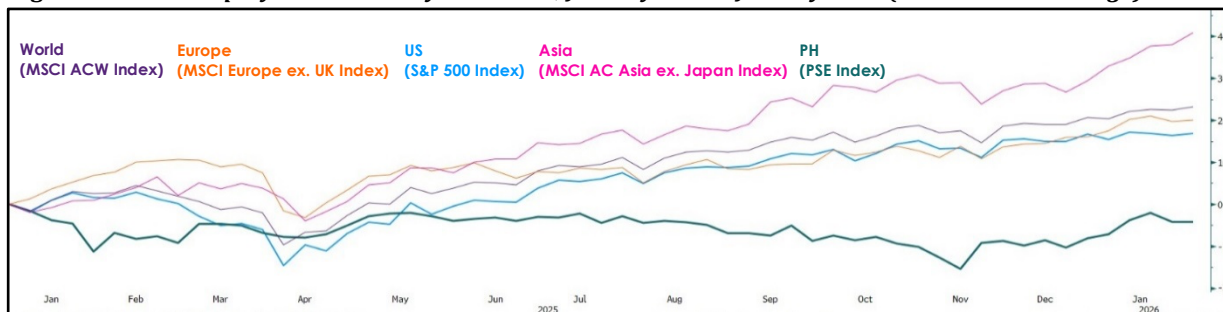




Global equities post broad-based gains in January 2026; PSEi advances alongside emerging markets

Figure 1. Selected Equity Indices Weekly Movement, January 2025 – January 2026 (normalized % change)



Basic Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., 2026

Prepared by: ERTD-ERAD

- Global equities posted broad-based gains at the start of 2026, with emerging market shares outperforming developed markets, driven by a weaker U.S. dollar, strong artificial intelligence (AI)-related technology stocks, and rising earnings expectations (**Figure 1**). U.S. equities gained 1.5% in January, supported by steady inflation at 2.7% and the Federal Reserve holding rates unchanged. However, U.S. equities trailed behind global peers amid concerns about the Fed's independence, slowing economic activity, softer consumer spending, and early signs of weakening manufacturing output.
- European equities advanced, led by strong performances in information technology, particularly semiconductors, as well as in the energy and utilities sectors. These gains occurred despite increased volatility stemming from geopolitical tensions involving Venezuela, Iran, and Greenland. UK equities also advanced, driven by the basic materials sector, which was supported by rising metal prices.
- Asia Pacific equities also outperformed, with the MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Index up 8.2% in January. Strong investor risk appetite and a shift away from the U.S. market also boosted gains in the region. South Korea and Taiwan led, fueled by demand for semiconductors and AI infrastructure. China saw moderate gains amid resilient exports and policy-easing expectations, though growth uncertainty persisted.
- Likewise, the Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi) advanced 4.56% to close at 6,328.97 points as of end-January 2026, while the broader All Shares Index inched up 0.99% to 3,583.23 points. (**Table 1**). These gains were supported by improved investor sentiment on the back of supportive macroeconomic prints. Sectoral performance was broadly positive, with mining and oil leading with a 25.84% month-on-month (m-o-m) increase, while the property sector was the lone decliner, down 3.43%.

Table 1. PSEi Performance as of End of January 2026

	Close	Comparative Change (%)	
		m-o-m	YoY
PSEi	6,328.97	4.56	7.96
All Shares	3,583.23	3.17	1.79
Financials	2,151.39	5.02	(0.99)
Industrials	8,993.05	4.32	10.26
Holding Firms	5,020.25	4.86	2.25
Property	2,198.13	(3.43)	(0.26)
Services	2,584.44	8.66	33.09
Mining and Oil	18,951.58	25.84	174.97

Basic Sources: PSE, 2025a; PSE, 2025b; PSE, 2026
Prepared by: ERTD-ERAD

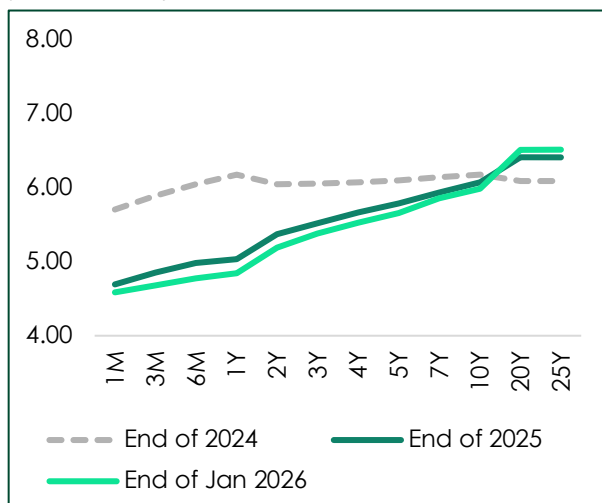
- The total market capitalization rose by 4.00% to PHP19.48 trillion, reversing the previous month's contraction and indicating improved investor confidence and stronger equity valuations. Trading value increased to PHP156.24 billion from PHP134.47 billion in December 2025, with 28.83 billion shares traded during the month. Amid improving market conditions, retail investor participation also rose from 14.51% in December 2025 to 19.53%, reflecting stronger engagement from individual investors.

Sources: Bloomberg Finance L.P., 2026; Invesco, 2026; PSE, 2025a; PSE, 2025b; PSE, 2026; Schroders, 2026



Domestic FI trading rose by more than half in the start of 2026; LBP launches PHP5 billion ASENSO Bond

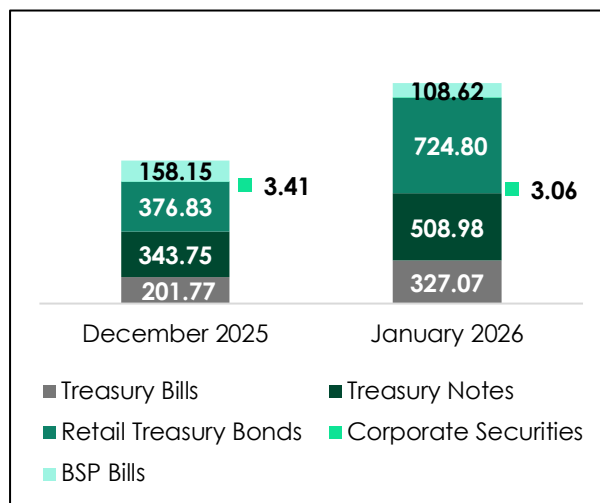
Figure 2. End of Period Yields across Benchmark Tenors (% BVAL Yield)



Basic Sources: PDS, 2024; PDS, 2025; PDS, 2026a

Prepared by: ERTD-ERAD

Figure 3. PDEx Fixed Income Trade Volume Trends (in PHP Billion)



Basic Source: PDS, 2026b

Prepared by: ERTD-ERAD

6. The local yield curve in January 2026 (**Figure 2**) was visibly lower across most of the benchmark tenors, except for the mixed long-end yields compared to the December 2025 curve. Short-term yields (1M-1Y) had a declining trend amid strong investor demand and rate-cut incentives. Medium-term yields (2Y-5Y) generally fell, driven by easing expectations and demand. The mixed long-term yields (7Y -25Y) with upward pressure in the 20Y and 25Y-maturities, possibly reflecting supply considerations and investor risk pricing.
7. Domestic fixed income trade volume (**Figure 3**) grew by 54.31% to PHP1.67 trillion in the first month of the year from PHP1.08 trillion in December 2025. The growth was attributable to the remarkable trading increase of Treasury bills, Treasury Notes and the Retail Treasury Bonds. The continued downward trend in yields was supported by strong investor demand, with oversubscribed auctions prompting the Bureau of Treasury (BTr) to raise award volumes above the planned amounts. Manageable inflation, supported by lower yields and active issuance in the local bond market, also contributed to the expansion. Meanwhile, corporate securities and BSP bills dropped by 10.26% and 31.32%, respectively.
8. On 12 January 2026, the Landbank of the Philippines (LBP) has launched its Agriculture, Sustainability, Environment, and Socioeconomic Development (ASENSO) bond offering to the public with 1.5 and 3 year-tenors, with minimum offer size of PHP5 billion. Net proceeds of this sale will be used to fund eligible green and social projects in line with LBP's Sustainable Finance Framework consistent with the ASEAN Sustainability Bond Standards. Eligible green projects will include environment-friendly and energy-efficient initiatives such as renewable energy, clean transportation, sustainable water management, pollution prevention and control, people-centric urban development, etc. Eligible social projects will comprise of socioeconomic advancement and empowerment efforts such as access to essential services, employment generation, and affordable housing. After the public offer period, 28 January to 6 February 2026, the bonds are expected to be listed at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp (PDEx) on 16 February 2026.
9. Meanwhile, the Megawide Construction Corporation bond issuance of PHP1.1 billion marks the first listing for the year 2026, followed by BDO Unibank, Inc. with their 5th ASEAN sustainability bond issuance of PHP100 billion. These bring the total level of tradable corporate debt instruments to PHP1.3 trillion, issued by 42 companies, comprised of 165 securities.

Sources: BTR, 2026; Coco Life, 2026; DOF, 2026; LBP, 2026; PDS, 2024; PDS, 2025; PDS, 2026a; PDS, 2026b; PDS, 2026c; PDS, 2026d



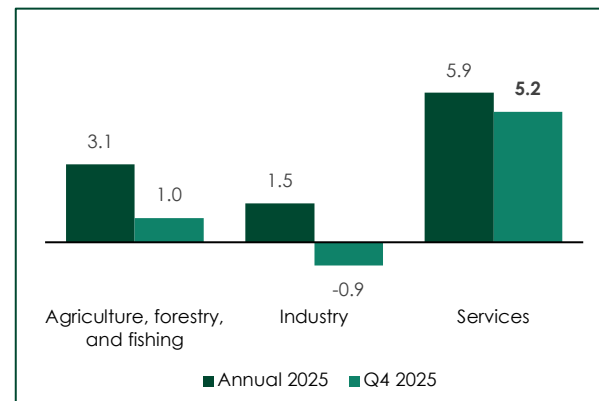
Philippine economy expands by 4.4% in 2025; Services sector remains key growth driver

Figure 4. GDP Growth Rate



Basic Source: [PSA, 2026a](#)

Figure 5. Growth Rate by Major Industry



Prepared by: ERTD-ERAD

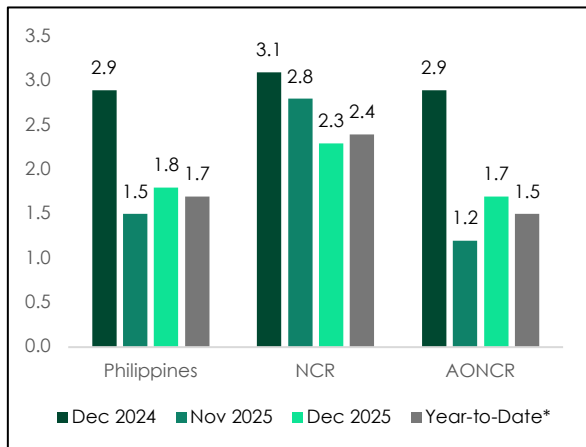
10. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported a 3.0% year-on-year (y-o-y) growth of the Philippine economy in the fourth quarter of 2025 (**Figure 4**), with the gross domestic product (GDP) reaching PHP6.38 trillion, up from PHP6.19 trillion in the same period in 2024. Consistent with this fourth-quarter performance, the Philippine economy recorded a full-year GDP growth of 4.4% in 2025, translating to a total output of PHP23.22 trillion. The 2025 GDP growth, which fell below the 5.5%–6.5% Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) target, was tempered by several converging factors, including adverse economic effects of weather- and climate-related disruptions and constrained government infrastructure spending, which weighed on business and consumer confidence.
11. On the demand side, growth in Household Final Consumption Expenditure (HFCE) slowed to 3.8% y-o-y in the fourth quarter, suggesting a moderation in consumer spending momentum. Within household consumption, Food and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for the largest share of spending (3.8%), followed by Miscellaneous goods and services (3.9%), Restaurants and hotels (7.5%), and Transport (5.9%). For the full year of 2025, household spending remained a key driver of domestic demand, with HFCE growing by 4.6% and government final consumption expenditure at 9.1%, underscoring that domestic demand continued to anchor economic expansion despite a late-year slowdown.
12. On the production side, economic growth in the fourth quarter was primarily driven by the Services sector, which posted a growth rate of 5.2%. Within the Services sector, growth was led by Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, which expanded by 4.6%. This was followed by Financial and insurance activities, which grew by 5.6%, and Public administration and defense; compulsory social security, which recorded the highest growth rate at 7.9%.
13. Despite overall GDP growth moderating, Services growth remained robust relative to Agriculture and Industry (**Figure 5**) and contributed most of the output increase in Q4 2025 and for the year as a whole. A similar pattern was observed at the annual level, with full-year economic expansion supported by Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, which grew by 5.2%, alongside Financial and insurance activities at 5.8%.
14. Economic managers noted that persistent external headwinds pose downside risks to exports, investment, and confidence, while softer domestic consumption and investment in late 2025 prompted a more cautious outlook. In line with a prudent and realistic assessment of prevailing conditions, and to better align growth expectations with observed economic performance and multilateral forecasts, the DBCC set revised growth targets of 5.0%–6.0% for 2026, 5.5%–6.5% for 2027, and 6.0%–7.0% for 2028.

Sources: [DepDev, 2026](#); [PCO, 2026](#); [PSA, 2026a](#)



PH Inflation of 1.7% lowest in almost a decade; Lower than expected global inflation and at par with ASEAN peers

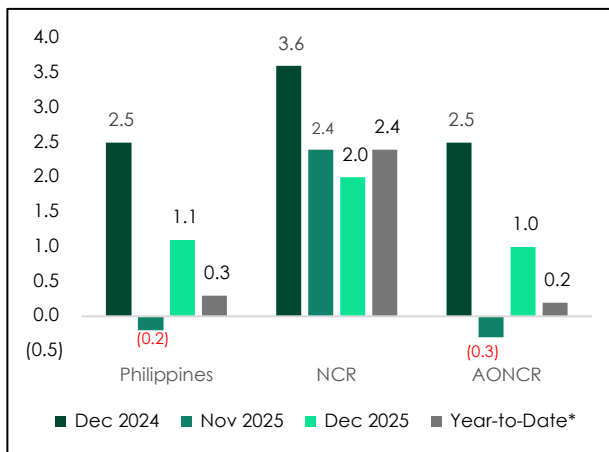
Figure 6. Headline Inflation



Basic Source: PSA, 2026b

Prepared by: ERTD-ERAD

Figure 7. Inflation for Bottom 30% Income Household



Basic Source: PSA, 2026c

Prepared by: ERTD-ERAD

15. In December 2025, the nationwide headline inflation rate was 1.8%, bringing the y-o-y national average to 1.7%, the lowest in almost a decade. However, inflation in December 2025 was higher than in November 2025 (**Figure 6**). This increment is attributable to the faster rate of increase in prices in Areas Outside the National Capital Region (AONCR) at 1.7% by the end of the year, from 1.2% in the month prior. Meanwhile, headline inflation in NCR declined by 0.5 percentage points, from 2.8% to 2.3%, during the same period. These inflation values remain within the DBCC's target range of 2.0% to 3.0% for 2025.
16. The increase in the December inflation was mainly attributable to the faster increase in the prices of the heavily weighted food and non-alcoholic beverages index, which rose from 0.1% to 1.4% in November 2025 and contributed 31% to the month's overall inflation rate. The main drivers of the increase in food inflation were the faster annual increase in the prices of (a) flour, bread and other bakery products, pasta products, and other cereals, (b) fish and other seafood, (c) fruits and nuts, and (d) ready-made food and other food products not elsewhere classified. Meanwhile, a slower annual increase was recorded on the prices of (e) meat and other parts of slaughtered land animals, (f) milk, other dairy products and eggs, and (g) oils and fats.
17. The inflation rate for the bottom 30% income households slightly increased to 1.1% in December 2025, from -0.2% in the previous month, bringing the national average to 0.3% (**Figure 7**). However, the value still falls far below the peak inflation of 5.8% on July 2024 and 2.5% on December 2024. The same trend is observed for AONCR with December 2025 inflation at 1.0%, down from 0.3% in the prior month. On the other hand, NCR inflation declined from 2.4% to 2.0% during the same period. The main drivers of the slightly higher inflation in the bottom 30% income are faster price increase of (a) food and non-alcoholic beverage, (b) clothing and footwear (c) furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (d) information and communication, (e) recreation, sport and culture, and (f) personal care, and miscellaneous goods and services.
18. According to the Department of Finance (DOF), the record-low inflation is a testament of the effective whole-of-government approach to protect the Filipinos from price shocks. Programs like the lowering the maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) for basic commodities, crop-shifting measures, emergency cash assistance, and capping of transport network vehicle services (TNVS) surge pricing helped manage inflation. As such, the country's inflation of 1.7% for 2025 is lower than the expected for global inflation rate at 4.2% and that of current inflation rates of ASEAN peers such as Vietnam which is at 3.3% and Indonesia at 1.9%.

Sources: DBM, 2025; DOF, 2026; PSA, 2026b; PSA, 2026c



SEC revises REIT framework to deepen capital market; Amends audit threshold to ease MSME compliance

19. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued revised Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) rules under [Memorandum Circular \(MC\) No. 1, Series of 2026](#), expanding REIT-able assets to include infrastructure and passive income sources and allowing investments through special purpose vehicles (SPVs) and joint ventures. The reinvestment period for sponsors was extended to two years for greater flexibility. Importantly, REITs must still distribute at least 90% of their distributable income as dividends, ensuring investor protection and promoting long-term wealth creation.

20. To ensure consistency and efficiency in amending a corporation's articles of incorporation (AOI) and bylaws, SEC issued [MC No. 3, Series of 2026](#). The guidelines expand the number of transactions eligible for Simple Processing under the Electronic Application for Modification of Entity Data (eAMEND) Portal. They now permit applicants to submit an affidavit of undertaking in lieu of a monitoring clearance and establish graduated penalties for the late or non-submission of required documents.

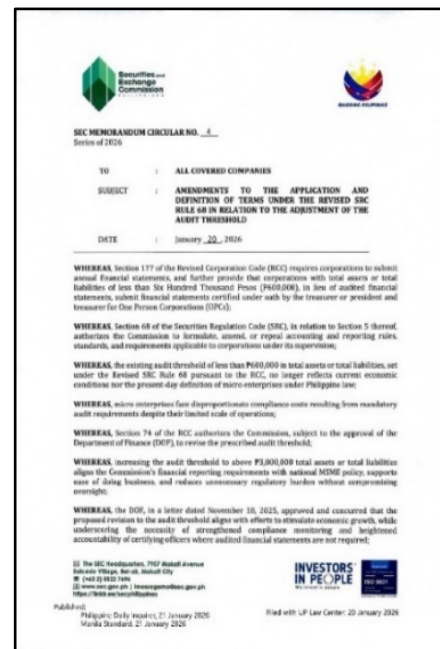
21. With the concurrence of the Department of Finance (DOF), the SEC issued [MC No. 4, Series of 2026](#), amending the audit threshold under Revised Securities Regulation Code (SRC) Rule 68. This change aims to simplify business processes, reduce regulatory burdens, and maintain effective oversight for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Under the revised rule, stock and non-stock corporations with total assets or liabilities exceeding PHP3 million must submit audited financial statements (AFS). Meanwhile, entities at or below the threshold must submit financial statements certified as accurate, complete, and true by corporate officers or authorized representatives in lieu of AFS. This exemption does not apply to Group A, B, or C entities or corporations with public interest.

22. The Commission also issued SEC [MC No. 7, Series of 2026](#), which enforces stricter term limits for Independent Directors (ID) of companies imbued with public interest for having equities listed for trading in the PSE. The stricter term limit aims to ensure that IDs remain effective instruments of good corporate governance, transparency, and accountability. Under MC No. 7, IDs may serve, either continuously or intermittently, for a total period of nine years. Any fraction of a year exceeding six months is considered as one full year. The penalty for breaching the term limit is PHP1 million for every independent director per year with an additional fine of PHP30,000 for every month the director holds the seat.

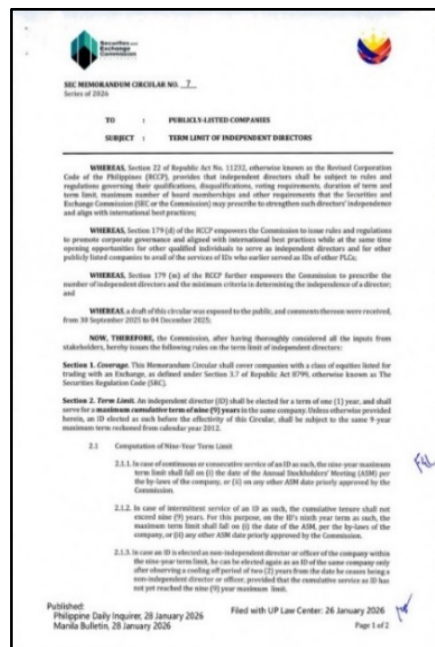
23. The SEC also launched the web-based Hierarchical and Applicable Relations and Beneficial Ownership Registry ([HARBOR](#)), allowing corporations to submit and update beneficial ownership information electronically. Effective 30 January 2026, corporations and other reporting entities must use HARBOR instead of attaching BO disclosure pages to their annual GIS. BO declarations need not be resubmitted annually unless changed, but previously submitted information must be revalidated.

Sources: [SEC, 2026a](#); [SEC, 2026b](#); [SEC, 2026c](#); [SEC, 2026d](#); [SEC, 2026e](#)

Memorandum Circular No. 4, Series of 2026



Memorandum Circular No.7, Series of 2026





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