on whether the future generation is "worse off" or "better off" (44% vs 37%) they do see the value that rapid technological innovations and democratic access to information can bring," UNICEF said in a statement.

According to the survey, 26% of young Filipinos see climate change, including natural disasters, as the biggest problem they will face in the future.

Climate change, SI/5

Top 10	Country	2024 Political Score (Out of 100)
1	Iceland	86.0
2	Andorra	72.8
3	Mexico	72.6
4	Finland	71.0
5	Norway	70.7
6	Costa Rica	70.3
7	Nicaragua	69.9
8	Belgium	67.1
9	Sweden</	