



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

STOCK MARKET		ASIAN MARKETS			WORLD MARKETS		PESO-DOLLAR RATES		ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE		WORLD CURRENCIES		DUBAI CRUDE OIL				
<div><div>6480 6344 6208 6072 5936 5800</div><div>▲ 2.62 PTS. 0.04%</div><div>30 DAYS TO SEPTEMBER 10, 2025</div></div> <div>PSEi OPEN: 6,134.37 HIGH: 6,151.73 LOW: 6,109.34 CLOSE: 6,120.09 VOL.: 5.960 B VAL(P): 7.284 B</div>	SEPTEMBER 10, 2025		CLOSE	NET	0.87	SEPTEMBER 9, 2025		CLOSE	NET	SEPTEMBER 10, 2025		CLOSE	PREVIOUS	<div><div>77.00 74.00 71.00 68.00 65.00 62.00</div><div>▲ \$0.54</div><div>30 DAYS TO SEPTEMBER 9, 2025</div></div> <div>DUBAI CRUDE OIL FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$69.74/ bbl</div>			
	JAPAN (NIKEI 225)		43,837.67	▲ 378.38	0.87	DOW JONES		45,711.340	▲ 196.390	JAPAN (YEN)		147.4600	▼ 146.3900		US\$/UK POUND	1.3536	▼ 1.3588
	HONG KONG (HANG SENG)		26,200.26	▲ 262.13	1.01	NASDAQ		21,879.489	▲ 80.790	HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR)		7.7892	▼ 7.7884		US\$/EURO	1.1706	▼ 1.1770
	TAIWAN (WEIGHTED)		25,192.59	▲ 337.41	1.36	S&P 500		6,512.610	▲ 17.460	TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR)		30.2900	▼ 30.2410		US\$/AUST DOLLAR	0.6605	▼ 0.6617
	THAILAND (SET INDEX)		1,277.49	▲ 1.41	0.11	FTSE 100		9,242.530	▲ 21.090	THAILAND (BAHT)		31.7800	▼ 31.6300		CANADA DOLLAR/US\$	1.3847	▲ 1.3797
	S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE)		3,314.53	▲ 54.48	1.67	EURO STOXX50		4,563.070	▲ 0.960	S. KOREA (WON)		1,388.2300	▼ 1,384.7100		SWISS FRANC/US\$	0.7969	▲ 0.7923
	SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES)		4,353.08	▲ 55.51	1.29					SINGAPORE (DOLLAR)		1.2825	▼ 1.2796				
	SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES)		8,830.40	▲ 26.90	0.31					INDONESIA (RUPIAH)		16,455.00	▼ 16,470.00				
MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE)		1,590.75	▲ 3.94	0.25					MALAYSIA (RINGGIT)		4.2170	▼ 4.2030					

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

ICT Value P474,200 -P14,800 ▼ -3.027%	ALI Value P633,943,030 ▲ 2.048%	BDO Value P616,164,355 ▲ 2.015%	SM Value P553,414,910 ▲ 0.267%	BPI Value P360,711,764 ▲ 0.466%	AC Value P520,000 -P10,000 ▼ -1.887%	PGOLD Value P42,900 ▲ 1.79%	AP Value P44,000 -P0,350 ▼ -0.789%	SMPH Value P24,000 ▲ 1.266%	MWC Value P38,350 -P1,150 ▼ -2.911%
P705,660,418	P633,943,030	P616,164,355	P553,414,910	P360,711,764	P298,110,065	P235,870,900	P179,400,135	P177,026,790	P154,579,145

Jobless rate hits 3-year high in July

By **Chloe Mari A. Hufana**
Reporter

THE PHILIPPINES' unemployment rate rose to a three-year high of 5.3% in July as a series of typhoons and monsoon rains

dented hiring activity, the statistics agency said on Wednesday.

The number of jobless Filipinos increased to 2.59 million in July from 2.38 million a year prior and 1.95 million in June, preliminary data from the Philippine Statistics Authority's (PSA) labor force survey showed.

The 5.3% unemployment rate was the highest in three years or since the 6% in June 2022, which had reflected the impact of the pandemic lockdowns. It also matched the jobless rate seen in August 2022.

The July rate was also higher than the 4.7% recorded in the

same month in 2024 and the 3.7% in June 2025.

On average, the jobless rate for 2025 thus far is at 4.1%, a tad higher compared to the 4% in the comparable year-ago period.

National Statistician Claire Dennis S. Mapa said the jobless rate went up in July due to the

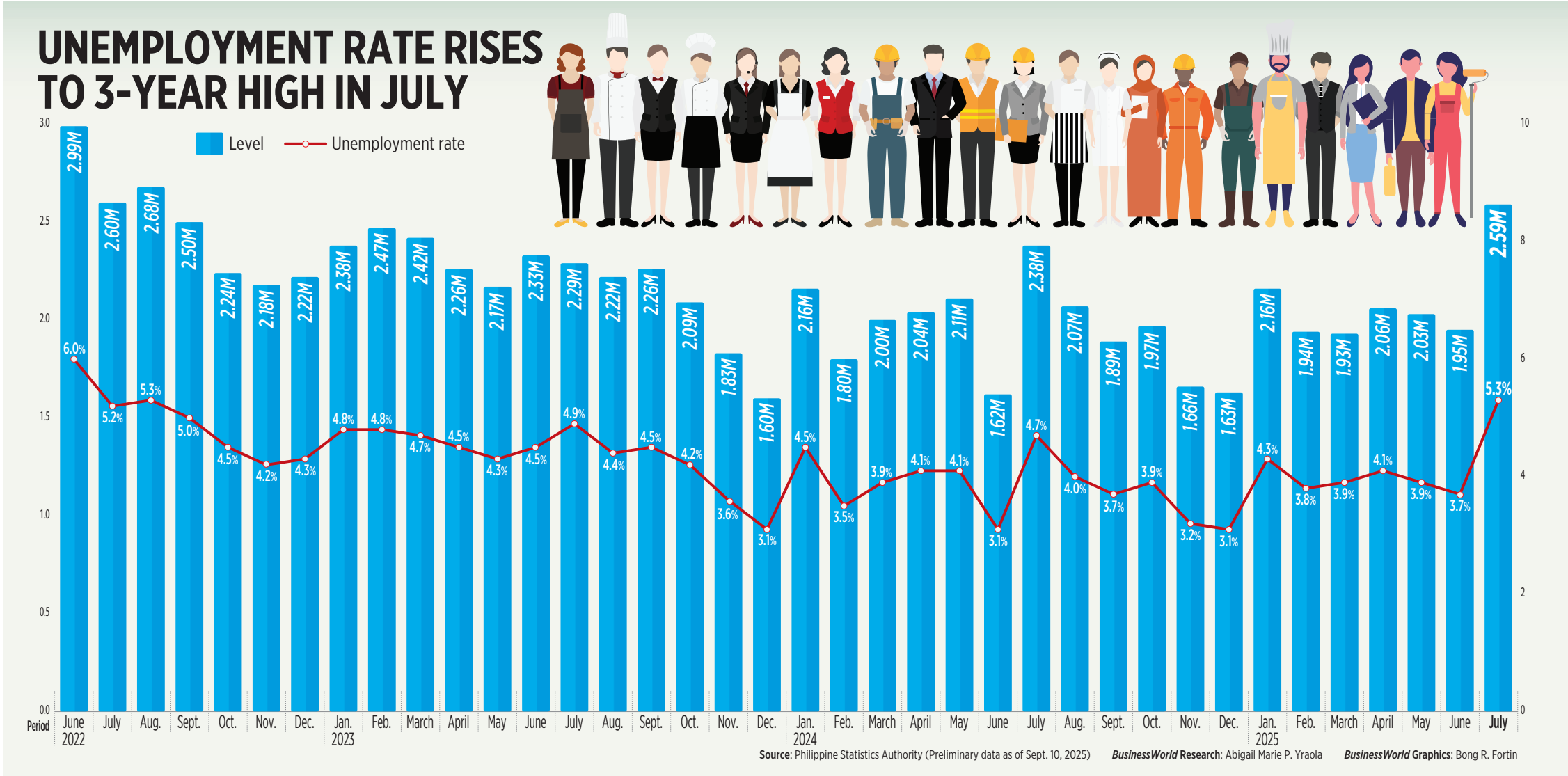
impact of four typhoons and the southwest monsoon on the agricultural sector.

The Philippines experiences more tropical cyclones than any other region in the world, averaging about 20 each year. Typhoon activity is most intense from July to October, when nearly 70% of all

cyclones develop, according to the country's official weather bureau.

The agricultural sector (skilled agricultural, forestry, and fishery workers) lost 974,000 jobs year on year. In terms of major industries, the agriculture and forestry sectors lost 1.38 million.

Jobless, SI/3



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (Preliminary data as of Sept. 10, 2025) BusinessWorld Research: Abigail Marie P. Yraola BusinessWorld Graphics: Bong R. Fortin

Meralco rates decline in September on lower generation charge

By **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**
Reporter

RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLDS in areas served by Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) will get some relief as the distributor cut its September electricity rates after two straight months of increases amid the lower cost of power purchased from suppliers.

The overall electricity rate will go down by P0.1852 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to P13.0851 per kWh this month from P13.2703 per kWh in August, Meralco said in a statement on Wednesday.

Households consuming 200 kWh will see their monthly electricity bills drop by P37. Those consuming 300 kWh, 400 kWh, and 500 kWh will see reductions of P56, P74, and P93, respectively.

Meralco Vice-President and Head of Corporate Communications Joe R. Zalardriaga attributed the decline in the power rates to lower generation charge of independent power producers (IPPs) and power supply agreements (PSAs) amid a stronger peso, as their costs are mostly in US dollars.

"Charges from IPPs and PSAs went down by P1.3459 and P0.3660 per kWh, respectively,

due to the appreciation of the local currency against the US dollar and decrease in international fuel prices. The stronger peso affected around 99% of IPP costs and 57% of PSA costs that were dollar-denominated," the power distributor said.

The peso closed at P57.13 per dollar on Aug. 29, strengthening by P1.19 from its July 31 finish of P58.32.

These decreases offset the higher charges from the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM), which rose by P0.3785 per kWh as average demand in Luzon and plant outages increased, as well as the increase seen from the start of the collection of the cost recovery of Sual Power, Inc. (SPI) and South Premiere Power Corp. (SPPC) under San Miguel Global Power Holdings Corp.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) earlier allowed the two companies to collect P5.1 billion to be implemented over a six-month period beginning this month. The case stemmed from the 2022 joint petitions by SPPC and SPI with Meralco, seeking temporary price adjustments under their 2019 power supply agreements to recover higher fuel costs due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Meralco, SI/10

June FDI net inflows sink to six-month low

By **Katherine K. Chan**

NET INFLOWS of foreign direct investments (FDI) sank to a six-month low in June, with the first-half tally also posting a double-digit drop, as global trade risks continued

to weigh on market sentiment, resulting in a net outflow of equity capital.

FDI net inflows decreased by 17.8% to \$376 million in June from \$457 million in the same month last year, preliminary data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) released on Wednesday showed.

This was the lowest net inflow in six months or since the \$356 million recorded in December.

Month on month, FDIs plunged by 37.1% from the \$598-million inflow in May.

"Net foreign direct investments into the Philippines remained positive in June, with inflows from Japan and into

manufacturing taking the lead," the BSP said.

"The slowdown in FDI net inflows during the month reflected the shift in nonresidents' net investments in equity capital (other than reinvestment of earnings), from \$85 million inflows to \$57-million outflows," it said.

FDI, SI/3

France now being eyed to fund P28-B bridge project following failed talks with South Korea

By **Aubrey Rose A. Inosante**
Reporter

THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT is now seeking France's help to fund a P28-billion project to build hundreds of rural bridges in the Philippines that was initially proposed to South Korea.

"The Department of Finance (DoF) has clarified that the P28-billion Rural Modular Bridge Project is currently being proposed for financing by the Government of France, not South Korea," it said in a statement on Wednesday.

"In this case, the project was initially considered for funding through South Korea, but the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) decided to halt previous discussions last year due to non-alignment on scope and other key technical specifications."

The clarification came after South Korea's President Lee Jae

Myung on Tuesday said in a Facebook post that he ordered the suspension of the proposed 700-billion Korean won loan to the Philippines due to concerns over corruption.

"Most fortunately, because the project had not yet commenced, no funds, including support from the Economic Development Co-operation Fund (EDCF), were spent. This is significant in that it prevented the unnecessary waste of a staggering 700 billion won in taxpayer money and preemptively prevented the risk of corruption and mismanagement," Mr. Lee said.

He made the statement after the South Korean news publication *Hankyoreh* reported that the proposed Philippine loan was being revived despite earlier concerns of corruption.

Hankyoreh said that the DoF in November 2023 requested a loan from the EDCF to build modular bridges around the country.

Bridge project, SI/10



Megaworld's hotel group bags DoT's Tourism Industry Excellence Award.

SETTING a new milestone in the Philippine tourism sector, Megaworld Hotels & Resorts was honored by the Department of Tourism (DoT) with its inaugural Tourism Industry Excellence Award — making it the first and only hospitality group to earn this recognition. The award highlights the company's stature as the Philippines' largest hotel operator and its distinction as the country's first Muslim-friendly hotel chain as certified by Crescent Rating. Receiving the award from DoT Secretary Christina Frasco (center) were Megaworld Hotels & Resorts Group GM Arturo Boncato, Jr. (second from left) and Managing Director Cleofe Albiso (second from right).