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usinessWord



SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 LATEST BID (0900GMT) SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 AUGUST 29, 2025 SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 **PSEi** FX CLOSE CLOSE **PREVIOUS** CLOSE PREVIOUS \$70.50/BBL JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 42,188.79 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 25,617.42 -529.68 -1.24 P57.122 147.0300 OPEN: 6.170.68 45.544.880 JAPAN (YEN) Dow Jones -92.020 147.0200 1.3525 1.3503 539.80 2.15 P57.122 HIGH NASDAQ 21,455.552 \(\nbbegger -249.606\) 57.40 6,170.68 30.6150 **V** US\$/Euro 24,071.73 1.1722 1.1684 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) -161.37 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 30.5570 LOW P57.350 S&P 500 6.460.260 -41.600 LOW: 6,114.34 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,245.16 US\$/AUST DOLLAR 0.6554 0.6539 THAILAND (BAHT) 32.2800 32.2800 P57.160 CLOSE FTSE 100 3.142.93 -43 08 -135 9.187.340 -29.480 CLOSE: 6,140.35 S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 1,392.3200 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3739 1.3744 P57.266 W.AVE. SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 4,280.45 10.75 Euro Stoxx50 4,554.670 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.2830 1.152 B Swiss Franc/US\$ Sydney (ALL ORDINARIES) 8,927.70 -45.40 VOL. \$1,060.66 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 16,410.000 16,485.00 VAL(P): 4.206 B MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE)* 1,575.12 ▼ -11.95 -0.75 30 DAYS TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 30 DAYS TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 SOURCE : BAP \$1/1-12 • 2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES TUESDAY • SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 • www.bworldonline.com

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)

P546.000 P14.360 P1,123.000 P753.000 P28.500 P135.200 P481.000 P1,505.000 P23.500 BDO P23.000 GLO P375,794,830 P276,027,675 Value P248,266,867 Value P182,721,496 Value P169,667,485 P154,254,655 P119,501,000 P106,283,625 -P2.000 ▼ -0.265% 1.786% P0.000 — 0.000% -P2.000 ▼ -0.414% -P0.100 ▼ -0.433% -P2.000 ▼ -0.133%

Factory activity growth slows in Aug.

Massive revamp looms at DPWH as Marcos seeks thorough graft probe

By Chloe Mari A. Hufana and **Justine Irish D. Tabile Reporters**

NEWLY INSTALLED Public Works Secretary Vivencio "Vince" B. Dizon on Monday demanded the mass courtesy resignation of Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials, as President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. sought a more thorough probe of corruption in big-ticket flood control projects through an independent commission.

Mr. Dizon ordered all officials of the bureau, from top to bottom, to tender their courtesy resignations for a "clean sweep" as the probe into anomalous flood control projects

"My very first order will be to call for the courtesy resignations from top to bottom undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, division heads, regional directors, down to district engineers across the entire country," Mr. Dizon told a news briefing in Filipino.

"That is the very first directive that the President wants to issue."

His directive came as the government deepened its investigation into alleged anomalies in multibillion-peso flood control programs, which have long been flagged for irregularities as the Philippines faces more weather disturbances.

The shake-up follows the resignation of former Public Works Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan, who took responsibility for flood control projects marred by alleged irregularities.

Asked whether the courtesy resignation order could leave the department shortstaffed, Mr. Dizon downplayed the risk.

"The DPWH has a large workforce... These are courtesy resignations, which means that until their resignations are accepted, they will continue performing their duties. They cannot simply abandon their work; otherwise, they could be charged with abandonment of duty," he said.

The DPWH head reassured the public that accountability will follow.

"If there's evidence, I'm sure the independent commission will do its job," he said, adding the shake-up at the DPWH should be completed within 30-60 days to ensure continuity of operations.

LIFETIME BAN

Mr. Dizon also said contractors involved in "ghost" or substandard projects will face a lifetime ban and criminal cases.

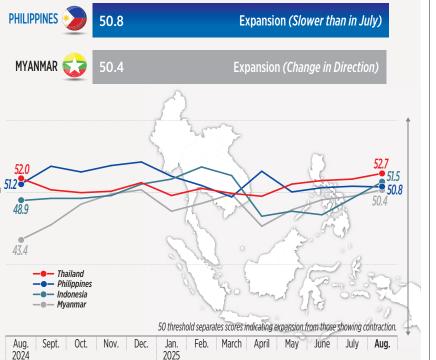
The President is set to issue an executive order establishing an independent body that will investigate and file charges against erring officials and private contractors.

"If a project is proven to be nonexistent, it will automatically result in blacklisting no need for lengthy investigation," Mr. Dizon said.

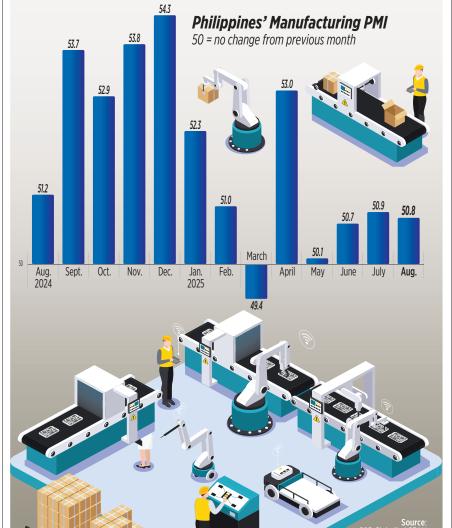
DPWH, S1/9

MANAGERS' INDEX (PMI) OF SELECT ASEAN ECONOMIES, AUGUST 2025 THAILAND (Expansion (Faster than in July)

MANUFACTURING PURCHASING



Expansion (Change in Direction)



PHILIPPINE manufacturing activity expanded in August but at its slowest pace in two months amid a muted rise in output and new orders as the higher US tariffs took effect, S&P Global said on Monday.

The S&P Global Philippines Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 50.8 in August, easing from 50.9 in July.

This was the lowest PMI reading since the 50.7 reading in June.

A PMI reading above 50 denotes better operating conditions than in the preceding month, while a reading below 50 shows a deterioration.

"The Philippines manufacturing sector once again indicated a subdued performance, with growth rates for output and new orders remaining below their historical averages," Maryam Baluch, economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said.

Available S&P Global data on select Association of Southeast Asian Nations members showed the Philippines had the third-highest PMI reading, behind Thailand (52.7) and Indonesia (51.5).

In the report, S&P Global noted "modest" growth in both output and new orders in August, supported by new customer acquisitions and improved demand.

Manufacturing output went up for a third straight month in August, "with the pace of increase reaching its fastest rate in four months," it said.

"Supporting the upturn in output was a sustained rise in new usiness. The growth rate was broadly in line with that observed in July, with anecdotal evidence pointing to new customer acquisitions and improved underlying demand trends as driving the latest expansion," S&P Global said.

Factory, S1/9

BSP to continue easing until 2026 — BMI THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas (BSP)

is expected to continue its easing cycle until 2026 amid benign inflation and slowing economic growth, Fitch Solutions' unit BMI said.

In a note, BMI said it expects the Monetary Board to cut its policy rate by another 25 basis points (bps) in the fourth quarter, most likely in December.

"We think BSP will maintain its policy rate at 5% in October and proceed with a 25-bp cut in December," it said.

At its Aug. 28 meeting, the central bank delivered a 25-bp cut, bringing its policy rate to 5%. BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. had signaled another 25-bp cut to the policy rate before the end of the year.

"But (Mr. Remolona) also described the economy as being in a 'sweet spot,' which we interpret as a preference to stand pat at the next meeting in October," BMI said.

BMI said the BSP could regain some policy space by holding rates steady, as the US Federal Reserve is expected to cut rates in September.

"Easing inflationary pressure towards the end of 2025 will provide the central bank with the space to cut," it said.

BMI expects inflation to average 1.6% this year, slightly below the central bank's 1.7% projection.

For 2026, BMI said it now forecasts the BSP to deliver 50 bps worth of rate cuts in 2026, instead of 25 bps previously. This would bring the key rate to 4.25% by end-2026.

'We expect inflation to average 2.5% in 2026, staying within BSP's target range. We forecast a slight weakening in the peso against the greenback from average of P58.00/USD in 2025 to P58.50/USD in 2026, which should help insulate the economy from import-induced inflation," it said.

"Even though potential electricity rate adjustments and higher rice tariffs may exert inflationary pressures, we believe weaker growth momentum will contain overall upward pressure on prices."

BMI projects the Philippine economy to grow by 5.2% in 2026, below the government's 6-7% target.

"This suggests a greater need for the central bank to cut rates to further stimulate the economy. And it will have the policy space to ease further, as our Americas team forecasts that the Fed will lower the Fed fund rates by a cumulative 50 bps in 2026," it said.

BMI said a further escalation in the global tariff war could have a bigger impact on consumer and investment sentiment, which could result in a larger drop in output.

"If such a scenario materializes with inflation expectations remaining largely anchored, the BSP would prioritize the economy and implement larger policy rate cuts," it added. — K.K.Chan

FUEL PRICE TRACKER GASOLINE P0.70 P0.70 DIESEL P0.50 Aug. 26 Sept. 2 P1.00 **KEROSENE** P0.90 Aug. 26 P0.30 P0.70

• Sept. 2, 12:01 a.m. — Caltex **Philippines**

• Sept. 2, 6 a.m. — Petron Corp.; Phoenix Petroleum; Shell Pilipinas Corp.; PTT Philippines Corp.; Seaoil Philippines, Inc.

• Sept. 2, 8:01 a.m. — Cleanfuel (Shaw Autogas, Inc.)

A VENDOR serves ice cream cones to children at an event in Quezon City. For the first half, Philippine gross domestic product growth averaged 5.4%, slower than the 6.2% a year ago.

Philippine economy now at a 'sweet spot' - BSP

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY now sits at a "sweet spot" as inflation remains benign while the country's banking sector and external position are strong, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said.

"Amid the swirling controversies over corruption, I am pleased to report a piece of good news. We think the economy is in good shape," BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. said during a briefing at the Senate on Monday.

"Indeed, our economy is in what I would call a 'sweet spot,' and I think this would help our fiscal strategy (to) make it more effective," he added.

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

Inflation averaged 1.7% in the January-July period, below the BSP's 2-4% annual target.

Mr. Remolona said the central bank tamed inflation with its aggressive rate hikes.

Last week, it cut its key policy rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 5%. The central bank has so far lowered borrowing costs by a total of 150 bps since it began its easing cycle in August 2024.

"This lowering of the policy rate stimulates demand, it helps the economy grow, and because we did it in a very measured approach, it hasn't led to inflation," Mr. Remolona said.

He said inflation looks like it will stay within BSP's 2-4% target range.

The BSP projected inflation to average 1.7% this year, before picking up to 3.3% in 2026 and 3.4% in 2027.

At the same time, Mr. Remolona also attributed the economy's current state to the "sound" performance of the local banking system.

Economy, S1/9