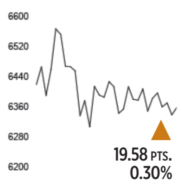
P25 IN METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BusinessWorld

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

STOCK MARKET		
PSEi		
OPEN:	6,344.34	
HIGH:	6,365.97	
LOW:	6,320.56	
CLOSE:	6,357.01	▲ 19.58 PTS. 0.30%
VOL.:	0.983 B	
VAL(P):	4.432 B	


30 DAYS TO JUNE 19, 2025

ASIAN MARKETS — JUNE 19, 2025

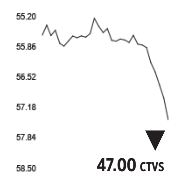
	CLOSE		NET	%
Japan (Nikkei 225)	38,488.34	▼	-396.81	-1.02
Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	23,237.74	▼	-472.95	-1.99
Taiwan (Weighted)	22,003.50	▼	-353.23	-1.58
Thailand (SET Index)	1,069.19	▼	-25.39	-2.32
S.Korea (Kse Composite)	2,977.74	▲	5.55	0.19
Singapore (Straits Times)	3,895.78	▼	-25.03	-0.64
Sydney (All Ordinaries)	8,523.70	▼	-7.50	-0.09
Malaysia (Klse Composite)	1,501.44	▼	-10.51	-0.70

WORLD MARKETS — JUNE 18, 2025

	CLOSE		NET
Dow Jones	42,171.660	▼	-44.140
NASDAQ	19,546.273	▲	25.182
S&P 500	5,980.870	▼	-1.850
FTSE 100	8,843.470	▲	9.440
Euro Stoxx50	4,471.740	▼	-19.020

PESO-DOLLAR RATES — FX

OPEN	P57.100
HIGH	P57.100
LOW	P57.450
CLOSE	P57.450
W.AVE.	P57.327
VOL.	$1,834.25 M


▼ 47.00 CTVS
30 DAYS TO JUNE 19, 2025
SOURCE : BAP

ASIAN MONIES-US$ RATE — JUNE 19, 2025

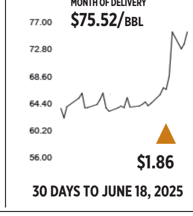
	LATEST BID (0900GMT)		PREVIOUS
Japan (yen)	145.370	▼	144.950
Hong Kong (HK dollar)	7.850	—	7.850
Taiwan (NT dollar)	29.616	▼	29.542
Thailand (baht)	32.740	▼	32.600
S. Korea (won)	1,377.500	▼	1,373.500
Singapore (dollar)	1.287	▼	1.284
Indonesia (rupiah)	16,390	▼	16,295
Malaysia (ringgit)	4.258	▼	4.248

WORLD CURRENCIES — JUNE 19, 2025

	CLOSE		PREVIOUS
US$/UK pound	1.3421	▼	1.3465
US$/Euro	1.1472	▼	1.1507
US$/Aust dollar	0.6467	▼	0.6500
Canada dollar/US$	1.3712	▲	1.3664
Swiss Franc/US$	0.8167	▼	0.8173

DUBAI CRUDE OIL

FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY $75.52/BBL


▲ $1.86
30 DAYS TO JUNE 18, 2025

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S1/1-16 • 3 SECTIONS, 24 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JUNE 19, 2025 (PSEi snapshot on *S1/4*; article on *S2/2*)

		Value			
BLOOM	P5.610	P449,049,202	P0.010	▲	0.179%
PLUS	P60.300	P312,939,692	-P0.300	▼	-0.495%
BPI	P137.600	P297,613,960	P2.100	▲	1.550%
BDO	P154.900	P231,060,803	P1.900	▲	1.242%
MWC	P38.800	P215,559,365	P0.400	▲	1.042%
TEL	P1,221.000	P164,455,065	-P6.000	▼	-0.489%
GTCAP	P574.000	P155,361,795	P10.000	▲	1.773%
SM	P865.000	P140,127,450	P0.000	—	0.000%
GLO	P1,737.000	P129,601,480	-P16.000	▼	-0.913%
JFC	P227.600	P117,645,198	P0.800	▲	0.353%

BSP delivers 2nd straight rate cut

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) lowered policy rates for a second straight meeting on Thursday and signaled at least one more cut this year to support economic growth.

The Monetary Board on Thursday reduced the target reverse repurchase rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 5.25% from 5.5%, as expected by 15 out of 16 analysts in a *BusinessWorld* poll last week. This was the lowest level in two and a half years.

Rates on the overnight deposit and lending facilities were also lowered to 4.75% and 5.75%, respectively.

"If things remain on track, we will probably cut once more (by 25 bps)," BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. said during a briefing.

The Monetary Board has three more policy meetings scheduled for this year.

"On balance, the Monetary Board sees the need for a more accommodative monetary policy stance. Emerging risks to inflation from rising geopolitical tensions and external policy uncertainty require close monitoring," he said.

Mr. Remolona also noted a possible slowdown in the global economy, mainly due to the uncertainty arising from US tariff policy and the Middle East conflict.

"This would lead to slower growth in the Philippines," he said.

Economic managers are targeting 6-8% gross domestic product (GDP) growth this year. In the first quarter, GDP grew by a weaker-than-expected 5.4%.

Mr. Remolona said the outlook for inflation "moderated" and expectations remain "well-anchored." Inflation eased to 1.3% in May, the slowest pace in over five years and below the 2-4% target range.

The BSP slashed its inflation forecast to 1.6% for this year from 2.4%.

However, it slightly raised its projection for 2026 to 3.4% from 3.3%, previously, and for 2027 to 3.3% from 3.2% previously.

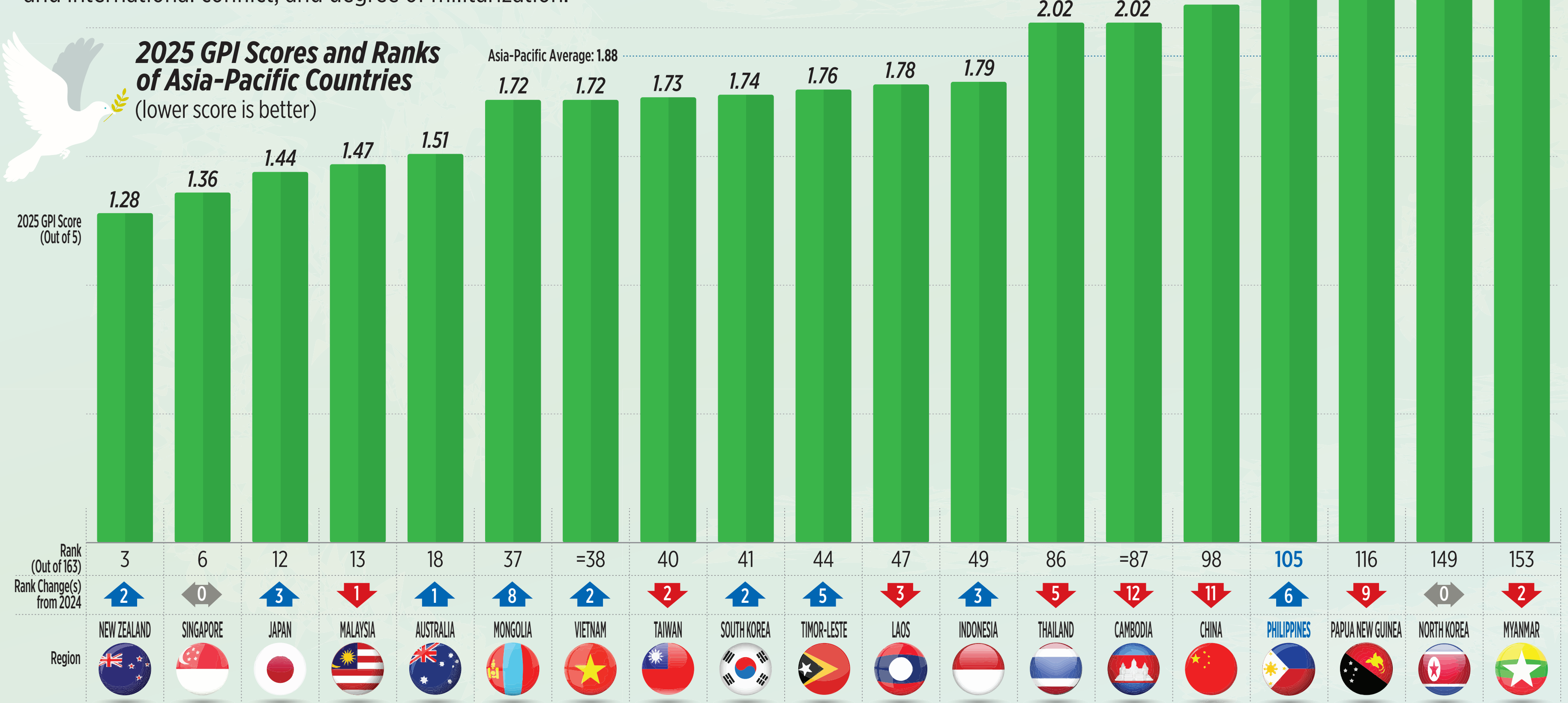
"A rise in oil prices, electricity rate adjustments, and higher rice tariffs, would add to inflationary pressures," Mr. Remolona said.

Reuters reported oil prices surged early Thursday amid fears a wider conflict in the Middle East could disrupt supplies of crude oil. Brent crude rose nearly 1% to $77.40 a barrel, close to its highest since January.

Rate cut, S1/7

PHILIPPINES RISES IN GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2025

The Philippines climbed six places to 105th out of 163 countries in the 2025 Global Peace Index (GPI). This was the country's best placement in eight years or since it ranked 87th in 2017. Despite this, the country remained one of the laggards in the region with overall GPI score of 2.15, surpassing the Asia-Pacific average score of 1.88. Released by the Institute for Economics and Peace, the index quantifies and ranks countries' maintenance of and prospective peacefulness across the domains of societal safety and security, extent of ongoing domestic and international conflict, and degree of militarization.



Philippines' Profile (2025)

Domain	Score
Militarization	1.71/5
Ongoing Conflict	2.18/5
Safety and Security	2.43/5

Philippines' Historical Rankings

Year	Rank
2017	=87/163
2018	137/163
2019	134/163
2020	129/163
2021	127/163
2022	125/163
2023	115/163
2024	111/163
2025	**105/163**

Source: Institute for Economics and Peace's 2025 Global Peace Index
***BusinessWorld* Research:** Matthew Miguel L. Castillo and Leigh Patrick Q. Batoon
***BusinessWorld* Graphics:** Bong R. Fortin

Top 10 Countries

Rank (Out of 163)	Region	Rank Changes (from 2024)	2025 GPI Score (Out of 5)
1	Iceland	0	1.10
2	Ireland	0	1.26
3	New Zealand	▲ 2	1.28
4	Austria	▼ 1	1.29
5	Switzerland	0	1.29
6	Singapore	0	1.36
7	Portugal	▲ 1	1.37
8	Denmark	▼ 1	1.39
9	Slovenia	0	1.41
10	Finland	▲ 1	1.42

Bottom 10 Countries

Rank (Out of 163)	Region	Rank Changes (from 2024)	2025 GPI Score (Out of 5)
163	Russia	▼ 2	3.44
162	Ukraine	▼ 3	3.43
161	Sudan	▲ 2	3.32
160	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	▼ 3	3.29
159	Yemen	▲ 3	3.26
158	Afghanistan	▲ 2	3.23
157	Syria	▼ 1	3.18
156	South Sudan	▲ 2	3.12
155	Israel	0	3.11
154	Mali	▼ 1	3.06

Exports to hit $110 billion if Philippines keeps its advantage amid US tariffs

By Justine Irish D. Tabile
Reporter

THE PHILIPPINES could still achieve the export target set under the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) this year if it is able to maintain its advantage amid the US reciprocal tariffs, an industry group said.

"Our target is the same, but we will not hit the target set under the Philippine Export Development Plan (PEDP)," Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. President Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis, Jr. told *BusinessWorld* on the sidelines of the group's 2nd Quarter General Membership Meeting on Thursday.

"We are now following the target under PDP; hopefully we will hit $110 billion," he added.

Under the PDP, total exports are expected to hit $113.42 billion this year.

On the other hand, the target under the PEDP is higher with exports projected to reach $163.6 billion this year.

"The semiconductors and services are doing well, but what will happen next will depend on Trump. Right now, we are all speculating," he said.

"But so far, so good, and if the situation stays the same, we can expect growth from our semiconductor and electronics and information technology and business process management (IT-BPM) industries," he added.

US President Donald J. Trump announced higher reciprocal tariffs on most of the country's trading partners, with Philippine goods facing the second-lowest rate in Southeast Asia at 17%. However, the reciprocal tariffs have been paused for 90 days until July. A baseline 10% tariff remains in place.

According to Mr. Ortiz-Luis, the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPI) anticipates this year's exports to reach the same level as in 2023.

"SEIPI gave us some assurance as it anticipates export revenues reaching $46 billion this year, driven by a robust global demand despite tariff challenges," he said.

Exports, S1/7

Trump's proposed tax on remittances 'a concern' for PHL

By Aubrey Rose A. Inosante *Reporter*

US PRESIDENT Donald J. Trump's proposal to tax the money sent home by foreign workers, may hurt the Philippine economy as remittances and household consumption are likely to slow, experts said.

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto said the "One, Big, Beautiful Bill Act," if passed into law in the US, is "a concern" for the Philippines which relies heavily on remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

"But (it) will be difficult to implement. May be bad for the US and the US dollar. Those remittances may go through informal or other channels," he said in a text message to *BusinessWorld*.

Mr. Trump's controversial bill, which was approved by the US House of Representatives in May, includes a provision imposing an excise tax of 3.5% on money sent abroad by foreign workers in the US.

The US Senate is now deliberating on the measure.

The Center for Global Development estimated the tax will apply to around 40 million non-US citizens — green card holders, temporary workers and undocumented immigrants. However, remittances made by US citizens and nationals are exempted from the tax.

GlobalSource Partners Country Analyst Diwa C. Guinigundo said the tax will not just impact remittances from the US, but from other countries as well.

"Definitely, this would discourage OFW remittances not only from the US but also from other parts of the global market. Most remittance agents course their remittances to the Philippines through their US correspondent banks," he said in a Viber message.

"Based on the existing protocol of last touch, remittances from OFWs in the Middle East, Europe and elsewhere would also be subject to that 3.5% tax regardless of where those incomes were made."

Cash remittances jumped by 3% to $34.49 billion in 2024 from the $33.49 billion registered in 2023.

Remittances, S1/7

Tourism contributes 8.9% to Philippine GDP in 2024

THE SHARE of the tourism industry in the Philippine economy rose to a five-year high of 8.9% in 2024, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said on Thursday.

Tourism direct gross value added (TDGVA) — an indicator of the economic contribution from tourism-related activities — jumped by 11.2% year on year to P2.35 trillion last year, preliminary data from the PSA showed.

However, TDGVA growth was slower than the 49.9% surge logged in 2023 and the slowest annual growth since the 10.3% expansion in 2020.

Despite the slower growth, the share of TDGVA to the economy rose to 8.9% in 2024, the highest share since the 12.9% recorded in 2019.

By industry, country-specific tourism characteristics goods - shopping accounted for 21.8% of the total with P512.68 billion. It was followed by miscellaneous services (20.2% share or P476.23 billion) and accommodation services for visitors (18.4% share or P432.9 billion).

Domestic tourism expenditure, which includes resident visitors' spending within the country on a domestic trip or as part of an international trip, grew by 16.4% to P3.16 trillion last year.

Outbound tourism spending reached P345.68 billion in 2024, rising by 37.5% from P251.35 billion in 2023.

Inbound tourism expenditure, meanwhile, inched up by 0.4% annually to P699.99 billion.

Total employment in the tourism sector grew by 6.1% to 6.75 million in 2024. Tourism accounted for 13.8% of the total jobs in the country in 2024.

The majority of the tourism-related jobs were centered on miscellaneous activities. The health and wellness sector employed 1.83 million, accounting for a 27.1% share.

The accommodation and food and beverage sector had 1.69 million workers (25% share), while passenger transport had 1.67 million workers (24.7%).

Tourism, S1/7