

STOCK MARKET		ASIAN MARKETS			WORLD MARKETS			PESO-DOLLAR RATES			ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE			WORLD CURRENCIES			DUBAI CRUDE OIL			
6480	PSEi	JANUARY 12, 2026	CLOSE	NET	%	JANUARY 9, 2026	CLOSE	NET	58.45	FX	JANUARY 12, 2026	LATEST BID (0900GMT)	PREVIOUS	JANUARY 12, 2026	CLOSE	PREVIOUS	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY			
6304	OPEN: 6,351.47	JAPAN (NIKKEI 225)*	51,939.89	▲	822.63	1.61	DOW JONES	49,504.070	▲	237.960	OPEN	P59.220	JAPAN (YEN)	157.7100	▲	157.8800	US\$/UK POUND	1.3464	▲	1.3399
6128	HIGH: 6,431.08	HONG KONG (HANG SENG)	26,608.48	▲	376.69	1.44	NASDAQ	23,671.346	▲	191.331	HIGH	P59.170	HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR)	7.7964	▼	7.7944	US\$/EURO	1.1695	▲	1.1637
5952	LOW: 6,351.47	TAIWAN (WEIGHTED)	30,567.29	▲	278.33	0.92	S&P 500	6,966.280	▲	44.820	LOW	P59.280	TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR)	31.6270	▼	31.5930	US\$/AUST DOLLAR	0.6711	▲	0.6684
5776	71.82 PTS. 1.13%	TAIWAN (SET INDEX)	1,244.47	▼	-9.62	-0.77	FTSE 100	10,124.600	▲	79.910	CLOSE	P59.260	S. KOREA (WON)	1,467.3800	▲	1,457.0200	CANADA DOLLAR/US\$	1.3873	▼	1.3913
5600	CLOSE: 6,419.96	S. KOREA (Kse Composite)	4,624.79	▲	38.47	0.84	EURO STOXX 50	5,085.280	▲	69.510	W.AVE.	P59.241	SINGAPORE (DOLLAR)	1.2849	▲	1.2869	SWISS FRANC/US\$	0.7959	▼	0.8011
30 DAYS TO JANUARY 12, 2026	VAL(P): 6,637 B	SINGAPORE (STRATS TIMES)	4,770.07	▲	25.41	0.54	30 DAYS TO JANUARY 12, 2026	SOURCE: BAP	30 DAYS TO JANUARY 12, 2026	\$887.30M	30 DAYS TO JANUARY 12, 2026	SOURCE: BAP	INDONESIA (RUPIAH)	16,825.000	▼	16,795.000	30 DAYS TO JANUARY 9, 2026	54.00		\$2.49

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JANUARY 12, 2026 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)

ICT	P626,000	BDO	P142,500	PLUS	P15,600	BPI	P123,400	MBT	P72,350	SM	P735,000	MER	P590,000	URC	P71,000	SMPH	P23,900	PX	P11,380
Value	P615,244,825	Value	P546,002,207	Value	P376,889,048	Value	P358,909,169	Value	P2,700	Value	P273,108,564	Value	P269,495,440	Value	P267,950,926	Value	P244,759,180	Value	P213,180,794
P1.000	▲ 0.160%	P3.400	▲ 2.444%	-P0.700	▼ -4.294%	-P2.700	▲ 2.237%	P2.050	▲ 2.916%	P5.000	▲ 0.685%	P0.000	— 0.000%	P0.100	▲ 0.141%	P0.750	▲ 3.240%	P0.780	▲ 7.358%

## Wage hike for domestic workers eyed

minimum wage for a *kasambahay* (domestic worker), marking the start of deliberations that could result in a decision after Jan. 15, according to the board chairperson Sarah Buena S. Mirasol.

"We are hopeful that there will also be an increase for domestic workers, following last year's adjustment for formal sector workers," she told *BusinessWorld*.

Ms. Mirasol said the hearing in Pasay City gathered views from local governments, labor groups, employer representatives, and domestic workers themselves.

Ms. Mirasol said the board is weighing several factors, including cost of living, inflation, prevailing wages, and employers' capacity to pay. Unlike the formal sector, household employers are largely workers themselves rather than businesses, she added.

Data presented during the hearing indicated that the average wage of domestic workers in Metro Manila is around P9,000 a month, above the current minimum of P7,000. This was set by the last minimum wage order effective Jan. 4, 2025.

"That already reflects the prevailing wage in NCR," she said.

The board is also seeing a shift toward part-time and live-out arrangements for domestic workers, Ms. Mirasol added.

The board is currently relying on the Philippine Statistics Authority's Labor Force Survey, while awaiting the release of a more detailed results from the rider questions on *kasambahays*. The results are expected later this year.

Employer representative Federico R. Marquez, Jr. said any

wage hike for domestic helpers would be felt most by middle- and low-income households.

"Those earning below P50,000 a month are the ones who will really feel the increase," he said, noting that "elite-income" households already pay above the minimum.

"For those in the top group, such as families living in gated subdivisions, the increases are negligible. In fact, the current P7,000 minimum wage is almost nothing for them. Most already pay P10,000 to P11,000 for their

*kasambahays*. They can easily afford this," Mr. Marquez said.

"But for employees... earning less than P50,000 – the increase is substantial. These are the households that will truly feel the impact of a wage hike for a *kasambahay*," he added.

Mr. Marquez stressed the need to balance affordability with worker welfare, warning that steep increases could lead some households to forgo hiring domestic help or to circumvent the law.

*Wage hike*, S1/10

## Philippines' 20 most profitable parent/standalone companies in 2024

Financial and Insurance Activities	Real Estate Activities	Manufacturing
<b>BDO</b> BDO Unibank, Inc. <b>P82.12B</b>	<b>LANDBANK</b> Land Bank of the Philippines <b>P38.64B</b>	<b>San Miguel</b> Brewery, Inc. <b>P29.66B</b>
<b>BPI</b> Bank of the Philippine Islands <b>P56.38B</b>	<b>MEGAWORLD</b> Megaworld Corp. <b>P20.63B</b>	<b>Nestlé</b> Philippines, Inc. <b>P25.26B</b>
<b>Metrobank</b> Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. <b>P48.14B</b>	<b>SM INVESTMENTS</b> SM Investments Corp. <b>P21.98B</b>	<b>GAME ZONE</b> Total Gamezone Xtreme, Inc. <b>P24.82B</b>
<b>Philippines Renewable Energy Holdings Corp.</b> <b>P21.15B</b>	<b>PNB</b> Philippine National Bank <b>P21.04B</b>	<b>PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY</b> Philippine Reclamation Authority <b>P29.90B</b>
Source: BusinessWorld Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines 2025 Edition BusinessWorld Research BusinessWorld Graphics		

Notes: - Based on parent audited financial statements as of fiscal year 2024 submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

- Net income is the profit realized after deducting cost of sales, operating and other expenses, and taxes.

## Meralco rates go down in January

OVER EIGHT MILLION customers of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) will see lower electricity bills this month as the power distributor announced a rate cut on Monday.

The overall electricity rate declined by P0.1637 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to P12.9508 per kWh in January from P13.1145 per kWh in December, the company said in a statement.

Residential households consuming 200 kWh will see their monthly electricity bills go down by P3. Customers using 300 kWh, 400 kWh, and 500 kWh will see reductions of P49, P65, and P82, respectively.

Meralco Vice-President and Head of Corporate Communications Joe R. Zaldarriaga said the decline in power rates was driven by the lower transmission charge.

"While there were upward pressures on certain cost components this January, the overall electricity bill still went down for the second consecutive month. We hope this will help our customers, especially at the start of the new year," Mr. Zaldarriaga said in Filipino during a briefing.

The residential transmission rate dropped by P0.10 per kWh to P1.0368 per kWh mainly due to lower ancillary service charges incurred by the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines from its bilateral contracts and the reserve market.

Contributing to the downward adjustment was the lower generation charge, which declined by P0.0171 per kWh to P7.4741 per kWh due to lower costs from the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) and power supply agreements (PSAs).

Charges from WESM fell by P1.1898 per kWh as the supply situation in the Luzon grid improved. PSA charges likewise declined by P0.0516 per kWh as a coal plant in Quezon province returned to operations.

Meanwhile, the cost of electricity charged by independent power producers (IPPs) increased due to higher fixed fees from a major gas plant, as well as the peso depreciation, affecting their costs that are mostly dollar denominated.

The peso closed at P58.79 per dollar on Dec. 29, weakening by P0.145 from its P58.645 finish on Nov. 28.

WESM, PSAs, and IPPs accounted for 7%, 71%, and 22%, respectively, of Meralco's total energy requirement for the period.

*Meralco*, S1/10

## 'Tiis ganda no more?' Filipinos' digital patience may wane over time

### By Beatriz Marie D. Cruz Reporter

FILIPINOS have the second-highest level of digital patience among seven Asia-Pacific countries, but this could shorten over time as more brands compete in the digital space, according to a US-based customer engagement platform Twilio.

About 76% of Filipinos consider themselves patient when dealing with online or automated customer service, Twilio said in its "Decoding Digital Patience: The Philippines spotlight" report.

Filipinos' level of digital patience is the second highest among

seven countries in the Asia-Pacific and Japan (APJ), only behind Indonesia (85%). It is also well above the APJ average of 68%.

Customers in Japan (65%), India (65%), Australia (64%), Hong Kong (60%), and Singapore (59%) are more impatient online, Twilio said.

"The digital world has really redrawn the boundaries when it comes to something like waiting, and I think that's going to increasingly put pressure on brands to compete for users' attention," Nicholas Kontopoulos, vice-president of marketing, Asia-Pacific & Japan at Twilio, told *BusinessWorld* in a video interview last week.

"We'll likely continue to see

improvements being delivered by brands as a consequence of Filipinos' patience level maybe decreasing."

Digital patience, which refers to a user's willingness to deal with brands online, is expected to be the "new currency" of customer experience, Twilio said.

It attributed the high level of digital patience to the Filipino phrase "tiis ganda," or a user's willingness to "endure discomfort for a worthwhile outcome."

According to the report, Filipinos were more willing to accept delays for better security (68%)

and customer support (62%) than their regional counterparts.

"What sets Filipino consumers apart is their exceptional patience across every channel. This goodwill even extends to the automated services that typically frustrate consumers elsewhere," Twilio said.

It noted that 72% of Filipinos are tolerant of artificial intelligence (AI)-powered chatbots and 70% remain patient with automated phone menus.

However, Mr. Kontopoulos also noted that the Philippines' digital-savvy consumer base could become more impatient with online customer support over time.

*Digital patience*, S1/10

### FUEL PRICE TRACKER (week-on-week change)

GASOLINE	


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