



# BAIPHIL

## MARKET WATCH

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

27 Jan  
2026

Legend  
Improvement / Up  
Deterioration / Down  
No Movement

### FINANCIAL MARKETS AT A GLANCE



Currency Exchange <sup>1</sup>	Current	Previous
USD/PHP	58.9710	59.0900
USD/JPY	154.2000	155.6800
USD/CNY	6.9544	6.9633
EUR/USD	1.1883	1.1830
GBP/USD	1.3681	1.3644

PHP BVAL Reference Rates <sup>2</sup>	Current	Previous
30-Day	4.6302	4.6412
91-Day	4.7392	4.7664
180-Day	4.8266	4.8359
1-Year	4.8773	4.8912
3-Year	5.4517	5.4974
5-Year	5.7357	5.7656
10-Year	6.0395	6.0635

Domestic Stock Index <sup>3</sup>	Current	Previous
PSEi	6,273.87	6,333.26
Trade Value (Php B)	5,776	6,293

Stock Index <sup>4</sup>	Current	Previous
NIKKEI 225	52,885.25	53,846.87
FTSE 100	10,148.85	10,143.44
DOW JONES	49,412.40	49,098.71
S&P 500	6,950.23	6,915.61
NASDAQ	23,601.36	23,501.24

Various <sup>5/6</sup>	Current	Previous
Brent Crude (USD/bbl)	65.96	67.07
3-M US Treasury Yield	3.67%	3.70%
5-Y US Treasury Yield	3.82%	3.84%
10-Y US Treasury Yield	4.22%	4.24%



- ✓ **PSEi sinks to 6,200 level before GDP data release.** The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) slumped by 0.93% or 59.39 points to close at 6,273.87, while the all shares index declined by 0.52% or 18.88 points to finish at 3,580.43. This was the stock benchmark's lowest close in three weeks or since it finished at 6,164.53 on Jan. 5. "The PSEi ended lower, extending its decline from last week after breaking below the 6,300 level. Trading was cautious as buying pressure stayed on the sidelines," Regina Capital Development Corp. Head of Sales Luis A. Limilingan said in a Viber message. "Expectations of a low fourth-quarter GDP print dampened sentiment, prompting continued profit taking and defensive positioning across sectors." "The market took a defensive stance, selling local equities amid rising geopolitical uncertainty and in anticipation of the weak 4Q25 GDP growth print on Thursday," AP Securities, Inc. likewise said in a market note. The Philippine Statistics Authority will release fourth-quarter and full-year 2025 GDP data on Thursday, Jan. 29. The economy may have grown by an annual 4.2% from October to December, according to a median forecast of 18 economists polled by *BusinessWorld*. If realized, this is much slower than the 5.3% expansion in the same period in 2024 but would be faster than the over four-year low of 4% recorded in the third quarter of 2025. This would put the full-year average at 4.8%, below the government's 5.5%-6.5% growth target. This would also be slower than the 5.7% expansion in 2024 and the weakest since the 9.5% contraction posted in 2020. Analysts said slower government spending and weakening investor confidence due to a wide-ranging corruption scandal involving anomalous flood-control and infrastructure projects likely continued to drag economic growth. Most sectoral indices closed in the red. Services sank by 2.06% or 52.79 points to 2,501.58; property decreased by 1.13% or 25.95 points to 2,266.57; industrials went down by 0.78% or 70.99 points to 8,966.75; and holding firms retreated by 0.73% or 37.13 points to 5,019.74.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/stock-market/2026/01/26/726460/psei-sinks-to-6200-level-before-gdp-data-release/>

- ✓ **Peso jumps to P58 level on broad dollar weakness.** The Peso jumped on Monday to return to P58 level amid broad dollar weakness, with the yen also surging against the greenback on intervention bets. The local unit ended at P58.971 versus the dollar, strengthening by 11.9 centavos from its P59.09 finish on Friday, data from the Bankers Association of the Philippines showed. This was the peso's strongest finish in more than three weeks or since it closed at P58.841 on Jan. 2, which was also the last time it finished at the P58 range. The currency opened Monday's trading session stronger at P58.97 against the dollar. Its intraday best was at P58.92, while its worst showing was at P59.048 against the greenback. Dollars traded went down to \$954 million from \$1.159 billion on Friday. The dollar was generally weaker on Monday as the yen jumped amid speculations of market intervention, a trader said by phone. The yen jumped to more than a two-month high on Monday as speculation mounted that coordinated intervention by authorities in the US and Japan could be imminent, a prospect Tokyo's top currency diplomat left wide open while keeping markets guessing, Reuters reported. Investors were also trimming dollar positions ahead of a Federal Reserve meeting and possible announcement by the Trump administration of a new Fed chairman. The yen rose as much as 1.2% to 153.89 per dollar, its strongest since November. The euro made a four-month high of \$1.1898 and was last up 0.2% at

\$1.1855. A source told Reuters that the New York Federal Reserve had checked dollar/yen rates with dealers, seen as a precursor to intervention, and the scramble to get out of short yen positions has the currency some 3% off Friday's low. Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama declined to comment on the rate checks, while top currency diplomat Atsushi Mimura said the government would maintain close coordination with the United States on foreign exchange and act appropriately.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/banking-finance/2026/01/27/726502/peso-jumps-to-p58-level-on-broad-dollar-weakness/>

✓ **Treasury upsizes T-bill award as demand surges.** The government hiked the amount of Treasury bills (T-bills) it sold on Monday as demand for the offer surged, resulting in lower yields across all tenors, with the market also betting on further rate cuts on expectations of weak economic growth. The Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) raised P37.8 billion via the T-bills it auctioned off, higher than the P27-billion plan as the offer was oversubscribed, with total tenders reaching P155.975 billion, above the P126.59 billion in bids recorded last week. This prompted the Auction Committee to double its acceptance of noncompetitive bids for all tenors to P7.2 billion each, the Treasury said in a statement, as all tenors also fetched average yields that were lower than those seen at the previous week's auction and the secondary market. Broken down, the government awarded P12.6 billion in 91-day T-bills, above the P9-billion plan, as demand for the tenor reached P40.1 billion. The three-month paper fetched an average rate of 4.666%, down by 5.7 basis points (bps) from 4.723% last week. Yields accepted ranged from 4.64% to 4.673%. The Treasury also borrowed P12.6 billion via the 182-day debt versus the P9-billion program as tenders hit P57.55 billion. The average rate of the six-month T-bill was at 4.751%, easing by 6.6 bps from 4.817% previously. Tenders awarded carried yields from 4.73% to 4.763%. Lastly, the BTr raised P12.6 billion from the 364-day securities, more than the P9-billion plan, as bids totaled P58.325 billion. The one-year paper's average yield was at 4.827%, falling by 6.1 bps from 4.888% last week. Accepted rates were from 4.81% to 4.843%. At the secondary market before Monday's auction, the 91-, 182-, and 364-day T-bills were quoted at 4.7664%, 4.8359%, and 4.8912%, respectively, based on PHP Bloomberg Valuation Service Reference Rates data provided by the Treasury. The government upsized its award of T-bills as yields continued to fall, likely tracking the rally in US Treasuries over the weekend, a trader said in a text message. "Demand continues to increase, carrying over the momentum from last week." In Treasuries, prices rose as investors waited for the US Federal Reserve's post-meeting update due on Wednesday, Reuters reported. The yield on benchmark US 10-year notes fell 2 bps to 4.231% on Friday from 4.251% late on Thursday, while the 30-year bond yield fell 1.8 bps to 4.8305%.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/banking-finance/2026/01/27/726536/treasury-upsizes-t-bill-award-as-demand-surges/>

✓ **ADB sees PHL returning to 6% growth by 2027.** The Philippine economy could return to around 6% growth by 2027 if public and private investments rebound, according to Asian Development Bank (ADB) Country Director for the Philippines Andrew Jeffries. "I think (the drivers are a) kind of a little of everything, but return to high investment, public and private, I think would be, to me, the key driver," he told reporters on the sidelines of an event on Jan. 23. Last December, the ADB slashed its Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast to 5% for 2025, from 5.6% previously. For 2026, the ADB trimmed its GDP projection to 5.3% from 5.7% previously. This comes after a corruption scandal dampened government spending, household consumption, investor confidence and economic activity last year. The ADB will release its updated economic outlook in April, which will include a 2027 growth forecast. Mr. Jeffries warned that the cut in Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) budget this year, could trigger a "big slowdown" in locally funded projects. "I guess the main variable for 2026 was how fast does the public investment recover? We were thinking maybe two quarters, so it'll start reviving," he said. In a meeting with Public Works Secretary Vivencio "Vince" B. Dizon in December, Mr. Jeffries said they raised concerns about "paralysis," where key projects risked getting stuck. "What we've heard is they're trying to make sure the priority projects are not stuck and keep moving forward quickly. I think it's a twofold exercise," he said. "It's cleaning up the problem while full steam ahead on some of the other projects that weren't a problem." Mr. Dizon earlier said the DPWH aims to boost spending while ensuring funds are used wisely and focus on prioritizing the "basics" such as road and bridge maintenance and unfinished projects. The agency's target spend is set between P200 billion and P250 billion for the first quarter, he added.

[https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2026/01/27/726551/adb-sees-phl-returning-to-6-growth-by-2027/#google\\_vignette](https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2026/01/27/726551/adb-sees-phl-returning-to-6-growth-by-2027/#google_vignette)

✓ **Spending slump likely dragged 2025 GDP growth to 4.7%.** Slow government spending amid the flood control graft mess may have led the Philippines to miss its growth target for a third straight year in 2025, according to analysts. In a report dated Jan. 23, Nomura Global Markets Research economist for China Harrington Zhang said the fourth-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) likely expanded by 3.8%, bringing full-year growth to 4.7%. "We expect GDP growth to decline further to 3.8% year on year in Q4 from 4% in Q3, reflecting the impact of the sharp fiscal contraction, which has persisted as a result of the ongoing corruption scandal," Mr. Zhang said. In the third quarter of 2025, the country's GDP expanded by 4% — its weakest in over four years — as allegations of corruption among public officials and private contractors behind the country's flood control projects dampened government spending and household consumption. This brought GDP growth to 5% as of September. In a separate report, Deutsche Bank economists said that they see the Philippine economy posting a 4.1% growth in the fourth quarter, with the full-year print settling at 4.7%. If realized, fourth-quarter growth would have slowed from 5.3% in the same quarter in 2024. Full-year GDP growth would have also slowed from 5.7% in 2024. On the other hand, climate shocks may have also contributed to fourth-quarter growth, which DBS Senior Economist for Eurozone, India, Indonesia Radhika Rao and Global Chief Economist Taimur Baig expect to end at 4.2%. DBS expects 2025 GDP growth to settle at 4.8%.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2026/01/27/726549/spending-slump-likely-dragged-2025-gdp-growth-to-4-7/>

✓ **BSP may complete review of digital bank license applications in 1st quarter.** The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) may finish its assessment of the three applicants for new digital banking licenses within the first quarter, a top official said. BSP Deputy Governor Lyn I. Javier told reporters on Friday that the applications are still undergoing evaluation and may come out with the list of candidates before end-March. "Maybe, (by the first quarter), we have already selected the likely candidates," she said on the sidelines of a central bank event. "But still, it depends, and we cannot say if there are other external factors, but that's our internal target." The central bank earlier told *Business-World* that it received three applications before its deadline lapsed on Nov. 30, 2025. However, when asked if the four slots earlier opened for new digital banking licenses could be filled, Ms. Javier said: "Oh, we have yet to see because we still have to evaluate all the applications." She noted that the central bank is assessing all applications simultaneously to see which of them have a promising business model that "could actually provide value and greater services to the Filipinos." "(W)e just received the applications and interpreting documentary checks and evaluation of the business model that they're proposing, also to meet the objectives of the BSP, the greater inclusiveness, and if they have the capacity actually to deliver," the BSP deputy governor said. In January last year, the BSP lifted its three-year moratorium on digital bank licensing as it sought to add four new players or traditional banks seeking to convert to digital operations into the industry.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2026/01/27/726548/bsp-may-complete-review-of-digital-bank-license-applications-in-1st-quarter/>

✓ **Banks appeal for extension on fraud system deadline.** Several banking institutions are seeking more time to comply with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) mandate to implement sophisticated fraud management systems, even as the regulator warns of potential license suspensions for those that fall behind. BSP General Counsel Roberto L. Figueroa said during the annual reception for the banking community that a "couple" of lenders have approached the central bank to request an extension of the current deadline. While the BSP is internally discussing the merits of these appeals, Figueroa noted that the regulator is currently maintaining its original timeline. The industry's overall readiness will be closely reviewed before any decision on a grace period is finalized. He emphasized, however, that banks failing to comply while the majority meet the requirements will be subject to questioning. Late last year, the BSP warned it could go as far as suspending their licenses, on top of holding them liable for losses their clients incur from fraud, should banks fail to comply with the central bank's order. BSP Deputy Governor Elmore O. Capule, head of the corporate services sector, said the central bank can impose fines, penalties, or even suspend licenses on banks that fail to comply with regulations. If banks request the one-year deadline to be extended, Capule said the finality of the transitory period will be revisited by the BSP after a year. Banks are taking the directive "seriously," given the massive costs involved in creating an FMS. While one-time passwords (OTPs) can be part of an FMS, Capule stressed that BSP-supervised financial institutions (BSFIs) need more advanced measures, including multiple systems, to prevent fraud. New features of FMS should trigger red flags, similar to credit card alerts, and can even block suspicious transactions. It bears recalling that commercial or large banks were reported to be on track for full compliance, while it was the "smaller institutions" that requested the transitional provision. Meanwhile, the BSP asserted that compliance costs are proportionate, with banks handling over ₱75 million in six months needing advanced systems, while smaller banks can use simpler fraud management tools. FMS is a major component of the Anti-Financial Accounts Scamming Act (AFASA), which was passed in July 2024. Figueroa confirmed that law enforcement agencies have already filed the first set of cases for violations of the AFASA. As a relatively new piece of legislation, AFASA is being utilized alongside the Consumer Accounts Protection Office (CAPO) to investigate ongoing scams and provide direct assistance to victims of financial fraud. AFASA has already been applied in high-profile coordination efforts, such as cases involving accused Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) employees, where funds were frozen during the inquiry process.

<https://mb.com.ph/2026/01/27/banks-appeal-for-extension-on-fraud-system-deadline>

✓ **PSE updates main index, adds RCR, removes AGI.** The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) on Monday updated the composition of its key indices, adding RL Commercial REIT, Inc. (RCR) to the PSE index (PSEi) and removing Alliance Global Group, Inc. (AGI). The PSEi tracks the 30 largest and most actively traded common stocks listed on the local bourse, providing a benchmark for the Philippine equity market. The PSE Dividend Yield Index (DivY), meanwhile, includes 20 firms that consistently provide high-yield dividends. For the 20-member PSE MidCap Index, which measures the performance of mid-sized companies using defined standards for liquidity and market capitalization, AGI and Apex Mining Co., Inc. (APX) were added, while DoubleDragon Corp. and RCR were removed. In sector-specific indices, the property index will now include Premiere Island Power REIT Corporation (PREIT), and the mining and oil index will include Benguet Corp. (BC). No companies were added to the financials, industrials, or services sectors. Notable removals include National Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines from financials, and AgriNurture, Inc. (ANI), ATN Holdings, Inc. (ATN), and Shakey's Pizza Asia Ventures, Inc. (PIZZA) from industrials. "All changes to the PSE Indices shall be effected on February 2, 2026," the exchange said. Updates to the indices are typically based on changes in market capitalization and trading liquidity, ensuring that benchmark indices remain representative of the market.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/corporate/2026/01/27/726560/pse-updates-main-index-adds-rcr-removes-agi/>

✓ **Big-time oil price hike: Diesel up by P1.40 per liter.** The motoring public will need to pay more when they gas up starting on Jan. 27, as fuel retailers implement another price hike in the last week of January. In an advisory on Monday, Seaoil, Jetti Petroleum, Caltex, PTT Philippines and Petron said the per-liter price of diesel would increase for the fifth straight week, going up by P1.40. Gasoline will also be more expensive by 40 centavos a liter, marking its third consecutive week of hikes. Kerosene will also record its fifth round of increases, with its price climbing by 80 centavos. Jetti Petroleum president Leo Bellas earlier said that the potential price hikes could be blamed on supply risks, stronger demand and continued geopolitical tensions. "Geopolitical tensions continue to have a significant impact on the prices of diesel and middle distillates," Bellas said. The higher demand forecast was also due to the bullishness in China's economic expansion, as well as stronger consumption in the United States and Europe due to colder weather.

<https://business.inquirer.net/570881/big-time-price-hike-diesel-up-by-p1-40-per-liter>

✓ **PNB targets strong profit growth amid consumer push.** Philippine National Bank (PNB) targets to sustain its strong profit growth this year as it continues to expand its core businesses, backed by its investments in technology and strong capital position. The bank is looking to ramp up its consumer business as its modernized core banking system and risk buffers give it ample room for further growth, PNB President and Chief Executive Officer Edwin R. Bautista told reporters on the sidelines of a central bank event on Friday. "Number one, if you look at our capital adequacy ratio, we're pushing 20%. We're overcapitalized. That means that we don't have capital constraints. We can be more aggressive," he said. "Last year, we fixed our core banking [system]. We modernized. So, normally, if you attack the consumer business, that's one of your fears. Will my system break? Since it's modern, it gives us confidence that we can push it." PNB's attributable net income rose by 25.88% year on year to P5.96 billion in the third quarter of 2025 amid higher revenues. This brought its nine-month profit to P18.42 billion, up by 23.18% from the same period in 2024. Meanwhile, its capital adequacy ratio was at 20.79% as of end-September 2025. Revenues are also expected to expand at the same double-digit pace amid widening margins and improving asset quality, Mr. Bautista added. They also expect to post a better cost-to-income ratio as the bank has already completed the upgrade of its core banking system, which made up bulk of its capital expenditures, he said. Meanwhile, PNB is also looking to bring down its branch count to 600 from the current 635 as it continues to streamline its network, Mr. Bautista said, adding that this number could drop to 500 in the near term.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/banking-finance/2026/01/27/726503/pnb-targets-strong-profit-growth-amid-consumer-push/>

✓ **Maynilad non-revenue water drops to 30.7%, targets 25% next year.** West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. said it is on track to reduce its non-revenue water (NRW) level to 25% next year. In a statement on Monday, the company said its NRW fell to 30.7% last year from 38.4% in 2024. The reduction is equivalent to 256 million liters of water per day — enough to meet the daily needs of more than 1.6 million customers. NRW refers to water that is produced but not billed due to leaks, theft, or other losses. Maynilad attributed the improvement to leak detection and repair, meter replacement, and pipe rehabilitation. The company said it repaired over 70,000 small leaks, 206 large pipe leaks in primary distribution systems, and replaced 82 kilometers of old pipelines in high-loss areas. "This progress reflects the collective effort of our teams and the effectiveness of our multi-pronged approach to NRW reduction," Maynilad Chief Operating Officer Christopher Jaime T. Lichauco said. "Every liter of water recovered improves system efficiency by reducing the need to overproduce treated

water, allowing us to optimize treatment, pumping, and distribution using existing assets, while strengthening our ability to provide reliable service and steward resources responsibly," he added. Maynilad plans to sustain momentum this year, building on last year's gains. "Our efforts remain aligned with our long-term targets under our business plan — reaching an average NRW of 25% by 2027 and 20% by 2030," Jennifer C. Rufo, head of corporate communications, said in a Viber message.

[https://www.bworldonline.com/corporate/2026/01/27/726561/maynilad-non-revenue-water-drops-to-30-7-targets-25-next-year/#google\\_vignette](https://www.bworldonline.com/corporate/2026/01/27/726561/maynilad-non-revenue-water-drops-to-30-7-targets-25-next-year/#google_vignette)

✓ **Ayala unit taking over leading cold storage chain.** Ayala Corp. is moving to expand its cold chain operations with a deal to acquire a majority stake in Glacier Megafridge Inc. (GMI), one of the country's leading cold storage operators. In a disclosure on Monday, the country's oldest conglomerate said AC Logistics Holdings Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary, entered into an investment agreement to acquire up to about 84 percent of GMI. The transaction remains subject to closing conditions and regulatory approvals. Ayala said the deal was aligned with AC Logistics' strategy to scale up its cold chain business, which the company has identified as one of its key growth pillars. By bringing GMI into its network, AC Logistics is expected to significantly broaden its cold storage footprint and strengthen its ability to deliver integrated logistics solutions nationwide. GMI is a major player in the Philippine cold storage sector, operating 12 facilities across the country with an estimated capacity of about 75,000 pallet positions. It supports handling and distribution of perishable goods, a segment seen as critical to food security and supply chain efficiency.

<https://business.inquirer.net/570820/ayala-unit-taking-over-leading-cold-storage-chain>



✓ **Asia-Pacific stocks trade mixed as geopolitical worries keep investors on edge.** Asia-Pacific markets traded mixed Monday as investors assessed ongoing geopolitical concerns. On Sunday stateside, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said that his country has no intention of pursuing a free trade agreement with China, after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to impose 100% tariffs on Ottawa if it signed a trade deal with China. "Canada respects our engagements, our commitments. We have commitments under CUSMA (Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement) that not to pursue free trade agreements with non-market economies without prior notification. We have no intention of doing that with China or with other non-market economy," Carney said. Japan's Nikkei 225 slid 1.72% to 25,885.25 while the Topix declined 2.13% to 3,552.49. South Korea's Kospi lost 0.81% to 4,949.59 while the small-cap Kosdaq jumped over 7% to end the trading day at 1,064.41. The Japanese yen last strengthened 0.93% to trade about 154.21 against the dollar. Investors will continue keeping a close eye on Japanese stocks and the yen after Japan's prime minister signaled to counter speculative market activity on a sharp yen strengthening Friday, warning that authorities stand ready to act if volatility intensifies. "The yen rallied on rising risk of intervention, with spillovers to the broad USD. While a cautiously hawkish stance from the FOMC along with resilient data should offer some support, a potential yen intervention can aggravate a weak flow picture for the dollar," Barclays' economists wrote in a note on Sunday.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2026/01/26/asia-pacific-markets-nikkei-225-hang-seng-index-kospi-gold-canada.html>

✓ **European shares settle higher with focus on earnings, monetary policy.** European shares ended higher on Monday, underpinned by gains in financials in the run-up to earnings from big banks later this week. The pan-European Stoxx 600 traded chopily for most of the session and closed up 0.2 per cent at 609.57 points - its highest in over a week. Banks led gains among sectors with a 1 per cent gain each. Earnings from several major lenders such as Germany's Deutsche Bank and Britain's Lloyds are due later this week and earnings from financials overall are expected to increase 4 per cent, according to data compiled by LSEG on Thursday. The tech sector will also be scrutinised for signs of AI monetisation when sector heavyweights in the US such as Microsoft and Apple report results later in the week. "Risk assets tend to make headway early in a new year, but that can experience a reassessment once the data and the corporate earnings start to come through. That's probably the key vulnerability right now," said Jeremy Batstone-Carr, European strategist at Raymond James. Traders were still recovering from last week's bout of US-EU trade uncertainty sparked by a dispute over Greenland, while also weighing the long-term implications of US tariffs being used as a bargaining chip in an unrelated matter.

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/capital-markets-currencies/european-shares-settle-higher-focus-earnings-monetary-policy>

✓ **US stocks: Wall Street indexes close higher ahead of earnings, Fed meeting.** The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq advanced for a fourth consecutive session on Monday, as investors geared up for a slew of mega-cap earnings and a Federal Reserve update on interest rate policy later this week. Both indexes hit their highest levels in more than a week and registered their longest string of advances since December. Gains in a handful of mega-cap names did most of the heavy lifting for the S&P 500, with Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet, Broadcom and Meta among the benchmark's top boosts. Apple, Meta, Microsoft and Tesla are slated to report quarterly results later this week, setting up a key test for a rally powered by euphoria around AI. Investors will look for signs of measurable payoffs from AI spending. With concerns over high valuations in the tech space, guidance will be especially important and even a modest stumble could spark a rethink about the AI trade. "You're seeing communications and technology are trading well today in advance of the earnings from a lot of the large companies," said Chris Zaccarelli, chief investment officer of Northlight Asset Management in Charlotte, North Carolina. "It seems like we're having an expansion in corporate profits and an expansion in the economy, so generally speaking, investors are cautiously optimistic and most likely looking forward to earnings season." Of the 64 companies in the S&P 500 that had reported earnings as of Friday, 79.7 per cent beat analyst expectations as per data compiled by LSEG. According to preliminary data, the S&P 500 gained 34.52 points, or 0.50 per cent, to end at 6,950.13 points, while the Nasdaq Composite gained 102.54 points, or 0.44 per cent, to 23,603.78. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 307.91 points, or 0.63 per cent, to 49,406.62.

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/capital-markets-currencies/us-stocks-wall-street-indexes-close-higher-ahead-earnings-fed-meeting>

✓ **Brent Reverses Earlier Gains.** Brent crude oil futures slipped below \$66 per barrel on Monday, giving up earlier gains as traders weighed a mix of geopolitical, trade, and supply factors. Tensions in the Middle East remain a key focus after the deployment of a US aircraft carrier strike group, raising concerns over potential escalation with Iran that could threaten energy flows from the region. Trade concerns also lingered. President Trump threatened 100% tariffs on Canada if it finalized a deal with China, though Canadian Prime Minister Carney clarified Ottawa has no intention of pursuing such an agreement, noting the recent deal only reduces tariffs on a few sectors. Meanwhile, a massive US winter storm boosted heating demand, providing support to prices. Offsetting some of the gains, Kazakh's oil exports are expected to return to normal after the restoration of an offshore mooring facility. Elsewhere, Russia-Ukraine talks ended without a breakthrough, but both sides agreed to continue negotiations next weekend.  
<https://tradingeconomics.com/commodity/brent-crude-oil/news/519966>

✓ **Gold tops US\$5,000 as global upheaval fuels precious metals rally.** Gold surged beyond US\$5,000 an ounce for the first time, extending a breakneck rally fuelled by US President Donald Trump's reshaping of international relations and investor flight from sovereign bonds and currencies. Bullion climbed around 2 per cent to above US\$5,085 as US dollar weakness reinforced demand. A gauge of the US currency has fallen almost 2 per cent in six sessions, with speculation that the US may assist Japan in efforts to boost the yen adding to worries over Federal Reserve independence and Trump's erratic policymaking. Silver also advanced more than 5 per cent to a record high, having crossed US\$100 an ounce in the previous session in a rally supported by strong demand from retail buyers from Shanghai to Istanbul. Gold's dramatic gains, the metal has more than doubled over the last two years, drives home bullion's historic role as a gauge of fear in markets. Fresh from its best annual performance since 1979, it's risen more than 17 per cent so far this year due largely to the so-called debasement trade, whereby investors retreat from currencies and Treasuries. A massive sell-off in the Japanese bond market last week is the latest example of investors rejecting heavy fiscal spending.  
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/global/gold-tops-us5000-global-upheaval-fuels-precious-metals-rally>

✓ **Emerging Asia lures capital as geopolitics rattle risk appetite.** Emerging Asia is drawing fresh demand as a relative refuge from geopolitical uncertainty elsewhere, even as some immediate risks ease. US President Donald Trump's decision to pause tariff threats against Europe over Greenland has calmed markets for now. With concerns persisting over Middle East tensions and US actions in Latin America, investors are moving to markets offering better risk-adjusted returns and fundamentals. The shift is adding a tailwind to a strong start for Asian assets. Inflows into North and South-east Asian equities have reached US\$3.3 billion so far in January, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, set for the largest monthly flows since September. Another US\$7.15 billion flowed into emerging market (EM) exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in the week ended Jan 16, with three-quarters going into Asia-focused funds. Bond markets in Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea and India drew US\$3.7 billion this month. "Emerging Asia is positioned to outperform broader EM this year, even amid heightened geopolitical uncertainty," said Ray Sharma-Ong, deputy global head of multi-asset bespoke solutions at Aberdeen Investments. This points to strengths "either unique to Asia or far more developed", including AI (artificial intelligence) spending, stable credit conditions, and China's anchoring role.  
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/capital-markets-currencies/emerging-asia-lures-capital-geopolitics-rattle-risk-appetite>

✓ **Japan says in close coordination with US on forex as yen intervention risks mount.** Top Japanese authorities said on Monday they have been in close coordination with the United States on foreign exchange, but declined to confirm news reports of rate checks that drove the yen sharply higher. The yen has spiked since the New York Federal Reserve reportedly conducted rate checks on Friday, putting investors on high alert to the risks of the first joint US-Japan currency intervention in 15 years. "We will continue to closely coordinate with the US authorities as needed, based on a joint Japan-US statement issued in September last year, and will respond appropriately," Japan's currency diplomat Atsushi Mimura told reporters in the morning. The September statement reaffirmed both countries' commitment to market-determined exchange rates while agreeing that foreign-exchange intervention should be reserved for combating excessive volatility. Japanese officials have said it marked the first written US confirmation of the right to intervene in the event of excessive volatility. Later on Monday, Japan's Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama said the government is closely monitoring the foreign exchange market "with a sense of urgency."  
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/banking-finance/japan-says-close-coordination-us-forex-yen-intervention-risks-mount>

✓ **Trump says he is raising tariffs on certain South Korean imports to 25%.** US President Donald Trump said on Monday (Jan 26) he was increasing tariffs on South Korean imports into the US related to autos, lumber and pharmaceuticals to 25 per cent while accusing the ally's legislature of "not living up" to its trade deal with Washington. "South Korea's Legislature is not living up to its deal with the United States," Trump wrote on social media. "Because the Korean Legislature hasn't enacted our Historic Trade Agreement, which is their prerogative, I am hereby increasing South Korean tariffs on autos, lumber, pharma, and all other reciprocal tariffs, from 15 per cent to 25 per cent." It was not immediately clear when the tariff hike would take effect. South Korea's presidential Blue House said on Tuesday that Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan will visit the US soon and meet with United States Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick. The Blue House said the US government had not given official notice on the matter, and South Korea's presidential adviser will hold a meeting with related ministries to discuss measures. The US Trade Representative's office did not respond immediately to requests for comment. Trump has previously threatened other tariff hikes and in some cases delayed them or not followed through. South Korea had been working to implement a deal announced with Washington last year that lowered US tariffs against many of its exports to 15 per cent.  
<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/world/trump-south-korea-tariffs-hike-auto-5885141>

✓ **India to slash tariffs on cars to 40% in trade deal with EU: Sources.** India plans to slash tariffs on cars imported from the European Union to 40 per cent per cent from as high as 110 per cent, sources said, in the biggest opening yet of the country's vast market as the two sides close in on a free trade pact that could come as early as Tuesday (Jan 27). Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has agreed to immediately reduce the tax on a limited number of cars from the 27-nation bloc with an import price of more than 15,000 euros (US\$17,739), two sources briefed on the talks told Reuters. This will be further lowered to 10 per cent over time, they added, easing access to the Indian market for European automakers such as Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz and BMW. The sources declined to be identified as the talks are confidential and could be subject to last-minute changes. India's commerce ministry and the European Commission declined to

comment. India and the EU are expected to announce on Tuesday the conclusion of protracted negotiations for the free trade pact, after which the two sides will finalise the details and ratify what is being called "the mother of all deals".

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/asia/india-slash-tariffs-car-40-percent-trade-deal-eu-sources-5882226>

- ✓ **Dollar sinks on yen intervention talk.** The dollar fell in Asian trade Monday (Jan 26) amid speculation US officials could join their Japanese counterparts to help support the yen after a recent sell-off, while equities started the week on a tepid note. Reports that the Federal Reserve Bank of New York had checked in with traders about the yen's exchange rate sparked a surge in the Japanese currency, according to Bloomberg, pushing it up more than 1 per cent to 153.89 per dollar - its strongest level since November. The yen has been sliding amid worries about Japan's fiscal position, the central bank's decision not to hike interest rates further and expectations that the US Fed will hold off cutting its own borrowing costs this week. The last time Japanese authorities stepped in to support their unit was in 2024 when it hit 160 to the greenback. The prospect of authorities stepping into financial markets saw the dollar retreat across the board, with the euro and pound well up while the Singapore dollar gained 0.3 per cent to hit an 11-year high.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/business/dollar-sinks-yen-intervention-talk-5882641>

- ✓ **Trump's JPMorgan lawsuit underscores his growing clash with Wall Street.** US President Donald Trump's lawsuit against JPMorgan Chase and its CEO Jamie Dimon highlights a growing, and politically fraught, conflict in the administration's policy agenda for Wall Street, with big banks scoring wins but also facing setbacks. In his most confrontational move yet against Wall Street, Trump filed a US\$5 billion lawsuit on Thursday accusing the nation's largest lender and Dimon of closing several of his and his companies' accounts on political grounds. Trump has long claimed that Wall Street banks have sought to marginalise him and other conservatives - allegations JPMorgan and other banks deny. The move underscores how large financial institutions, expected to be major winners of Trump's sweeping deregulatory agenda, are increasingly navigating an unpredictable and sometimes hostile policy environment that could damage their reputations, potentially affect their business, and force them to rethink their lobbying strategy in Washington. "The industry is losing as many battles as it wins on big issues and the constant pressure and random nature of developments is taking its toll," said Todd Baker, a senior fellow at Columbia University. The president's lawsuit follows his threat to cap interest rates on consumer credit cards at 10 per cent - a proposal Dimon warned would be an "economic disaster" - and comes as Trump's regulators move to make it easier for fintech, crypto firms and some corporations to compete directly with traditional banks.

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/trumps-jpmorgan-lawsuit-underscores-his-growing-clash-wall-street>

- ✓ **Hyundai shares fall after Trump says tariffs on South Korean autos, pharma to rise to 25%.** President Donald Trump said Monday that he was increasing tariffs on imported autos, pharmaceuticals, and lumber from South Korea from 15% to 25% because of a delay in that country's legislature approving a trade deal with the United States reached last summer. Hyundai Motor shares fell by more than 4% on the heels of the news. The South Korean-based is the largest importer of new vehicles from that country into the United States. The share price of Hyundai's subsidiary Kia dropped nearly 3.5%, and the affiliated Hyundai Mobis was down 5%, Reuters reported. "South Korea's Legislature is not living up to its Deal with the United States," Trump said in a Truth Social post. "President Lee {Jae Myung "and I reached a Great Deal for both Countries on July 30, 2025, and we reaffirmed these terms while I was in Korea on October 29, 2025. Why hasn't the Korean Legislature approved it?" Trump asked. "Because the Korean Legislature hasn't enacted our Historic Trade Agreement, which is their prerogative, I am hereby increasing South Korean TARIFFS on Autos, Lumber, Pharma, and all other Reciprocal TARIFFS, from 15% to 25%," he wrote. CNBC has requested comment from South Korea's embassy in Washington, D.C., on Trump's announcement. Reuters reported that South Korea's presidential Blue House said that the U.S. government had not officially notified South Korea of the tariff hike. The news outlet also reported that South Korea's presidential adviser would hold a meeting with related ministries to discuss measures related to the increase. South Korea is one of the biggest exporters of goods to the United States. The U.S. imported \$131.6 billion in goods from South Korea in 2024, according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

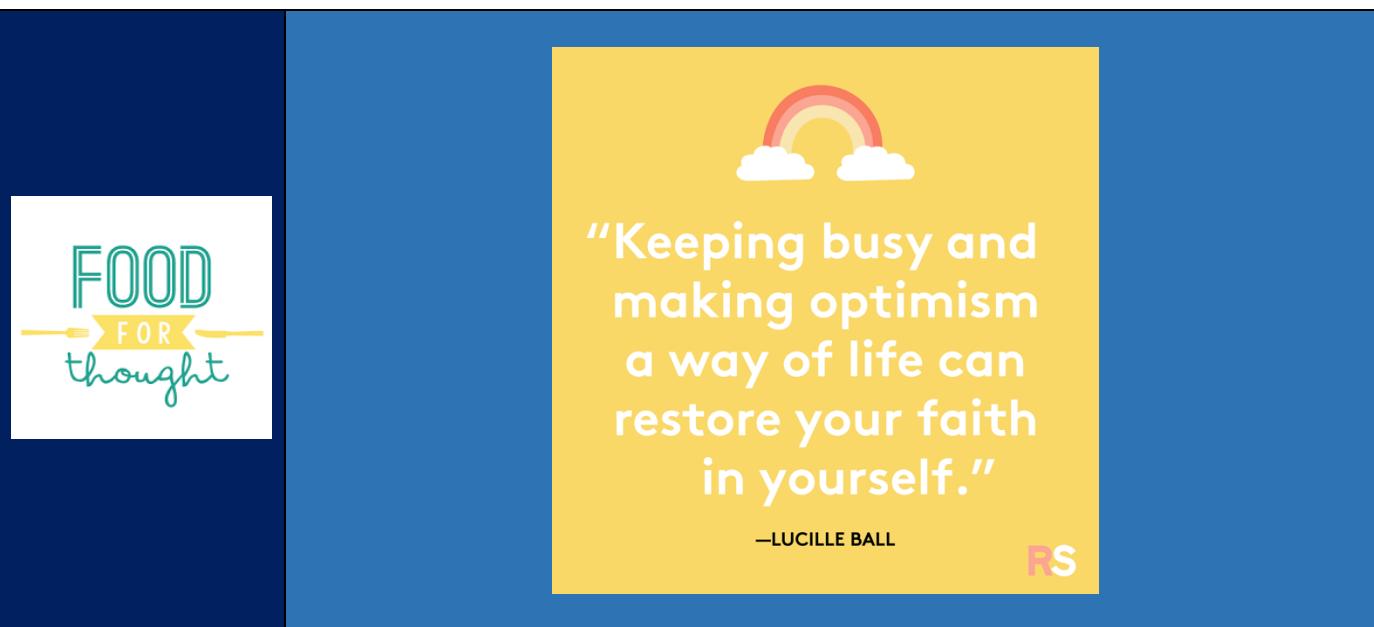
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## UPCOMING BAIPHIL WEBINARS



TRAINING PROGRAMS		PROGRAM DETAILS		
COMMITTEE	TITLE	DATE	COURSE OUTLINE	REGISTRATION LINK
Finance and Audit Course Committee (FACCOM)	Overview of ICAAP	March 10, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Accounting for Non-Accountants (with Financial Statement Analysis)	March 12 – 13, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Accounting for Non-Accountants (with Financial Statement Analysis)	May 14 – 15, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
Governance, Legal, Regulatory and Compliance (GLRC) Course Committee	Basic Course on Corporate Governance	February 6, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Anti-Money Laundering & Counter-Terrorism & Proliferation Financing (AML/CTPF) for Board of Directors and Senior Management of BSP Supervised Financial Institutions	February 11, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Basic Course on Corporate Governance	April 7, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
Information	Advanced Excel Training for Bankers	January 29 – 30, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>

Technology and Security Course (ITSEC) Committee	IT Security in Banking Operations	February 3 – 4, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Cloud Security	February 18, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Intermediate Excel Training for Bankers	February 23 - 24, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Cloud Privacy: Securing Data on Public Cloud	February 25, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
Leadership Effectiveness Course (LEC) Committee	Basic Program for Banking Professionals Module 2: Legal Framework of Banking	February 6, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Basic Program for Banking Professionals Module 3: Basic Banking Course – Introduction to the Philippine Banking Industry, Financial System, and Emerging Financial Institutions	February 13, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Basic Leadership and Effective Supervision Seminar (BLESS) for Bank Supervisors	February 13, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Conflict Resolution and Management	March 17, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Writing for Impact: Strengthening Your Business Communication Skills (Module 3 of the Effective Business Writing)	March 27, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Leadership Effectiveness and Advancement Program (LEAP) – A Program for Managers	April 23-24, 2025	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Basic Leadership & Effective Supervision Seminar (BLESS) – A Program for Supervisors	May 22, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
Products, Bank Operations and Management (PBOM) Course Committee	Fundamentals of Credit: Module 3 & 4 – Business Risk Assessment & Industry Risk Assessment	February 11- 12 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Basic Identification Documents, Business Documents & Income Documents Verification	February 19, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Know Your Money and Counterfeit Detection	February 20, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Fundamentals of Credit: Module 5 – Basic Accounting and Financial Analysis, Module 6 – Cash Flow Analysis, and Module 7 – Financial Spreadsheets, Validation and Projections	March 11, 12, 13, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Third Currencies Counterfeit Detection	March 19, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Signature Verification and Forgery Detection	March 20, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Fundamentals of Credit: Module 8 – Credit Lending Process	April 16 – 17, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Fraud and Forgery Detection and Prevention Program	April 29, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Know Your Money and Counterfeit Detection	April 30, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Remedial Management	May 7 – 8, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Basic Identification Documents, Business Documents & Income Documents Verification	May 28, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Signature Verification and Forgery Detection	May 29, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
Risk Management Course (RMC) Committee	Fraud and Forgery Detection and Prevention Program	June 24, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Know Your Money and Counterfeit Detection	June 25, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Model Development and Validation	January 27 – 28, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Business Continuity: Strengthening Your Fundamentals to a Robust or Resiliency Level	February 10, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Crisis Management	February 16, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Introducing Security: Aligning Asset and Risk Management	February 23, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)	February 24, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
Technology and Security Course (ITSEC) Committee	Fundamentals of Security Incident Management	April 13, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>
	Implementing a Circular Economy Aligned to ISO 59020 & UN SDGs	April 15, 2026	<a href="#">PROGRAM DETAILS</a>	<a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>



#### REFERENCES

- 1 Reuters: <https://www.reuters.com/finance/currencies>
- 2 Philippine Dealing System: <http://www.pds.com.ph/>
- 3 Philippine Stock Exchange: <http://www.pse.com.ph/stockMarket/home.html>
- 4 Reuters: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/stocks>
- 5 Bloomberg: <https://www.bloomberg.com/markets/commodities>
- 6 CNN Money: <https://money.cnn.com/data/bonds/>

#### OTHER REFERENCES / EXTERNAL LINKS

- Philippine Stock Exchange: <http://www.pse.com.ph/stockMarket/home.html>
- Philippine Dealing System: <http://www.pds.com.ph/>
- GMA News Online: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/>
- BPI Asset Management: <https://www.bpiassetmanagement.com/>
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COMPILED AND PREPARED BY: MARLON GARCIA, BAIPHIL Management Team

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