

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEI FEBRUARY 4, 2026 OPEN: 6,408.71 HIGH: 6,424.18 LOW: 6,372.95 CLOSE: 6,372.95 29.01 PTS. 0.45% VOL.: 1,126 B 30 DAYS TO FEBRUARY 4, 2026 VAL(P): 6.944 B	ASIAN MARKETS FEBRUARY 4, 2026 CLOSE NET % JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 54,295.36 ▼ -427.30 -0.78 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 26,847.32 ▲ 12.50 0.05 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 32,289.81 ▲ 94.45 0.29 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,346.37 ▲ 10.26 0.77 S.KOREA (Kse Composite) 5,371.10 ▲ 83.02 1.57 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 4,954.79 ▲ 10.70 0.22 SYDNEY (All Ordinaries) 8,927.80 ▲ 70.70 0.80 MALAYSIA (Klse Composite) 1,742.82 ▼ -5.44 -0.31	WORLD MARKETS FEBRUARY 3, 2026 CLOSE NET DOW JONES 49,240.990 ▼ -166.670 NASDAQ 23,255.185 ▼ -336.922 S&P 500 6,917.810 ▼ -58.630 FTSE 100 10,314.590 ▼ -26.970 EURO STOXX50 5,133.430 ▼ -7.700	FX OPEN HIGH LOW CLOSE JAPAN (YEN) 58.45 58.74 59.03 58.90 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.8130 ▼ 7.8127 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 31.5420 ▲ 31.5460 THAILAND (BAHT) 31.6100 ▼ 31.4600 S. KOREA (WON) 1,454.8200 ▼ 1,446.5200 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.2702 ▼ 1.2696 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 16,765.0000 ▼ 16,755.0000 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 3.9270 ▼ 3.9260	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE FEBRUARY 4, 2026 LATEST BID (0900GMT) OPEN HIGH LOW CLOSE JAPAN (YEN) 156.4100 ▼ 155.6600 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.8130 ▼ 7.8127 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 31.5420 ▲ 31.5460 THAILAND (BAHT) 31.6100 ▼ 31.4600 S. KOREA (WON) 1,454.8200 ▼ 1,446.5200 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.2702 ▼ 1.2696 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 16,765.0000 ▼ 16,755.0000 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 3.9270 ▼ 3.9260	WORLD CURRENCIES FEBRUARY 4, 2026 CLOSE PREVIOUS US/UK POUND 1.3728 ▲ 1.3679 US/EURO 1.1829 ▲ 1.1807 US/AUST DOLLAR 0.7033 ▲ 0.7019 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3636 ▼ 1.3678 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.7752 ▼ 0.7776	DUBAI CRUDE OIL FUTURE PRICE IN NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$65.09/BBL

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S1/1-12 • 2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

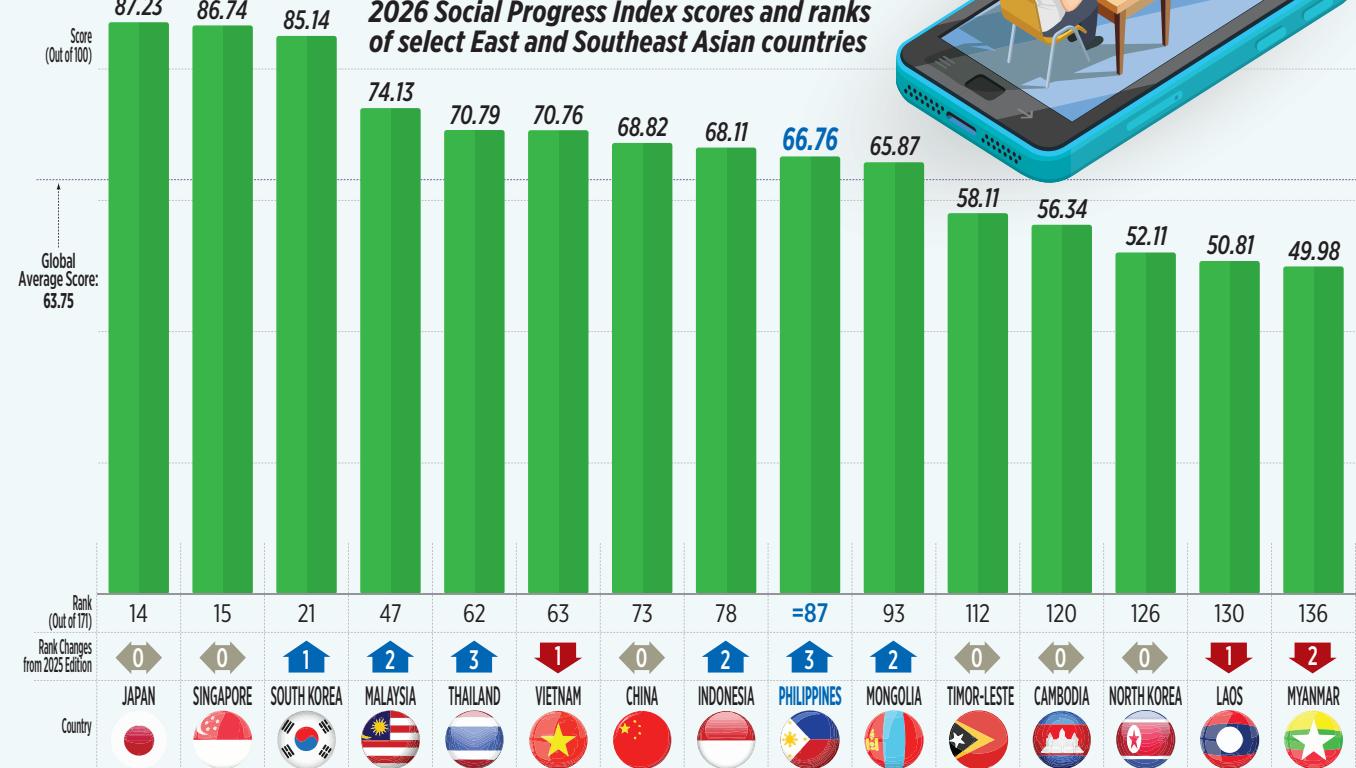
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • FEBRUARY 4, 2026 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)

ICT P658.500 Value P1,329,581,690 -P9.500 ▼ -1.422%	MYNLD P19.560 Value P323,597,474 P0.460 ▲ 2.408%	GLO P1,678,000 Value P281,204,185 P81,000 ▲ 5.072%	BDO P137.800 Value P207,371,399 -P2.200 ▼ -1.571%	URC P73.800 Value P206,567,636 P1,050 ▲ 1.443%	MER P60,500 Value P184,125,770 P4,500 ▲ 0.749%	JFC P205,000 Value P178,405,246 P3,000 ▲ 1.485%	SMPH P21.250 Value P169,955,695 -P0.750 ▼ -3.409%	APX P13,460 Value P168,902,556 P0,360 ▲ 2.748%	AC P520,000 Value P166,378,320 -P2,000 ▼ -0.383%
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S&P: PHL on track for rating upgrade

Philippines improves in Social Progress Index

The Philippines rose three places to 87th out of 171 countries in the 2026 edition of the Global Social Progress Index by the nonprofit organization Social Progress Imperative. The country scored 66.76 out of 100, above the 63.75 global average. The index measures 57 drivers of social and environmental progress across the dimensions of basic needs, foundations of well-being, and opportunity.



Philippines' Scorecard (2026)

	Score
Social Progress Index	66.76
Basic Needs	77.10
Nutrition and Medical Care	79.16
Water and Sanitation	75.41
Housing	76.17
Safety	77.64
Foundations of Well-being	64.64
Basic Education	73.12
Information and Communications	77.85
Health	46.03
Environmental Quality	61.55
Opportunity	58.54
Rights and Voice	51.61
Freedom and Choice	74.50
Inclusive Society	59.50
Advanced Education	48.54

Top 5

Rank (Out of 171)	Country	Score (Out of 100)
1	Norway	91.73
2	Denmark	91.16
3	Finland	90.83
4	Sweden	90.47
5	Switzerland	90.41

Bottom 5

Rank (Out of 171)	Country	Score (Out of 100)
171	South Sudan	27.71
170	Central African Republic	28.78
169	Chad	29.60
168	Afghanistan	33.43
167	Haiti	38.40

Source: Social Progress Imperative's 2026 Global Social Progress Index (<https://www.socialprogress.org/social-progress-index>)
BusinessWorld Research: Isa Jane D. Acabal
BusinessWorld Graphics: Bong R. Fortin

THE PHILIPPINES remains on track for a possible credit rating upgrade as improving fiscal and external balances outweigh risks from the government's flood control controversy, Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings said.

"We also see the Philippine sovereign credit metrics strengthening over the next one to two years," the rating company said in a Feb. 3 report. "Over this period, we expect that narrowing fiscal and current account deficits could augment sovereign credit buffers sufficiently to better support a higher rating."

S&P last affirmed the Philippines' long-term "BBB+" and short-term "A-2" credit ratings in November. It also kept a "positive" outlook on the country, signaling that a rating upgrade is possible over the next one to two years if improvements in credit fundamentals are sustained.

The debt watcher said it remains optimistic about the Philippines' medium-term growth prospects despite the political fallout from allegations of corruption tied to flood control projects.

However, it cautioned that the controversy could slow progress in strengthening the country's credit profile.

"The political spillover of alleged corruption related to flood control projects may slow the credit improvement," S&P said.

Rating upgrade, SI/9

ASE eyes 26,000-sqm expansion in Philippines

By Justine Irish D. Tabile
Senior Reporter

OUTSOURCED semiconductor assembly and test firm ASE Co., Ltd. is planning a 26,000-square-meter (sqm) expansion in the Philippines, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) said on Wednesday, underscoring continued investor interest in the country's electronics and semiconductor sector.

"This is a high-tech company," PEZA Director-General Tereso O. Panga told *BusinessWorld* via Viber. "It is the biggest outsourced semiconductor assembly and test company in the world... There are big prospects for their planned expansion in the Philippines."

"We are also partnering with them on electronics manufacturing services and semiconductor manufacturing service workforce development, as well as artificial intelligence and machine learning," he added.

Headquartered in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, ASE has been operating in the Philippines for three decades and employs about 825 workers.

The company makes electronic and semiconductor products, with investments worth billions of pesos, PEZA said.

In a social media post, PEZA said the company outlined a "strong growth trajectory" anchored on its planned 26,000-sqm expansion.

The project is expected to generate more jobs, raise export output, deploy advanced manufacturing technologies and strengthen linkages within the local semiconductor supply

Japan, Philippines seal P8.18-B MRT-3 rehab loan

By Adrian H. Halili
Reporter

MANILA AND TOKYO on Wednesday signed an P8.18-billion loan agreement to rehabilitate the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3), as the heavily used rail line continues to face technical and operational disruptions.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro said the funding aims to restore MRT-3 to its original "as-designed condition," allowing for improved reliability, higher capacity and sustained performance over the long term.

"More importantly, it will translate into safer journeys, shorter travel times, and an improved commuter experience for the millions of Filipinos who rely on MRT-3 every day," she said in prepared remarks sent to reporters.

The loan amounts to ₱21.63 billion, or P8.18 billion, with a repayment period of 40 years, including a 10-year grace period, at an interest rate of 0.8% per annum, the Japanese Embassy in Manila said in a statement.

The rehabilitation project includes the replacement of the MRT-3's mainline rails, the overhaul of train vehicles and integration with other MRT-related projects. It also covers the procurement of bogie frames and bogie assemblies needed to improve train stability and safety.

The project also seeks to restore and upgrade key railway subsystems, including tracks, the signaling system, power supply system, overhead catenary system, communications system and various maintenance and station facilities. The rehabilitation is targeted for completion by October 2029.

"The continued rehabilitation of this vital transport system is therefore not merely an infrastructure project, but a direct investment in the productivity, safety and quality of life of our people," Ms. Lazaro said.

Japanese Ambassador to Manila Endo Kazuya said the concessional loan would support the continued rehabilitation and maintenance of a rail system that plays a central role in Metro Manila's daily transport needs.

"The MRT-3 has been an essential part of everyday life in Metro Manila, carrying hundreds of thousands of passengers every day," he said. "Over time, however, aging facilities and operational challenges affected the quality of service."

In 2023, the Philippines and Japan signed the first tranche of the loan package worth ₱18.4 billion, which was used to begin



ROBERT YOUNG, head of the Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines.