

A vibrant, stylized image of the San Francisco skyline is the background for the left half of the page. It features the Golden Gate Bridge in orange, the Transamerica Pyramid, and a red cable car in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue with white clouds and several white birds in flight.

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC BRIEFING

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

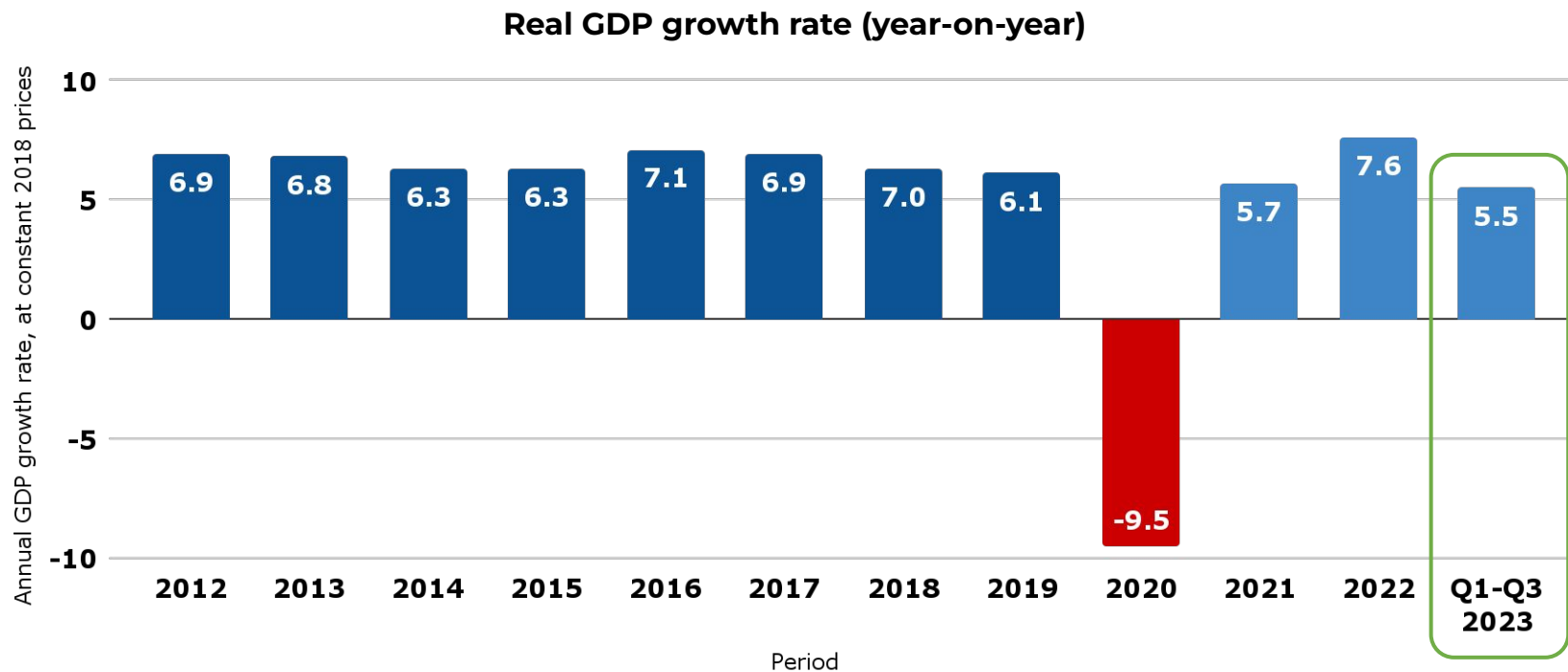
*Philippine Economy: Continuing a Strong
Recovery amid Economic Headwinds*

BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO

SECRETARY OF FINANCE

November 15, 2023

The Philippine economy continued to recover underpinned by domestic demand



PH MAINTAINS INVESTOR-GRADE CREDIT RATINGS



FitchRatings

Fitch Ratings

Affirmation
of BBB rating,
Stable Outlook
(November 2023)



Japan Credit Rating Agency

Affirmation
of A- rating,
Stable Outlook
(March 2023)



S&P Global Ratings

Affirmation
of BBB+,
Stable Outlook
(November
2022)

MOODY'S

Moody's





Affirmation
of Baa2 rating,
Stable Outlook
(September
2022)



R&I

Affirmation
of BBB+ rating,
Revised
Outlook from
Stable to
Positive
(August 2023)

Multilateral organizations revised downwards its economic projections for the Philippines in 2023 but expect growth to improve next year.

Particulars	2023		2024	
	Previous	Latest	Previous	Latest
 International Monetary Fund	6.2 ^{a/}	5.3^{b/}	5.5 ^{a/}	6.0^{b/}
 Asian Development Bank	6.0 ^{a/}	5.7^{c/}	6.2 ^{a/}	6.2 ^{c/}
 ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office	6.2 ^{a/}	5.9^{c/}	6.5 ^{a/}	6.5 ^{c/}
 World Bank	6.0 ^{d/}	5.6^{b/}	5.9 ^{d/}	5.8^{b/}
Development Budget Coordination Committee	6.0 - 7.0		6.5 - 8.0	

Sources: IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update July 2023; IMF Article IV Consultation to the Philippines Press Release (October 3, 2023); Asian Development Outlook (ADO) July 2023; ADO September 2023; AMRO ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook (REO) July 2023; AMRO Consultation Visit Press Release (September 12, 2023); World Bank Philippines Economic Update (PEU) June 2023; World Bank Global Economic Prospects June 2023; World Bank East Asia and Pacific (EAP) Economic Update October 2023; DBCC Ad Referendum (July 5, 2023)

Notes: a/ July 2023; b/ as of October 2023; c/ as of September 2023; d/as of June 2023; Revisions are in bold text.

Labor conditions remain positive as unemployment recorded lower than pre-pandemic levels

January-September 2023 Employment Situation

4.5% ↓

Unemployment rate

64.1% ↓

Labor force participation rate

95.5% ↑

Employment rate

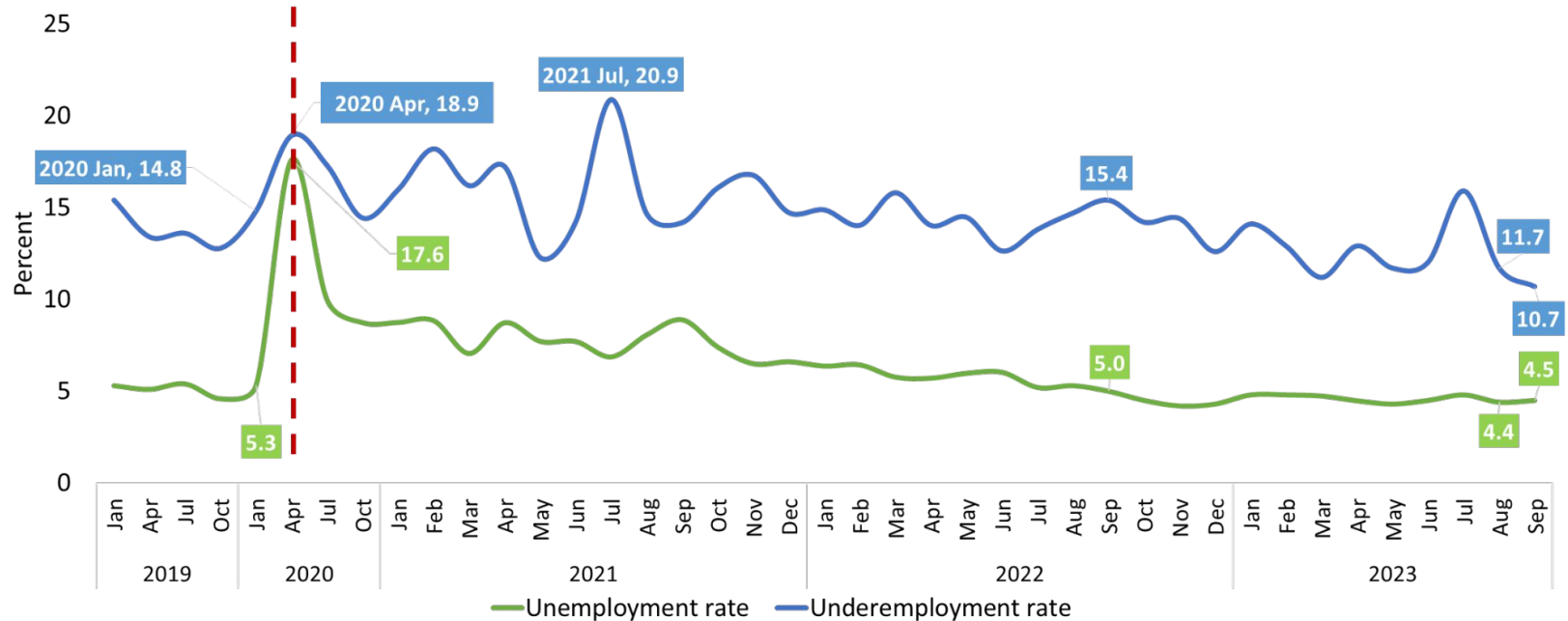
10.7% ↓

Underemployment rate

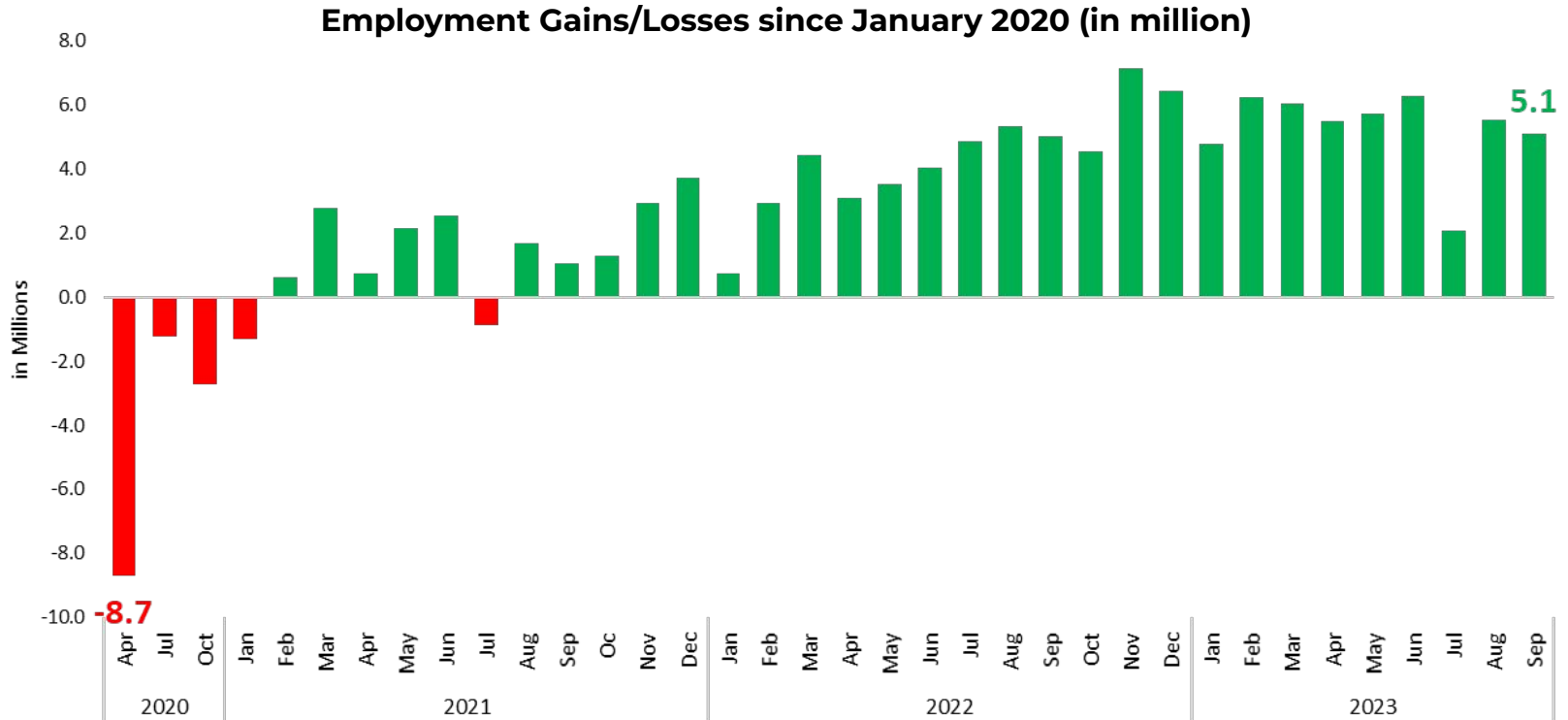


Unemployment rate remains below pre-pandemic levels

Unemployment and underemployment rates (January 2019 - September 2023)

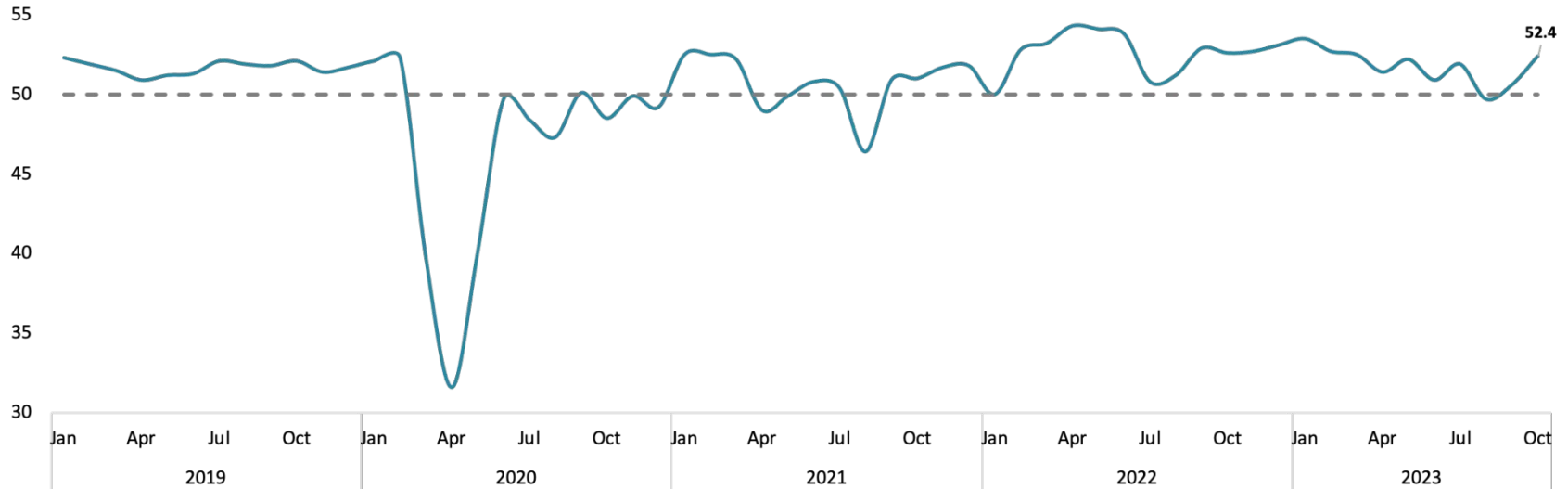


The labor market continues to regain employment losses



Manufacturing sector continues to expand amid strong orders

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)
January 2019 to October 2023



Manufacturing sector continues to expand amid increased customer demand

- Year-to-date vehicle sales as of August 2023 in the country continued to post double-digit growth.
- Volume of Production Index (VoPI) and Value of Production (VaPI) both registered year-on-year increases of 9.1 percent and 8.9 percent in September 2023, respectively.
- Loans to manufacturing sector declined by 3.0 percent year-on-year in August 2023.

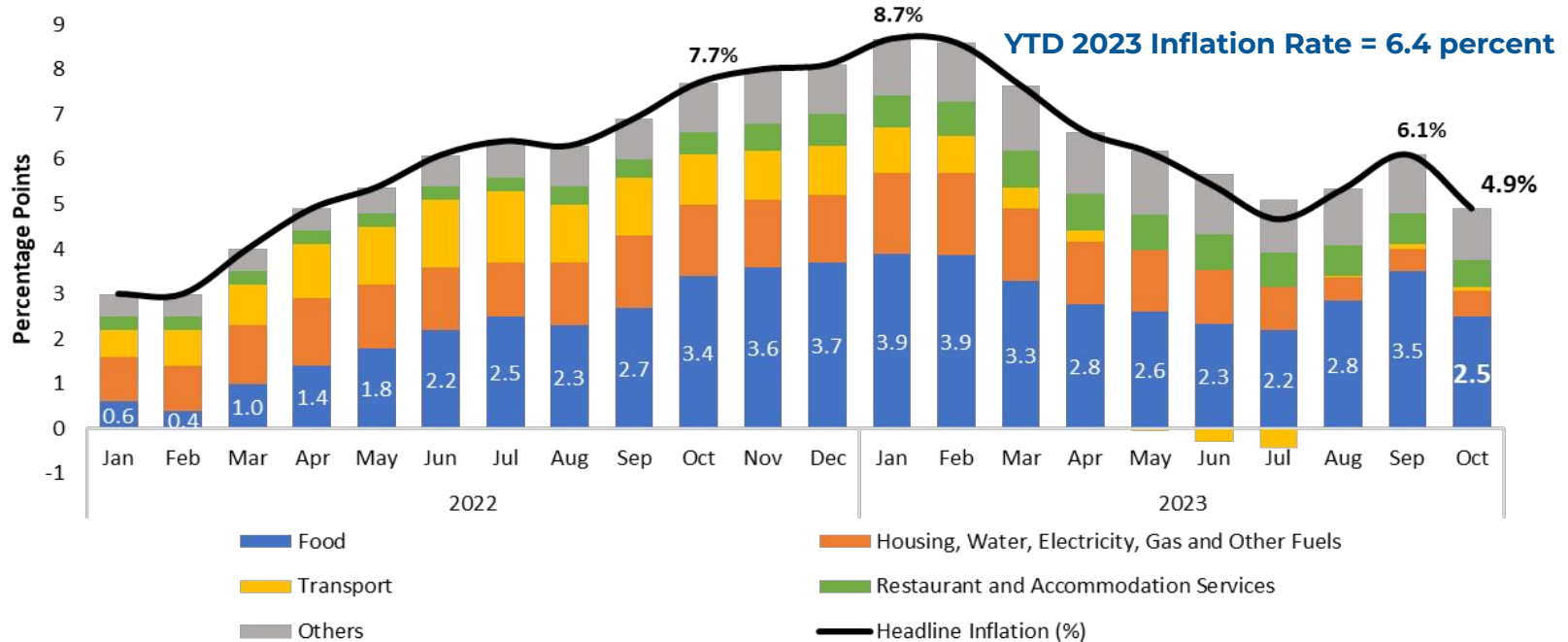


Charting the path to lower inflation: Monetary and fiscal policies, direct measures



Headline inflation decelerates to 4.9 percent in October 2023

Headline inflation and contributors to inflation, January 2022 to October 2023

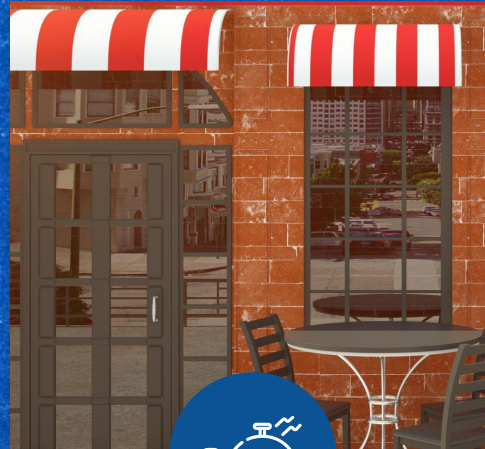


Headline inflation decelerates to **4.9 percent** in October 2023

Main drivers of inflation



**Food and non-alcoholic
beverages**



**Restaurants and
accommodation services**

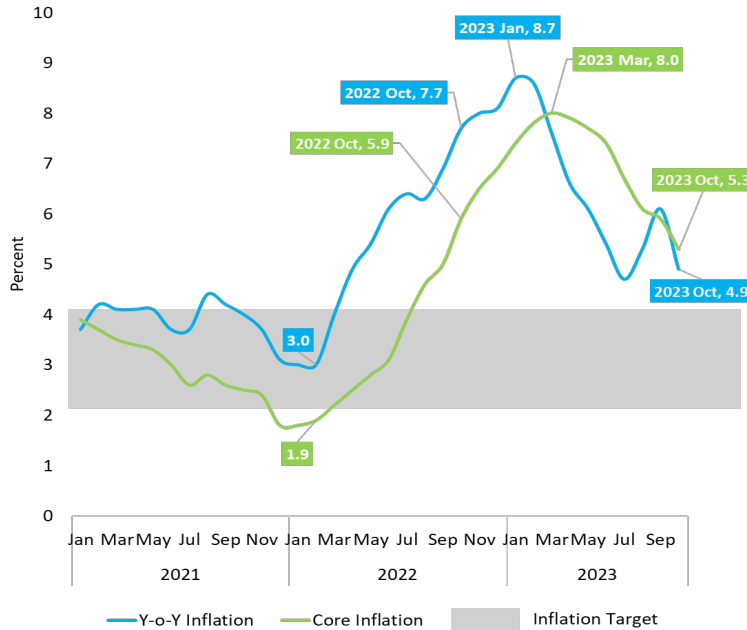


**Housing, water,
electricity, gas and
other fuels**

Year-to-date inflation continue to ease

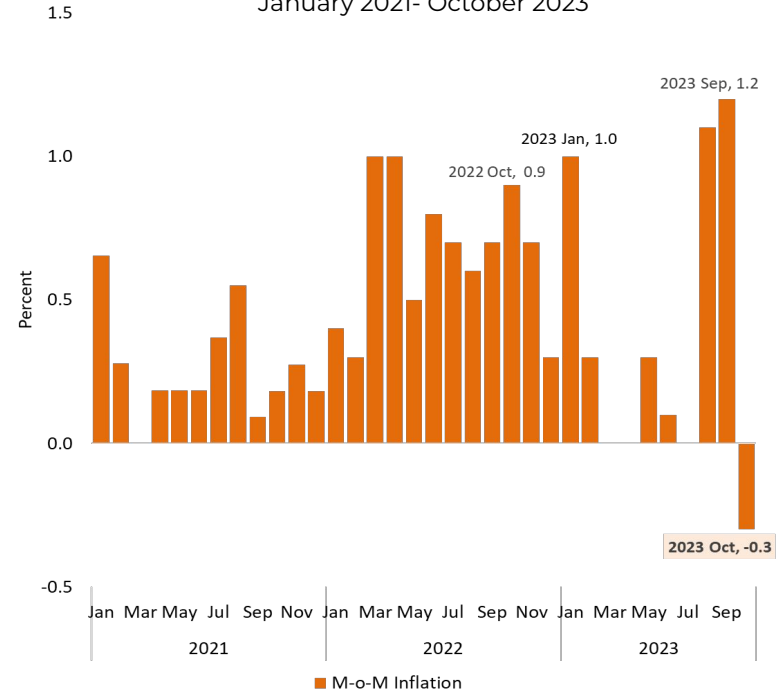
Year-on-Year and Core Inflation (2018=100)

January 2021- October 2023



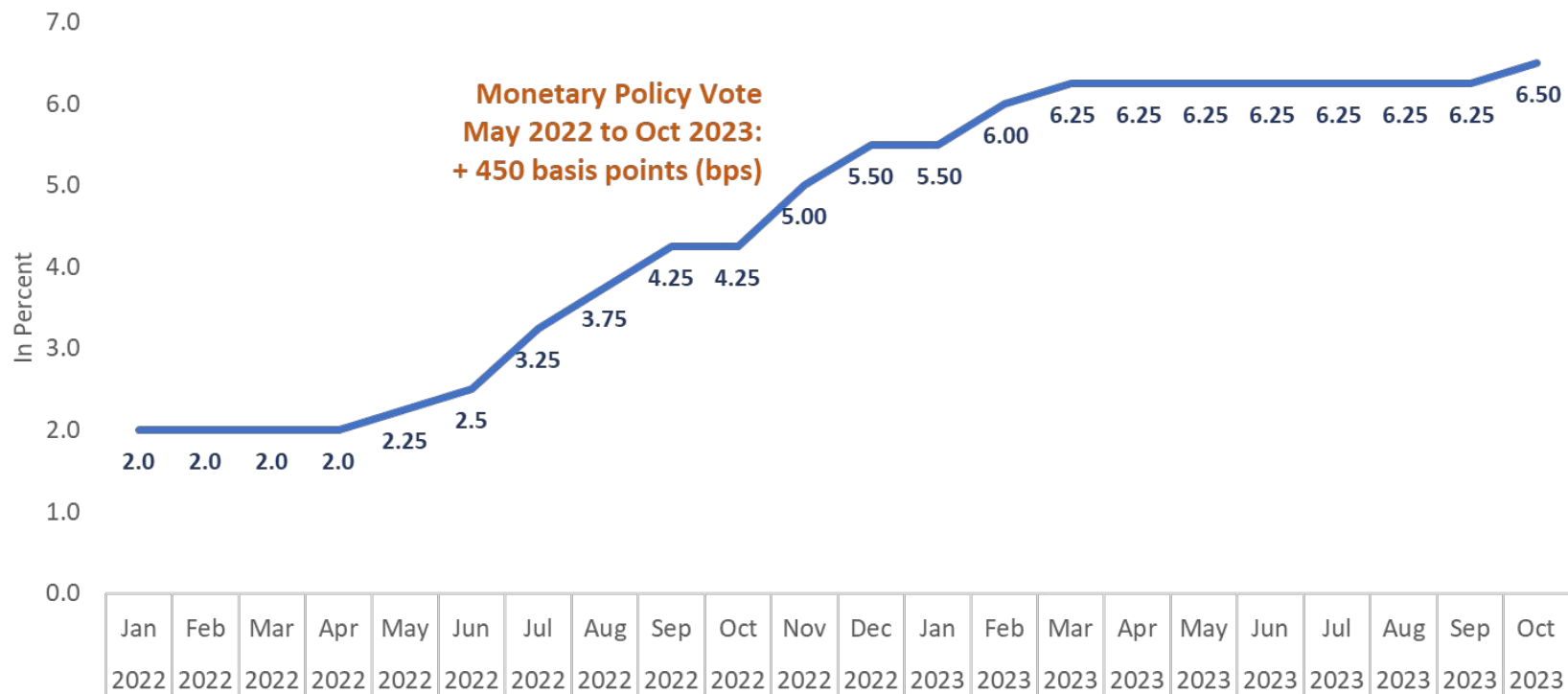
Month-on-Month Inflation (2018=100)

January 2021- October 2023



Data source: Philippine Statistics Agency
 Note: M-o-M inflation was computed using seasonally-adjusted CPI.

Monetary and fiscal policies are aligned



Stop Inflation Now: The Inter-Agency Committee on Inflation and Market Outlook (IAC-IMO) is implementing and monitoring measures to mitigate inflation.



Fill the domestic supply gap through timely and adequate importation based on ex-ante supply-demand analysis



Monitoring and assessment of market development, including the use of remote sensing technology



Fast track the response to address the impact of recent typhoons and the implementation of the El Niño Mitigation and Adaptation Plan

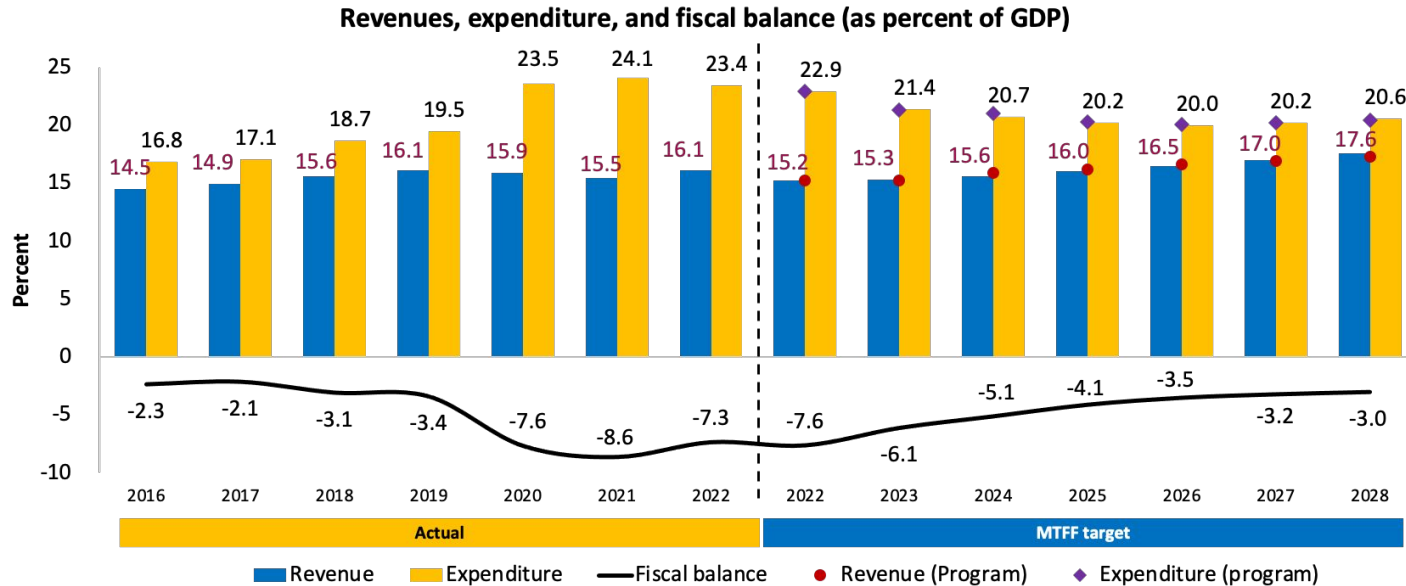


Protect the vulnerable sector including the agriculture and transport sector

Sound fiscal performance provides support to growth



Fiscal deficit performance widened during the pandemic but was within target in 2022



- As of September 2023, the country's fiscal deficit stood at PHP 983.4 billion, a 2.9 percent decline compared to the same period in 2022. This is equivalent to the NG deficit-to-GDP ratio of 5.7 percent, within the full-year target of 6.1 percent.

Note: Revenue and tax effort are computed using tax revenues and GDP at current prices.

Sources: BTr, PSA, and MTFF

January to September 2023 revenues grew by 6.8 percent and exceeded the DBCC target by 3.0 percent

Particulars (in PHP billion)	January to September				
	2023 Program (A)	2023 Actual (B)	2022 Actual (C)	Growth Rate (%) (B) vs. (C)	Variance (%) (B) vs. (A)
TOTAL REVENUES	2,755.7	2,837.8	2,657.4	6.8	3.0
Tax Revenues	2,595.6	2,541.3	2,389.0	6.4	(2.1)
BIR	1,933.3	1,858.0	1,732.5	7.2	(3.9)
BOC	644.2	660.4	638.5	3.4	2.5
Other Offices	18.1	22.9	18.0	27.0	26.5
Non-tax Revenues	160.1	296.5	268.4	10.5	85.2
BTr	53.7	158.0	129.7	21.8	194.4
Other Offices	106.5	138.5	138.7	-0.2	30.1

Government expenditures from January to September 2023 are rose by 4.1 percent, although lower than target by 1.1 percent

Particulars (in PHP billion)	2023 Program (A)	2023 Actual (B)	2022 Actual (C)	Growth Rate (%) (B) vs. (C)	Variance (%) (B) vs. (A)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,862.2	3,821.3	3,670.2	4.1	(1.1)
Current Operating Expenditures	2,929.7	2,784.7	2,727.3	2.1	(4.9)
o.w. Personnel Services	1,031.9	1,000.8	962.8	3.9	(3.0)
MOOE	685.3	632.8	592.9	6.7	(7.7)
Subsidy	185.0	137.1	122.3	12.2	(25.9)
Allotment to LGUs	537.2	533.6	621.5	(14.1)	(0.7)
Interest Payments	479.4	460.1	400.0	15.0	(4.0)
Capital Outlays (CO)	907.4	1,018.9	922.8	10.4	12.3
o.w. Infrastructure/Other CO	740.7	857.6	720.3	19.1	15.8
Capital Transfers to LGUs	164.7	161.0	201.6	(20.1)	(2.2)
Net Lending	25.1	17.7	20.0	(11.9)	(29.6)
Infrastructure Disbursement	939.7	1,021.0	904.6	12.9	8.7

The Economic Team commits to sound fiscal management through the Medium-Term Fiscal Program

NG Fiscal position and Medium-Term Fiscal Program (in PHP billion unless otherwise indicated)

Outlook In % GDP	2023		2024 Program	2025 Program	2026 Program	2027 Program	2028 Program
	Actual (Jan-Sep)	Program					
Revenues	2,837.8	3,729.0	4,201.4	4,692.0	5,255.4	5,895.9	6,621.6
<i>as percent of GDP</i>	16.5	15.2	15.9	16.2	16.6	16.9	17.3
Disbursements	3,821.3	5,228.4	5,564.3	5,887.7	6,372.2	7,014.8	7,773.4
<i>as percent of GDP</i>	22.2	21.3	21.0	20.3	20.1	20.2	20.4
Deficit	(983.4)	(1,499.4)	(1,362.9)	(1,195.7)	(1,116.8)	(1,118.9)	(1,151.7)
<i>as percent of GDP</i>	(5.7)	(6.1)	(5.1)	(4.1)	(3.5)	(3.2)	(3.0)
Infrastructure Disbursements	1,021.0	1,292.7	1,365.2	1,470.0	1,617.7	1,916.0	2,303.3
<i>as percent of GDP</i>	5.9	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.5	6.0

Notes: a) Totals may not add up due to rounding. b) Figures in parentheses represent negative values.

Sources: BTr, DBM, DOF staff calculations, and 185th Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) Ad Referendum as of 5 July 2023

The Economic Team commits to sound fiscal management through the Medium-Term Fiscal Program

Indicators In % GDP	Actual	DBCC Emerging Program/MTFF Targets					
	2023 (Jan-Sep)	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Revenues	16.5	15.2	16.1	16.3	16.6	17.0	17.4
<i>MTFF target</i>		<i>15.3</i>	<i>15.6</i>	<i>16.0</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>17.0</i>	<i>17.6</i>
Disbursements	22.2	21.3	21.2	20.4	20.1	20.2	20.4
<i>MTFF target</i>		<i>21.4</i>	<i>20.7</i>	<i>20.2</i>	<i>20.0</i>	<i>20.2</i>	<i>20.6</i>
Fiscal Balance	(5.7)	(6.1)	(5.1)	(4.1)	(3.5)	(3.2)	(3.0)
<i>MTFF target</i>		<i>(6.1)</i>	<i>(5.1)</i>	<i>(4.1)</i>	<i>(3.5)</i>	<i>(3.2)</i>	<i>(3.0)</i>
NG Debt	60.2	61.4	60.2	58.5	56.7	53.6	51.2
<i>MTFF target</i>		<i>61.2</i>	<i>60.0</i>	<i>58.3</i>	<i>56.6</i>	<i>53.4</i>	<i>51.1</i>

Notes: a) Totals may not add up due to rounding. b) Figures in parentheses represent negative values.

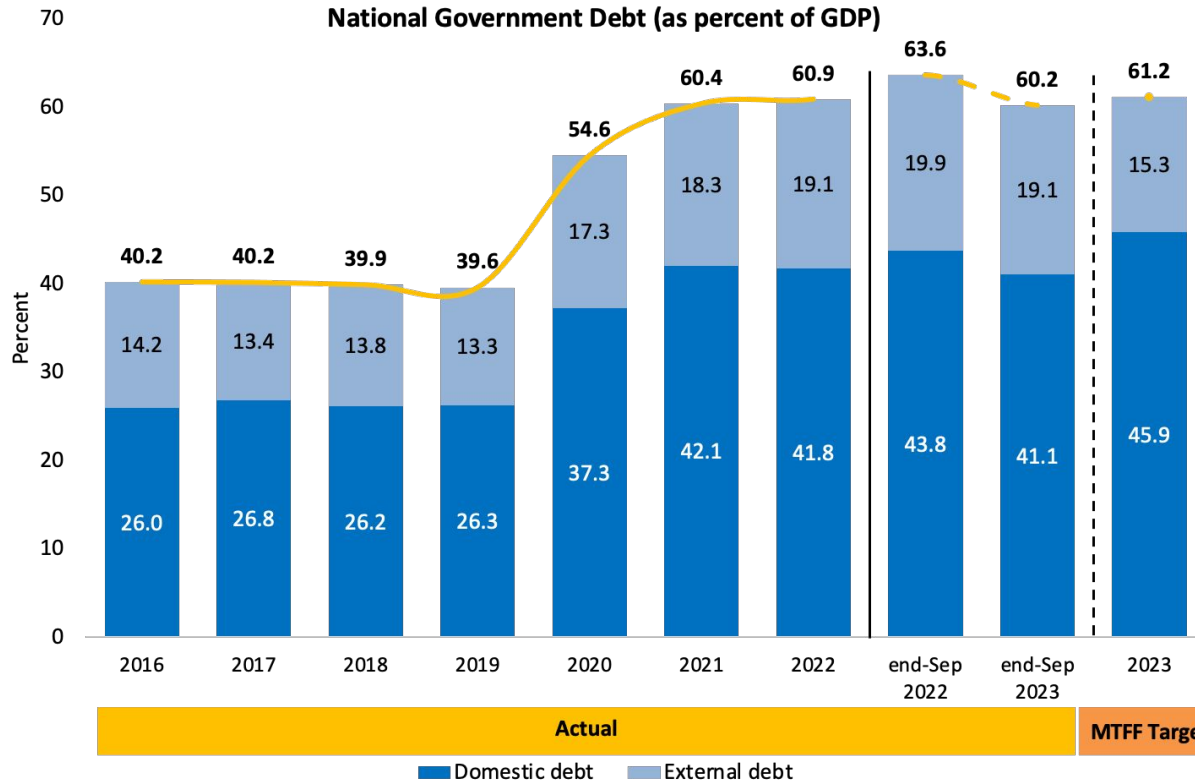
Sources: PSA, BTr, and DOF staff estimates

Program: 185th DBCC Ad Referendum as of 05 July 2023

Targets: Medium-Term Fiscal Framework

NG Debt based on BTr submission on 24 August 2022

The narrowing of the fiscal deficit during the post-pandemic led to stabilization of debt-to-GDP ratio



The DOF will continue its prudent debt management, prioritizing domestic financing to mitigate external vulnerabilities.

We continue implementing the Medium-term Fiscal Framework (MTFF)



The Medium-Term Fiscal Framework (MTFF) serves as our blueprint to achieve fiscal sustainability while promoting robust economic growth



Reduce the fiscal deficit

Bring down the deficit-to-GDP ratio to 3% by 2028



Promote fiscal sustainability

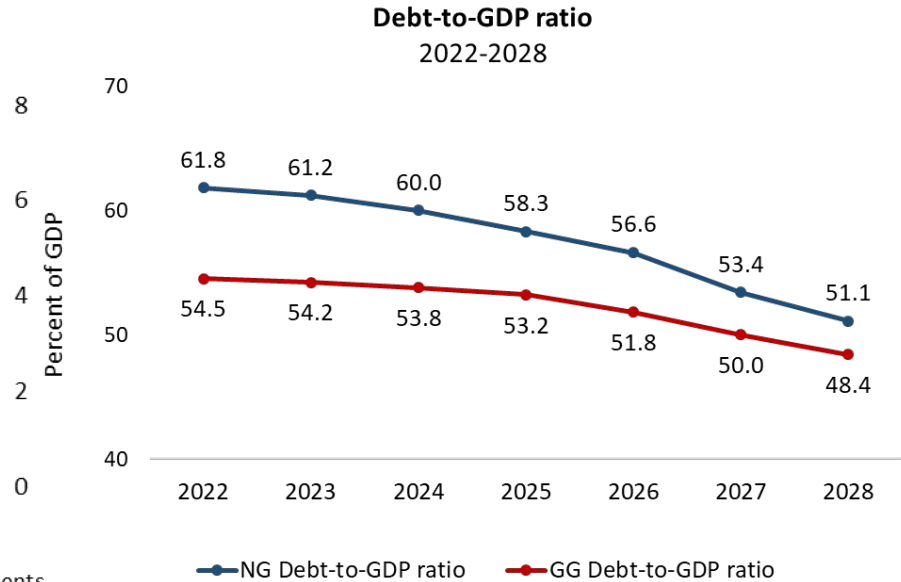
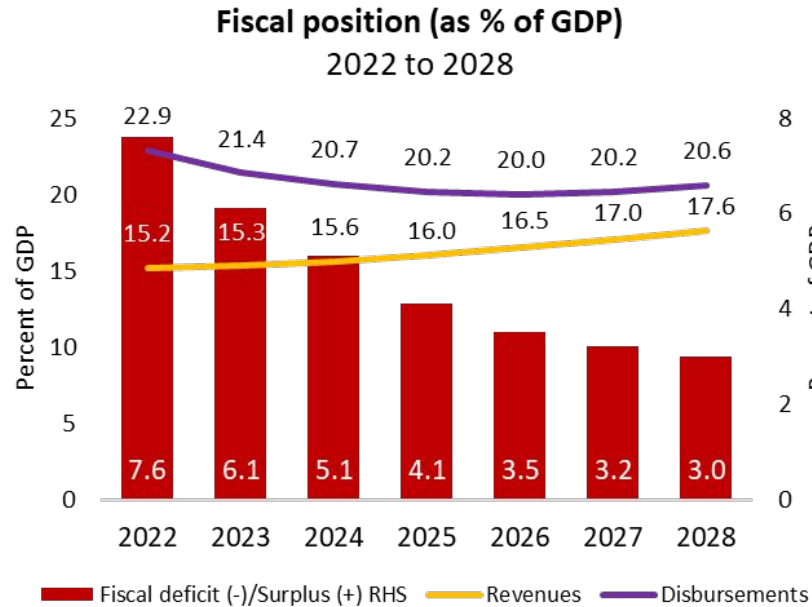
Reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio to less than 60% by 2025, then further down to 51% by 2028



Enable robust economic growth

With its high multiplier effects, sustain high infrastructure spending at 5% to 6% of GDP annually

The first-ever 6-year Medium-Term Fiscal Framework was formulated



We will continue to work with Congress in pushing for key reforms crucial to accelerating economic development

Tax Revenue Measures identified in the MTFF



**Package 4
of CTRP**



**VAT on Digital
Service Providers**



**Tax on Pre-mixed
Alcohol**



**Excise Tax on
Single-Use Plastic Bags**

Additional measures in support of the MTFF



**Rationalization of the
Mining Fiscal Regime**



**Excise Taxes on Sweetened
Beverages and Junk Food**



**Motor Vehicles
Road Users Tax**

We will continue to work with Congress in pushing for key reforms crucial to accelerating economic development

Tax Administration Improvements



BIR's Digitalization Transformation (DX) Roadmap



BOC's Philippine Customs Program (PCMP)

Expenditure Reforms in the Pipeline



Progressive Budgeting for Better and Modernized (PBBM) Governance Bill



National Government Rightsizing Program



Military and Uniformed Personnel (MUP) Pension Reform Bill

To support economic momentum, the government is committed to pursue **groundbreaking structural reforms** and **strategic public investments**



We are rolling out 197 Infrastructure Flagship Projects (IFPs) under the Marcos Administration's *Build Better More* Program

Physical connectivity
121 projects
PHP 6,963.7 billion



Health
6 projects
PHP 131.2 billion

Water Resources
44 projects
PHP 831.7 billion



Digital Connectivity
5 projects
PHP 97.0 billion

Agriculture
15 projects
PHP 637.9 billion



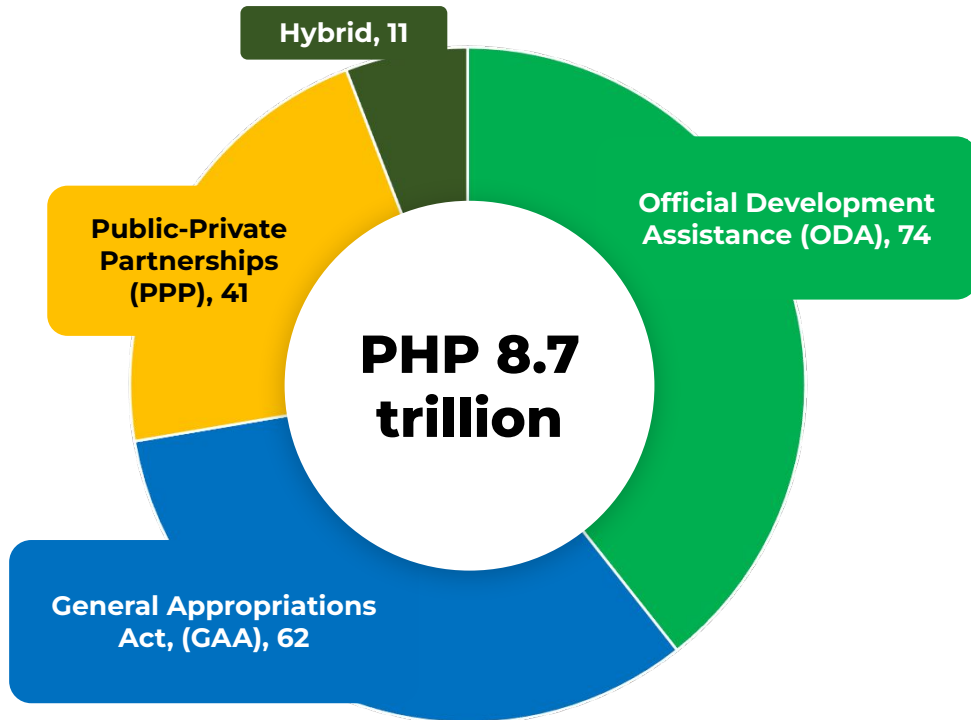
Other Infrastructure
5 projects
PHP 42.7 billion



Power and Energy
1 project | PHP 10.2 billion



We are rolling out 197 Infrastructure Flagship Projects (IFPs) under the Marcos Administration's *Build Better More* Program



Objectives:

- Improve physical and digital connectivity
- Upgrade health, transport, agriculture, and energy sectors
- Strengthen infrastructure against climate related risks

The Philippines' robust growth outlook is supported by the positive impact of game-changing structural reforms

**Corporate Recovery
and Tax Incentives
for Enterprises Act**



**Amendments
to the Public
Service Act**



**Amendments to
the Retail Trade
Liberalization Act**



**Amendments
to the Foreign
Investments Act**



The Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF) is Philippines' first-ever sovereign investment fund designed to promote economic development

Attract direct equity investments from local and global funds



Accelerate the implementation of 197 infrastructure flagship projects



Co-financing and knowledge sharing with other sovereign wealth funds



Invest in emerging megatrends (digitalization, ESG, and healthcare)



We are generally on track with medium-term macroeconomic assumptions and external outlook

Indicator	2022 actual	2023 YTD	2023 assumptions	2024-2028 assumptions
Real GDP growth rate (%)	7.6	5.5 (Jan-Sep)	6.0 - 7.0	6.5 - 8.0
Inflation (%)	5.8	6.4 (Jan-Oct)	5.0 - 6.0	2.0 - 4.0
Exports of goods (%)	5.9	(5.4) (Jan-Jun)	(4.0)*	5.0 (2024)*
Imports of goods (%)	18.5	(5.3) (Jan-Jun)	(3.0)*	7.0 (2024)*
OF Cash Remittances (g.r, %)	3.6	2.8 (Jan-Aug)	3.0*	3.0 (2024)*
BPO Receipts (g.r., %)	9.1	8.0 (Jan-Jun)	9.0*	9.0 (2024)*
Travel receipts (g.r., %)	595.4	502.0 (Jan-Jul)	100.0*	40.0 (2024)*
Net FDI (USD billion)	9.2	5.5 (Jan-Aug)	8.0*	10.5 (2024)*

Sources: DBCC-approved macroeconomic assumptions on 9 June 2023, PSA, and *BSP

A vibrant, stylized image of the San Francisco skyline is the background for the left half of the page. It features the Golden Gate Bridge in orange, the Transamerica Pyramid, and a red cable car in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue with white clouds and several white birds in flight.

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC BRIEFING

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

*Philippine Economy: Continuing a Strong
Recovery amid Economic Headwinds*

BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO

SECRETARY OF FINANCE

November 15, 2023