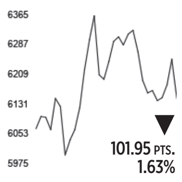
P25
IN METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BusinessWorld

33rd EJAP-AYALA Business Journalism Awards
The 2023 Business News Source of the Year Award

STOCK MARKET



PSEi	
OPEN:	6,221.02
HIGH:	6,221.02
LOW:	6,112.78
CLOSE:	6,145.73
VOL.:	1.354 B
VAL(P):	4.622 B

ASIAN MARKETS

APRIL 3, 2025

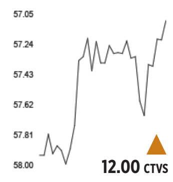
	CLOSE		NET	%
Japan (Nikkei 225)	34,735.93	▼	-989.94	-2.77
Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	22,849.81	▼	-352.72	-1.52
Taiwan (Weighted) *	21,298.22	▲	18.05	0.08
Thailand (SET Index)	1,161.81	▼	-10.88	-0.93
S.Korea (Kse Composite)	2,486.70	▼	-19.16	-0.76
Singapore (Straits Times)	3,942.23	▼	-11.98	-0.30
Sydney (All Ordinaries)	7,859.70	▼	-74.80	-0.94
Malaysia (Klse Composite)	1,518.91	▼	-7.61	-0.50

WORLD MARKETS

APRIL 2, 2025

	CLOSE		NET
Dow Jones	42,225.320	▲	235.360
NASDAQ	17,601.046	▲	151.155
S&P 500	5,670.970	▲	37.900
FTSE 100	8,608.480	▼	-26.320
Euro Stoxx50	4,567.350	▼	-29.170

PESO-DOLLAR RATES



FX	
OPEN	P57.250
HIGH	P57.060
LOW	P57.275
CLOSE	P57.095
W.AVE.	P57.176
VOL.	$1,259.39 M

SOURCE : BAP

ASIAN MONIES-US$ RATE

APRIL 3, 2025

	LATEST BID (0900GMT)		PREVIOUS
Japan (yen)	146.520	▲	149.600
Hong Kong (HK dollar)	7.779	▲	7.782
Taiwan (NT dollar)	33.189	▼	33.144
Thailand (baht)	34.200	▼	34.130
S. Korea (won)	1,455.970	▲	1,462.530
Singapore (dollar)	1.336	▲	1.343
Indonesia (rupiah)	16,555	—	16,555
Malaysia (ringgit)	4.438	▲	4.450

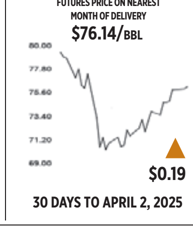
WORLD CURRENCIES

APRIL 3, 2025

	CLOSE		PREVIOUS
US$/UK pound	1.3171	▲	1.2932
US$/Euro	1.1033	▲	1.0802
US$/Aust dollar	0.6341	▲	0.6307
Canada dollar/US$	1.4150	▼	1.4309
Swiss Franc/US$	0.8639	▼	0.8843

DUBAI CRUDE OIL

FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY
$76.14/BBL



VOL. XXXVIII • ISSUE 178
FRIDAY • APRIL 4, 2025 • www.bworldonline.com
S1/1-18 • 2 SECTIONS, 24 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • APRIL 3, 2025 (PSEi snapshot on *S1/2*; article on *S2/2*)

Stock	Price	Value	Change		%
ICT	P353.000	P609,416,724	-P8.600	▼	-2.378%
JFC	P224.000	P542,818,570	-P7.200	▼	-3.114%
BDO	P155.600	P356,937,914	-P2.400	▼	-1.519%
BPI	P133.900	P268,219,305	-P4.200	▼	-3.041%
TEL	P1,250.000	P256,289,640	-P10.000	▼	-0.794%
PLUS	P35.650	P176,442,020	-P1.600	▼	-4.295%
ALI	P23.750	P174,140,280	-P0.150	▼	-0.628%
MER	P550.000	P172,910,850	P8.000	▲	1.476%
AC	P566.000	P124,091,325	-P25.000	▼	-4.230%
SM	P785.000	P116,953,040	-P7.000	▼	-0.884%

US slaps higher tariff on Philippines

By Aubrey Rose A. Inosante *and* **Justine Irish D. Tabile**
Reporters

US PRESIDENT Donald J. Trump is imposing a bigger-than-expected tariff on Philippine exports to the United States, as part of a broader reciprocal tariff plan that will apply to all its trading partners.

However, Philippine government officials downplayed its impact, saying this was still lower than tariffs imposed on the rest of Southeast Asia.

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto said on Thursday that the Philippine economy, which is mainly driven by domestic demand, is "relatively resilient" against trade wars.

"However, as with all countries, we are not spared from the impact of the expected decline in international trade and possible slowdown of global growth due to supply-chain disruptions, higher interest rates, and higher inflation," Mr. Recto said in a statement.

Trade Secretary Cristina A. Roque said the reciprocal tariffs can provide opportunities for the Philippines as regional competitors will be subjected to higher tariffs.

"We view with guarded optimism that the recent US imposition of reciprocal tariffs will provide strategic opportunities for the Philippines to improve its economic relationship with the US," she said in a statement.

Ms. Roque said she will request a meeting with her US counterpart to discuss "strengthening" trade relations between the two countries.

On Wednesday, Mr. Trump announced a 10% tariff on all its trading partners, which will take effect on April 5. *(See related story "Trump's tariffs stoke global trade war as China, EU hit back" on S1/8).*

The US will also slap individualized higher reciprocal tariffs on major trading partners including the European Union, China, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines, starting April 9.

"Foreign nations will finally be asked to pay for the privilege of access to our market — the biggest market in the world," Mr. Trump said.

According to an infographic posted by the White House on X, the Philippines will be slapped with a 17% "discounted reciprocal tariff" as the Philippines charges a 34% tariff on the US.

However, an annex document to the executive order on reciprocal tariffs showed the adjusted reciprocal tariff for the Philippines is at 18%.

It was not immediately clear why there was a discrepancy in the tariff rates in the infographic posted on X and the annex document posted on The White House website.

Nonetheless, Philippine officials cited the 17% tariff rate in their press statements.

Among Southeast Asian countries, Cambodia faces the steepest tariff at 49%, followed by Laos (48%), Vietnam (46%), Myanmar (45%), Thailand (37%), Indonesia (32%), Malaysia (24%) and Brunei (24%). Singapore will be imposed a baseline tariff of 10%.

"The imposition of the 17% tariff, which is the second lowest, is not so bad in our opinion. We still see it as somewhat favorable," Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Clarissa A. Castro said at a Palace briefing in mixed English and Filipino.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said the Philippines could take advantage of the relatively lower tariff rate compared with its neighbors to "push for more sales to the US of our products."

"The new tariffs also put the Philippines in a more advantageous position, more specifically for certain export products like coconuts. With lower tariffs than Thailand, Philippine coconut exports can be more competitive," Ms. Roque said.

Tariff, S1/3

PHILIPPINES' EXPORTS TO US TO BE HIT BY TRUMP TARIFFS

The Philippines' exports to the United States will now face fresh levies after US President Donald J. Trump imposed reciprocal tariffs to its trading partners.

Breakdown of Electronic Products

Commodity Group	FoB Value in $ million	Percent Share (%)
Components/Devices (Semiconductors)	3,794	59.0
Electronic Data Processing	1,455	22.6
Office Equipment	98	1.5
Consumer Electronics	453	7.0
Telecommunication	397	6.2
Communication/Radar	104	1.6
Control and Instrumentation	75	1.2
Medical/Industrial Instrumentation	46	0.7
Automotive Electronics	9	0.1

Top 10 Philippine export commodities to US in 2024
Free on Board (FoB) Value

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority *BusinessWorld* Research: Abigail Marie P. Yraola and Pierce Oel A. Montalvo *BusinessWorld* Graphics

Total Exports to US: **$12.14 billion**

CEOs remain optimistic amid headwinds — survey

MAJORITY of chief executive officers (CEO) in the Philippines have a slightly optimistic outlook for the next 12 months amid heightened global uncertainty and inflationary pressures, a survey showed.

In the Ernst & Young (EY) CEO Outlook Survey, 62% of the respondents said they are "somewhat optimistic" on the local business environment for this year.

"Caution is driven by the inflationary pressure that remains to be here in the local environment," Noel P. Rabaja, head of strategy and transactions services group of EY-member SGV & Co., told reporters on Thursday.

"Aside from that, it is really the global uncertainties that we continue to experience, especially now, given the recent news on global trade policies," he added.

The EY CEO Outlook Pulse survey, conducted by EY-Parthenon, gathered the perspectives of 1,200 leading CEOs globally, 50 of which are CEOs in the Philippines.

"The survey reveals that Philippine CEOs are confident, but not overly so, in their near-term outlook. They are cautiously optimistic about domestic growth, recognizing that local challenges tend to have a more direct and immediate impact on their businesses compared to global issues," the report said.

"This perspective also reflects a conservative view that global headwinds might pose greater risk to local enterprises than to their counterparts in more mature economies."

On the other hand, Philippine CEOs expressed high confidence when asked from a global (46%) and sector-specific (48%) perspective.

"This is particularly relevant given the Philippine economy's dependence on imported key commodities and revenue streams linked to external markets, such as the business process outsourcing sector and overseas Filipino workers' remittances," it said.

The survey also revealed CEOs' confidence about growth in their own sector.

"This is largely attributed to their expertise marked by their possession of deep insights into industry trends, competition, and market opportunities," EY said.

At the same time, the survey showed 86% of the Philippine CEOs prioritize investing in new areas through joint ventures or mergers and acquisitions (M&As).

"It is interesting to note that there are a lot of Philippine CEOs considering M&A opportunities in 2025," said Mr. Rabaja.

CEOs, S1/3

Infrastructure spending declines in December

INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING slumped by nearly 20% in December, but still exceeded the full-year program, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said.

Latest data from the DBM showed that spending on infrastructure and other capital outlays fell by 19.8% or P36.3 billion to P146.7 billion in December 2024 from P183 billion in the same month in 2023.

"This was attributed to the combined impact of the base effects of high capital disbursements in 2023, as well as the ongoing processing and release of cash allocations for payments of completed and ongoing capital outlay projects of various departments/agencies during the latter part of 2024," the DBM said.

For the full-year, expenditures on infrastructure and other capital outlays jumped by 10.1% to P1.33 trillion from P1.2 trillion in 2023. This also exceeded the P1.24-trillion program by 6.7%.

The DBM attributed the faster infrastructure spending to the implementation of the Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) banner infrastructure projects as well as defense modernization projects of the Department of National Defense.

DBM data showed overall infrastructure disbursements rose by 8.9% to P1.545 trillion in 2024 from P1.42 trillion in 2023. It exceeded the P1.473-trillion program for 2024 by 4.9%.

"This was equivalent to 5.8% of GDP, well within the 5-6% target for 2024 and sustaining the 5.8% outturn in 2023," the department said.

PHILIPPINE STAR/NOEL B. PABALATE
GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES on infrastructure and other capital outlays jumped by 10.1% to P1.33 trillion in 2024.

Infrastructure disbursements also include infrastructure components of subsidy and equity to government-owned and -controlled corporations and transfers to local government units.

"This was credited mainly to the accelerated infrastructure spending of the DPWH for its accelerated implementation of construction activities, particularly from carry-over or previous years' projects, progress billings from completed ongoing infrastructure projects, as well as the direct payments made by development partners for foreign-assisted rail projects of the Department of Transportation," the DBM said.

Oikonomia Advisory and Research, Inc. Economist Reinielle Matt M. Erece said the P122.2-billion increase in infrastructure and capital outlays in 2024 was partly driven by defense modernization programs of the government.

"This can be in response to the heightened geopolitical tensions felt by a lot of countries," he said.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said faster infrastructure spending last year can be partly attributed to preparations for the May elections.

"(This is) part of the preparations for the midterm elections, as basis for accomplishments that are consideration for the voters to choose some candidates based on their completed projects and programs," he said.

Mr. Ricafort said the government likely expedited infrastructure projects in the first three months of 2025 ahead of the election ban.

The Commission on Elections' ban on public works spending began on March 28 and will run for 45 days. The midterm elections are scheduled for May 12.

Mr. Erece said he expects slower infrastructure spending as the government "reviewed and removed some of the unprogrammed appropriations and other expenses that the administration felt were unneeded, at least in the short term." — **Aubrey Rose A. Inosante**

Robinsons Malls opens 56th mall in Pagadian City

ROBINSONS PAGADIAN was formally opened by distinguished guests including (from left) Robinsons Land Executive Vice-President and Business Unit General Manager Faraday D. Go, Robinsons Retail Holdings, Inc. (RRHI) Chairman Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Pagadian City Mayor Samuel S. Co, JG Summit Holdings President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Lance Y. Gokongwei, Most Reverend Archbishop Martin S. Jumoad, Zamboanga del Sur Governor Victor J. Yu, Robinsons Land President and CEO Mybelle Aragon-GoBio, and RRHI President and CEO Stanley C. Co. The new mall brings national and local brands, state-of-the-art cinemas, and innovative attractions to Pagadian.