



BAIPHIL MARKET WATCH

BAIPHIL @ 85: CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP TO R.I.S.E. IN BANKING
RESILIENCE. INCLUSIVITY. SUSTAINABILITY. ENGAGEMENT

03 Oct
2025

Legend

- Improvement / Up
- Deterioration / Down
- No Movement

FINANCIAL MARKETS AT A GLANCE



Currency Exchange ¹	Current	Previous
USD/PHP	58.0800	58.1200
USD/JPY	146.7400	147.0700
USD/CNY	7.1214	7.1196
EUR/USD	1.1756	1.1731
GBP/USD	1.3507	1.3476

PHP BVAL Reference Rates ²	Current	Previous
30-Day	4.6993	4.7411
91-Day	4.8908	4.9124
180-Day	5.1738	5.1613
1-Year	5.3237	5.3233
3-Year	5.6902	5.6915
5-Year	5.8592	5.8641
10-Year	6.0164	6.0236

Domestic Stock Index ³	Current	Previous
PSEi	6,039.76	6,026.03
Trade Value (Php B)	5.557	6.795

Stock Index ⁴	Current	Previous
NIKKEI 225	44,936.73	44,550.85
FTSE 100	9,427.73	9,446.43
DOW JONES	46,519.72	46,441.10
S&P 500	6,715.35	6,711.20
NASDAQ	22,844.05	22,755.16

Various ^{5/6}	Current	Previous
Brent Crude (USD/bbl)	65.43	65.35
3-M US Treasury Yield	4.02%	4.01%
5-Y US Treasury Yield	3.67%	3.68%
10-Y US Treasury Yield	4.10%	4.12%



PHILIPPINES



- ✓ **PSEi edges higher for second day on bargain hunting.** The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) rose slightly for the second straight day, adding 13.73 points, or 0.23 percent, to close at 6,039.76, but gains were limited due to lack of fresh market leads. The overall volume decreased to 1.52 billion shares, valued at ₱5.56 billion. Decliners edged out advancers 95 to 89, with 65 issues remaining unchanged. Among sectoral performance, the Mining counter rallied on buoyant gold prices, while the Property counter declined. Market analysts noted the persistence of bargain-hunting. "The PSEi closed slightly higher but remained relatively flat in today's session, as the lack of catalysts continues to weigh on market momentum," said Luis Limlingan, Managing Director of Regina Capital Development Corp. <https://mb.com.ph/2025/10/02/psei-edges-higher-for-second-day-on-bargain-hunting>
- ✓ **Peso up as uncertainty weighs on dollar.** The peso continued to climb on Thursday as the dollar remained under pressure due to concerns over the US government's shutdown. The local unit closed at P58.08 versus the greenback, strengthening by four centavos from its P58.12 finish on Wednesday, Bankers Association of the Philippines data showed. The peso opened Thursday's session slightly stronger at P58.05 versus the dollar. It dropped to as low as P58.30, while its intraday best was at P58.007 against the greenback. "The dollar-peso was steady as market players traded cautiously amid monetary developments of the US budget bill and the absence of US economic data," a trader said in a phone interview. <https://www.bworldonline.com/banking-finance/2025/10/03/702604/peso-up-as-uncertainty-weighs-on-dollar/>
- ✓ **Philippine bonds supported by favorable demand-supply dynamics.** Philippine bonds may be rescued from a bout of underperformance by rising foreign demand in tandem with lower borrowings from the government. The share of Philippine peso government bonds owned by foreigners has more than tripled to 6.03% as of August from 2021, according to the government, as overseas buyers bought bonds ahead of potential inclusion into JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s benchmark EM gauge. These inflows are set to continue as supply drops. The country's assets have had a rough stretch amid a rebound in inflation, less dovish central-bank signals and a weaker peso. Investors saw a loss of 0.7% on Philippine bonds in dollar terms in the three months through September, trailing all Southeast Asian peers, according to a Bloomberg index. Corruption allegations against the government triggered global equity outflows. The bonds should perform well in the coming months amid favorable "supply dynamics" as the government front-loaded majority of its 2025 borrowings, said Shivank Sehgal, a fixed income investment analyst at Aberdeen Investments. Supply is expected to drop in the final quarter by 52% from the previous period, according to data from the Bureau of the Treasury. Philippine local-currency bonds may get a weighting of 1% in the JPMorgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index, JPMorgan said last month. That level would attract a passive allocation of roughly \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion, Aberdeen's Sehgal estimated. <https://www.bworldonline.com/bloomberg/2025/10/02/702492/philippine-bonds-supported-by-favorable-demand-supply-dynamics/>

- ✓ **Bank lending grows by 11.2% in August.** Outstanding loans from universal and commercial banks (U/KBs) to businesses and individual consumers expanded in August. Preliminary data show that loans from U/KBs expanded at a slower rate of 11.2 percent year-on-year in August from 11.8 percent in July. After adjusting for seasonal fluctuations, outstanding U/KB loans increased by 0.4 percent month-on-month in August. Loans meant to fund business activities expanded by a slower pace of 9.9 percent in August from 10.8 percent in July. Lending increased for the following key industries: real estate activities (11.0 percent); electricity, gas, steam, and air-conditioning supply (28.1 percent); wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (8.1 percent); financial and insurance activities (6.9 percent); and information and communication (7.5 percent). Consumer loans to residents—which include credit card, motor vehicle, and general-purpose salary loans—increased by 23.9 percent from 23.6 percent. The BSP monitors bank loans because they are a key transmission channel of monetary policy. Looking ahead, the BSP will ensure that domestic liquidity and bank lending conditions remain consistent with its price and financial stability mandates.
<https://www.bsp.gov.ph/SitePages/MediaAndResearch/MediaDisp.aspx?ItemId=7695&MType=MediaReleases>

- ✓ **Domestic liquidity grows by 6.6% in August.** Domestic liquidity, also known as M3, or the amount of money in the economy, grew by 6.6 percent year-on-year to about ₱18.6 trillion in August, according to preliminary data. Growth of M3 in August was faster than the 6.2-percent increase in July. After adjusting for seasonal fluctuations, M3 increased by 0.5 percent month-on-month in August. As a driver of money supply, claims on the domestic sector, which includes private and government entities in the country, rose by 9.8 percent year-on-year in August from 10.5 percent in July. Claims on a sector represent that sector's liabilities to depository corporations (e.g., banks and the central bank). Claims on the private sector alone grew by 11.1 percent in August from 11.0 percent in the previous month, driven by the continued expansion in bank lending to non-financial private corporations and households. Net claims on the central government increased by 6.1 percent from 7.1 percent in the previous month, driven by its higher borrowings. Net foreign assets (NFA) in peso terms rose by 4.8 percent year-on-year in August from the 0.6-percent decline in July. NFA represent the difference between claims on nonresidents and liabilities to nonresidents of depository corporations. The BSP's NFA increased by 0.7 percent. The banks' NFA also grew amid a decline in their foreign currency-denominated bills payable. The BSP will continue to ensure that domestic liquidity conditions remain consistent with its price and financial stability objectives.
<https://www.bsp.gov.ph/SitePages/MediaAndResearch/MediaDisp.aspx?ItemId=7694&MType=MediaReleases>

- ✓ **PIDS urges lawmakers to expand Blue Economy Act.** State-run think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) is urging lawmakers to strengthen and expand the proposed Blue Economy Act, citing its potential to protect the country's coastal and marine resources while promoting sustainable economic growth. In a Sept. 29 comment on House Bill (HB) Nos. 1158, 1553, 4139, 3254, 2807, 2101, 2284, 2324, 2683, 3819, and 2250, PIDS senior research fellow Sonny N. Domingo and research analyst Roselle F. Guadalupe highlighted the relevance of the proposed framework, which aims to promote stewardship of marine and coastal ecosystems in line with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "The Philippine blue economy has tremendous potential as it spans a rich and expansive maritime domain," the PIDS position paper read, adding that sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture, marine tourism, shipping, and offshore energy could boost livelihoods, economic growth, and environmental well-being. "The enactment of a blue economy legislation would guide the development and protection of the country's vast archipelagic coastline and marine resources for sustained benefits," PIDS said. PIDS said that HBs 2250 and 2480, for example, highlight ocean-based models designed to both protect marine and coastal areas and harness their potential for sustainable development and community well-being. According to PIDS, the proposed HBs seek to strengthen maritime governance, uphold local and global policy commitments, promote natural resource management, enhance coastal and marine protection, and integrate blue economy principles into national and local development plans.
<https://mb.com.ph/2025/10/02/pids-urges-lawmakers-to-expand-blue-economy-act>

- ✓ **Philippine electronics eyes \$70-billion export goal in 5 years, driven by AI, new tech.** The umbrella group of semiconductor and electronics companies aims to increase its already leading share in the country's total exports by 64 percent to \$70 billion as part of the government's ambitious five-year plan to boost the industry's competitiveness. The Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation Inc. (SEIPI) is banking on the emergence of new technologies to push the value of the country's electronic exports to \$70 billion. "Whether it's now or five years from now, the drivers of growth for the electronics industry would be new technology," SEIPI President Danilo Lachica said in a briefing on Thursday, Oct. 2. In a rapidly evolving digital era, Lachica noted that the growing popularity of artificial intelligence (AI), data centers, and renewable energy will continue to drive demand for the country's semiconductors. The steady appetite for semiconductors is the main driver of SEIPI's projection of flat growth—with some optimism for modest gains—for this year's electronic exports. SEIPI estimates that the industry's exports would remain flat at \$42.6 billion, despite the potential of reciprocal tariffs against semiconductors. Electronic products, including semiconductors, are the Philippines' top export commodity. "The overall demand in the world is increasing, notwithstanding the tariffs. And so, that causes optimism from our part," said Lachica. While Lachica expressed positivity about the \$70-million goal, he admitted that policy shifts could quickly upend this plan.
<https://mb.com.ph/2025/10/02/philippine-electronics-eyes-70-billion-export-goal-in-5-years-driven-by-ai-new-tech>

- ✓ **SEIAC unveils 5-year workforce dev't plan.** The Semiconductor and Electronics Industry Advisory Council (SEIAC), chaired by the Office of the Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs (OSAPIEA), has laid out its Technical Working Group's five-year action plan to develop a skilled Filipino workforce and boost the country's semiconductor and electronics sector. A central theme of the discussions was the development of a strong school-to-industry pipeline through closer collaboration among the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and industry partners. The Council proposed flexible learning pathways, including ladderized programs and micro-credentials, aimed at equipping Filipinos with high-value technical skills that meet global industry standards. OSAPIEA highlighted that the council's long-term goal is to nurture home-grown talent and encourage Filipinos to pursue careers in the country, strengthening both the industry and national development. Beyond talent development, the council also discussed initiatives to enhance the country's investment climate. These include the development of world-class Strategic Economic Zones, supported by an ongoing infrastructure audit to identify gaps in power, water, and logistics. The pilot project at New Clark City is expected to provide key insights for a nationwide rollout. The SEIAC further reviewed efforts to streamline regulations, promote ease of doing business, and showcase the Philippines' semiconductor industry in the global market. The Council is looking to spearhead the country's participation in SEMICON Europa 2025, the premier European platform that brings together key players across the entire design and manufacturing value chain of the semiconductor and electronics industry. The Philippines' participation in the SEMICON Europa is a strategic move to diversify the country's electronics export destinations, reducing reliance on traditional markets and aligning with Europe's growing demand for alternative suppliers amid geopolitical shifts.
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1260048>

- ✓ **Philippine inflation likely rose to 1.9% in September – poll.** Headline inflation likely quickened to a six-month high in September, but still below the 2-4% target, due to a rise in food and fuel costs, analysts said. A *BusinessWorld* poll of 12 analysts yielded a median estimate of

1.9% for September inflation, within the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) 1.5-2.3% forecast for the month. If realized, inflation would have accelerated from 1.5% in August but steadied from the 1.9% clip in September 2024. This would also be the fastest print in six months or since the 2.1% in February. September may also be the seventh month in a row that the consumer price index fell below the central bank's 2-4% target range. The Philippine Statistics Authority is scheduled to release the September inflation data on Tuesday, Oct. 7. <https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2025/10/03/702641/philippine-inflation-likely-rose-to-1-9-in-september-poll/>

- ✓ **Philippines corruption scandal darkens outlook for one of Asia's growth stars.** A widening corruption scandal in the Philippines, involving billions of US dollars in fraudulent flood-control allocations, has triggered mass protests, rattled investor confidence and cast a shadow over the country's once-promising economic outlook. The scandal is now bleeding into financial markets. Economists are revising their growth projections down and credit rating agencies have signalled that continued erosion of institutional trust could affect the Philippines' investment-grade status. For a nation repeatedly ravaged by typhoons and flooding, the betrayal over infrastructure that could have saved lives cuts deep. The economic fallout from the investigations in the Philippines could show up mainly in slower government spending, which accounts for about a fifth of output. Angelo Taningco, chief economist at Security Bank, said he trimmed his estimate for second-half economic growth to 5.5 per cent from 5.8 per cent partly due to "increased political risk" from the corruption probe that "would dampen both government spending and capital formation." He projects full-year growth at 5.5 per cent, which would be at the low end of the government's target. Patrick Ella, portfolio manager at Sun Life Investment Management and Trust Corporation, also sees gross domestic product expanding by mid-5 per cent for the full year, lower than his earlier forecast of 6 per cent. Economic growth could however slow to as low as 4.3 per cent in a scenario where government spending completely grinds to a halt, he said. "If we see prolonged and intensified social unrest – against a backdrop of heightened political tensions – growth could soften, and fiscal consolidation could slow as legislative attention shifts from reforms to domestic politics," said Young Kim, an analyst at the sovereign risk group at Moody's Ratings. Still, current developments may not materially change Moody's assessment of the country's political risk and institutional strength in the near term, "which remain broadly in line with or above peers and are well positioned at present," Kim said. Philippine GDP may grow by an average of 6.3 per cent over the next three years, said YeeFarn Phua, a director at S&P Global Ratings, who's projected a 5.6 per cent expansion for 2025. Marcos' move to reallocate spending meant for flood infrastructure into social services could also cushion the economic impact of the scandal, according to Bank of the Philippine Islands' lead economist Emilio Neri. The corruption crackdown could bring gains in the long run if it addresses governance issues, Pantheon Macroeconomics economists Miguel Chanco and Meekita Gupta said in a note last month. <https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/asean/philippines-corruption-scandal-darkens-outlook-one-asias-growth-stars>
- ✓ **Flood control scandal to break 20-year gov't spending streak, punish peso—MUFG.** Japanese financial giant MUFG Bank Ltd. said the Philippine peso could suffer from the controversial flood control scandals, which are seen to break the upward momentum of government spending on water resources and flood mitigation in two decades. "We adjust our Philippine peso forecast profile somewhat weaker, reflecting risks from flood control project corruption issues, but still forecast the United States (US) dollar-peso moving lower over time with other domestic positives remaining in place," MUFG Global Markets Research said in its latest monthly foreign exchange (forex) outlook, published on Wednesday, Oct. 1. MUFG has projected that the Philippine peso will still fare well against the US dollar in the coming months, noting that the macroeconomic backdrop for the local currency remains "decent." It can be noted that the peso "was weaker against the US dollar in September" as it depreciated to the ₱58:\$1 level during the month. The local currency ended September at ₱58.171 from ₱57.12 at end-August. But for MUFG, the peso could gradually gain footing against the greenback over time, with it seen to appreciate to the ₱56:\$1 level by the third quarter of 2026. The Japanese bank expects the local currency to end the fourth quarter of 2025 at ₱56.5 versus the greenback, before reaching ₱56.1 in the first quarter of next year and ₱56.2 in the second quarter of 2026. <https://mb.com.ph/2025/10/02/flood-control-scandal-to-break-20-year-govt-spending-streak-punish-pesomufg>
- ✓ **Agri-businesses can now raise up to ₱500 million with faster SEC review.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is encouraging agri-business companies to tap the capital market for their financing needs through the Commission's program, which streamlines the process for securities registration in the industry. The Commission, on Sept. 24, introduced the guidelines for Securing & Expanding Capital for Farms & Agri-business Related Modernization Schemes (SEC FARMS) to industry players in a conference titled, "SEC FARMS: Sowing the Seeds of Growth through the Capital Market." Enacted through SEC Memorandum Circular No. 8, Series of 2023, SEC FARMS streamlines the registration process for the securities of agri-businesses, aiming to boost investor participation and drive growth in the industry. Under SEC FARMS, the Commission is required to review the registration statements of agri-business firms within 28 days from the filing date, subject to the guidelines of the SEC. Through the scheme, agri-businesses may raise up to ₱500 million in funds per project. <https://mb.com.ph/2025/10/02/agri-businesses-can-now-raise-up-to-500-million-with-faster-sec-review>
- ✓ **ACEN's Quezon North wind project gets ₱900-million loan.** Ayala-led ACEN Corp. announced that it has provided a ₱900-million loan for its subsidiary, Giga Ace 6 Inc. (GA6), to pursue its development for a new wind power project. In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) on Thursday, Oct. 2, ACEN said it has inked a short-term loan deal with GA6 to fund phases one and two of its Quezon North wind power project. The project, which has about 553 megawatts (MW) worth of projected capacity, is expected to wrap up its first phase of construction by the fourth quarter of 2026. Its subsequent phase will then be scheduled sometime between 2027 and 2028. Quezon North wind power project is located in multiple municipalities in the provinces of Quezon and Laguna, namely Mauban, Real, Paete, and Kalayaan. <https://mb.com.ph/2025/10/02/acens-quezon-north-wind-project-gets-900-million-loan>
- ✓ **Ayala cuts ties on Honda dealership after 35 years.** Ayala Group is unloading Japanese car brand Honda from its automobile retail portfolio after 35 years. In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Thursday, Ayala Corp. said its unit ACMobility and Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI) are transitioning their dealership operations effective January 1, 2026. The transition involves the turnover of Honda dealerships currently operated by ACMobility, through Iconic Dealership Inc. (IDI), "to new dealer principals who will continue to support Honda's growth and expansion." The dealership alliance between Ayala and HCPI dates back to 1990 with the opening of Honda Cars Makati. Ayala said letting go of ACMobility's dealership of Honda cars "reflects the evolving strategies of both companies, as ACMobility and HCPI pursue their respective growth and innovation strategies." The announcement came after Ayala's announcement of its exits from the Volkswagen and Maxus distribution businesses. Upon turnover of the dealership operations, Ayala said ACMobility's portfolio will be composed of the BYD and Kia distribution businesses; dealership operations of Isuzu, BYD, and Kia; electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure business; and the Bosch Car Service business. ACMobility will continue to operate all the dealerships with HCPI above until December 31, 2025. <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/motoring/961048/ayala-cuts-ties-on-honda-dealership-after-35-years/story/>
- ✓ **Anscor sells minority stake in The Bistro Group for ₱1.9 billion.** A. Soriano Corp. (Anscor) has inked a deed of sale to sell its minority stake in TBG Food Holdings Inc., the operator of casual dining chain operator The Bistro Group, to Inoza Business Holdings Inc. for ₱1.914 billion. In a regulatory filing, Anscor said the sale covers its entire 22% stake in TBG Food Holdings to gain gross annualized returns over 25% on its investment through a combination of distributions and capital gains. Inoza is a newly formed holding firm linked with Progeny

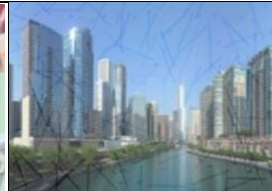
Global Holdings Inc., which has interests in agribusiness, food manufacturing, and limited-service restaurants. Its brand portfolio includes Bounty Fresh, Chooks-to-Go, and Uling Roasters. The Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) earlier gave its approval for the acquisition, as it found no competition concerns from the transaction.

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/companies/961024/anscor-sells-minority-stake-in-the-bistro-group-for-p1-9-billion/story/>

- ✓ **Metro Dumaguete Water announces P534-M investment in next five years.** Pangilinan-backed Metro Dumaguete Water (MDW), a partnership between the Dumaguete City Water District and Metro Pacific Water, announced P524 million worth of investment over the next five years. In a news release on Thursday, MDW said the capital expenditure program is a key component of the company's long-term master plan to ensure reliable and affordable water for all residents. The funds will be used for various capital projects that aim to improve and expand the water distribution network. The P524-M investment will be directed towards four key areas—service improvements, non-revenue water (NRW) management, source development, and the employment of new technologies.
<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/companies/961063/metro-dumaguete-water-announces-p534-m-investment-in-next-five-years/story/>
- ✓ **Western Union bullish on remittances, says PH market 'very promising'.** According to Western Union country director for the Philippines Ricardo "Don" Alair II, the company is looking at riding the growth of overall remittances in the country, as cash remittances or money transfers through banks or formal channels climbed 3.0% to \$34.493 billion in 2024 based on central bank data. "We're tracking the growth of the industry. Last year the remittance industry grew by 3%. Just extrapolate from that. The industry as a whole is still growing 3% to 4%. This year they're projecting about \$40 billion. I think we're going to exceed \$40 billion," he said in an interview in Makati City. Driving the bullishness is the company's launch of its new mobile application, which was formally launched on Wednesday after it was soft-launched two weeks ago, with Western Union reporting strong traction. Western Union said the Philippines is its fourth-largest market, and it expects to grow its presence in the country moving forward. Latest data available from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) show that cash remittances hit a seven-month high of \$3.179 billion in July, up 3.0% from \$3.085 billion the same month last year.
<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/companies/960942/western-union-bullish-on-remittances-says-ph-market-very-promising/story/>



REST OF THE WORLD



- ✓ **Asia: Markets surge on US rate hopes, tech fired by chip deal.** Asian equities jumped on Thursday (Oct 2) after data showing job losses in the US private sector fanned optimism for more interest rate cuts and overshadowed a partial shutdown of the country's government. Tech firms led the way higher as a deal between South Korea's biggest chip firms and OpenAI added fuel to the AI-led rally that has helped push markets to record highs. While debate rages over the impact of the closure of some US departments owing to a standoff between lawmakers in Washington, investors continue to focus on the outlook for more US Federal Reserve rate cuts. After all three main indexes on Wall Street rose, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq hitting records, Asia was happy to take up the baton. Tokyo, Sydney, Singapore, Wellington and Jakarta were all up, with Hong Kong piling on more than one per cent as traders returned from a midweek break. But Seoul and Taipei led the rally thanks to a boost in chip firms following news of the deal between OpenAI and Samsung and SK Hynix.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/capital-markets-currencies/asia-markets-surge-us-rate-hopes-tech-fired-chip-deal>
- ✓ **European Stocks Extend Record High.** European stocks closed at fresh record levels, extending the prior session's rally amid support from tech and data infrastructure giants. The Eurozone's STOXX 50 jumped 1.3% to 5,651 and the pan-European STOXX 600 added 0.6% to 568. Companies with exposure to artificial intelligence and data center services rose sharply after OpenAI raised \$6.6 billion in a share sale that valued the company at \$500 billion and struck an agreement with South Korean chipmakers. Meanwhile, investors kept a cautious eye on the ongoing US government shutdown, though traders largely shrugged off concerns for now as they await further developments.
<https://tradingeconomics.com/united-kingdom/stock-market/>
- ✓ **US Stocks Close at Records on AI Rally Amid Shutdown Concerns.** US major stock indices close at fresh records on Thursday, with the S&P 500 up 0.1%, the Nasdaq rising 0.4%, and the Dow adding 80 points, as the AI trade continued to drive gains amid renewed buzz around OpenAI. Investors also monitored developments in Washington, where President Trump threatened to cut thousands of federal jobs to pressure Democrats during the second day of a government shutdown. Technology led the rally, fueled by AI-related gains from Nvidia (+1%), Broadcom (+1.5%), and AMD (+3.5%), as well as OpenAI's \$6.6 billion share sale, which valued the company at \$500 billion and highlighted its deal with South Korean chipmakers.
<https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/stock-market>
- ✓ **Brent Lingers to 4-month Low.** Brent crude oil futures edged higher to around \$65 per barrel on Thursday but remained near a four-month low, weighed down by expectations of higher OPEC+ supply amid broader uncertainties. OPEC+ is set to meet this weekend, sparking speculation it may raise output beyond plans, though the group denies such intentions. Oversupply concerns grew after US crude stocks rose by 1.8 million barrels, alongside higher gasoline and distillate inventories, while gasoline demand fell to a six-month low, raising worries over near-term consumption. In Asia, factory activity contracted across major economies in September, adding to concerns over regional fuel demand. Meanwhile, the US government shut down on Wednesday after lawmakers failed to reach a funding deal, delaying key economic data releases and heightening concerns about the global economy and further pressure on oil prices.
<https://tradingeconomics.com/commodity/brent-crude-oil>
- ✓ **Gold's record rally pauses as US dollar ticks up.** Gold eased on Thursday (Oct 2) from the record high hit the day before, pressured by profit-taking and a slight uptick in the US dollar, although expectations of further US rate cuts and political uncertainty lent some support to prices. Spot gold was down 0.2 per cent at US\$3,858.50 per ounce, as at 9.18 am, after hitting an all-time high of US\$3,895.09 on Wednesday. US gold futures for December delivery fell 0.4 per cent to US\$3,883.60. Gold, often used as a safe store of value during times of political and financial uncertainty, thrives in a low interest rate environment.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/energy-commodities/golds-record-rally-pauses-us-dollar-ticks>

- ✓ **Bitcoin Hits 7-Week High.** Bitcoin climbed toward \$120,000 in early October, marking a seven-week peak as political uncertainty and expectations of further interest rate cuts in the US supported demand. The US government entered its first shutdown in nearly seven years after lawmakers failed to agree on temporary funding, with the closure expected to last at least three days and delaying the release of September's nonfarm payrolls report. Separately, ADP data showed an unexpected loss of 32,000 private-sector jobs in September compared with forecasts for a 50,000 gain, underscoring labor market weakness and strengthening the case for additional Federal Reserve easing. Futures markets now imply a 99% chance of a 25 basis point cut this month, with odds pointing to another reduction before year-end. Bitcoin also benefited from risk-on sentiment in equities, bolstered by OpenAI's deal with South Korea's Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, which reinforced optimism surrounding artificial intelligence.
<https://tradingeconomics.com/stream>
- ✓ **Japanese Yen Holds Advance.** The yen hovered near 147 per dollar on Thursday after rising for four straight sessions, supported by safe-haven inflows and dollar weakness following the US government shutdown. The political impasse, expected to last at least three days, will delay the release of key economic data including the September nonfarm payrolls report. Domestically, the yen drew further support from speculation that the Bank of Japan could resume policy normalization later this year, with markets pricing in a 40% chance of a quarter-point hike at this month's meeting. Recent figures showed sentiment among Japan's large manufacturers improved in Q3 to the strongest level since late 2024, though headwinds from US tariff measures persist. Investors now await the latest consumer confidence report for additional clues on the economy's momentum.
<https://tradingeconomics.com/japan/currency>
- ✓ **RBI keeps rates unchanged, unveils 22 measures to boost credit, ease business.** While the RBI-led MPC has underwhelmed headline-seekers with its unanimous vote for status-quo on the benchmark rates, the Reserve Bank has overwhelmed them with a flurry of measures—as many as 22 regulatory changes to count—aimed at improving customer convenience, credit flow to the economy and individuals, and the overall ease of doing business for all along with reducing the compliance cost for regulated entities. Unveiling the 22 additional measures, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said these measures are aimed at strengthening the resilience and competitiveness of the banking sector, improving the flow of credit, promoting ease of doing business, simplifying foreign exchange management, enhancing consumer satisfaction, and internationalisation of the bleeding rupee. Topping the list is the revamping of the lending norms for capital market participation by changing in the lending norms and limits for banks to ensure easier flow of funds to capital markets through the banking route. Think of these steps as a three-pronged push to unlock more credit, fuel corporate deal-making, and give banks a bigger role in equity and debt financing. The RBI has also proposed to make the revised Basel III capital adequacy norms effective for banks (excluding SFBs, PBs and RRBs) from April 1, 2027. In furtherance of this, a draft of the standardised approach for credit risk shall be issued shortly.
<https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2025/Oct/01/rbi-keeps-rates-unchanged-unveils-22-measures-to-boost-credit-ease-business>
- ✓ **Indonesia's central bank faces growing threats to independence.** Indonesia's finance minister once wanted to run the country's central bank. Now, he just wants to tell it what to do. Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa, who rose from relative obscurity to become one of Indonesia's most powerful officials, has told friends and colleagues over the years that he does not believe the central bank should be independent, according to sources familiar with the matter. The nation's populist leader, Prabowo Subianto, agrees with him, the sources said. That is ramping up pressure on a central bank now facing threats from multiple quarters. But Purbaya downplayed the concerns over the central bank and the fiscal deficit in an interview with Bloomberg Technoz on Tuesday (Sep 30). BI is focused on its duties in accordance with the law, and a "burden sharing" arrangement, under which the central bank helps cover debt costs for Prabowo's priority programmes, should remain temporary, he said. The nation's Ministry of Finance declined to comment for this story. BI did not respond to a request for comment.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/asean/indonesias-central-bank-faces-growing-threats-independence>
- ✓ **Taiwan rejects U.S. proposal for '50-50' chip production, says trade talks focused on tariffs.** Taiwan will not accept Washington's proposal to locally manufacture half the chips it currently supplies to the U.S., the island's top trade negotiator said. Speaking to reporters, Cheng Li-chiun, also the country's vice premier, said on Wednesday that the proposal for a "50-50" split in semiconductor production was not even discussed, as she returned from trade talks in the U.S., according to Taiwan's Central News Agency. Cheng said the talks were focused on lowering tariff rates, securing exemptions from tariff stacking — additional duties — and reducing levies on Taiwanese exports. Taiwan currently faces a "reciprocal" tariff rate of 20%. Washington has held discussions with Taipei about the "50-50" split in semiconductor production, which would cut American reliance on Taiwan, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said last weekend in an interview to NewsNation, adding that currently 95% of the U.S. demand was met via chips produced within Taiwan. "No one can sell out Taiwan or TSMC, and no one can undermine Taiwan's silicon shield," Chu said, referring to Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, the world's leader in advanced chip manufacturing.
<https://www.cnn.com/2025/10/02/taiwan-us-chip-production-tsmc-trade-tariffs.html>
- ✓ **Eurozone Jobless Rate Edges Up from Record Low.** The Euro Area seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up to 6.3% in August 2025, from an all-time low of 6.2% in July, contrary to forecasts for it to remain steady. The number of unemployed increased by 11,000 from the prior month to 10.842 million. Meanwhile, the youth unemployment rate, reflecting those under 25 seeking employment, stood at 14% in August, the lowest since March 2023, matching July's revised reading. Among the bloc's largest economies, Spain (10.3%), France (7.5%), and Italy (6%) continued to see the highest jobless rates, while Germany (3.7%) and the Netherlands (3.9%) recorded the lowest. A year ago, the jobless rate was the same at 6.3%. In the broader European Union, the jobless rate stood at 5.9%.
<https://tradingeconomics.com/euro-area/unemployment-rate>
- ✓ **France Budget Deficit Narrows in August.** France's central government budget deficit stood at EUR 157.5 billion at the end of August 2025, narrowing from EUR 171.9 billion in the corresponding month of the previous year. The improvement reflected a 0.7% drop in government expenditures to EUR 347.7 billion, as lower transfers to operators and the end of the Covid-19 debt amortization program offset higher military outlays. Additionally, total revenues rose 5.5% to EUR 221.7 billion, supported by stronger income and corporate tax receipts and other domestic levies, though non-tax revenues fell on lower EU co-financing inflows. Meanwhile, the Treasury special accounts — which track the balance of inflows and outflows for targeted spending, such as receipts from local governments — recorded a shortfall of EUR 31.5 billion, compared to a gap of EUR 31.9 billion in the same period a year earlier.
<https://tradingeconomics.com/france/government-budget-value>
- ✓ **US manufacturing activity contracts for seventh straight month.** US factory activity shrank in September for a seventh consecutive month, reflecting a pullback in orders and adding to evidence manufacturing is lacking traction. The Institute for Supply Management's (ISM) manufacturing index edged up 0.4 point to 49.1, according to data released on Wednesday (Oct 1). Readings below 50 indicate contraction, and the measure has been stuck in a narrow range for the whole year. The group's orders index slid 2.5 points to 48.9, slipping back into

contraction territory after expanding a month earlier for the first time since January. Economists and policymakers will be relying more on private reports such as the ISM survey for clues on the economy in the absence of official data because of the US government shutdown. <https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/us-manufacturing-activity-contracts-seventh-straight-month>

- ✓ **Government shutdown live updates: Stalemate to last at least three days.** The United States government shut down early Wednesday morning, setting the stage for the furlough of hundreds of thousands of federal workers and the shuttering of a slew of key programs and services. An economic data blackout during the shutdown this week is also top of mind, as the September nonfarm payrolls report will not be released on Friday given the Labor Department's pause on virtually all activity. The Federal Reserve is expected announce an interest rate cut at its upcoming October meeting after Wednesday morning's ADP data reflected a drop in private payrolls last month, and as further ramifications of the ongoing shutdown remain to be seen. <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/10/01/government-shutdown-trump-live-updates.html>
- ✓ **Trump eyes firing thousands of federal workers over shutdown.** Trump is weighing slashing "thousands" of federal jobs ahead of a meeting with his budget director, Russell Vought, as the White House looks to ratchet up pressure on Democrats to end a government shutdown that has entered its second day. "It's likely going to be in the thousands," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters on Thursday (Oct 2), saying that the "entire team at the White House" was working to identify possible cuts. "We are going to look at agencies that don't align with the administration's values, that we feel are a waste of the taxpayer dollar," she added. Republicans have sought to use the threat of permanent cuts to the federal bureaucracy to encourage Democrats to vote to reopen the government, and the White House has said that firings could happen imminently. But some budget experts have argued that spending money to conduct permanent layoffs during a shutdown is illegal. It's not yet clear what the scale of the federal downsizing could be, but Senator Shelley Moore Capito, a West Virginia Republican, predicted there could be sizeable cuts. Representative Byron Donalds, a Florida Republican, said that he expects the impasse to continue into early next week, at least. <https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/global/trump-eyes-firing-thousands-federal-workers-over-shutdown>

UPCOMING BAIPHIL WEBINARS



TRAINING PROGRAMS			PROGRAM DETAILS	
COMM	TITLE	DATE	COURSE OUTLINE	REGISTRATION
FACOM	Accounting for Non-Accountants (with Financial Statement Analysis)	October 15 – 16, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Overview of ICAAP	November 5, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Auditing the Cybersecurity Function	November 7, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Overview of ICAAP	December 5, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Accounting for Non-Accountants (with Financial Statement Analysis)	December 15 - 16, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
GLRC	Basic Course on Corporate Governance	October 6, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Breaking Barriers: Training on Open Finance Framework	October 10, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Legal and Regulatory Aspects of Foreign Exchange Transactions	October 24, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Basic Course on Corporate Governance	November 13, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Basic Course on Corporate Governance	December 9, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Basic Course on Corporate Governance	January 12, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Building a Better Tomorrow: Environmental & Social Risk Management Framework Essentials	January 21, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Basic Course on Corporate Governance	February 6, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
ITSEC	Basic Course on Corporate Governance	April 7, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Cybersecurity Governance, Risks and Compliance	October 3, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Intermediate Excel Training for Bankers	Oct. 13 – 14, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Introduction to Human-Based Cybersecurity for Banking & Financial Institutions	October 22, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Implementing Human-Based Cybersecurity for Banking and Financial Institutions	Nov. 10 – 11, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Securing Yourself from Human Based Attacks	November 14, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Advanced Excel Training for Bankers	Nov. 17 – 18, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	IT Service Management Fundamentals	December 10, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Intermediate Excel Training for Bankers	Dec. 18 – 19, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Cloud Security	January 7, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Cybersecurity Governance, Risks and Compliance	January 23, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Cloud Privacy: Securing Data on Public Cloud	January 28, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Advanced Excel Training for Bankers	Jan. 29 – 30, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE

	IT Security in Banking Operations	Feb. 3 – 4, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
LEC	Effective Business Writing: Level-up!	October 7, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Basic Leadership and Effective Supervision Seminar (BLESS) for Bank Supervisors	October 17, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Effective Business Writing: Professionalizing Your Communication Skills	November 6, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Leadership Effectiveness and Advancement Program (LEAP) – A Program for Managers	Nov. 20 – 21, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Basic Leadership and Effective Supervision Seminar (BLESS) for Bank Supervisors	December 5, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Leadership Effectiveness and Advancement Program (LEAP) – A Program for Managers	January 15 – 16, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Basic Leadership and Effective Supervision Seminar (BLESS) for Bank Supervisors	February 13, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
PBOM	Fundamentals of Credit Module 8: Credit Lending Process	Oct. 9 – 10, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Third Currencies Counterfeit Detection	October 20, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Basic Identification Documents, Business Documents & Income Documents Verification	October 21, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Remedial Management	Oct. 23 – 24, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Fraud and Forgery Detection and Prevention Program	November 18, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Signature Verification and Forgery Detection	November 19, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Know Your Money and Counterfeit Detection	December 3, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
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	Signature Verification and Forgery Detection	January 22, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Fraud and Forgery Detection and Prevention Program	January 23, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Basic Identification Documents, Business Documents & Income Documents Verification	February 19, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Know Your Money and Counterfeit Detection	February 20, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Third Currencies Counterfeit Detection	March 19, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Signature Verification and Forgery Detection	March 20, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Fraud and Forgery Detection and Prevention Program	April 29, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Know Your Money and Counterfeit Detection	April 30, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Basic Identification Documents, Business Documents & Income Documents Verification	May 28, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Signature Verification and Forgery Detection	May 30, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Fraud and Forgery Detection and Prevention Program	June 24, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Know Your Money and Counterfeit Detection	June 25, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
RMC	SEC Sustainable Finance Taxonomy Guidelines 2025 (SFTG)	October 3, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)	October 27, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Model Development and Validation	October 28 – 29, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Fundamentals of Security Incident Management	October 30, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Business Continuity: Strengthening Your Fundamentals to a Robust or Resiliency Level	November 4, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Third Party Risk Management	November 12, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE

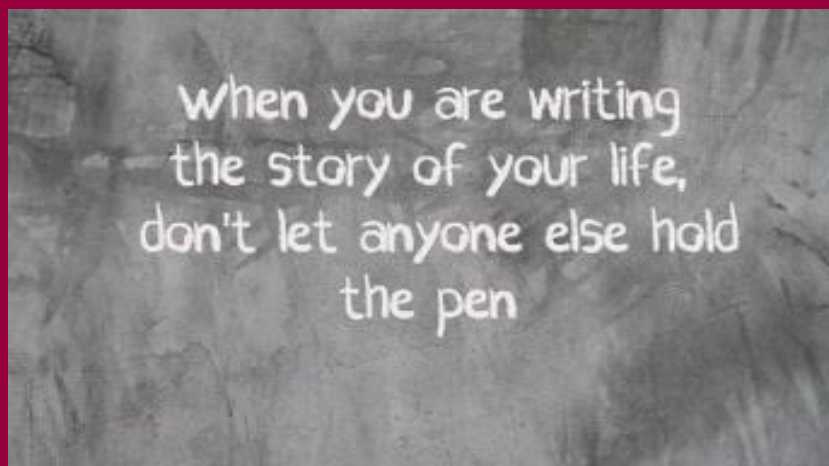
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- 5 Bloomberg: <https://www.bloomberg.com/markets/commodities>
- 6 CNN Money: <https://money.cnn.com/data/bonds/>

OTHER REFERENCES / EXTERNAL LINKS

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