

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEi MAY 8, 2026 OPEN: 6,040.02 HIGH: 6,043.59 LOW: 5,960.97 CLOSE: 5,960.97 VOL.: 1.157 B VAL(P): 8.523 B 73.30 PTS. 1.21% 30 DAYS TO MAY 8, 2026	MAY 8, 2026 JAPAN (Nikkei 225) 62,713.65 ▼ -120.19 -0.19 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 26,393.71 ▼ -232.57 -0.87 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 41,603.94 ▼ -329.84 -0.79 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,500.36 ▼ -7.17 -0.48 S. KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 7,498.00 ▲ 7.95 0.11 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 4,921.90 ▼ -20.06 -0.41 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 8,744.40 ▼ -133.70 -1.51 MALAYSIA (KLCSE COMPOSITE) 1,748.06 ▼ -10.79 -0.61	MAY 8, 2026 DOW JONES 49,609.160 ▲ 12.190 NASDAQ 26,247.076 ▲ 440.880 S&P 500 7,398.930 ▲ 61.820 FTSE 100 10,233.070 ▼ -43.880 Euro Stoxx50 5,070.720 ▼ -43.270	FX MAY 8, 2026 OPEN P60.650 HIGH P60.410 LOW P60.700 CLOSE P60.613 W.AVE. P60.543 VOL. \$1,907.80 M SOURCE : BAP 19.30 CTVS 30 DAYS TO MAY 8, 2026	MAY 8, 2026 LATEST BID (0900GMT) PREVIOUS JAPAN (YEN) 156.6500 ▼ 156.3900 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.8287 ▲ 7.8322 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 31.3010 ▲ 31.3790 THAILAND (BAHT) 32.1600 ▼ 32.1400 S. KOREA (WON) 1,461.4900 ▼ 1,451.8200 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.2666 ▼ 1.2658 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 17,360.000 ▼ 17,330.000 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 3.9180 ▼ 3.9070	MAY 8, 2026 CLOSE PREVIOUS US\$/UK POUND 1.3632 ▲ 1.3616 US\$/EURO 1.1784 ▲ 1.1768 US\$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR 0.7244 ▼ 0.7253 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3676 ▲ 1.3626 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.7763 ▼ 0.7776	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$97.20/BBL 135.00 124.00 113.00 102.00 91.00 80.00 \$0.05 30 DAYS TO MAY 8, 2026

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • MAY 8, 2026 (PSEi snapshot on S1/6; article on S2/2)

ICT	P770.000	BDO	P116.900	BPI	P88.050	ACEN	P3.290	MBT	P65.000	EMI	P15.680	ALI	P15.600	SM	P610.000	RCR	P6.900	MER	P645.500
Value	P1,440,737,860	Value	P372,983,323	Value	P367,157,617	Value	P341,660,540	Value	P218,679,484	Value	P209,175,460	Value	P190,796,136	Value	P147,964,515	Value	P138,274,037	Value	P135,783,495
	-P15,000 ▼ -1.911%		-P0.200 ▼ -0.171%		-P1.850 ▼ -2.058%		P0.060 ▲ 1.858%		-P1.100 ▼ -1.664%		-P0.040 ▼ -0.254%		-P0.200 ▼ -1.266%		P0.500 ▲ 0.082%		-P0.120 ▼ -1.709%		-P14,500 ▼ -2.197%

Q2 growth outlook remains weak

Oil shocks, uncertainty muddy Philippine inflation forecasts, analysts say

By Katherine K. Chan
Reporter

ANALYSTS and economic managers are now finding it harder to precisely measure data in their inflation forecasts as rising uncertainty and the faster-than-usual transmission of oil price shocks challenge their models.

University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) economist Marco Antonio C. Agonia said analysts like himself typically use historical data and assumed relationships, both of which could still be adjusting to rapid developments from the unprecedented energy crisis.

"The highly uncertain situation tends to throw off forecasts because previous assumptions about the Philippine economy may no longer be as robust," Mr.

Agonia told *BusinessWorld* in an e-mail.

Meanwhile, Bank of the Philippine Islands Lead Economist Emilio S. Neri, Jr. said they struggled to identify which items fueled inflation during the war's first month in March, and which emerged later in April.

"We got most of the inflation items except for the transport component," he told this paper in a Viber message. "We could not determine which part of the increases were captured in March and which ones kicked in last April."

Inflation accelerated to 7.2% in April, its fastest pace in more than three years, driven by higher oil prices that pushed up the cost of food — particularly rice — and utilities. This was faster than the 4.1% in March and 1.4% a year earlier.

Oil shocks, S1/10



ELEVATED oil prices drove up costs of food and utilities, which pushed inflation to its fastest pace in over three years at 7.2% in April. PHILIPPINE STAR/MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

PEZA eyes 6 new ecozone proclamations this quarter

By Beatriz Marie D. Cruz
Senior Reporter

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) expects the proclamation of six new economic zones (ecozones) within the second quarter in key areas like Batangas, Cavite, and Palawan.

"A total of six ecozones are for proclamation this quarter," PEZA Director-General Tereso O. Pangat told *BusinessWorld* in a Viber message.

Two ecozones were already endorsed by the Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary for General Administration (ODESGA) and are awaiting the release of the proclamation order from the President, he said.

These are the Suntrust Ecotown Tanza in Cavite and the Light Industry & Science Park IV - Special Economic Zone in Malvar, Batangas.

Likewise, four ecozones are still being evaluated by the ODESGA, Mr. Pangat said.

These include ANFLO Industrial Estate in Panabo, Davao; West Cebu Industrial

Park in Balamban, Cebu; Rio Tuba Export Processing Zone in Bataraza, Palawan; and Biz Hub at Lima Estate in Lipa City, Batangas.

Mr. Pangat also noted that a mega ecozone in Pampanga is slated for approval by the PEZA Board this year.

The Palawan Mega Ecozone in Puerto Princesa City, which was cleared by the PEZA Board last year, also awaits presidential proclamation.

The President must issue a proclamation to declare a tract of land as a special economic zone or ecozone, as reviewed and endorsed by the PEZA Board.

Under Republic Act No. 7916 or the Special Economic Zone Act, ecozones are areas that are considered highly developed or may potentially be turned into an industrial, tourist, agro-industrial, banking, commercial, or investment and financial center.

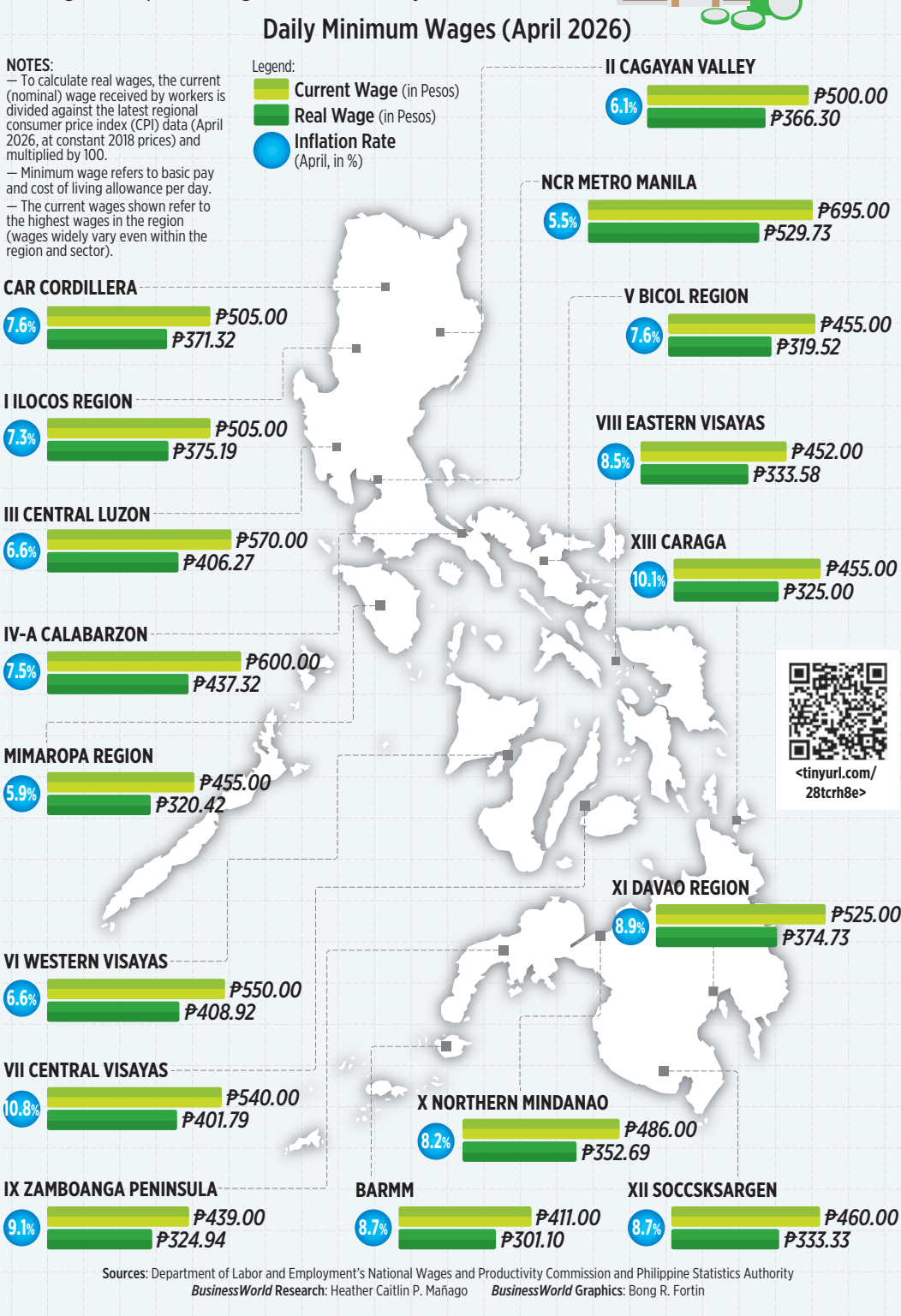
The agency is looking to proclaim more ecozones in regional areas to help boost countryside development, Mr. Pangat said.

PEZA, S1/7

How minimum wages compared across regions in April 2026

(AFTER ACCOUNTING FOR INFLATION)

In April, inflation-adjusted wages were 23.8% to 29.8% lower than the current daily minimum wages across the regions in the country. Meanwhile, in peso terms, real wages were lower by around P109.90 to P165.27 from the current daily minimum wages set by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board.



By Justine Irish D. Tabile
Senior Reporter

PHILIPPINE gross domestic product (GDP) likely remained below the government's 5-6% growth target in the second quarter as higher oil prices and tighter financial conditions continued to dampen domestic demand, analysts said.

This as the Development Budget Coordination Committee is set to meet this week to review its macroeconomic assumptions following the weaker-than-expected first-quarter performance.

"We expect second-quarter GDP growth to grow moderately between 3% and 3.2% year on year as higher oil prices and tighter financial conditions continue to weigh on domestic demand," Maybank Investment Bank economist Azril Rosli told *BusinessWorld*.

Marco Antonio C. Agonia, an economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), said that he expects "similar, sub-3% growth in the second quarter with traditional growth drivers still under siege."

If realized, the second-quarter GDP would be slower than the 5.44% growth in the same period in 2025.

However, it could be slightly faster than the 2.8% GDP expansion in the first quarter of 2026, which was the slowest print in five years.

"The bulk of public infrastructure spending will likely only return by the second half of the year, which immediately drags investment formation," said Mr. Agonia.

Government spending grew by 4.8% in the first quarter, much slower than 18.7% a year ago but faster than the 0.7% growth in the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, gross capital formation — the investment component of the economy — contracted by 3.3% in the first quarter, a reversal of the 4.5% growth a year ago. Still, this was an improvement from the 9.4% decline in the fourth quarter.

Growth outlook, S1/7

NG debt service bill falls to P169 billion in March

THE NATIONAL Government's (NG) debt service bill declined in March amid lower amortization payments, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) said.

The latest Treasury data showed payments made by the government for its obligations went down by 7.78% to P169.09 billion in March from P183.36 billion in the same month a year ago.

Month on month, debt service plunged by 60.74% from the P430.64 billion in February.

Debt service refers to the government's payments on its domestic and foreign debt obligations.

Interest payments accounted for more than half or 57% of the March debt service bill.

The NG's interest payments rose by 9.38% to P96.38 billion in March from P88.12 billion in the same month a year earlier.

Interest payments on domestic debt stood at P79.71 billion, 24.14% higher than P64.21 billion in March 2025.

Of this total, P47.04 billion went to interest payments for fixed-rate Treasury bonds, P28.23 billion for retail Treasury bonds, and P4.41 billion for Treasury bills.

Meanwhile, interest payments on foreign borrowings declined by 30.26% to P16.68 billion in March from P23.91 billion a year prior.

On one hand, the government's repayment of its loan principal or amortization stood at P72.71 billion in March, declining by 23.66% from P95.24 billion a year ago.

This came as amortization on external debt dropped by 23.68% to P72.58 billion in March from P95.1 billion in the same month last year.

Meanwhile, principal payments for domestic obligations declined by 7.25% to P128 million in March from P138 million a year prior.

Q1 DEBT SERVICE BILL

For the first quarter, the government's debt service bill surged by 115.6% to P737.41 billion from

P342.02 billion in the same period last year.

Amortization payments in the period jumped by 359.58% to P464.27 billion from P101.02 billion in the first quarter of 2025.

Broken down, principal payments for domestic debt surged to P386.74 billion from P576 million, while those for external borrowings declined to P77.54 billion from P100.45 billion.

Meanwhile, interest payments stood at P273.13 billion in the three-month period, up 13.3% from P241 billion in the same period a year ago.

Interest payments on domestic debt jumped by 18.38% year on year to P211.39 billion in the first quarter from P178.56 billion a year prior.

This consisted of P152.22 billion in interest payments on fixed-rate Treasury bonds, P43.76 billion for retail Treasury bills, and P2.69 billion in interest payments for other domestic borrowings.

Interest payments on foreign obligations dipped by 1.11% year on year to P61.74 billion in the first quarter from P62.44 billion a year ago.

Ser Percival K. Peña-Reyes, a senior research fellow at the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development, said debt service payments will likely remain elevated for the rest of the year.

"The pace may vary by quarter, depending on maturity schedules and interest rate movements (but) several indicators point in that direction," he said, citing rising outstanding debt, frontloaded borrowing, high interest costs and a weaker peso.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas delivered a 25-basis-point (bp) rate hike last month, bringing the policy rate to 4.5%.

"If global and domestic interest rates continue easing later in 2026, the increase in interest expenses could moderate," Mr. Peña-Reyes said.

NG debt, S1/10