

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
6530 6434 6338 6242 6146 6050 25.31 pts. 0.39% 30 DAYS TO AUGUST 8, 2025 PSEi OPEN: 6,355.32 HIGH: 6,377.49 LOW: 6,322.83 CLOSE: 6,339.38 VOL: 1.416 B VAL(P): 7.252 B	AUGUST 8, 2025 CLOSE NET % JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 41,820.48 ▲761.33 1.85 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 24,858.82 ▼-222.81 -0.89 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 24,021.26 ▲17.49 0.07 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,259.07 ▼-6.08 -0.48 S. KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 3,210.01 ▼-17.67 -0.55 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 4,239.83 ▼-18.32 -0.43 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 8,807.10 ▼-24.30 -0.28 MALAYSIA (KLCSE COMPOSITE) 1,556.98 ▲7.87 0.51	AUGUST 8, 2025 CLOSE NET DOW JONES 44,175.610 ▲206.970 NASDAQ 21,450.022 ▲207.324 S&P 500 6,389.450 ▲49.450 FTSE 100 9,095.730 ▼-5.040 Euro Stoxx50 4,477.470 ▲10.070	FX OPEN P56.920 HIGH P56.845 LOW P57.220 CLOSE P57.110 W.AVE. P57.031 VOL. \$2,455.80 30 DAYS TO AUGUST 8, 2025 SOURCE : BAP	AUGUST 8, 2025 LATEST BID (0900GMT) PREVIOUS JAPAN (YEN) 147.7200 ▼147.1800 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.8496 ▲7.8498 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 29.8920 ▲29.7880 THAILAND (BAHT) 32.2700 ▼32.3100 S. KOREA (WON) 1,388.6900 ▼1,379.8200 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.2849 ▼1.2829 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 16,285 ▼16,285 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.2350 ▼4.2280	AUGUST 8, 2025 CLOSE PREVIOUS US\$/UK POUND 1.3449 ▲1.3366 US\$/EURO 1.1639 ▼1.1680 US\$/AUST DOLLAR 0.6524 ▼0.6527 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3757 ▲1.3733 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.8080 ▲0.8060	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$68.50/BBL 76.00 73.80 71.60 69.40 67.20 65.00 30 DAYS TO AUGUST 8, 2025 ▼\$0.82

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • AUGUST 8, 2025 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)

ICT	P488.000	SM	P795.000	PLUS	P26.900	RCR	P8.190	SPNEC	P1.450	ALI	P27.350	BDO	P143.000	JFC	P212.400	MBT	P71.000	CEBCP	P46.700
Value	P707,451,122	Value	P677,366,790	Value	P628,483,935	Value	P388,336,732	Value	P279,411,470	Value	P260,552,220	Value	P240,204,265	Value	P237,902,034	Value	P198,035,934	Value	P181,951,575
-P6.000	▼ -1.215%	-P15.000	▼ -1.852%	P1.950	▲ 7.816%	P0.290	▲ 3.671%	-P0.170	▼ -10.494%	P0.750	▲ 2.820%	-P1.500	▼ -1.038%	-P5.000	▼ -2.300%	-P0.500	▼ -0.699%	-P1.300	▼ -2.708%

GDP growth may miss top-end goal

DBS lowers Philippine inflation forecast to 1.7%

SINGAPORE-BASED DBS Bank slashed its inflation forecast for the Philippines for 2025, with expectations of further policy easing for the remainder of the year.

“Moderation in food price has helped to soften inflation, with the contribution of services also off the boil. Broad-based deceleration provided the backdrop for the BSP to unwind tightening moves from 2022-23,” DBS Senior Economist Radhika Rao said in a commentary.

DBS now expects Philippine headline inflation to settle at 1.7% this year, much lower than its previous forecast of 2.6%.

Headline inflation sharply eased to a near six-year low of 0.9% in July from 1.4% in June and 4.4% a year ago. This also marked the fifth straight month that inflation settled below the central bank’s 2-4% target range.

For the first seven months of the year, inflation averaged 1.7%.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) expects inflation to average 1.6% this year.

“Inflation for the bottom 30% of income households has been receding, led by food costs, signaling relief on household expenses,” Ms. Rao said.

Inflation for the bottom 30% of income households slipped to 0.8% from the 0.4% dip in June. Year-to-date, inflation for the bottom 30% income households averaged 0.5%.

Meanwhile, DBS said it sees the central bank further reducing interest rates this year.

“BSP has unwound about a third of the 450 basis points (bps) of rate hikes undertaken in 2022-2023. The real rate cushion of (around) 350 bps to 400 bps backs the central bank’s dovish talk.”

“We expect the BSP to cut by further 50 bps this year, with the next in August,” she added.

The Monetary Board has lowered borrowing costs by a total of 125 bps since it began easing in August last year.

The central bank has been delivering rate cuts in increments of

25 bps. At its last meeting in June, it cut by 25 bps to bring the policy rate to 5.25%.

BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. earlier said they can deliver two more 25-bp reductions this year and even potentially continue its easing cycle until next year.

The Monetary Board is set to have its next policy review on Aug. 28.

Meanwhile, DBS trimmed its gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for the Philippines to 5.6% this year from 5.8% previously.

The Philippine economy grew by 5.5% in the second quarter, a tad faster than the 5.4% in the first quarter. However, this was slower than the 6.5% growth in the second quarter of 2024.

For the first half, GDP growth averaged 5.4%, slower than the 6.2% a year ago.

“The segments broadly rose, led by household consumption in the midst of midterm elections, while net exports recovered due to frontloading of exports to the US,” Ms. Rao said.

“Businesses have also adopted a cautious tone into mid-2025, as the outlook is clouded by a post-election trough, trade uncertainty-led impact on US and regional growth. Construction fared better but services were sluggish.”

DBS also noted that the Development Budget Coordination Committee’s (DBCC) latest growth assumptions are “more realistic.”

The DBCC lowered its GDP growth target band to 5.5-6.5% this year from 6-8% previously.

The economy must grow by 5.6% for the rest of the year to achieve the low end of the full-year target.

“The Philippines has grown more slowly than its ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) peers in the past three decades. Boosting domestic demand via a wider manufacturing footprint and reforms to attract foreign direct investment will be important to return to a durable recovery path,” Ms. Rao said.

Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

HOW MINIMUM WAGES COMPARED ACROSS REGIONS IN JULY (AFTER ACCOUNTING FOR INFLATION)

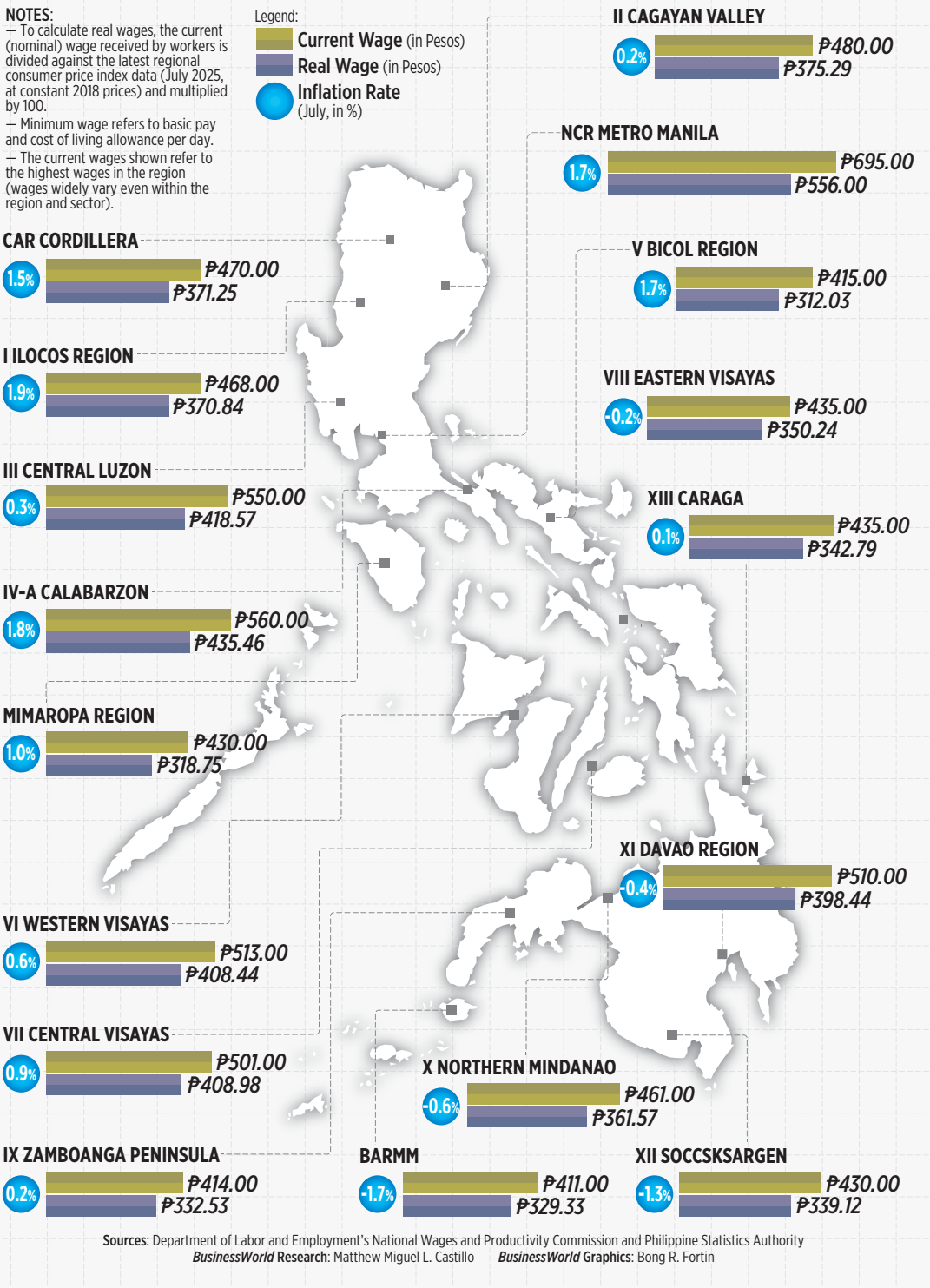
In July, inflation-adjusted wages were 18.4% to 25.9% lower than the current daily minimum wages across the regions in the country. Meanwhile, in peso terms, real wages were lower by around P81.47 to P139 from the current daily minimum wages set by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board.



Daily Minimum Wages (July 2025)

NOTES:
— To calculate real wages, the current (nominal) wage received by workers is divided against the latest regional consumer price index data (July 2025, at constant 2018 prices) and multiplied by 100.
— Minimum wage refers to basic pay and cost of living allowance per day.
— The current wages shown refer to the highest wages in the region (wages widely vary even within the region and sector).

Legend:
■ Current Wage (in Pesos)
■ Real Wage (in Pesos)
● Inflation Rate (July, in %)



By Aubrey Rose A. Inosante
Reporter

PHILIPPINE economic growth is unlikely to reach the upper end of the government’s 5.5-6.5% target this year amid higher US tariffs and slowing remittances, analysts said.

Foundation for Economic Freedom President Calixto V. Chikiamco said hitting the 6.5% mark is “possible, but improbable.”

“More so with [US President Donald J.] Trump tariffs on our key exports and a global economic slowdown,” Mr. Chikiamco told *BusinessWorld*.

The economy grew by an annual 5.5% in the April-to-June period, supported by a rebound in agriculture production and faster household consumption.

For the first half, gross domestic product (GDP) growth averaged 5.4%, slower than the 6.2% a year ago.

Economic Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said the economy must grow by 5.6% in the second half to achieve the low end of the full-year target, and by 7.5% to hit the upper end of the goal.

“However, if the administration keeps its same steady as you go approach, the likelihood is that not only will the government fail to reach its minimum 6% growth target, but actually achieve less than 5.5% growth,” Mr. Chikiamco said.

John Paolo R. Rivera, a senior research fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, said the required 7.5% average growth in the July-to-December period is a “stretch goal but not impossible.”

“It will require strong export performance despite global headwinds, faster infrastructure roll-out after the election spending ban, and sustained household and investment spending,” he said in a Viber message over the weekend.

Mr. Trump imposed a 19% export levy on goods from the Philippines, as well as Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia. This took effect on Aug. 7.

GDP, S1/5



PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Marcos meets with MGEN, ACWA Power

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. meets with Meralco PowerGen Corp. (MGEN) and ACWA Power executives to advance a strategic public-private partnership driving renewable energy development in the Philippines. In photo are (from left) ACWA Power Vice-President for Business Development Salman Baray; ACWA Power Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Marco Arcelli; Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Counsellor Abdullatif Abdulaziz Alalshekh; ACWA Power Chairman Mohammad Abunayyan; Mr. Marcos; Meralco and MGEN Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan; Department of Energy Secretary Sharon Garin; Metro Pacific Investments Corp. Government Relations and Public Affairs Head Atty. Mike Toledo; MGEN President and CEO Emmanuel V. Rubio; and MGreen President and CEO Dennis B. Jordan.

Central banks urged to remain a stabilizing force amid uncertainty in global economy — BIS

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson
Senior Reporter

CENTRAL BANKS must remain a “stabilizing force” amid uncertainties in the global economy, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said.

“The most important task, particularly in these highly uncertain times, is for central banks to be a stabilizing force and maintain or, in some cases, rebuild trust in monetary policymaking,” BIS Deputy Head of the Monetary and Economic Department Frank Smets told *BusinessWorld* in a virtual interview.

This kind of trust creates positive dynamics, he added, which helps stabilize inflation expectations and maintain price stability.

“What this means for actual actions of central banks will be different across countries,” Mr. Smets said.

“For countries like the Philippines or countries in East Asia that are on the receiving end of the US tariffs, the rise in tariffs is more likely to be a negative demand shock.”

Markets have been rattled these past few months amid the United States’ flip-flopping tariff policies.

US President Donald J. Trump has set a 19% tariff on Philippine goods, which will take effect starting Aug. 7.

Countries like the Philippines could see falling demand for exports, which could lead to disinflationary pressures, particularly from lower commodity prices, Mr. Smets said.

“In those countries, the room for easing monetary policy is probably greater. It’s really a differentiated picture depending on the country.”

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has said the impact of the US tariffs on the Philippines will be “modest” as the country is not a trading economy.

The central bank is currently in the midst of an easing cycle, so far lowering interest rates by a total of 125 basis points (bps) since August last year.

BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. has also signaled the possibility of further easing this year despite these tariff policies.

“Whether the country retaliates or not will have an important impact on the likely inflation effects. But the most important thing for central banks is to stay steady and be a force of stability rather than uncertainty,” Mr. Smets said.

“Heightened policy uncertainty and unpredictability, particularly in the US, is putting the soft landing that we had expected until the beginning of this year into jeopardy.”

In its latest Annual Economic Report, BIS said consensus forecasts show global growth at just 2.7% in 2025. This was slightly

lower than the above 3% forecast at the beginning of the year, Mr. Smets pointed out.

“A big part of the discussion is what are the effects of this trade policy uncertainty on the global economy,” he said.

“It’s clear that this heightened uncertainty, not only on trade policy, but also on fiscal policy, migration policy, and central bank independence, has affected the growth outlook.”

Central banks must “deal with the immediate fallout while keeping top of mind the deeper, structural weaknesses that threaten the resilience of the global economy,” according to the report.

“Success will depend on maintaining public trust — trust in central banks’ capacity to act and do so in the public interest. Trust in their commitment to low inflation was decisive in quelling pandemic-era inflation.”

Central banks, S1/5