P25 IN METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BusinessWorld

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

STOCK MARKET

PSEi — 30 DAYS TO JULY 2, 2025

OPEN:	6,416.95
HIGH:	6,419.05
LOW:	6,385.54
CLOSE:	6,419.05
VOL.:	0.792 B
VAL(P):	7.772 B

▼ 4.80 PTS. 0.07%

ASIAN MARKETS — JULY 2, 2025

	CLOSE		NET	%
Japan (Nikkei 225)	39,762.48	▼	-223.85	-0.56
Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	24,221.41	▲	149.13	0.62
Taiwan (Weighted)	22,577.74	▲	24.02	0.11
Thailand (SET Index)	1,112.21	▲	2.20	0.20
S.Korea (Kse Composite)	3,075.06	▼	-14.59	-0.47
Singapore (Straits Times)	4,005.25	▲	15.49	0.39
Sydney (All Ordinaries)	8,597.70	▲	56.60	0.66
Malaysia (Klse Composite)	1,550.21	▲	8.68	0.56

WORLD MARKETS — JULY 1, 2025

	CLOSE		NET
Dow Jones	44,494.940	▲	400.170
NASDAQ	20,202.889	▼	-166.845
S&P 500	6,198.010	▼	-6.940
FTSE 100	8,785.330	▲	24.370
Euro Stoxx50	4,452.920	▼	-1.140

PESO-DOLLAR RATES

FX — 30 DAYS TO JULY 2, 2025

OPEN	P56.270
HIGH	P56.260
LOW	P56.420
CLOSE	P56.365
W.AVE.	P56.341
VOL.	$1,587.40 M

▼ 6.50 CTVS

SOURCE : BAP

ASIAN MONIES-US$ RATE — JULY 2, 2025

	LATEST BID (0900GMT)		PREVIOUS
Japan (yen)	144.090	▼	142.910
Hong Kong (HK dollar)	7.850	—	7.850
Taiwan (NT dollar)	29.034	▲	29.220
Thailand (baht)	32.420	▼	32.400
S. Korea (won)	1,358.910	▼	1,352.940
Singapore (dollar)	1.274	▼	1.270
Indonesia (rupiah)	16,235	▼	16,185
Malaysia (ringgit)	4.223	▼	4.195

WORLD CURRENCIES — JULY 2, 2025

	CLOSE		PREVIOUS
US$/UK pound	1.3690	▼	1.3770
US$/Euro	1.1772	▼	1.1815
US$/Aust dollar	0.6563	▼	0.6586
Canada dollar/US$	1.3650	▲	1.3597
Swiss Franc/US$	0.7923	▲	0.7884

DUBAI CRUDE OIL

FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY

$68.15/BBL

▼ $0.61

30 DAYS TO JULY 1, 2025

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

		Value			
PLUS	P45.000	P952,416,804	-P5.000	▼	-10.000%
ALI	P28.350	P905,219,695	P0.450	▲	1.613%
ICT	P415.000	P809,955,892	P2.000	▲	0.484%
BDO	P150.000	P711,781,529	-P1.500	▼	-0.990%
BPI	P127.700	P553,357,890	-P2.700	▼	-2.071%
MBT	P71.000	P289,364,754	-P1.000	▼	-1.389%
GTCAP	P635.000	P281,569,345	P27.500	▲	4.527%
URC	P92.000	P276,729,686	P2.800	▲	3.139%
BLOOM	P5.000	P253,791,847	-P0.080	▼	-1.575%
AREIT	P42.000	P181,107,130	P0.800	▲	1.942%

PEZA investments surge in 1st half

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) saw a 59% increase in approved investment pledges in the first six months of 2025, despite a drop in approvals in June.

In a statement, PEZA said its board approved P72.362 billion worth of investments in the January-to-June period, up 59.1% from the P45.481-billion investment pledges approved in the same period last year.

"This continued surge in investments affirms PEZA's role as a vital engine for economic growth and job creation for the country," PEZA Director-General Tereso O. Panga said in a statement on Wednesday.

"The confidence shown by both new and existing investors is a strong signal that our economic zones (ecozones) are thriving and open for business," he added.

However, the PEZA board only approved P6.022 billion worth of investments in June, down by 30.4% from P8.654 billion in the same month in 2024.

In June, the PEZA board greenlit 31 new and expansion projects that are expected to bring in $166.426 million in export revenues and 3,646 jobs.

Fourteen of the approved projects will be undertaken by export-oriented enterprises, while seven projects are in the information technology and business process management (IT-BPM) sector.

Four projects involve domestic market-oriented enterprises, while four projects are in logistics.

Another project involves ecozone development, while one project involves facility development.

The majority of the projects are expected to be located in Region IV-A or Calabarzon, while the rest will be in Central Luzon, the National Capital Region, Davao Region, Central Visayas, Western Visayas and Ilocos Region.

For the January-to-June period, PEZA approved 133 projects that are expected to generate 32,983 jobs and have $1.26 billion in export value.

The majority of these projects are in manufacturing, while 39 are IT-BPM projects, 12 are domestic market-oriented enterprises, 10 are facility development projects, while nine are ecozone developments.

There are four utility projects and another four are in logistics.

"South Koreans came in as the biggest investor for the first half of the year, followed by the Americans, Chinese, Dutch and Japanese," said PEZA.

"In terms of sectoral investments, manufacturing of food and beverage products tops the list, followed by ecozone development and IT-BPM," it added.

After the investment performance in the first half, Mr. Panga said he is "optimistic" that PEZA will achieve its targets this year.

This year, PEZA is targeting investment approvals to reach at least P235 billion, and a 5% increase in both actual exports and employment.

"The Philippines is surely in a sweet spot to attract foreign direct investments at this time, and surely, Filipinos and the whole country will reap the results of our combined hard work soon," Mr. Panga said.

PEZA said it is pursuing 50 investment leads, which it hopes will translate in actual investments.

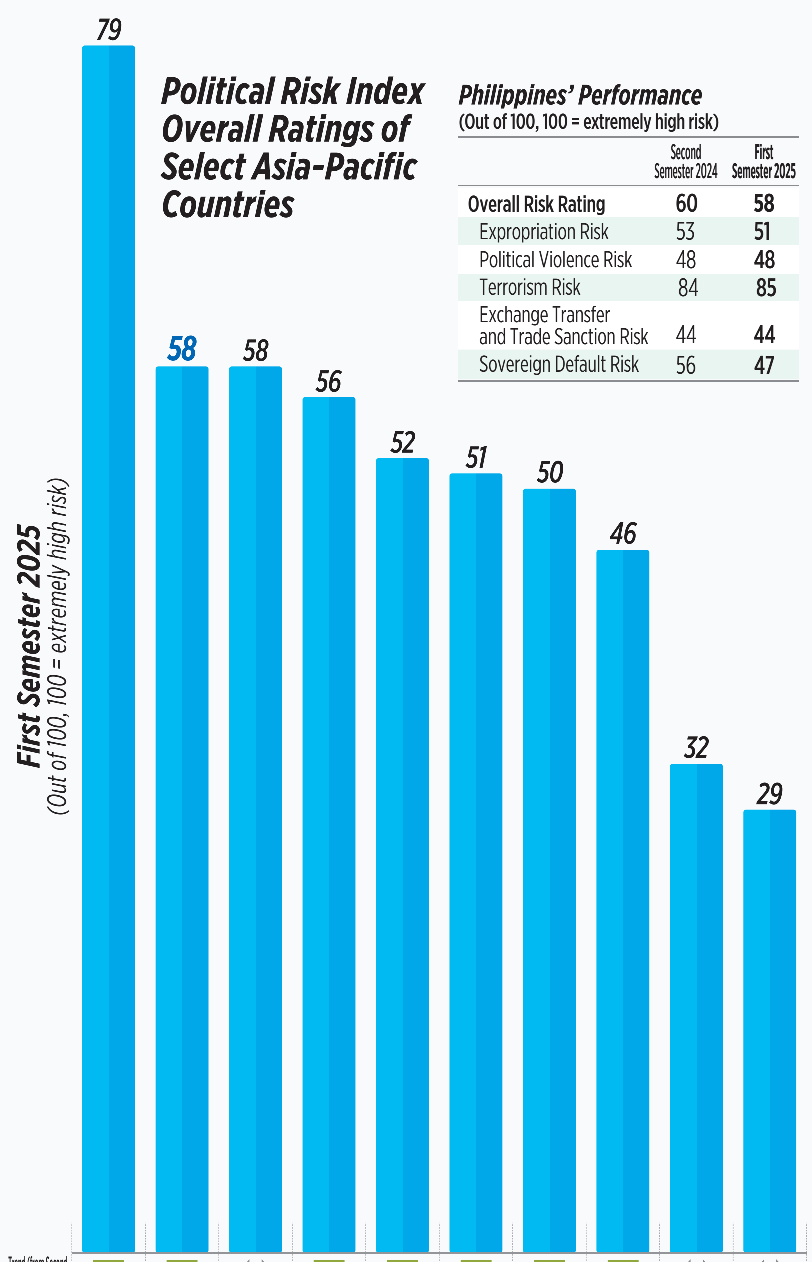
"PEZA likewise welcomed several high-level inbound delegations during the period representing the US, China, Japan, Spain, Germany, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, and even domestic exploratory missions within the Philippines," PEZA said.

It noted interest in electronics manufacturing and semiconductor manufacturing services, advanced manufacturing activities, aviation, automotive and information technology-business process management sectors. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

PHILIPPINES STILL AT 'SIGNIFICANT' LEVEL IN POLITICAL RISK INDEX

The Philippines' overall rating improved to 58 (out of 100) but still retained a "significant" risk temperature level in the first half of 2025, according to the latest edition of the Political Risk Index by global advisory, broking, and solution company WTW. The index assesses patterns in the world's most vulnerable countries, covering key political perils from expropriation to currency inconvertibility and political violence.

Political Risk Index Overall Ratings of Select Asia-Pacific Countries



Country (Out of 41)	PAKISTAN	PHILIPPINES	INDIA	BANGLADESH	THAILAND	INDONESIA	CHINA	VIETNAM	HONG KONG, (China)	TAIWAN, (China)
Trend (from Second Semester 2024 edition)	2	2	0	4	1	1	3	1	0	0
Risk Temperature Level	High	Significant	Significant	Significant	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low

Philippines' Performance
(Out of 100, 100 = extremely high risk)

	Second Semester 2024	First Semester 2025
Overall Risk Rating	60	58
Expropriation Risk	53	51
Political Violence Risk	48	48
Terrorism Risk	84	85
Exchange Transfer and Trade Sanction Risk	44	44
Sovereign Default Risk	56	47

High-Risk Countries

Country (Out of 41)	Overall rating (Out of 100)	Risk Temperature Level
Lebanon	84	High
Pakistan	79	High
Nigeria	74	Medium High
Ukraine	73	Medium High
Iran	72	Medium High
Colombia	68	Medium High
Ethiopia	68	Medium High
Russia	68	Medium High
Kenya	67	Medium High
Mozambique	67	Medium High

Risk Temperature Index Key

95 – Extremely High
85 – Very High
75 – High
65 – Medium High
55 – Significant
45 – Medium
35 – Medium Low
25 – Low
15 – Very Low
5 – Extremely Low

Low-Risk Countries

Country (Out of 41)	Overall Rating (Out of 100)	Risk Temperature Level
Taiwan, China	29	Low
Hong Kong, China	32	Low
Saudi Arabia	42	Medium Low
Chile	43	Medium Low
Vietnam	46	Medium
Kazakhstan	48	Medium
Brazil	49	Medium
China	50	Medium
Cote d'Ivoire	50	Medium
Senegal	51	Medium

Source:
WTW's Political Risk Index H1 2025 (https://www.wtwco.com/en-ph/insights/2025/06/political-risk-index-h1-2025)
BusinessWorld Research: Pierce Oel A. Montalvo
BusinessWorld Graphics: Bong R. Fortin

Philippines still a lower middle-income country, according to World Bank

THE PHILIPPINES is still classified as a lower middle-income country after just missing the threshold to achieve upper middle-income country (UMIC) status, according to the World Bank.

The World Bank's latest country income classification showed the Philippines posted a record gross national income (GNI) per capita of $4,470. This was higher than its GNI per capita of $4,230 in the previous year.

Despite the increase in GNI per capita, the Philippines remains classified by the World Bank as a lower middle-income country — one with a GNI per capita of $1,136 to $4,495.

The Philippines' GNI per capita was only $26 shy of the World Bank's lower GNI per capita requirement of $4,496-$13,935 to become a UMIC. Last year, the GNI per capita requirement for a UMIC was between $4,516 and $14,005.

The World Bank computes a country's GNI through the Atlas method, which serves as the basis of its income classifications — low, lower middle, upper middle and high. GNI refers to the total amount of money earned by its residents both inside and outside its borders.

In Southeast Asia, Vietnam overtook the Philippines in terms of GNI per capita with $4,490 but remained a lower middle-income country.

Cambodia ($2,520), Laos ($2,000), and Myanmar ($1,220) are also still classified as lower middle-income countries.

Middle-income, S1/9

PHILIPPINE STAR/RYAN BALDEMOR

A STREET is seen in Quiapo, Manila. The World Bank still classifies the Philippines as a lower middle-income country.

EV stakeholders told to brace for impact of 'One Big Beautiful Bill'

By Justine Irish D. Tabile
Reporter

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry (DTI) on Wednesday warned that the Trump administration's "One Big Beautiful Bill (BBB) Act" may have a negative impact on Philippine enterprises involved in electric vehicle manufacturing and supply-chain operations.

The US Senate on Tuesday approved the massive tax cut and spending bill by the narrowest of margins, advancing a package that would slash taxes, reduce social safety net programs and boost military and immigration enforcement spending while adding $3.3 trillion to the national debt. (*Related story on S1/9: "Trump risks voter blowback as 'One Big Beautiful Bill' advances"*)

The legislation now heads to the House of Representatives for possible final approval. US President Donald J. Trump has said he wants to sign it into law by the July 4 Independence Day holiday.

"Noting that the Philippines is part of the electric vehicle (EV) supply chain, the BBB's proposed changes may have an effect on the demand for the country's green metals that feed into the EV supply chain in the US," DTI said.

The US measure includes provisions terminating federal tax credits for new and used electric vehicles and restricting the eligibility for clean vehicle tax incentives.

"The DTI advises all relevant industries and stakeholders — particularly those involved in EV manufacturing, supply-chain operations, and financial services — to consider conducting an early assessment of potential impacts and prepare appropriate risk mitigation strategies," it added.

The DTI cited Section 112002 of the House-approved version of the bill, which will terminate the tax credit of up to $7,500 that US taxpayers can claim for electric vans, sport utility vehicles, and pickup trucks with a manufacturer's suggested retail price of $80,000.

EV stakeholders, S1/9

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