P25 IN METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BusinessWorld

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

STOCK MARKET	
PSEi	
OPEN:	6,133.52
HIGH:	6,146.65
LOW:	6,102.01
CLOSE:	6,109.21
VOL.:	6.269 B
VAL(P):	6.817 B

▼ 17.68 PTS. 0.28%
30 DAYS TO SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

ASIAN MARKETS — SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

	CLOSE		NET	%
Japan (Nikkei 225)	44,768.12	▲	395.62	0.89
Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	26,388.16	▲	301.84	1.16
Taiwan (Weighted)	25,474.64	▲	258.93	1.03
Thailand (SET Index)	1,293.62	▲	5.59	0.43
S.Korea (Kse Composite)	3,395.54	▲	51.34	1.54
Singapore (Straits Times)	4,344.24	▼	-11.58	-0.27
Sydney (All Ordinaries)	8,864.90	▲	59.90	0.68
Malaysia (Klse Composite)	1,600.13	▲	17.28	1.09

WORLD MARKETS — SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

	CLOSE		NET
Dow Jones	45,834.220	▼	-273.780
NASDAQ	22,141.103	▲	98.028
S&P 500	6,584.290	▼	-3.180
FTSE 100	9,283.290	▼	-14.290
Euro Stoxx50	4,567.560	▼	-10.110

PESO-DOLLAR RATES

FX	
OPEN	P57.050
HIGH	P57.050
LOW	P57.205
CLOSE	P57.100
W.AVE.	P57.123
VOL.	$1,480.70

▲ 9.10 CTVS
30 DAYS TO SEPTEMBER 12, 2025
SOURCE : BAP

ASIAN MONIES-US$ RATE — SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

	LATEST BID (0900GMT)		PREVIOUS
Japan (yen)	147.6600	▲	147.9100
Hong Kong (HK dollar)	7.7802	▲	7.7884
Taiwan (NT dollar)	30.2850	▲	30.3490
Thailand (baht)	31.6400	▲	31.8400
S. Korea (won)	1,392.7000	▲	1,393.0000
Singapore (dollar)	1.2821	▲	1.2844
Indonesia (rupiah)	16,375.000	▲	16,455.000
Malaysia (ringgit)	4.2000	▲	4.2190

WORLD CURRENCIES — SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

	CLOSE		PREVIOUS
US$/UK pound	1.3556	▲	1.3506
US$/Euro	1.1733	▲	1.1689
US$/Aust dollar	0.6647	▲	0.6603
Canada dollar/US$	1.3839	▼	1.3882
Swiss Franc/US$	0.7963	▼	0.7992

DUBAI CRUDE OIL
FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY
$69.50/BBL
▼ $1.2
30 DAYS TO SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • SEPTEMBER 12, 2025 (PSEi snapshot on *S1/4*; article on *S2/2*)

		Value			
CNVRG	P11.200	P1,146,479,804	-P1.620	▼	-12.637%
ICT	P481.400	P452,213,114	P1.400	▲	0.292%
BDO	P138.000	P437,942,153	-P1.000	▼	-0.719%
BPI	P108.000	P266,297,048	P0.100	▲	0.093%
ALI	P28.900	P245,761,295	-P0.600	▼	-2.034%
PGOLD	P42.850	P208,150,990	-P1.100	▼	-2.503%
SM	P747.000	P199,598,045	P2.000	▲	0.268%
SGP	P17.280	P125,025,660	P0.960	▲	5.882%
SMPH	P23.900	P116,832,345	P0.000	—	0.000%
CNPF	P38.000	P108,064,250	P0.600	▲	1.604%

PHL external debt jumps to $149B

THE PHILIPPINES' outstanding external debt jumped to a record $148.87 billion as of end-June amid the weakening of the US dollar, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said.

Central bank data showed the country's external debt rose by 14.4% from $130.318 billion in the same period last year.

"The increase in external debt was driven primarily by borrowings, which included bond issuances by the National Government amounting to $5.83 billion and external financing tapped by local banks amounting to $3.44 billion," the BSP said in a statement.

Quarter on quarter, external debt inched up by 1.5% from the $146.74 billion logged at the end of the first quarter.

"The increase in external debt for Q2 (second quarter) 2025 was primarily due to valuation effects from the depreciation of the US dollar," the BSP said.

External debt accounts for all borrowings by residents from nonresidents.

The BSP said the external debt level remained "sustainable," equivalent to 31.2% of gross domestic product. This was better than the 31.5% in the previous quarter but higher than the 28.9% a year ago.

The central bank said the weaker greenback increased the US dollar equivalent of borrowings denominated in other currencies by $1.49 billion.

In the April-to-June period, the peso recorded a strong performance against the dollar as it traded between the P55 and P56 level, averaging P56.581 as of end-June.

"The net acquisition of Philippine debt securities amounting to $660.96 million also contributed to the increase (in external debt), while net repayments amounting to $315.67 million partially tempered the increase in the country's external debt," the BSP said.

Most of the country's public sector obligations, amounting to $88.371 billion, were from the National Government while the rest came from the BSP ($3.919 billion) and government banks ($1.81 billion).

Japan remained the Philippines top creditor with loans amounting to $15.599 billion, followed by the United Kingdom with $6.358 billion and Singapore with $4.837 billion.

External debt, S1/9

PHL big banks post slower growth in assets, loans in 2nd quarter

By Abigail Marie P. Yraola
Deputy Research Head

THE GROWTH in combined assets and loans of the country's biggest lenders eased as of end-June, dragged by weaker economic output in the second quarter despite cheaper borrowing costs and slower inflation.

The latest edition of *BusinessWorld*'s quarterly banking report showed that the aggregate assets of 44 universal and commercial banks grew by 9.05% year on year to P27.37 trillion in the second quarter from P25.09 trillion a year earlier.

This pace was slower than the 9.51% logged in the first three months of the year and the 10.7% growth in the second quarter of 2024.

Asset growth during the period was the weakest in five quarters or since the 8.69% expansion recorded in the first quarter of 2024.

Meanwhile, the aggregate loans of the country's biggest lenders went up by 12.38% year on year to P14.4 trillion in the April-to-June period.

This expansion was slower than the 13.46% recorded in the first quarter and the 14.01% growth in the second quarter of last year.

Lending growth was also the weakest in the five quarters or since the 12.32% observed in the first three months last year.

This modest growth in both assets and loans mirrored economic developments such as slowing economic growth and benign inflation.

In the second quarter, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by an annual 5.5%, slower than the 6.5% growth in the same period last year but slightly faster than the 5.4% expansion in the January-to-March period.

This brought GDP growth to 5.4% in the first semester, slowing from 6.2% a year earlier.

Meanwhile, inflation in June picked up to 1.4%, a tad faster than the 1.3% in May. Still, this was slower than the 3.7% in June last year.

For the first half, inflation averaged 1.8%, decelerating from the 3.6% average in the first six months of 2024.

At its June meeting, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) delivered a 25-basis-point rate cut to bring its key rate to 5.25% — the lowest level in two and a half years.

Data also showed the share of bad loans to the total loan portfolio, also known as the nonperforming loan ratio, jumped to 3.39% in the second quarter. This was higher than the 3.25% a year earlier and 3.24% in the first quarter.

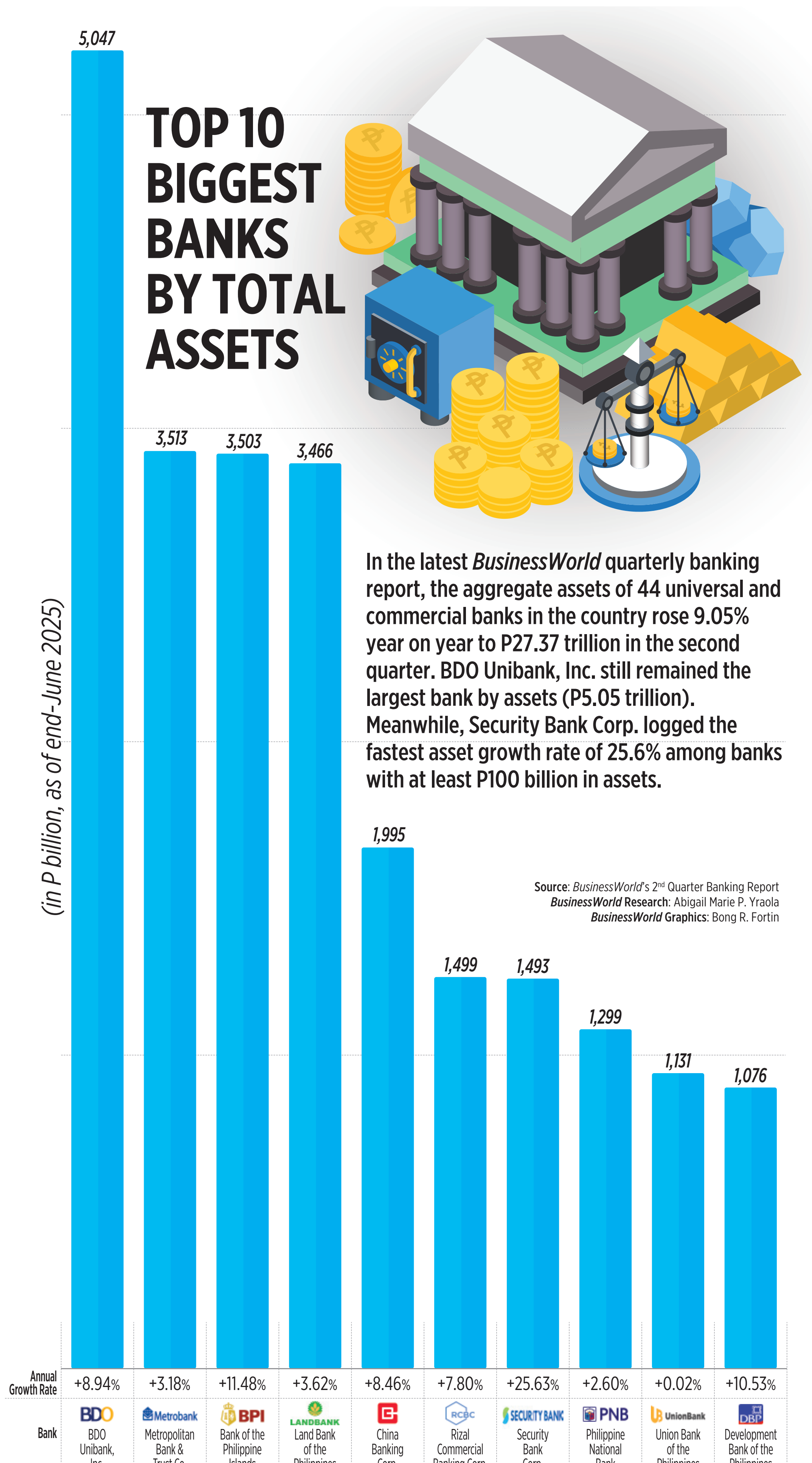
Loans are considered nonperforming if any principal and/or interest are left unpaid for over 90 days from the contractual due date or accrued interests for more than 90 days have been capitalized, refinanced, or delayed by agreement.

Meanwhile, the banks' median return on equity (RoE), which is an indicator of profitability, dipped to 7.69% in the second quarter from 8.93% in the second quarter of 2024. The RoE measures the amount that shareholders make on every peso they invest in a company.

Additionally, the largest banks' median capital adequacy ratio — which reflects the lender's ability to absorb losses from risk-weighted assets — stood at 19.18% during the period.

This was higher than the 18.8% recorded in the same period last year but lower than the 19.71% a quarter earlier.

Big banks, S1/9



Higher terminal fees take effect at Manila's main airport

THE OPERATOR of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) began charging higher terminal fees on Sunday, a year after it took over the country's main gateway.

In a statement, the New NAIA Infrastructure Corp. (NNIC) said the terminal fees were adjusted for the first time in 20 years to sustain the airport's operations and upgrades.

"Even with the adjustment — set by government with the Asian Development Bank as adviser — NAIA's rates will only match other local airports and remain among the lowest in Asia," the company said.

The passenger service charge (PSC), also known as terminal fee, nearly doubled to P950 from P550 for international departures. The terminal fee for domestic departures was raised to P390 from P200.

Since NNIC took over the operations last year, the company said it has already remitted P48.3 billion to the government, including a P30-billion upfront payment, with 82% of revenues going directly to the state.

NAIA received 51.7 million passengers since Sept. 13, 2024, a 6% increase year on year, and handled 283,771 flights.

"Operational changes such as reconfiguring aircraft parking stands, expanding taxiway movements, and removing abandoned aircraft freed up valuable space for smoother airside operations," the company said.

NNIC also said it is preparing to introduce a facial recognition system that will allow travelers to "check in, drop bags, clear security and board flights using just their face."

Terminal fees, S1/9

Business groups say independent body can help restore investor confidence in PHL

THE PHILIPPINES' largest business groups on Sunday expressed confidence the newly created Independent Commission on Infrastructure (ICI) could help restore investor confidence in the country's public works program.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) said the commission, tasked with probing anomalies in projects such as flood-control systems, is well positioned to drive systemic reforms that will improve governance and efficiency in big-ticket projects.

"The ICI, as currently composed and empowered, is a strong signal of the President's political will to address infrastructure anomalies, especially in flood control," the group said in a statement.

The ICI will be composed of former Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio L. Singson and former Chair of the Procurement Policy Board-Technical Support Office, Rossana A. Fajardo. Ms. Fajardo is now the country managing partner at SGV and Co.

Baguio City Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong will also be an adviser.

Mr. Marcos is expected to name the chairman this week.

"This strategically balanced team combines operational, institutional, and investigative strengths that can translate findings into actionable reforms," the PCCI said.

This comes as the government intensifies efforts to crack down on corruption that led to incomplete and nonexistent flood mitigation projects worth billions of pesos.

"With its strong legal foundation and credible composition, the ICI can become a cornerstone institution for safeguarding public funds and ensuring that infrastructure projects deliver real value to the Filipino people," the group said.

The PCCI said sustained funding, independence from political influence, and seamless interagency cooperation will determine whether the ICI can close procurement loopholes and reduce corruption risks that have historically delayed infrastructure pipelines.

The Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) also welcomed the commission's creation, saying it aligns with its long-standing push for a clean, rules-based market anchored on strict Philippine National Standards compliance.

"The ICI's work will clean up a decade of flood control anomalies, restore trust in public works, and cut the corruption premium that drives up costs," FPI Chairperson Elizabeth H. Lee said in a statement on Sunday.

"That means cheaper financing, stronger investor confidence, and a manufacturing sector that wins on standards, integrity, and quality — now and for years to come."

Investor confidence, S1/9