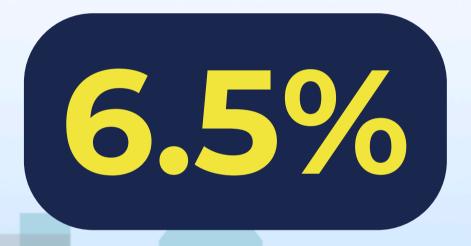
On interest rates

At its regular monetary policy meeting in May 2024, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) kept the Target Reverse Repurchase (RRP) Rate unchanged.



The Monetary Board maintains the BSP's restrictive monetary policy stance to keep inflation expectations anchored amid a possible buildup in upside risks to future inflation.

On inflation forecast



At the same meeting, the BSP reduced its risk-adjusted inflation forecast to **3.8% for 2024**, from 3.9 percent in the February 2024 MPR.

For 2025, inflation is projected at 3.7% due to:

- Increases in global oil prices
- Depreciation of the peso.



On risks to inflation

Certain factors may cause inflation to settle above the BSP's forecasts.



Higher transportation and toll fees



Higher food prices



Higher electricity rates

Higher global oil prices

On inflation expectations



Inflation expectations refer to how much people-consumers, businesses, investors, and policymakers-expect prices to rise over time. These expectations can influence actual inflation because they affect economic behavior.

External forecasters have adjusted their inflation expectations:

2024

3.8% from 4.0%

2025

3.5% unchanged

2026

3.5% from 3.4%

This year, inflation is expected to stay within the target range of 2.0 to 4.0 percent, though there are concerns about potential increases due to supply chain disruptions.

For 2025 and 2026, inflation is also expected to stay within the target range.

There were 20 respondents in the BSP's survey of external forecasters in May 2024, based on submissions from 9 to 15 May 2024.

On economic growth and outlook

2024

Modest growth despite external headwinds

RESILIENT

2025

Expected growth from stronger exports and better global conditions

ROBUST



On monetary policy



Sufficiently tight: The Monetary Board will maintain monetary policy settings until inflation settles firmly within the target.

Data-dependent: The BSP is ready to adjust monetary policy settings in response to economic developments.

Support measures: Focus on supporting the national government's non-monetary measures to address supply-side pressures.

Keeping the current monetary policy settings will allow the BSP to watch for factors that might push inflation higher as the effects of past monetary policy actions are expected to fully take hold in the coming months.

