



BAIPHIL MARKET WATCH

01 Jun
2026

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

Legend

- Improvement / Up
- Deterioration / Down
- No Movement

FINANCIAL MARKETS AT A GLANCE



Currency Exchange ¹	Current	Previous
USD/PHP	61.5900	61.5950
USD/JPY	159.2800	159.2500
USD/CNY	6.7664	6.7797
EUR/USD	1.1662	1.1651
GBP/USD	1.3454	1.3445

PHP BVAL Reference Rates ²	Current	Previous
30-Day	4.5892	4.6169
91-Day	4.9893	5.0094
180-Day	5.4041	5.4303
1-Year	6.1067	6.0810
3-Year	7.0665	7.1214
5-Year	7.3377	7.3751
10-Year	7.5208	7.5356

Domestic Stock Index ³	Current	Previous
PSEi	5,768.76	5,859.94
Trade Value (Php B)	26.451	5.645

Stock Index ⁴	Current	Previous
NIKKEI 225	66,329.50	64,693.12
FTSE 100	10,409.28	10,425.96
DOW JONES	51,032.46	50,668.97
S&P 500	7,580.06	7,563.63
NASDAQ	26,972.62	26,917.47

Various ^{5/6}	Current	Previous
Brent Crude (USD/bbl)	91.12	97.01
3-M US Treasury Yield	3.69%	3.69%
5-Y US Treasury Yield	4.13%	4.15%
10-Y US Treasury Yield	4.45%	4.45%



PHILIPPINES



- ✓ **PSEi sinks to 5,700 level as MSCI reshuffle spark sell-off.** Local stocks retreated on Friday as investors stayed cautious over developments in the United States-Iran conflict, while a major MSCI index rebalancing fueled heavy trading activity. The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi) fell 1.56 percent or 91.18 points, to close at 5,768.76. Michael Ricafort, chief economist at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., said the PSEi's intraday low of 5,766.82 on May 29 marked its weakest level since the Middle East conflict erupted on Feb. 28. "It was also the index's lowest level in more than six months, or since Nov. 18, 2025, and breached the previous intraday low of 5,816.82 recorded on March 23, 2026," Ricafort said.
<https://business.inquirer.net/592740/psei-sinks-to-5700-level-as-msci-reshuffle-spark-sell-off>
- ✓ **Peso ends nearly flat vs. dollar; PSEi falls.** The Philippine peso ended the week nearly flat against the US dollar, partly supported by lower global oil prices, while the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) closed in negative territory. The local currency ended trading at 61.59 to the dollar, little changed from Thursday's 61.595. It opened stronger at 61.42, compared to the previous session's opening rate of 61.56. During the day, the peso traded between 61.39 and 61.64, bringing the average exchange rate to 61.50. Trading volume rose to USD1.71 billion from USD1.11 billion in the previous session. Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) chief economist Michael Ricafort attributed the peso's performance to several factors, including the decline in global oil prices. He noted that oil prices at the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) fell to a new one-month low of USD88 per barrel from USD90 per barrel in the previous session.
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1276160>
- ✓ **Yields end mostly lower amid US-Iran talks.** Yields on government securities (GS) traded at the secondary market fell last week as signs of easing tensions between the United States and Iran tempered concerns over oil prices and inflation. GS yields, which move opposite to prices, declined by an average of 9.58 basis points (bps) week on week, based on the PHP Bloomberg Valuation Service Reference Rates as of May 29 published on the Philippine Dealing System's website. At the short end, yields were mixed. Rates of the 91- and 182-day Treasury bills (T-bills) fell by 6.7 bps to 4.9893% and by 5.52 bps to 5.4041%, respectively. Meanwhile, the 364-day tenor rose by 15.33 bps week on week to yield 6.1067%. At the belly, rates declined across the board, with the two-, three-, four-, five-, and seven-year Treasury bonds (T-bonds) falling by 13.22 bps (to 6.8037%), 13.55 bps (7.0665%), 13.19 bps (7.2279%), 11.63 bps (7.3377%), and 12.42 bps (7.4708%), respectively.
<https://www.bworldonline.com/banking-finance/2026/06/01/753264/yields-end-mostly-lower-amid-us-iran-talks/>
- ✓ **Auction rates seen mixed.** Rates of the Treasury bills (T-bills) and Treasury bonds (T-bonds) to be auctioned off this week may end mixed as the situation in the Middle East remains volatile, and ahead of the release of May inflation data that could show a further acceleration in

consumer price hikes. The Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) will offer up to P47 billion in T-bills on Monday, or P15-20 billion in 91-day papers, P12-17 billion in 182-day securities, and P7-10 billion in 364-day debt. On Tuesday, the government wants to borrow P30 billion from reissued 20-year T-bonds with a remaining life of five years and one month. T-bill and T-bond rates could follow the mixed week-on-week yield movements at the secondary market amid continued global volatility due to lingering uncertainty over the peace negotiations between the United States and Iran, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said in a Viber message. The reissued bonds could fetch yields ranging from 7.375% to 7.425% amid expectations of faster May inflation, a bond trader added.
<https://www.bworldonline.com/banking-finance/2026/06/01/753267/auction-rates-seen-mixed/>

- ✓ **NG gross borrowings sharply decline in April.** The National Government's (NG) gross borrowings declined by over 66% in April amid significantly lower domestic debt, the Bureau of the Treasury said. In its latest cash operations report, the Treasury said that gross borrowings fell by 66.62% to P130.19 billion in April from P390.06 billion a year ago. The bulk or 93.92% of April's gross borrowings came from domestic sources. Gross domestic debt totaled P122.28 billion in April, down by 68.22% from P384.71 billion a year earlier. This included the issuance of P125.02 billion in fixed-rate Treasury bonds and a net redemption of P2.74 billion in Treasury bills. On the other hand, external debt only accounted for 6.08% of the total gross borrowings for the month. In April, gross external borrowings stood at P7.91 billion, 47.83% higher than P5.35 billion in the same month in 2025. External borrowings during the month consisted of P7.76 billion in new project loans and P151 million in program loans. There were no global bonds issued during the month. "The decline in April borrowings... likely reflects timing and still-challenging global market conditions rather than a clear policy shift," Union Bank of the Philippines Chief Economist Ruben Carlo O. Asuncion said in a Viber message.
<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2026/06/01/753376/ng-gross-borrowings-sharply-decline-in-april/>
- ✓ **BSP sees May inflation at 7.1%-7.9% on food, peso pressures.** The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said Saturday that headline inflation in May could settle between 7.1 percent and 7.9 percent, driven by higher prices of key food commodities and the depreciation of the peso. In a month-ahead inflation forecast, the central bank said rising prices of rice, vegetables, and meat were among the main sources of upward pressure on consumer prices during the month. A weaker local currency also contributed to inflationary risks. "The BSP projects May 2026 inflation to settle within the range of 7.1 to 7.9 percent. Upside price pressures were driven by rising prices for rice, vegetables, and meat, as well as the depreciation of the peso," the BSP said. The central bank, however, said several factors helped temper price increases. "The recent rollbacks in domestic fuel prices, lower prices for fish, and slightly lower electricity rates partially offset the prevailing upside price pressures," it said. Headline inflation accelerated to 7.2 percent in April from 4.1 percent in March.
<https://business.inquirer.net/592940/bsp-sees-may-inflation-at-7-1-7-9-on-food-peso-pressures>
- ✓ **BSP survey shows improved business outlook despite Mideast concerns.** The economic outlook of Philippine businesses for the next 12 months improved, although confidence in April continued to be affected by the Middle East conflict, results of a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) survey showed. Released on Friday, the results of the BSP's April Business Expectations Survey (BES) showed that the three-month-ahead confidence index (CI) improved from -17.3 percent to -7.5 percent. The 12-month-ahead CI also increased from 11.7 percent to 19.5 percent. "Firms were less pessimistic about the next three months mainly because the start of the academic year for most schools is expected to drive demand for loans and financing products, as well as for clothing and apparel," the BSP said. "Looking 12 months ahead, they were more optimistic due to anticipated stronger demand for business process outsourcing, construction, and transportation services," it added. The central bank said respondents also cited expectations of higher sales and income, better overall economic conditions, and a possible resolution of the Middle East conflict as additional reasons for their improved outlook.
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1276119>
- ✓ **ANZ sees two more BSP rate hikes this year.** Australia-based ANZ expects the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to raise interest rates two more times this year as inflation pressures intensify, external balances weaken, and the peso faces renewed strain from higher energy prices. In a report over the weekend, ANZ said it expects two additional 25-basis-point rate increases from the BSP, but warned that more aggressive tightening may be needed if energy prices stay elevated for a prolonged period or inflation expectations rise. "Both three-month and 12-month-out inflation expectations were stable in the first quarter 2026, but the true test will be in second quarter 2026 when the bulk of price adjustments would have come through," ANZ said. The regional bank said monetary tightening can succeed only if domestic demand and consumer spending weaken further, especially as the Philippines confronts twin deficits in its current account and national budget. It said limited fiscal space has left the government with little room to cushion the impact of higher oil prices through subsidies, putting the burden of containing inflation squarely on monetary policy.
<https://malaya.com.ph/business/business-news/anz-sees-two-more-bsp-rate-hikes-this-year/>
- ✓ **PH trade gap swells to near 4-year high.** The country's trade deficit ballooned in April to its widest level in nearly four years as imports grew more than twice as fast as exports amid elevated global oil prices triggered by the war in the Middle East. Preliminary data from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed the trade deficit widened 49.8 percent to \$5.97 billion in April. This was the largest gap since August 2022's \$5.99 billion, when the deficit expanded by 81.1 percent year-on-year. The surge came as imports jumped 22.4 percent to \$13.17 billion. While this was the lowest import value recorded since February, the annual growth rate was the fastest since the 26.4-percent expansion logged also in August 2022. John Paolo Rivera, senior research fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, said elevated energy costs due to the war's disruption in supply chains drove up the country's import bill. "As a net oil-importing country, the Philippines becomes more vulnerable when energy prices rise sharply, which increases the import bill even if volumes do not significantly change," he said.
<https://business.inquirer.net/592752/ph-trade-gap-swells-to-near-4-year-high>
- ✓ **Business confidence sank further in April.** Business sentiment in the Philippines deteriorated further in April as firms continued to grapple with the economic fallout from the ongoing Middle East war, with high oil prices spilling over into operating costs and consumer purchasing power. The latest survey by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed that the business confidence index (CI) sank deeper into negative territory at -35.8 percent in April from -24.3 percent in March, marking the second straight month of decline. A negative CI means more respondents were pessimistic than optimistic about the country's economic prospects during the month, with many firms attributing their downbeat sentiment to the ongoing war. "Concerns over the ongoing Middle East conflict, which has kept oil prices elevated, weighed on business confidence in April 2026. Firms reported that higher inflation could raise operating costs and erode consumers' purchasing power,"

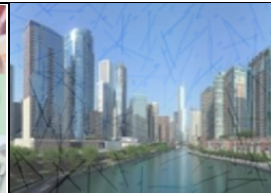
the BSP said in its report. The central bank added that firms also cited intense domestic competition, weak demand, and high interest rates as among the major constraints affecting business conditions.

<https://business.inquirer.net/592749/business-confidence-sank-further-in-april>

- ✓ **Fuel rollback looms as diesel may drop by P8.50/l.** Motorists may get steep relief at the pump this week, with diesel prices expected to fall by as much as P8.50 per liter and gasoline by up to P5 per liter as global oil prices soften. A local fuel retailer said its five-day average of global trading prices last week pointed to a gasoline rollback of P4 to P5 per liter and a diesel price cut of P7.50 to P8.50 per liter. The company did not issue an outlook for kerosene. The retailer attributed the expected rollback to growing optimism over a possible US-Iran peace agreement and expectations that the Strait of Hormuz will soon reopen to maritime traffic. It said diesel supply tightness has also begun to ease as refiners secure alternative crude supplies, weighing on benchmark prices.
<https://malaya.com.ph/business/business-news/fuel-rollback-looms-as-diesel-may-drop-by-p8-50-l/>
- ✓ **Philippines taps Japan to build strategic oil reserves.** The Philippines is moving to establish its first systematic strategic petroleum reserve program to insulate the domestic economy from volatile global supply chains and geopolitical shocks, according to the Department of Energy (DOE). Under a newly established framework dubbed Partnership On Wide Energy and Resources Resilience Asia (POWER Asia), the DOE will coordinate with foreign state institutions and private commercial entities to develop a national oil stockpiling mechanism. The initiative is a shift for the Philippines, which is deploying the collaborative framework to build supply buffers and reduce its long-term dependency on unhedged, spot-market imported fossil fuels. To kickstart the program, the government plans to construct entirely new, state-of-the-art stockpiling facilities. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan is scheduled to dispatch technical experts within the coming days to release the initial terms for comprehensive feasibility studies, officially opening the development window. Once the project formally commences, participating developers must commit to a strict, multi-year construction timeline to achieve operational readiness. Successful partners will receive technical capacity building from the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia and the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security.
<https://mb.com.ph/2026/05/29/philippines-taps-japan-to-build-strategic-oil-reserves>
- ✓ **BoC partners with DoJ and NBI to strengthen smuggling investigation.** The Bureau of Customs (BoC), together with other agencies, committed to strengthening joint investigations and building robust cases against “big-time” smuggling bosses. In a statement on May 31, the agency said that it will be working with the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to apprehend the masterminds behind smuggling operations. “We cannot do this alone,” BoC Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno said in Filipino. “Government agencies need to work together, especially in investigating and building cases, to ensure that not only the small-time players but also the big-time individuals and groups behind it are held accountable.” He said that the closer coordination with DoJ and NBI will not only help in strengthening cases but also enable faster action against the violators.
<https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2026/05/31/753412/boc-partners-with-doj-and-nbi-to-strengthen-smuggling-investigation/>
- ✓ **PSE keeping Pardo, Yuchengco, Gobing, Arroyo in next board of directors.** The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) intends to keep Chairman Jose T. Pardo on its board of directors, no longer as an independent director but as a non-broker director representing other market participants, when it holds its board elections during its annual stockholders’ meeting (ASM) on July 4, 2026. This is in compliance with the Securities and Exchange Commission’s (SEC) memorandum circular (MC) limiting the terms of independent directors to nine years. Pardo has been an independent director of the PSE for more than 15 years. The PSE listed 16 official nominees for its 15-man board, including veteran broker-directors Ma. Vivian Yuchengco and Eddie Gobing, who can still be re-elected despite new rules also issued by the SEC limiting the terms of broker directors to just 10 years.
<https://mb.com.ph/2026/05/28/pse-keeping-pardo-yuchengco-gobing-arroyo-in-next-board-of-directors>
- ✓ **Converge boosts network expansion in Philippine provinces.** Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. is accelerating network expansion this year with plans to add almost one million ports nationwide as it pushes deeper into provincial markets and strengthens infrastructure capacity for long-term growth. “This 2026, Converge is positioned for a transformative year,” Converge Chief Executive Officer Dennis Anthony H. Uy said during the company’s annual stockholders’ meeting on May 29. “We are on track to roll out close to one million new ports, deepening our roots in the provinces,” he added. The rollout signals the company’s push to capture broadband demand outside major urban centers as internet usage and digital adoption continue to expand nationwide. Converge has allotted P18 billion to P23 billion in capital expenditures this year to fund the expansion and improve network reliability. The budget includes the installation of 900,000 more ports in the Visayas and Mindanao.
<https://www.bworldonline.com/corporate/2026/06/01/753396/converge-boosts-network-expansion-in-philippine-provinces/>



REST OF THE WORLD



- ✓ **South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Topix hit record highs as investors shrug off Iran tensions.** Asia-Pacific markets rose on Friday, with South Korea's Kospi hitting a fresh intraday record and Japan's Topix reaching a new all-time high, as investors looked past renewed military activity involving Iran and focused on gains in technology shares and record closes on Wall Street. South Korea's Kospi jumped more than 3% to close at 8,476.15, hitting a new intra-day high before paring gains slightly. The small-cap Kosdaq was down 2.68% to 1,074.8. Japan's Nikkei 225 was up 2.53%, ending the trading day at 66,329.5 while the Topix rose 1.41% to a new record high of 3,957.17. Shares of Samsung Electronics surged over 5% after the company said it had begun shipping samples of its latest high-bandwidth memory chip to its customers globally. In Australia, the S&P/ASX 200 rose 1.62% to close at 8,731.7. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index added 0.55% in the final hour of trade, while the CSI 300 lost 0.45% to 4,892.12. India's Nifty 50 dipped 0.5%.
<https://www.cnb.com/2026/05/29/asia-markets-today-live-updates-nikkei-225-hang-seng-index-kospi-nifty-50-csi-300.html>

- ✓ **European shares secure monthly gains on Middle East peace hopes.** European shares edged higher on Friday (May 29), wrapping up the month with gains as investors clung to hopes that a proposed deal to extend a Middle East ceasefire and reopen the strategic Strait of Hormuz could be finalised. The market optimism followed reports that US President Donald Trump was weighing an initial US-Iranian agreement. He said he would make a final decision regarding the deal on Friday. "The market's patience may be tested if a deal is not agreed by early June, and this could have big ramifications for the oil price and the global stock market rally," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at XTB. The pan-European Stoxx 600 index rose by 0.1 per cent to 626 points, securing a positive finish for the week. The benchmark index had come within striking distance of record highs earlier this week and secured a 2.5 per cent monthly gain, but recent escalations in the Middle East conflict capped further advances. European equities continue to lag tech-heavy peers in Asia and the US due to the region's limited exposure to technology stocks.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/capital-markets-currencies/european-shares-secure-monthly-gains-middle-east-peace-hopes>
- ✓ **US stocks extend win streak on peace deal hopes, AI excitement.** Stocks climbed on Friday (May 29) to close at a fresh record, boosted by hopes of a peace deal with Iran and expectations that spending on artificial intelligence (AI) will continue propelling corporate earnings growth. The S&P 500 Index closed 0.2 per cent higher, capping off its ninth-straight week of gains, a streak matched just four times since 1985. The tech-heavy Nasdaq 100 Index rose 0.4 per cent while the Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 0.7 per cent.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/capital-markets-currencies/us-stocks-extend-win-streak-peace-deal-hopes-ai-excitement>
- ✓ **Oil falls on hopes for US-Iran ceasefire agreement.** Oil futures fell more than 2 per cent on Friday (May 29), closing out their steepest weekly decline since early April as traders awaited word that the US, Israel and Iran had reached agreement on a ceasefire. Brent crude futures for July, which expired on Friday, settled at US\$92.05 a barrel, down US\$1.66, or 1.8 per cent. WTI US oil futures finished at US\$87.36 a barrel, down US\$1.54 or 1.7 per cent. "Obviously, the market thinks the ceasefire will be all easy-peasy and is done and dusted," said John Kilduff, partner with Again Capital.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/energy-commodities/oil-falls-hopes-us-iran-ceasefire-agreement>
- ✓ **Gold Rises on Ceasefire Hopes but Heads for Monthly Drop.** Gold steadied above \$4,500 an ounce on Monday following a volatile week, as efforts to secure a longer-term ceasefire agreement between the US and Iran showed limited signs of progress. Over the weekend, Washington and Tehran exchanged proposals seeking amendments to a draft accord that would extend the ceasefire and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, though it remained uncertain whether the negotiations were moving closer to a resolution. President Donald Trump also reiterated his call for Iran to halt its nuclear program and fully restore the strait's status as an open international waterway. Gold has faced headwinds since late February as the Middle East conflict drove energy prices sharply higher, fueling concerns about inflationary pressures and the prospect of interest rate hikes. Investors are now awaiting the latest US monthly jobs report later this week, which could offer fresh insight into labor market strength and the likely path of Federal Reserve policy.
<https://tradingeconomics.com/commodity/gold>
- ✓ **China factory activity stalls in May as demand weakens.** China's factory activity stalled in May as new export orders contracted and input costs kept rising, an official survey showed on Sunday (May 31), adding to concerns the world's second-largest economy is losing momentum despite pockets of strength in services and high-tech manufacturing. The official manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) dropped to 50 from 50.3 in April, matching the forecast in a Reuters poll of economists and straddling the 50-mark separating growth from contraction, according to a survey by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). It was the lowest reading in three months and followed data earlier in May showing China's growth momentum cooled in April despite a rebound in exports.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/china-factory-activity-stalls-may-demand-weakens>
- ✓ **Indonesia advances export control plan despite uncertainty.** Indonesia is pushing ahead with plans to centralise exports of key commodities starting on Monday (Jun 1), casting a cloud of regulatory uncertainty over natural resource producers. Coal, palm oil and ferroalloy producers are expected to start submitting export-related documents to the newly formed state-owned company Danantara Sumberdaya Indonesia beginning on Jun 1, said Coordinating Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto at a press briefing in Jakarta on Sunday. The company, a unit of sovereign wealth fund Danantara, will take over specific export activities as early as September or latest by Jan 1, 2027, he said. Indonesia's Finance Minister Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa and Danantara chief operations officer Dony Oskaria were also present at the briefing.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/indonesia-advances-export-control-plan-despite-uncertainty>
- ✓ **Asean defence ministers reaffirm commitment to free flow of trade through international corridors.** Several Asean defence ministers met ahead of the second day of the Shangri-La Dialogue on Saturday (May 30), during which they committed to ensuring the free flow of trade and supplies through international corridors, including the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. At a breakfast co-hosted by Defence Minister Chan Chun Sing and Philippine Secretary of National Defence Gilberto Teodoro Jr, the leaders from eight countries in the South-east Asian bloc reaffirmed the importance of international law and norms in the region. In particular, they stressed that the right of transit passage under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) needed to be upheld. Since the US and Israel struck Iran on Feb 28, the Islamic Republic has retaliated by closing the critical Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flows.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/singapore/asean-defence-ministers-reaffirm-commitment-free-flow-trade-through-international-corridors>
- ✓ **EU weighs temporary freeze on Russia oil price cap over Iran.** Indonesia is pushing ahead with plans to centralise exports of key commodities starting on Monday (Jun 1), casting a cloud of regulatory uncertainty over natural resource producers. Coal, palm oil and ferroalloy producers are expected to start submitting export-related documents to the newly formed state-owned company Danantara Sumberdaya Indonesia beginning on Jun 1, said Coordinating Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto at a press briefing in Jakarta on Sunday. The company, a unit of sovereign wealth fund Danantara, will take over specific export activities as early as September or latest by Jan 1, 2027, he said. Indonesia's Finance Minister Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa and Danantara chief operations officer Dony Oskaria were also present at the briefing.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/indonesia-advances-export-control-plan-despite-uncertainty>

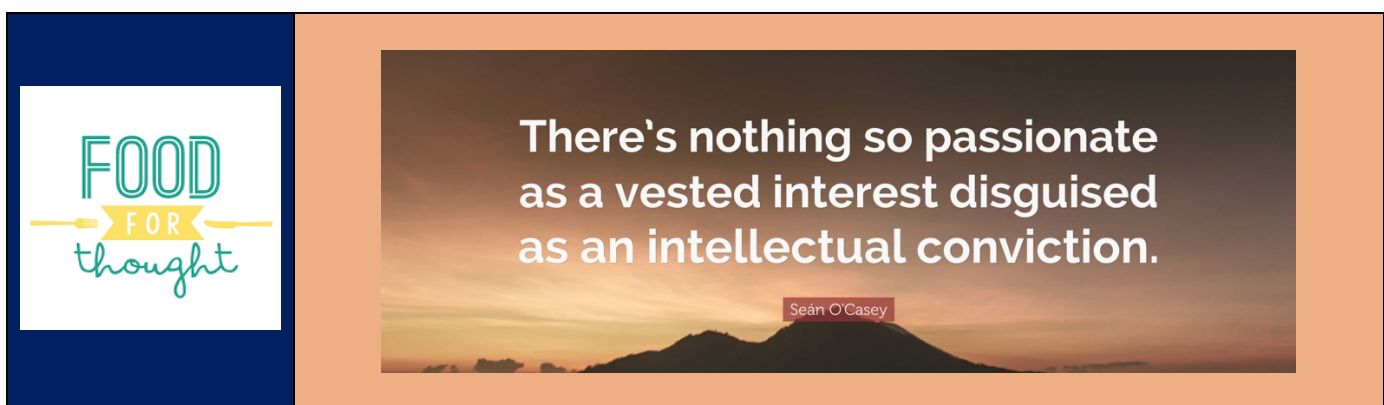
- ✓ **Inflation above ECB comfort zone in top economies backs hike.** Inflation stayed well above 2 per cent in the eurozone's four top economies, backing the case for the European Central Bank to raise interest rates for the first time since 2023. Propelled by the war-induced surge in energy costs, May readings for France, Italy and Spain quickened to 2.8 per cent, 3.3 per cent and 3.6 per cent, data on Friday (May 29) showed. While moderating in Germany, the headline number of 2.7 per cent held far beyond the ECB's comfort zone. The reports will help ECB officials understand how much the conflict in the Middle East is stoking prices, and whether they need to respond. Markets are all but sure they will, maintaining bets on a quarter-point hike next month and another by year-end.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/inflation-above-ecb-comfort-zone-top-economies-backs-hike>
- ✓ **Bank of England's Bailey says allowing inflation to run above target is appropriate.** Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey said on Friday that allowing inflation to run above the central bank's 2 per cent target is justified given the uncertainty about the impact of the Iran war on the economy and the weak pace of growth. "But that tolerance would weaken if signs of second-round effects begin to emerge," Bailey said in the text of a speech he was due to deliver at a conference in Reykjavik organised by Iceland's central bank. The BoE's Monetary Policy Committee kept interest rates on hold on April 30 as it waited to see the economic impact of the Iran war.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/banking-finance/bank-englands-bailey-says-allowing-inflation-run-above-target-appropriate>
- ✓ **Trump sends tougher terms to Iran for framework to end war, US officials say.** US President Donald Trump has toughened the terms of a potential framework for a deal to end the war in Iran, and has sent those proposed changes back to Iran for consideration, according to three US officials. It was not immediately clear what changes had been made to the text of the agreement. Trump has been concerned about parts of the potential deal that would include unfreezing funds for the Iranians, two officials said. He has been harshly critical of US President Barack Obama for doing the same in the more than decade-old agreement that was signed to curtail Iran's nuclear programme. Trump has also been frustrated by how long it has taken for Iran to respond to US proposals, one official said. The proposals have been hammered out with the involvement of intermediaries, including from Pakistan. The official added that Trump's changes – a new, tougher proposal – were potentially intended to speed up the process by putting pressure on Iran to accept the framework already sent to Iran's supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, for approval.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/trump-sends-tougher-terms-iran-framework-end-war-us-officials-say>
- ✓ **Meta plans AI pendant, 'wearables for work' in hardware boost, The Information reports.** Meta Platforms plans to start testing an AI pendant in the next year, as it charts a roadmap for wearable devices in an effort to reverse losses in its hardware division, The Information reported on Friday, citing a memo. Meta declined to comment to Reuters on the report. The Facebook and Instagram owner plans to significantly expand its selection of AI glasses and add a business-focused service called "Wearables for Work" the report said, citing an internal memo by Alex Himel, Meta's vice president of wearables. The report comes after Meta's hardware unit Reality Labs reported a loss of \$4.03 billion in the first quarter on revenue of just \$402 million.
<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/business/meta-plans-ai-pendant-wearables-work-in-hardware-boost-information-reports-6150896>

UPCOMING BAIPHIL WEBINARS



TRAINING PROGRAMS		PROGRAM DETAILS		
COMMITTEE	TITLE	DATE	COURSE OUTLINE	REGISTRATION LINK
Finance and Audit Course Committee (FACCOM)	Essential Tools to Smart Financial Decisions: Cost-Benefit Analysis, Budgeting, Breakeven and Beyond	June 11, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Prudential/Regulatory Accounting Standards for the Statutory Reporting of Banks – Part 2 (Focus on FRP and Prudential Reporting Requirements)	July 3 – 4, 2025	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Independent Assurance Assessment of Retail Branch Banking's AML Regulatory Compliance Culture & Ethical Culture and their AML Risk Governance & Controls	July 30-31, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
Governance, Legal, Regulatory and Compliance (GLRC) Course Committee	Reputation Matters: Defending Your Bank's Most Valuable Asset (Guidelines on Reputational Risk)	June 9, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Mandatory Lending (e.g., Agri-Agra Credit) Legal Framework, Regulations and Reporting	June 29, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	From Chaos to Control: Compliance with Operational Risk Management Guidelines / Guidelines on Operational Resilience	June 30, 2026	<i>Link to be posted</i>	<i>Link to be posted</i>

Information Technology and Security Course (ITSEC) Committee	Cybersecurity Governance, Risks and Compliance	June 5, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Intermediate Excel Training for Bankers	June 25 - 26, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Advanced Excel Training for Bankers	July 9 – 10, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Excel VBA Programming	July 30 – 31, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
Leadership Effectiveness Course (LEC) Committee	Mastering the Art of Connection: Strategic & Persuasive Communication for Banking Professionals	June 17-18, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
Products, Bank Operations and Management (PBOM) Course Committee	Signature Verification and Forgery Detection	May 29, 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
Risk Management Course (RMC) Committee	Methodologies for IFRS 9 ECL Modeling	June 5, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE
	Enterprise Risk Management	June 16, 2026	PROGRAM DETAILS	REGISTER HERE



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