

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
<b>PSEi</b> 6100 6016 5832 5848 5784 5680 14.87 pts. 0.24% 30 DAYS TO MAY 12, 2026 OPEN: 5,993.63 HIGH: 5,999.00 LOW: 5,958.90 CLOSE: 5,971.98 VOL.: 1.224 B VAL(P): 9.447 B	<b>MAY 12, 2026</b> JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 62,742.57 ▲ 324.69 0.52 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 26,347.91 ▼ -58.93 -0.22 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 41,898.32 ▲ 108.26 0.26 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,484.51 ▼ -4.78 -0.32 S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 7,643.15 ▼ -179.09 -2.29 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 4,941.32 ▼ -1.45 -0.03 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 8,670.70 ▼ -31.10 -0.36 MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE) 1,750.56 ▲ 5.25 0.30	<b>MAY 11, 2026</b> DOW JONES 49,704.470 ▲ 95.310 NASDAQ 26,274.125 ▲ 27.049 S&P 500 7,412.840 ▲ 13.910 FTSE 100 10,269.430 ▲ 36.360 EURO STOXX50 5,074.850 ▲ 4.130	<b>FX</b> 59.40 60.02 60.64 61.26 61.88 62.50 33.00 ctyvs 30 DAYS TO MAY 12, 2026 OPEN P61.250 HIGH P61.250 LOW P61.495 CLOSE P61.480 W.AVE. P61.413 VOL. \$1,512.50 M SOURCE: BAP	<b>MAY 12, 2026</b> LATEST BID (0900GMT) PREVIOUS JAPAN (YEN) 157.6000 ▼ 157.1000 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.8293 ▼ 7.8288 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 31.5390 ▼ 31.3940 THAILAND (BAHT) 32.4200 ▼ 32.4100 S. KOREA (WON) 1,491.2500 ▼ 1,471.6200 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.2728 ▼ 1.2689 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 17,490.000 ▼ 17,405.000 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 3.9320 ▼ 3.9200	<b>MAY 12, 2026</b> CLOSE PREVIOUS US\$/UK POUND 1.3533 ▼ 1.3605 US\$/EURO 1.1744 ▼ 1.1771 US\$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR 0.7217 ▼ 0.7238 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3705 ▲ 1.3669 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.7807 ▲ 0.7785	<b>DUBAI CRUDE OIL</b> FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$101.10/BBL 135.00 124.00 113.00 102.00 91.00 80.00 30 DAYS TO MAY 11, 2026 ▲ \$3.90

VOL. XXXIX • ISSUE 203 WEDNESDAY • MAY 13, 2026 • www.bworldonline.com SI/1-12 • 2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

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

ICT	P785.000	JFC	P144.000	BDO	P118.500	BPI	P87.750	SM	P600.000	PGOLD	P46.000	MBT	P65.850	ALI	P16.000	PLUS	P11.980	SMPH	P18.980
Value	P1,465,090,050	Value	P1,138,646,175	Value	P418,402,470	Value	P355,973,612	Value	P266,030,645	Value	P243,702,640	Value	P149,345,061	Value	P145,574,814	Value	P138,472,770	Value	P121,138,540
P5.000	▲ 0.641%	-P17.200	▼ -10.670%	P1.800	▲ 1.542%	P0.200	▲ 0.228%	-P6.000	▼ -0.990%	P0.000	— 0.000%	P0.150	▲ 0.228%	-P0.140	▼ -0.867%	-P0.980	▼ -7.562%	-P0.560	▼ -2.866%

## March loan growth at 7-month high

By Katherine K. Chan  
Reporter

PHILIPPINE BANKS' lending to businesses and consumers marked its fastest expansion in seven months in March, supported by robust liquidity in the financial system despite the Middle East conflict, preliminary Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) data showed.

Outstanding loans of universal and commercial banks, net of reverse repurchase agreements, grew by 10.7% to P14.603 trillion

as of March from P13.192 trillion in the same month last year.

This was faster than the revised 9.6% climb in February and was the quickest growth in loans since the 11.2% in August last year.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, big banks' lending activities rose by 1.7% month on month.

"Loans from universal and commercial banks grew at a faster pace in March 2026, providing even stronger support for production activities of businesses and consumption of households," the central bank said in a statement late on Monday.

Outstanding loans to residents went up by 11.1% year on year to P14.299 trillion as of March from P12.869 trillion. This was an improvement from the revised 10.2% increase in February.

Most of the loans were those meant for production activities, which climbed by 9.7% to P12.322 trillion from P11.228 trillion.

This expansion in production loans was driven by the 26.7% increase in lending to the electricity, gas, steam, and air-conditioning supply industry. Other segments that showed growth were transportation and storage (19.4%); wholesale and retail

trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (9.3%); and real estate activities (8.8%).

Meanwhile, outstanding consumer loans to residents rose by 20.5% to P1.977 trillion as of March from P1.641 trillion a year ago, slightly easing from the 20.8% expansion in February. These include credit cards, motor vehicles, and general-purpose salary loans but exclude residential real estate loans.

BSP data showed that credit card loans jumped 27.9% to P1.229 trillion from P960.55 billion in the prior year, while loans for motor vehicles grew by 12.5%

to P538.286 billion from P478.67 billion.

Outstanding salary loans were at P166.934 billion as of March, up 4.2% from P160.273 billion a year prior.

On the other hand, outstanding loans to nonresidents, including those disbursed by big banks' foreign currency deposit units, declined by 5.9% to P303.993 billion in March from P323.028 billion a year earlier. This was smaller than the 13.9% drop logged in the same month in 2025.

Michael L. Ricafort, chief economist at Rizal Commercial

Banking Corp., attributed the faster lending growth in March to demand for financing from businesses as they wanted to make their payments ahead of time in anticipation that prices and interest rates would go up further amid the Middle East conflict.

"The continued double-digit growth in bank loans... was partly due to some hedging, stockpiling, and investment activities that need to be financed before interest rates and prices go up further due to the war in the Middle East," he said in an e-mail.

Loan, SI/9

## GDP growth may slow further as price pressures mount

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC GROWTH this year could slump to its slowest in nearly two decades as price pressures from the energy crisis compound already muted household spending and investments.

In a report published on Monday, Oxford Economics slashed its Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast to 3.5% from its already downgraded 4.6% estimate. Before the war, it expected the economy to expand by 5.5%.

If realized, this would mark the economy's worst performance since 2020, when it contracted by 9.5%. Counting out the pandemic, it would be the slowest growth in 17 years or since 1.4% in 2009.

This would also mean that the government will miss its GDP growth target for a fourth straight year, as it sees the economy expanding between 5% and 6% in 2026. The Philippine economy grew by 4.4% in 2025 — a post-pandemic low as a graft scandal involving government infrastructure projects dragged public spending.

"The largest downgrade since the start of the war has so far been the Philippines after the recent Q1 GDP release, which was poorer than expected," Oxford Economics Lead Economist Maya Senussi said.

GDP growth was at 2.8% in the first quarter, slowing further from 3% in the fourth quarter and 5.4% in the same period last year. This was likewise slower than the 3.4% median estimate in a *BusinessWorld* poll of 21 economists.

Ms. Senussi said the weak growth was due to already subdued consumer spending and the weak investment climate in the country prior to the Middle East war.

"We expect this softness to continue, as we believe poor consumer sentiment and materially higher prices will weigh on private spending," she added. "Limited fiscal space constrains the extent of budgetary support." *GDP, SI/9*

## DoTr eyes to award automated fare collection system project this year

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation (DoTr) targets to award the Philippine Automated Fare Collection System (PAFCS) contract by the fourth quarter, with the bidding process expected to begin in the third quarter.

"We are definitely bidding it out this year... We will likely bid it out in the third quarter and award it in the fourth quarter," Transportation Undersecretary Timothy John R. Batan said on the sidelines of the Luzon Economic Corridor Reception on Monday.

Mr. Batan said the preliminary cost of the contract is P9.5 billion but added that this is still pending approval from the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC).

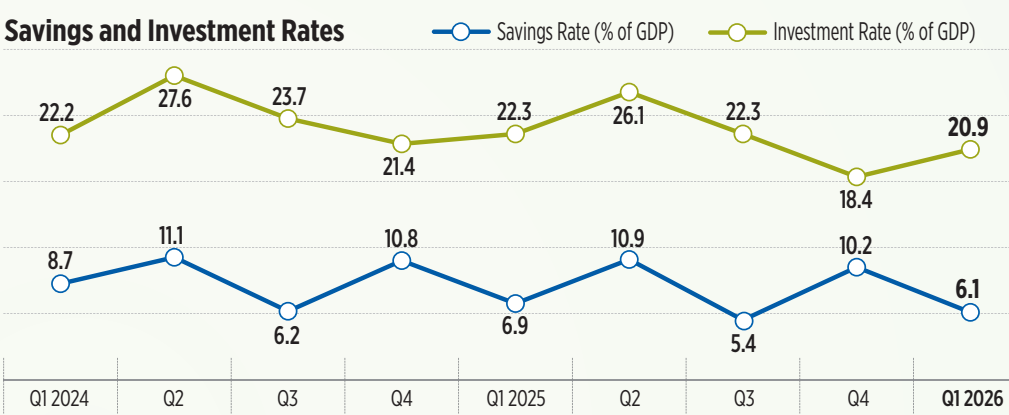
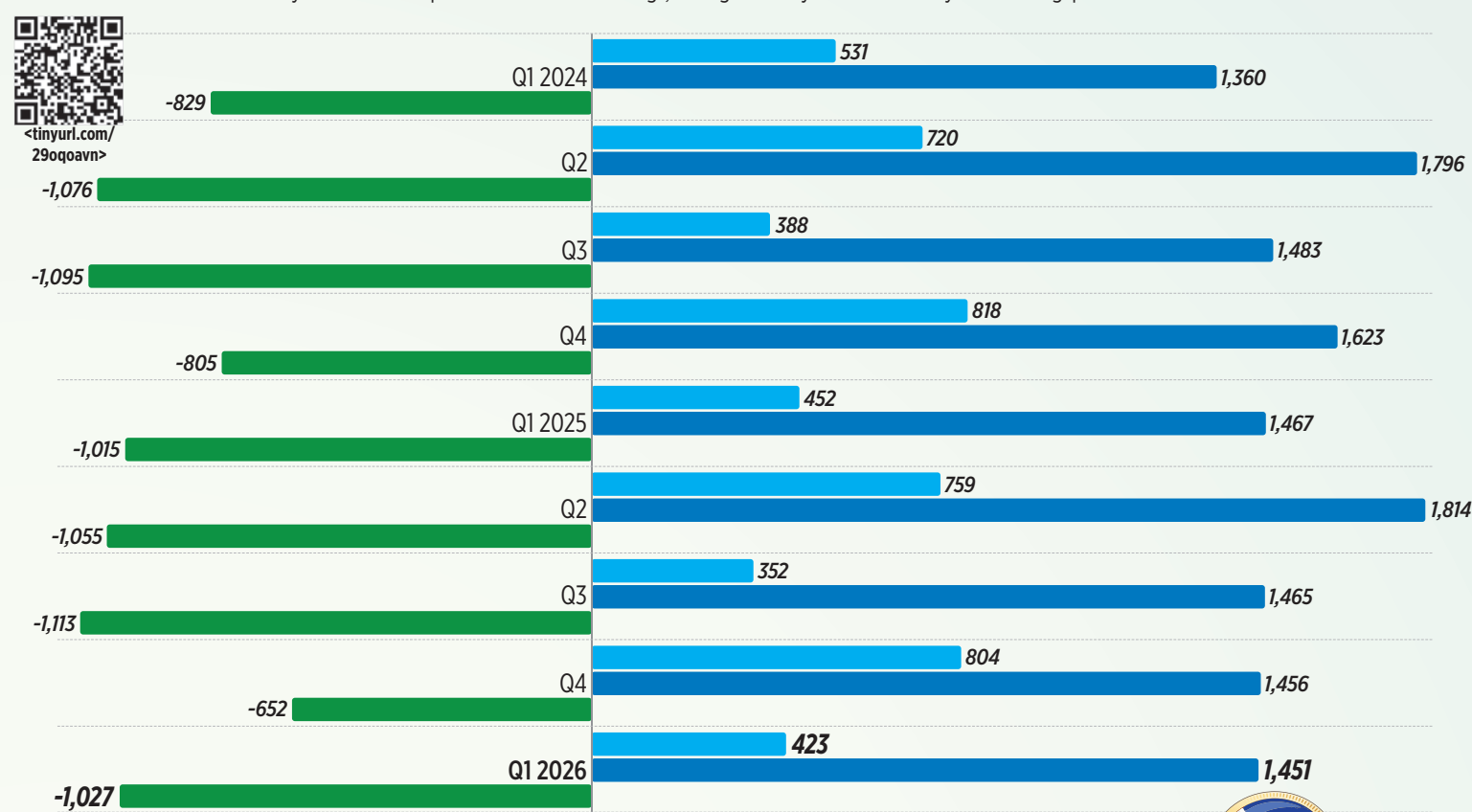
"Until it is approved by the ICC, we do not have the final project cost yet, but it's around that much," he added.

DoTr, SI/8

## Can domestic savings cover the country's increasing investment needs?

The country's savings rate — defined as gross domestic savings as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) — reached 6.1% in the first three months of the year, amounting to P423 billion. Meanwhile, the investment rate was 20.9% of GDP, or P1.45 trillion, resulting in a P1.03-trillion gap. This marked the widest savings-investment (S-I) gap recorded since the third quarter of 2025 when it logged P1.11 trillion. The S-I gap — the difference between gross domestic savings and gross capital formation — shows a country's ability to finance its overall investment needs. An S-I deficit occurs when a country's investment expenditure exceeds its savings, forcing a country to borrow money to fund the gap.

(In P Billion, at Current Prices)  
 ■ Gross Domestic Savings  
 ■ Gross Capital Formation  
 ■ S-I Gap



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (Preliminary data as of May 7, 2026) BusinessWorld Research: Lourdes O. Pilar and Abigail Marie P. Yraola BusinessWorld Graphics: Bong R. Fortin



## Luzon Economic Corridor seen to increase jobs, investments

By Justine Irish D. Tabile  
Senior Reporter

THE LUZON Economic Corridor (LEC) will help make the Philippines more resilient to external shocks by generating more jobs and attracting greater foreign investment interest, the Finance department said.

"The LEC is about doing all the work to provide those jobs. We build the infrastructure, the private sector comes in, invests in business, gives jobs to Filipinos," Finance Secretary Frederick D. Go said on the sidelines of the LEC Reception on Monday.

Mr. Go said creating "meaningful" jobs is key to building a sustainable and shock-resistant economy, as steady incomes would allow households to continue spending despite external headwinds.

"We need everybody to have meaningful jobs. That is how you really build a sustainable economy," he said. "Because when everybody has meaningful jobs, it does not matter what the shocks are. Life can go on because people have a good source of income."

The Philippine economy grew by a weaker-than-expected 2.8% in the first quarter amid lingering effects of last year's corruption scandal and

soaring fuel prices due to the Middle East conflict.

The weaker growth came as household final consumption expenditure — a key driver of the economy — slowed to 3% from 5.28% a year earlier and 3.8% in the previous quarter.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Country Director for the Philippines Andrew Jeffries said the corridor accounts for a large share of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

"In general, 60% of the whole country's GDP is more or less within this corridor... So, I guess the infrastructure needs are very large. And so, some of our ongoing projects are supporting all of that," he told reporters.

"Of course, because it's such a large part of the whole Philippine GDP, it's a very important corridor to keep developing. And... there are some transportation and other bottlenecks that need to be addressed."

The ADB is supporting several infrastructure projects in the region, including the North-South Commuter Railway and Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge. It also has a loan facility funding detailed engineering designs for future rail projects.

The LEC reception was held ahead of the steering committee meeting and the official launch of the LEC Partners Initiative.

Luzon, SI/8