P25 IN METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

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STOCK MARKET

PSEi — 30 DAYS TO OCTOBER 24, 2024 — ▼ 83.87 PTS. 1.13%

OPEN:	7,354.07
HIGH:	7,354.07
LOW:	7,283.79
CLOSE:	7,283.79
VOL.:	0.777 B
VAL(P):	3.809 B

ASIAN MARKETS — OCTOBER 24, 2024

	CLOSE		NET	%
Japan (Nikkei 225)	38,143.29	▲	38.43	0.10
Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	20,489.62	▼	-270.53	-1.30
Taiwan (Weighted)	23,192.52	▼	-142.24	-0.61
Thailand (SET Index)	1,460.33	▼	-9.99	-0.68
S.Korea (Kse Composite)	2,581.03	▼	-18.59	-0.72
Singapore (Straits Times)	3,606.47	▲	5.69	0.16
Sydney (All Ordinaries)	8,206.30	▼	-9.70	-0.12
Malaysia (Klse Composite)	1,632.23	▼	-9.30	-0.57

WORLD MARKETS — OCTOBER 23, 2024

	CLOSE		NET
Dow Jones	42,514.950	▼	-409.940
NASDAQ	18,276.654	▼	-296.475
S&P 500	5,797.420	▼	-53.780
FTSE 100	8,258.640	▼	-47.900
Euro Stoxx50	4,435.680	▼	-15.940

PESO-DOLLAR RATES

FX — 30 DAYS TO OCTOBER 22, 2024 — ▼ 29.00 CTVS

OPEN	P57.690
HIGH	P57.690
LOW	P57.920
CLOSE	P57.880
W.AVE.	P57.798
VOL.	$1,302.50 M

SOURCE : BAP

ASIAN MONIES-US$ RATE — OCTOBER 24, 2024

	LATEST BID (0900GMT)		PREVIOUS
Japan (yen)	151.990	▲	152.590
Hong Kong (HK dollar)	7.770	—	7.770
Taiwan (NT dollar)	32.059	▲	32.073
Thailand (baht)	33.680	▲	33.710
S. Korea (won)	1,379.160	▲	1,382.500
Singapore (dollar)	1.320	—	1.320
Indonesia (rupiah)	15,575	▲	15,615
Malaysia (ringgit)	4.347	▲	4.350

WORLD CURRENCIES — OCTOBER 24, 2024

	CLOSE		PREVIOUS
US$/UK pound	1.2964	▼	1.2983
US$/Euro	1.0797	▲	1.0782
US$/Aust dollar	0.6653	▼	0.6658
Canada dollar/US$	1.3815	▼	1.3826
Swiss Franc/US$	0.8656	▼	0.8671

DUBAI CRUDE OIL

FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY
$75.05/BBL — ▲ $1.55 — 30 DAYS TO OCTOBER 23, 2024

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • OCTOBER 24, 2024 (PSEi snapshot on *S1/4*; article on *S2/2*)

		Value			
BDO	P162.800	P251,753,005	-P0.500	▼	-0.306%
BPI	P139.000	P245,845,291	-P4.800	▼	-3.338%
ALI	P35.000	P230,832,345	-P0.350	▼	-0.990%
AC	P719.500	P207,859,830	-P0.500	▼	-0.069%
ICT	P409.000	P160,317,832	P2.000	▲	0.491%
TEL	P1,445.000	P158,464,765	-P35.000	▼	-2.365%
MBT	P77.000	P156,740,969	-P1.000	▼	-1.282%
JFC	P267.000	P150,417,530	-P8.200	▼	-2.980%
SCC	P33.750	P149,923,200	-P0.500	▼	-1.460%
SMPH	P30.950	P138,358,765	-P0.450	▼	-1.433%

Budget gap widens in September

THE NATIONAL Government's (NG) budget deficit widened to P273.3 billion in September, as revenues and expenditures posted double-digit growth, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) said on Thursday.

Latest data from the Treasury showed the fiscal gap rose by 8.9% in September from P250.9-billion deficit in the same month a year ago, "as the increase of nominal value of expenditures outpaced the increase in revenues."

Month on month, the budget gap ballooned by 404% from the P54.21-billion deficit in August.

Revenue collections jumped by 17.32% to P299.7 billion in September from P255.4 billion last year.

Tax revenues rose by 8.53% to P253.5 billion in September, driven by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) collection which climbed by 14.79% to P174.7 billion.

The Treasury attributed the rise in BIR collection to "higher personal income tax particularly on withholding on wages due to the release of salary differentials of civilian government personnel," and increased documentary stamp tax collection.

However, revenues from the Bureau of Customs (BoC) fell by an annual 3.31% to P76.3 billion in September amid a double-digit decline in import duties. An executive order reducing import tariffs on rice and other commodities took effect on July 5.

"Also, the decline (in BoC collection) is due to an alarming increase in smuggling activities within the year, as the current amount of the BoC's seized goods has already surpassed their total haul in 2023," the Treasury said.

Budget gap, S1/11

Manila still 3rd cheapest for prime office rent in Asia-Pacific

MANILA remained the third most affordable city for prime office rents in the Asia-Pacific region in the third quarter, according to real estate consultancy Knight Frank.

On an annual basis, Manila's occupancy cost fell by 1.7%, slightly below the average 2.5% decline in the region, a Knight Frank Asia report released on Oct. 22 showed.

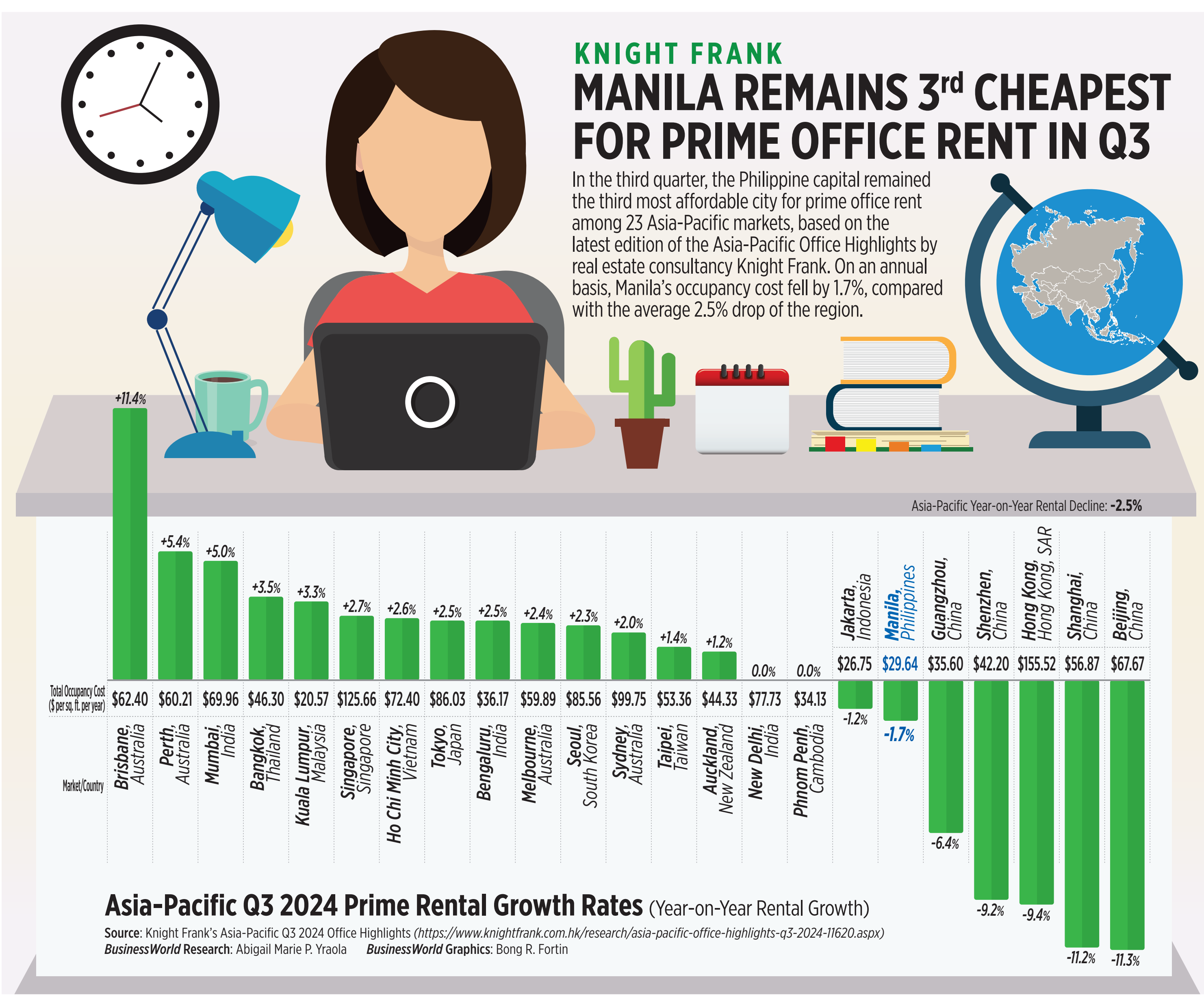
The average prime office cost in Manila was $29.64 per square foot (sq.ft.) in the July-to-September period.

"Prime rents in the region fell just 0.1% on a quarter-on-quarter basis, signaling that rents could be bottoming out, supported by growth in Indian markets," Knight Frank said.

Kuala Lumpur had the lowest average prime office rent in the region at $20.57 per sq.ft., followed by Jakarta with ($26.75), Phnom Penh ($34.13), Guangzhou ($35.60), and Bengaluru ($36.17).

The most expensive rent for prime office space was in Hong Kong SAR ($155.52), followed by Singapore ($125.66), and Sydney ($99.75).

Office rent, S1/11



Fitch sees below-target growth for Philippines

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson *Reporter*

THE Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP) growth this year may fall below the government's target amid dampened household spending, Fitch Ratings said.

"We expect the Philippines' economy to expand by 5.5% in 2024, after 5.5% in 2023 and 7.6% in 2022," it said in its latest Asia-Pacific Sovereigns Peer Review.

Fitch Ratings' growth forecast falls well below the government's 6-7% target. In the first half of the year, GDP averaged 6%.

"The slower growth in 2023 and 2024 has been driven by weaker private consumption, with the post-pandemic boost fading and high (albeit moderating) inflation weighing on real incomes," it added.

Household spending eased to 4.6% in the second quarter from 5.5% a year ago, the slowest since the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, latest data from the local statistics authority showed.

"Nevertheless, we still forecast real GDP growth of above 6% over the medium term, supported by large investments in infrastructure and reforms to foster trade and investment, including public-private partnerships (PPPs)," Fitch Ratings said.

For 2025, it sees Philippine GDP growth averaging 6.1%, also still below the government's 6.5-7.5% target range.

Meanwhile, the credit rater expects the National Government's (NG) fiscal consolidation to continue at a gradual pace.

Fitch, S1/11

Electronics industry targets 5% increase in exports next year

By Justine Irish D. Tabile *Reporter*

THE Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPI) said that it is expecting a 5% growth in exports next year amid inventory correction and the expected entry of new investments.

"We maintained our outlook of 10% contraction this year, but we see 5% growth [in exports] next year," SEIPI President Danilo C. Lachica told reporters on the sidelines of the 13th Arangkada Philippines Forum 2024 on Thursday.

He said next year's growth will be driven by inventory correction and the launch of new products and expansion.

"Hopefully, with the initiatives of the government to promote investments, we are looking for new products and new expansions for the coming year," he added.

SEIPI recently held its fourth-quarter meeting earlier this month and has scheduled another meeting for the first quarter of 2025.

"We'll have another board meeting in the first quarter. And hopefully, we'll affirm that 5% outlook," he said.

Despite the optimistic outlook for next year, Mr. Lachica said the board still expects a 10% decline in exports this year despite the optimism in the electronic manufacturing services (EMS) sector.

"The EMS guys are optimistic, but the semiconductor guys are not. Unfortunately, they weigh more than the EMS, [around] 70% of the volume," he said.

A report from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed that the country's top exports are still electronic products, which accounted for 52.9%, or $3.57 billion, of the total exports in August.

However, the export value of the country's electronic product exports in August showed an 8.2% decline from the $3.89-billion worth of electronic products exported in the same month last year.

From January to August, exports of electronic products reached $27.45 billion, representing a 1% increase from $27.19 billion in the same period last year.

Out of the total electronics exports, 76.6% comprised of semiconductors, which had a total value of $21.04 billion.

SEIPI had projected a 10% decline in exports due to inventory correction and a less competitive product mix of the exports from the Philippines.

Electronics, S1/11