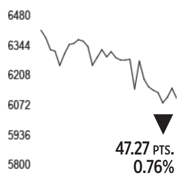
P25 IN METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BusinessWorld

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

STOCK MARKET

PSEi



30 DAYS TO SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

OPEN:	6,162.01
HIGH:	6,170.24
LOW:	6,101.86
CLOSE:	6,101.86
VOL.:	2.699 B
VAL(P):	5.717 B

ASIAN MARKETS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

	CLOSE		NET	%
Japan (Nikkei 225)	43,643.81	▲	625.06	1.45
Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	25,633.91	▲	215.93	0.85
Taiwan (Weighted)	24,547.38	▲	52.80	0.22
Thailand (SET Index)	1,265.82	▲	1.02	0.08
S.Korea (Kse Composite)	3,219.59	▲	14.47	0.45
Singapore (Straits Times)	4,309.00	▲	1.92	0.04
Sydney (All Ordinaries)	8,849.60	▼	-21.60	-0.24
Malaysia (Klse Composite)	1,585.59	▲	7.44	0.47

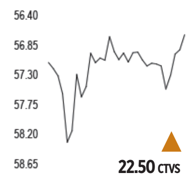
WORLD MARKETS

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

	CLOSE		NET
Dow Jones	45,400.860	▼	-220.430
NASDAQ	21,700.388	▼	-7.306
S&P 500	6,481.500	▼	-20.580
FTSE 100	9,208.210	▼	-8.660
Euro Stoxx50	4,546.650	▼	-26.090

PESO-DOLLAR RATES

FX



30 DAYS TO SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

OPEN	P56.777
HIGH	P56.670
LOW	P56.930
CLOSE	P56.690
W.AVE.	P56.802
VOL.	$1,319.05

SOURCE : BAP

ASIAN MONIES-US$ RATE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

	LATEST BID (0900GMT)		PREVIOUS
Japan (yen)	147.7000	▼	147.3800
Hong Kong (HK dollar)	7.7921	▲	7.7968
Taiwan (NT dollar)	30.4840	▼	30.4780
Thailand (baht)	31.8600	▲	32.0400
S. Korea (won)	1,389.8600	▼	1,386.1800
Singapore (dollar)	1.2833	▲	1.2843
Indonesia (rupiah)	16,300.000	▲	16,415.00
Malaysia (ringgit)	4.2180	▲	4.2200

WORLD CURRENCIES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

	CLOSE		PREVIOUS
US$/UK pound	1.3512	▲	1.3506
US$/Euro	1.1725	▲	1.1717
US$/Aust dollar	0.6583	▲	0.6554
Canada dollar/US$	1.3819	▼	1.3829
Swiss Franc/US$	0.7959	▼	0.7981

DUBAI CRUDE OIL

FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY

$69.20/BBL

30 DAYS TO SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

VOL. XXXIX • ISSUE 32 TUESDAY • SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 • www.bworldonline.com S1/1-12 • 2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

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

		Value			
BPI	P107.000	P422,573,499	-P4.600	▼	-4.122%
SM	P751.000	P416,453,220	-P12.500	▼	-1.637%
ICT	P482.400	P381,146,740	-P5.400	▼	-1.107%
MBT	P68.000	P366,478,587	-P1.500	▼	-2.158%
BDO	P134.500	P336,750,310	P1.100	▲	0.825%
ALI	P28.200	P316,305,330	-P0.700	▼	-2.422%
SCC	P34.850	P198,591,715	P1.750	▲	5.287%
SGP	P16.960	P159,696,794	P0.700	▲	4.305%
PLUS	P19.920	P149,649,578	-P1.680	▼	-7.778%
AC	P540.500	P148,552,120	-P8.500	▼	-1.548%

Analysts see BSP pause in October

By Katherine K. Chan

THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas (BSP) may hold off further monetary easing in October after inflation rose to a five-month high in August, with analysts expecting the central bank to deliver its last interest rate cut for the year in December.

Union Bank of the Philippines (UnionBank) Chief Economist Ruben Carlo O. Asuncion said it would be difficult for the BSP to justify another reduction in borrowing costs next month given the rebound in price pressures.

"Given the upside surprise in headline and core inflation, a rate cut in October looks unlikely," Mr. Asuncion said in an e-mailed reply to questions. "It is difficult to justify a BSP rate cut as both cyclical and structural inflation measures tilt upward."

Security Bank Chief Economist Angelo B. Taningco said the Monetary Board would likely pause in October "in light of the rising inflationary pressures."

"However, we still maintain our view for the BSP to conduct its fourth 25-basis-point (bp) rate cut for the year in December," he said in an e-mail.

Headline inflation quickened to 1.5% in August from 0.9% in July, mainly due to typhoon-driven spikes in vegetable and fish prices. It was faster than market expectations but slower than 3.3% a year earlier.

The August rate fell within the BSP's 1-1.8% forecast but exceeded the 1.3% median estimate in a *BusinessWorld* poll of 16 analysts.

It also marked the sixth straight month that inflation remained below the BSP's 2-4% target.

For the first eight months, inflation averaged 1.7%, matching the central bank's 2025 forecast.

Reinielle Matt M. Erece, an economist at Oikonomia Advisory and Research, Inc., said the August outcome would weigh heavily on the BSP's next policy move.

"While inflation from the previous months went below analysts' expectations, the August reading went beyond," he said in a Viber message. "Thus, we may see a more cautious and calibrated approach from the central bank with regard to the timing of the next rate cut."

In a report, Deutsche Bank also noted that inflation risks in the coming months could prompt a pause in October, though it still expects easing to resume in December.

The BSP lowered the benchmark interest rate by 25 bps to 5% on Aug. 28, its third straight cut since August 2024. In total, it has reduced rates by 150 bps this cycle.

BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. earlier signaled that there could be room for one more adjustment before yearend but stressed that the easing cycle is nearly complete.

Emilio S. Neri, Jr., chief economist at Bank of the Philippine Islands, said the central bank's stance reflects concerns about inflationary risks next year.

"(Mr. Remolona) is probably foreseeing the changes in inflation next year," he told *Money Talks with Cathy Yang* on One News. "We will be on an uptick that could lead to a breach."

BSP, S1/9

Metro Manila rental yields seen subdued amid high vacancies

By Beatriz Marie D. Cruz
Reporter

RESIDENTIAL RENTAL YIELDS in some parts of Metro Manila are expected to remain weak this year as developers grapple with unsold condominium units and elevated vacancy rates, property consultants said.

"The current oversupply of condominiums in Metro Manila has placed downward pressure on rental yields," Jamie S. Dela Cruz, research manager at KMC Savills, said in an e-mailed reply to questions. "The exit of POGOs (Philippine offshore gaming operators), which previously boosted demand, has further softened the market."

Data from Colliers Philippines showed rental yields in Metro Manila condominiums rose slightly to 4.2% in the second quarter from 4% in 2019. However, the firm said a meaningful recovery is unlikely in the near term.

"We do not see a significant improvement in Metro Manila residential yields for the remainder of 2025 up to 2026 as we are still projecting vacancy rates to hover between 25% and 26%," Joey Roi H. Bondoc, director and head of research at Colliers Philippines, said in an e-mail.

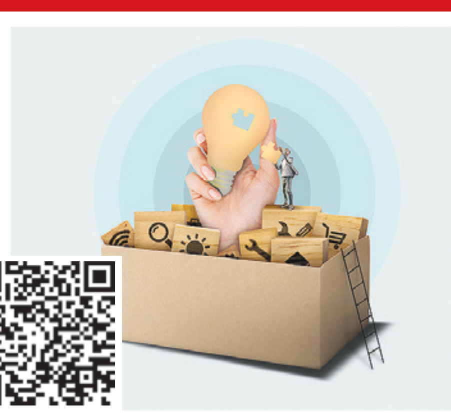
Colliers data showed that as of the second quarter, 30,500 ready-for-occupancy units remained unsold. Of the total, 32% were from the lower middle-income segment valued at P3.6 million to P6.99 million, while 22% were from the affordable segment priced at P2.5 million to P3.59 million.

Rental, S1/9

BUSINESSWORLD TV

The importance of protecting intellectual property

PROTECTING the intellectual property of Filipino innovators could help reduce the brain drain in the Philippines, the Department of Science and Technology said.



>>> *https://tinyurl.com/2adnupmc*

StanChart expects Fed to cut rates by 50 bps next week after weak job data

STANDARD CHARTERED (StanChart) expects the US Federal Reserve to cut interest rates by 50 basis points (bps) at its policy meeting this month, double its earlier projection of a 25-bp reduction, following a soft August job report.

Data on Friday showed US job growth weakened sharply in August and the unemployment rate rose to a near four-year high of 4.3%, confirming a softening labor market and bolstering the case for a rate cut this month. In a client note on Friday, the brokerage said that the labor market had shifted "from solid to soft in less than six weeks."

"August labor market data has paved the way for a 'catch-up' 50-basis-point rate cut at the September FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting, similar to what occurred at this time last year."

After a 50-bp cut, the market could take time to price in a slower subsequent pace of cuts, the brokerage added.

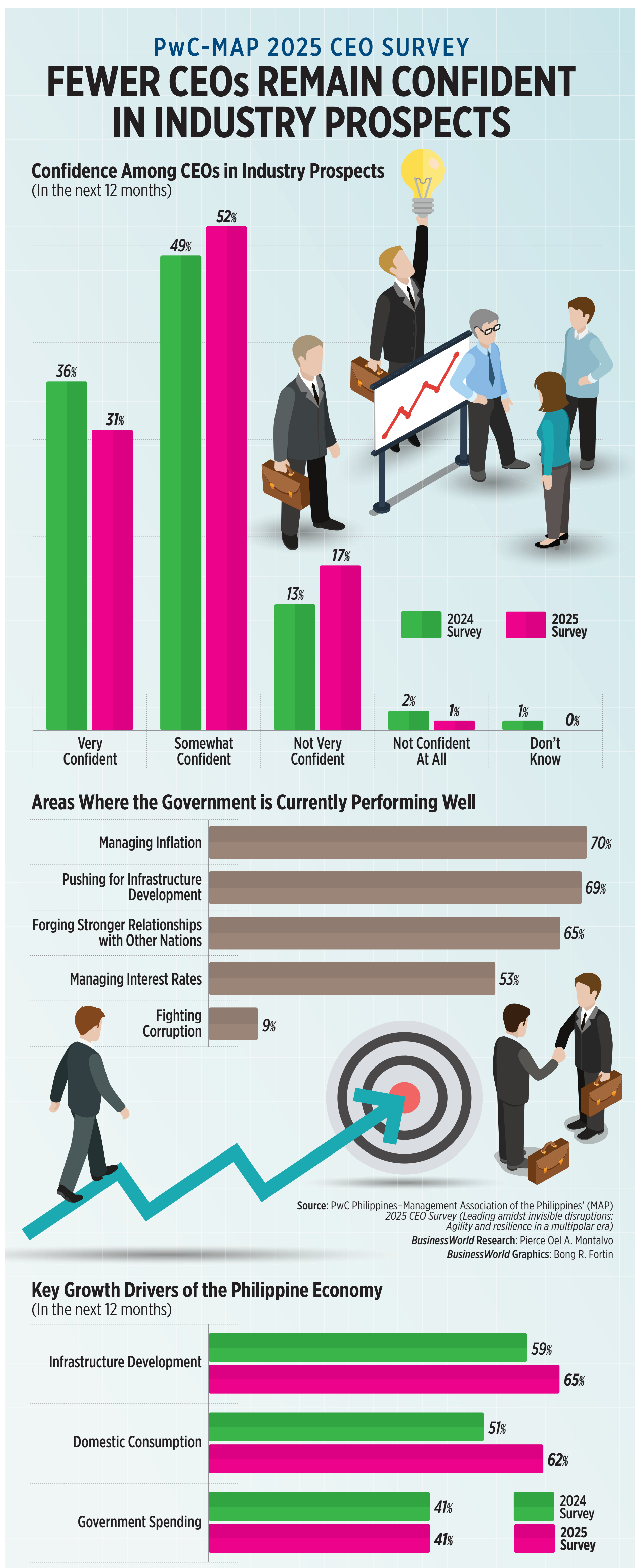
Meanwhile, Morgan Stanley and Deutsche Bank do not consider the August job report weak enough to warrant a 50-bp rate cut in September, though they noted it could pave the way for reductions at consecutive meetings.

Last month, Fed Chairman Jerome H. Powell signaled a rate cut was possible at the Sept. 16-17 policy meeting, citing rising labor market risks, while cautioning that inflation remained a threat.

Barclays revised its forecast on Friday to include 25-bp reductions at each of the remaining meetings this year, while Macquarie brought forward its expected December cut to October.

Bank of America also revised its outlook, now expecting 25-bp cuts each in September and December, after previously forecasting no cuts this year.

Markets are pricing in a 90% chance of a 25-bp rate cut next week and a 10% probability of a larger 50-bp reduction, according to the CME FedWatch Tool. — ***Reuters***



PHL CEOs upbeat despite corruption worries

By Justine Irish D. Tabile
Reporter

MOST Filipino executives remain confident about their industry outlook for the next 12 months but remain dissatisfied with the government's handling of corruption, a survey by PwC Philippines and the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) showed.

Of 175 chief executive officers (CEO) surveyed, 83% expressed confidence in business prospects over the next year, with 31% saying they were "very confident." However, this is slightly lower than last year's 85% as CEOs weigh external risks such as the US reciprocal tariff and global geopolitical tensions.

"In general, all the sectors are growing," Karen Patricia A. Rogacion, deals and corporate finance partner at PwC Philippines, told a news briefing on Monday. "That's why we need to really have a very responsive government."

She said executives remain positive about their industries but are mindful that optimism could be tempered by shifting trade rules and geopolitical disruptions.

PwC said 31% were "very confident" compared with 36% last year, and 52% were "somewhat confident" compared with 49% in 2024. The share of those who were "not very confident" rose to 17% from 13%.

CEOs, S1/10

FUEL PRICE TRACKER

(week-on-week change)

GASOLINE		
Aug. 26	▲	P0.70
Sept. 2	▲	P0.70
Sept. 9	▲	P1.00
DIESEL		
Aug. 26	▲	P0.50
Sept. 2	▲	P1.00
Sept. 9	▲	P1.40
KEROSENE		
Aug. 26	▲	P0.30
Sept. 2	▲	P0.70
Sept. 9	▲	P0.70

- ***Sept. 9, 12:01 a.m.*** — Caltex Philippines
- ***Sept. 9, 6 a.m.*** — Petron Corp.; Phoenix Petroleum; Shell Pilipinas Corp.; PTT Philippines Corp.; Seaoil Philippines, Inc.
- ***Sept. 9, 8:01 a.m.*** — Cleanfuel (Shaw Autogas, Inc.)