

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,044.17

▲ 107.97 PTS.

▲ 1.81%

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P513.00 +P23.00 +4.69%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P2.77 +P0.10 +3.75%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P29.35 +P0.05 +0.17%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P17.98 +P0.52 +2.98%	AREIT AREIT, Inc. P39.20 +P0.65 +1.69%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P122.00 +P4.90 +4.18%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P100.70 +P0.70 +0.70%	CBC China Banking Corp. P65.10 -P0.40 -0.61%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P36.65 +P1.85 +5.32%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P12.90 +P0.40 +3.20%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P10.10 +P0.50 +5.21%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P15.28 -P0.02 -0.13%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,630.00 +P14.00 +0.87%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P509.00 -P11.00 -2.12%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P704.50 +P18.50 +2.70%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P184.10 +P1.60 +0.88%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P26.45 -P0.55 -2.04%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P14.84 +P0.58 +4.07%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P67.80 +P1.40 +2.11%	MER Manila Electric Co. P603.50 ---
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P6.30 +P0.30 +5.00%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P39.40 -P0.35 -0.88%	PLUS DigiPlus Interactive Corp. P17.84 +P0.52 +3.00%	RCR RL Commercial REIT, Inc. P6.77 -P0.03 -0.44%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P29.40 -P0.20 -0.68%	SM SM Investments Corp. P620.00 +P8.00 +1.31%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P71.90 +P1.05 +1.48%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P19.78 +P0.58 +3.02%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,310.00 -P40.00 -2.96%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P66.00 +P1.00 +1.54%

JG Summit profit grows to P31.9B on leisure gains

GOKONGWEI-LED conglomerate JG Summit Holdings, Inc. reported a 3% increase in attributable net income for 2025 to P31.9 billion, supported by strong travel and leisure demand and sustained consumer spending.

The group posted consolidated revenues of P368.6 billion, up 9%, driven by double-digit growth in its airline and real estate businesses, along with steady volume gains in food and beverage.

Core net income declined 11% to P36.4 billion, while net income from continuing operations fell 7% to P36.1 billion. The declines mainly reflected the absence of a P7.9-billion gain recorded in 2024 from a bank merger. This was partly offset by a P4.2-billion gain in 2025 from the airline's receipt of free engines.

Excluding one-off items, core profit reached P31.9 billion. Results were supported by strong performance in leisure-related businesses and favorable market-to-market gains, which helped offset higher coffee costs in branded foods and higher parent-level interest expenses.

"Our 2025 performance reflects the resilience of our portfolio, supported by sustained consumer demand and continued strength in our leisure-related businesses. During the year, we also recognized an impairment loss on our discontinued petrochemical operations. We have also started discussions with potential buyers of the mothballed asset and are determining the best use of the Batangas complex," JG Summit President and Chief Executive Of-

ficer Lance Y. Gokongwei said in a statement on Wednesday.

JG Summit also reported a net loss of P87.9 billion for 2025 due to its discontinued petrochemical operations. The loss included a P114.3-billion impairment recorded by JG Summit Olefins Corp. (JGSOC) in the fourth quarter, after its board approved a write-down of assets.

Despite the impairment, the company said it maintained a healthy financial position as of December 2025, with stable cash and debt levels. Its debt-to-equity ratio stood at 0.73, while net debt-to-equity was 0.59. Parent-level dividends reached a record P21.6 billion, up 25%, driven by contributions from subsidiaries and investments, including airline preferred shares.

Universal Robina Corp. (URC) reported a 5% decline in net income to P11 billion despite a 4% increase in revenues to P168 billion. Growth was supported by volume gains in Branded Consumer Foods Philippines, Sugar and Renewables, and URC Malaysia, but was offset by weaker sales in Animal Nutrition and Health and a midyear slowdown in Indochina.

Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC) posted an 8% increase in net income to P13.5 billion, while revenues rose 13% to P48.4 billion. Growth was driven mainly by its malls and hotels segments amid higher consumer spending and a recovery in tourism.

Residential sales also improved, particularly from lease-to-own and ready-for-occupancy

units, further supporting revenue growth.

Cebu Air, Inc. more than doubled its net income to P12.3 billion, supported by compensation gains from five engines received from Pratt & Whitney for ongoing aircraft-on-ground issues. Revenues rose 14% to P119.9 billion, driven by a record 26.9 million passengers, up 10%, along with stable seat load factors and higher cargo volumes.

JG Summit's equity earnings from Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) increased 12% to P13.3 billion, supported by stronger power generation results, higher distribution pass-through charges, and increased retail electricity sales.

Its equity share in Singapore Land Group rose 7%, driven by improved yields from investment

properties and stronger contributions from its Singapore-based assets.

"As we look ahead to 2026 amid heightened global uncertainty, we are taking a prudent and disciplined approach — prioritizing cash flow protection, balance sheet strength, and operational efficiency," Mr. Gokongwei said.

"At the same time, we remain focused on long-term value creation as we continue to advance our Parent transformation, with our business units refining their value creation plans under clear governance and investment guardrails informed by our portfolio review," he added.

On Wednesday, JG Summit closed at P26.45 per share, down P0.55 or 2.04%. — **Alexandria Grace C. Magno**

First Gen earnings rise 8% on higher hydropower output

LOPEZ-LED power producer First Gen Corp. reported an 8% increase in its bottom line in 2025, supported by higher electricity sales driven by stronger hydropower output.

In a statement on Wednesday, the company said it posted attributable recurring net income of \$264 million in 2025, up from \$245 million a year earlier.

First Gen said revenues rose 6% to \$906 million, driven by higher energy sales volumes, although its full-year report has yet to be released.

During the period, the group's geothermal, wind, and solar portfolio under subsidiary Energy Development Corp. (EDC) accounted for 87% of total revenues, while hydroelectric plants contributed 11%. The remaining 2% came from affiliates and the parent company.

First Gen's hydro platform posted a 73% increase in earnings to \$19 million, supported by a fivefold rise in contributions from the 132-megawatt (MW) Pantabangan-Masiway power plant.

The company said higher starting water elevation at the facility allowed it to generate and sell more electricity during the year.

Stronger hydro performance helped offset a 31% decline in EDC's earnings to \$75 million.

While the Bacman and Palinpinon geothermal plants produced more kilowatt-hours, lower gross sales volumes in Leyte and Mindanao partly offset the gains due to well workovers and maintenance activities.

"Aside from a reduction in spot market prices, EDC also had higher inter-

est expenses from more debt following the execution of its drilling operation program and project expansions," the company said.

Despite the decline in earnings, EDC completed 77 MW of geothermal capacity and 40 megawatt-hours (MWh) of battery and energy storage projects, with an additional 6 MW of geothermal capacity set for commissioning this year.

Meanwhile, First Gen reported \$11 million in income from its remaining 40% stake in its gas assets starting November 2025.

The company earlier sold a 60% equity stake in its natural gas business to Prime Infrastructure Capital, Inc. for P50 billion in late 2025.

For the January-to-October period prior to the sale, the gas business recorded \$200 million as discontinued operations.

"The previous year brought about a fundamental change in First Gen as we decided to sell down our controlling stake in the gas assets," First Gen President and Chief Operating Officer Francis Giles B. Puno said. "We decided to strategically pivot into our renewable energy investments."

Mr. Puno said the company is preparing for new developments this year, with EDC's drilling program expected to deliver results and planned investments in 2,000-MW hydropower projects marking its entry into greenfield development.

Shares in First Gen fell by 0.24% on Wednesday to close at P16.96 each. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

D&L sees supply risks, says inventory good for 74 days

LISTED specialty food ingredients and oleochemicals manufacturer D&L Industries, Inc. said it is monitoring potential disruptions to raw material supply and costs due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, while expressing confidence in managing the risks.

"Looking ahead, 2026 presents a new set of uncertainties, particularly with the ongoing war in the Middle East and its potential impact on crude oil prices, raw material costs, and global supply chains," D&L President and Chief Executive Officer Alvin D. Lao said during a media briefing on Wednesday.

The company said geopolitical tensions could disrupt oil prices, raw material supply, and global logistics, while also affecting growth and market confidence.

The company added that it sees opportunities to strengthen its position as a reliable supplier of essential goods amid volatility, supported by steady demand.

Mr. Lao said the company has not encountered a full shortage of materials but noted that access costs have increased. He warned that some items could become scarce within a month.

"The price of everything is going up. Actually, that's not the only problem. Never mind if prices are going up, but it seems access to supply for a lot of products is also affected. And that's a big worry," he said.

D&L said it is negotiating with its global supplier network to maintain raw material flows.

It noted that several suppliers have declared force majeure, limiting deliv-

eries to available supply and canceling contracted future shipments.

Despite the risks, Mr. Lao expressed confidence in the company's ability to manage disruptions, citing its experience during past oil shocks.

"We were able to survive. We've learned the lessons. We have put in a lot of measures to (deal with the problems) because we still remember what we did before," he said.

The company said it has about 74 days' worth of inventory to support operations, but flagged replenishment as a key concern.

In 2025, D&L reported a 10.6% increase in recurring net income to P2.6 billion, supported by strong performance from its biodiesel, plastics, and consumer businesses.

Fourth-quarter recurring income rose 20% to P640 million.

Full-year earnings growth was driven by 8% volume expansion, despite elevated coconut oil prices, which have nearly tripled over the past two years.

"Coconut oil prices hit all-time highs, but we still grew earnings 10.6%. This came from R&D investments, customized solutions, and long-term partnerships," Mr. Lao said.

Volumes increased 8% across both high-margin specialty products and commodities. The company said stabilizing margins could support further earnings growth.

Segment performance was mixed. Chemrez Technologies posted a 24% increase in volumes and a 96% rise in net income, supported by global demand for coconut oil-based prod-

ucts and a higher mandated biodiesel blend.

The Specialty Plastics segment recorded 9% earnings growth in 2025, following 32% growth in 2024. Margins reached record levels, supported by new products developed through ongoing research and development.

"The segment remains well-positioned for continued growth, supported by ongoing investments in research and development and the company's focus on delivering innovative and sustainable plastic solutions aligned with evolving customer needs," the company said.

The Consumer Products original design manufacturing (ODM) segment posted an 80% increase in earnings, driven by the ramp-up of operations in Batangas. Exports accounted for 16% of total sales, up from negligible levels six years ago.

In contrast, the food ingredients segment saw earnings decline by 61% due to higher commodity costs. While the company typically passes on cost increases to customers, the rapid rise in coconut oil prices led to short-term margin pressure due to a 30- to 45-day lag in price adjustments.

"As coconut oil prices begin to normalize, coupled with pricing adjustments and ongoing portfolio optimization — rationalizing commodity exposure while increasing focus on high-margin specialty products — the company expects a recovery in profitability and margins," D&L said.

Shares in D&L rose 5.71% on Wednesday to close at P3.70 each. — **Alexandria Grace C. Magno**

Pangilinan-led Meralco expects higher generation costs as peso weakens

POWER DISTRIBUTOR Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) said a weaker peso is putting upward pressure on power generation costs, following the currency's recent slide to a record low amid geopolitical tensions.

"A depreciation of the peso will put upward pressure on power rates, in particular, the generation charge," Lawrence S. Fernandez, vice-president and head of utility economics at Meralco, told *BusinessWorld*.

On March 23, the peso fell to a record low of P60.30 against the US dollar, marking the first time it breached the P60-per-dollar level, according to data from the

Bankers Association of the Philippines.

Mr. Fernandez said nearly 60% of Meralco's cost of purchased power is dollar-denominated, as it largely consists of imported fuels such as coal and gas.

These costs are reflected in the generation charge, which typically accounts for more than half of consumers' electricity bills.

Earlier this month, Meralco Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan ordered a review of the company's power supply mix to manage price volatility linked to movements in the global petroleum market.

"We are optimizing our energy mix and fully leveraging cost-

efficient sources, regardless of technology. In addition, we are carefully managing our exposure to the WESM (Wholesale Electricity Spot Market), where price volatility is high," he said in a social media post.

Gas currently accounts for about 60% of Meralco's power supply, followed by coal at 20-25% and renewable energy at around 10%. The remainder is sourced from the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market.

Last month, Meralco raised electricity rates by P0.6427 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to P13.8161 per kWh for March, driven by higher transmission and generation charges.

Meralco is the country's largest private electric distribution utility, serving more than 8.2 million customers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, including Bulacan, Cavite, Rizal, and parts of Laguna, Batangas, Pampanga, and Quezon.

Aside from electricity distribution, the company also has power generation interests through its subsidiaries.

Meralco PowerGen Corp. (MGEN), the company's generation arm, said a weaker peso could affect not only generation costs but also the broader energy value chain.

"The impact of a weaker peso goes well beyond new power in-

vestments — it affects the entire energy value chain and is broadly inflationary, making imported goods, including fuel and equipment, more expensive," MGEN President and Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel V. Rubio told *BusinessWorld*.

He added that currency weakness may also put upward pressure on interest rates, increasing financing costs for new projects and affecting returns over time.

"At MGEN, we have taken a proactive approach to managing these risks," Mr. Rubio said.

He said the company has hedged its exposure to currency risks by largely locking in costs

for the MTerra Solar project, an integrated solar facility spanning Nueva Ecija and Bulacan.

However, Mr. Rubio said a weaker peso would still feed through to electricity prices, as most of the country's coal and gas supply is imported and dollar denominated.

"Ultimately, while the direct impact on generators is manageable, the broader concern is affordability — particularly as sustained cost pressures may influence customer demand and the overall energy mix toward more cost-competitive sources," he said. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**