



STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
<div><div>6725 6550 6375 6200 6025 5850</div><div>6725 6550 6375 6200 6025 5850</div><div>30 DAYS TO JANUARY 28, 2025</div></div> <div><div><b>PSEi</b></div><div>OPEN: 6,212.08 HIGH: 6,248.31 LOW: 6,153.47 CLOSE: 6,153.47 VOL.: 1.525 B VAL(P): 5.644 B</div></div>	<div><div>JANUARY 29, 2025</div><div>CLOSE NET %</div><div>JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 39,414.78 ▲ 397.91 1.02 HONG KONG (HANG SENG)*** 20,225.11 ▲ 27.34 0.14 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) * 23,525.41 ▲ 225.40 0.97 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,343.78 ▼ -1.99 -0.15 S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE)*** 2,536.80 ▲ 21.31 0.85 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES)*** 3,801.07 ▲ 4.36 0.11 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 8,447.00 ▲ 47.90 0.57 MALAYSIA (KLSX COMPOSITE)*** 1,552.69 ▼ -6.28 -0.40</div><div>CLOSING PRICES AS OF *1/22/25 **1/24/25 ***1/28/25</div></div>	<div><div>JANUARY 28, 2025</div><div>CLOSE NET</div><div>DOW JONES 44,850.350 ▲ 136.770 NASDAQ 19,733.586 ▲ 391.752 S&amp;P 500 6,067.700 ▲ 55.420 FTSE 100 8,533.870 ▲ 30.160 EURO STOXX50 4,531.060 ▲ 3.500</div></div>	<div><div>57.80 56.15 54.50 52.85 51.20 50.55</div><div>57.80 56.15 54.50 52.85 51.20 50.55</div><div>30 DAYS TO JANUARY 28, 2025</div></div> <div><div><b>FX</b></div><div>OPEN P58.480 HIGH P58.400 LOW P58.560 CLOSE P58.425 W.AVE. P58.475 VOL. \$1,660.50 M</div><div>1.00 CTV SOURCE : BAP</div></div>	<div><div>JANUARY 29, 2025</div><div>LATEST BID (0900GMT) PREVIOUS</div><div>JAPAN (YEN) 155.270 ▲ 155.760 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.791 ▲ 7.792 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 32.820 ▲ 32.933 THAILAND (BAHT) 33.730 ▲ 33.910 S. KOREA (WON) 1,444.860 ▲ 1,447.130 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.351 ▲ 1.352 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 16,170 ▲ 16,170 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.388 ▼ 4.387</div></div>	<div><div>JANUARY 29, 2025</div><div>CLOSE PREVIOUS</div><div>US\$/UK POUND 1.2432 ▼ 1.2448 US\$/EURO 1.0413 ▼ 1.0435 US\$/AUST DOLLAR 0.6233 ▼ 0.6251 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.4426 ▲ 1.4392 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9055 ▼ 0.9059</div></div>	<div><div>FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY</div><div>\$81.25/BBL</div><div>85.00 82.00 79.00 76.00 73.00 70.00</div><div>85.00 82.00 79.00 76.00 73.00 70.00</div><div>30 DAYS TO JANUARY 28, 2025</div></div> <div><div><b>\$0.33</b></div></div>

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JANUARY 28, 2025 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)															
ICT	P349.200	CBC	P68.800	BDO	P142.000	SM	P822.000	BPI	P125.500	ALI	P24.650	AREIT	P39.750	SGP	P11.500
Value	P801,900,912	Value	P436,620,555	Value	P313,629,517	Value	P221,696,940	Value	P193,629,476	Value	P171,087,540	Value	P164,361,610	Value	P137,675,912
-P25.800 ▼ -6.880%		P3.900 ▲ 6.009%		P3.000 ▲ 2.158%		P2.000 ▲ 0.244%		P1.000 ▲ 0.803%		P0.000 — 0.000%		-P0.050 ▼ -0.126%		P0.520 ▲ 4.736%	
														-P0.500 ▼ -0.707%	
														-P7.500 ▼ -1.339%	

# Inflation likely within target until '26

PRIVATE SECTOR economists expect inflation to remain within the central bank's 2-4% target from this year to 2026, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said.

The BSP's latest survey of external forecasters in its Monetary Policy Report showed that analysts' mean inflation forecast for this year stood at 3.1%, lower than the central bank's 3.3% baseline projection.

The survey showed an 82.6% likelihood that inflation will settle within target this year and an 83.5% probability for 2026.

"Inflation expectations continue to be well-anchored. Risks are broadly balanced, with headline inflation expected to stay low and manageable over the medium term."

For 2026, economists expect inflation to average 3.2%, also below the BSP's 3.5% forecast.

Headline inflation averaged 3.2% in 2024, well within the target band. January inflation data will be released on Feb. 5.

The survey showed the within-target inflation outlook is mainly driven by easing rice and oil prices.

"Downside risks to the inflation outlook are seen to emanate largely from lower rice prices, amid the implementation of Executive Order (EO) No. 62 and lower oil prices," the BSP said.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. last June signed EO 62, which slashed rice import tariffs to 15% from 35% until 2028, citing the need to curb rice prices.

Rice inflation has slowed to 0.8% in December from 5.1% in November and 19.6% a year prior. Rice is typically the biggest contributor to overall inflation.

Global crude oil prices are seen to ease further, the BSP said.

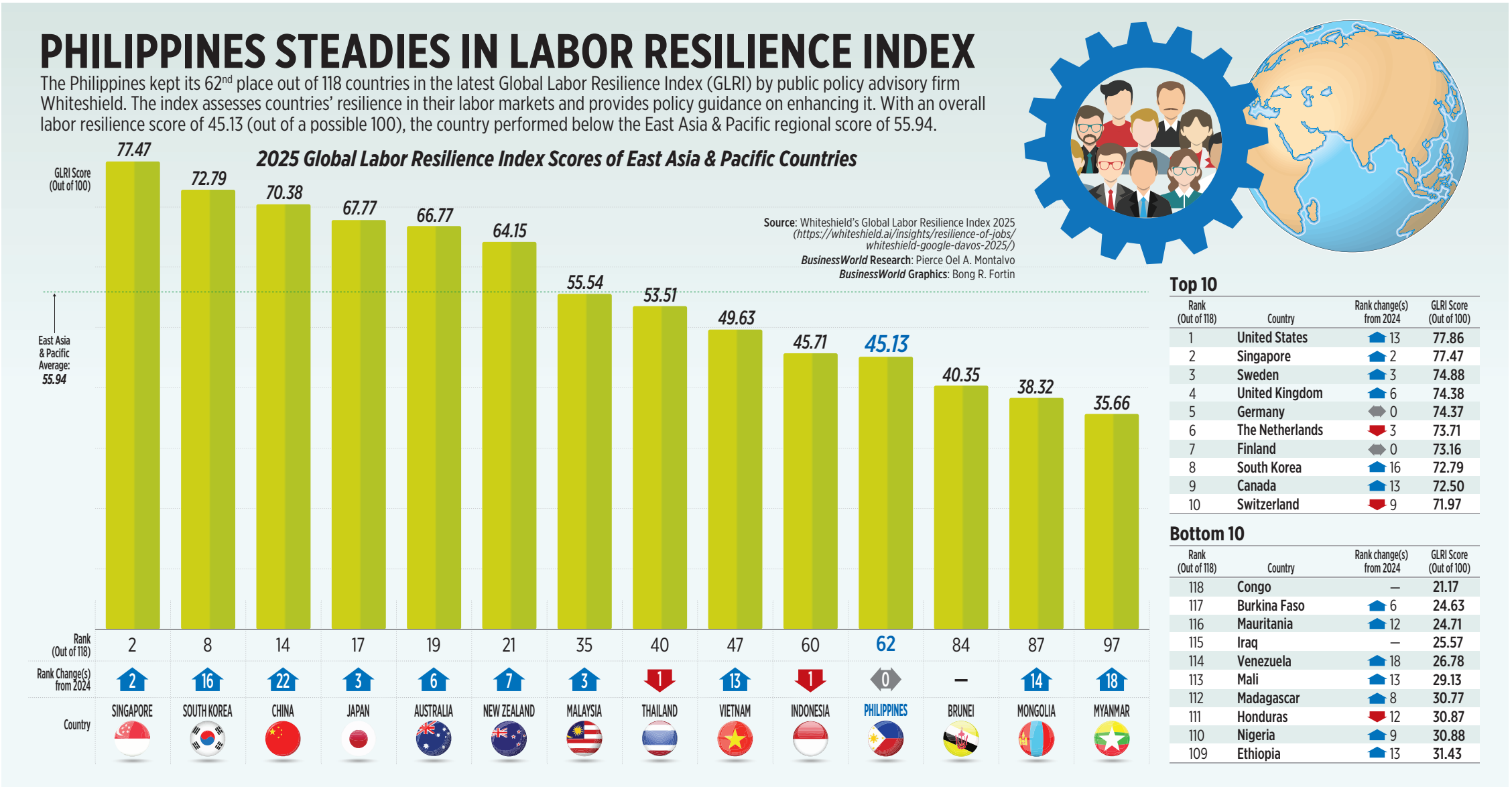
"Futures prices have declined due to market expectations of higher US oil production and expectations of weaker global demand as well as the likelihood of global oversupply."

"This in turn led to a delay in the anticipated increase in oil production by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC+)."

However, the central bank warned that inflation could breach the 2-4% band if Dubai crude oil prices average above \$90 per barrel from this year to 2026.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee expects Dubai crude oil to range from \$60 to \$80 per barrel from 2025 to 2026.

*Inflation, S1/8*



## PDEX to launch gov't bond forward contracts

THE PHILIPPINE Dealing and Exchange Corp. (PDEX) will introduce the country's first peso-denominated interest rate hedge next week as part of efforts to boost activity in the fixed-income market.

PDEX President and Chief Executive Officer Antonino A. Nakpil said the bond trading platform will launch a new derivative product called government bond forward contracts, which will be initially available to banks.

"We're launching that (government bond forward contracts) next week, Monday (Feb. 3). We're excited about that because that's the first purely Philippine peso-denominated interest rate hedge," he told reporters on the sidelines of a recent Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines event in Makati City.

"It will be available to the banks first, the inter-dealer first, and then later on to clients who may find that useful," he added.

Mr. Nakpil previously said that the Securities and Exchange Commission approved the market framework and infrastructure to offer the trading of government bond forward contracts on Jan. 2.

According to Mr. Nakpil, bond forward contracts, which designate a fixed price for a debt security on a future date and let market participants hedge interest rate risks, will help provide a new dynamic to the country's fixed-income markets.

"It's a derivative, it's a new thing. It will be settled in a way that is unique. We're not creating a futures contract like in the traditional sense. It is a forward expression of what has been established as a method of hedging in the futures markets. We're using an over-the-counter forward expression of that," he said.

"It's a first. We'll see if it works. We think it will work. It's not a futures contract so there's no leverage on it," he added.

Mr. Nakpil said the new product is not meant for retail investors due to its complicated nature.

"We'll allow only the dealers and then qualified investors. Basically, professionals only. This is not meant for the retail investors," Mr. Nakpil said.

"Some contracts are not meant for retail investors, especially if there's leverage involved. Once you involve leverage like futures contracts, it becomes complicated," he added. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

## PHL on track to exit 'gray list' by February

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson Reporter

THE PHILIPPINES is so far on track to achieve its target of exiting the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) "gray list" by next month, the central bank's top official said.

Asked about the progress on the country's final steps to exiting the gray list, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. told *BusinessWorld* that it has been "so far so good."

The FATF recently concluded its onsite visit in the Philippines this month ahead of its plenary and meetings in February, which Mr. Remolona is scheduled to attend.

At its October plenary, the FATF kept the country on its list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring for "dirty money" risks.

The Philippines has been on the list for over three years now or since June 2021.

However, the dirty money watchdog initially determined that the country had substantially completed the recommended action items to improve its anti-money

laundering and counter financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime.

The FATF's recent onsite visit and assessment aimed to verify the country's progress and sustainability of AML/CFT reforms. This is typically the final step before it grants a country an exit from the list.

The Anti-Money Laundering Council earlier said it was positive that the country will be able to exit the dirty money list this year as it has addressed the remaining deficiencies.

However, it cited the need to sustain the progress on these re-

forms to ensure the country stays out of the list.

Chester B. Cabalza, founding president of Manila-based International Development and Security Cooperation, said the government must fast-track its financial reforms to exit the list.

"If in case it achieves the exodus from the gray list, to draw more investments and be considered a respectable economy in the region, the Philippines is obliged to have a clear-cut monitoring and innovative actions on how to stay buoyant financially

*'Gray list,' S1/8*

## Recovery in consumption seen to fuel PHL growth

A RECOVERY in household consumption could drive Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) growth to the 6% range this year, HSBC Global Research said.

"We think household consumption in the Philippines should return, bit by bit, to its regular levels, bringing overall gross domestic product growth back to the range of 6% or more," HSBC economist for ASEAN Aris D. Dacanay said in a report.

The Philippines' GDP expanded by 5.2% in the third quarter, its

weakest growth in five quarters. This brought the nine-month growth average to 5.8%.

The economy likely grew by 5.8% in the fourth quarter and 5.7% for the full-year 2024, according to a *BusinessWorld* poll of 18 economists last week. Fourth-quarter and full-year GDP data will be released today (Jan. 30).

The government is targeting 6-6.5% growth for 2024 and 6-8% for 2025 to 2026.

"Consumption should also be boosted over the near term with

the recent depreciation in the Philippine peso against the US dollar boosting the purchasing power of every US dollar remitted."

HSBC also cited a stronger recovery in non-durable consumer goods.

"Non-durable spending may be improving fast, but spending on big-ticket items, such as cars and real estate, will need more time to return to normal."

"These goods are large expenditures by nature, potentially requiring households to acquire credit. To optimize one's borrowing

costs, households may be waiting for the central bank's easing cycle to end before eventually deciding whether to borrow money or not."

Mr. Dacanay said household consumption is unlikely to be affected by the Trump administration's aggressive tariff policy.

"Remittances, demographics, and services exports — three sectors of the economy that drive consumption — are subject to minimal tariff risks, at best. So, to monitor the Philippine economy

*Consumption, S1/8*