

# REPORT ON INFLATION (FEBRUARY 2022)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The country's headline inflation rate remained at 3.0 percent in February 2022. This is below the median analyst forecast of 3.3 percent for this month.
- In particular, food inflation decreased to 1.1 percent in February from 1.6 percent in January. This was driven by slower inflation rates for meat, at 1.4 percent from 4.3 percent, and fish, at 2.9 percent from 6.2 percent. However, corn inflation significantly increased to 31.3 percent from an already elevated 27.7 percent.
- On the other hand, non-food inflation increased to 4.1 percent in February from 3.8 percent in January, mostly due to rising oil prices.
- Specifically, electricity, gas, and other fuels for household inflation accelerated to 12.8 percent, and private transport inflation increased to 29.8 percent.
- In contrast, public transport inflation remained muted at 0.9 percent as fares are regulated.
- The Development Budget Coordination Committee affirmed that the government is preparing to release PHP2.5 billion for the Fuel Subsidy Program that covers drivers of jeeps, buses, UV express, transport network vehicle services, and tricycles. In addition, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has a budget of PHP500 million to provide assistance through fuel discounts to farmers and fisherfolks who either individually own and operate agricultural and fishery machinery, or operate through a farmers' organization or cooperative.
- To help insulate the economy from external shocks from the Russia-Ukraine crisis, we reiterate the importance of shifting the entire country to Alert Level 1 and fully resuming face-to-face learning.

### Year-on-year (Y-O-Y) inflation rates\* (2018=100)

	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	YTD 2022
<b>Philippines</b>			
<b>Headline</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>
Core	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bottom 30 percent**	3.2	2.7	2.9
<b>NCR</b>			
Headline	1.3	1.9	1.6
<b>AONCR</b>			
Headline	3.5	3.4	3.4

\*Starting January 2022, the PSA has rebased the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to 2018 from the previous 2012 base year.

\*\*Bottom 30 percent uses 2012 as base year

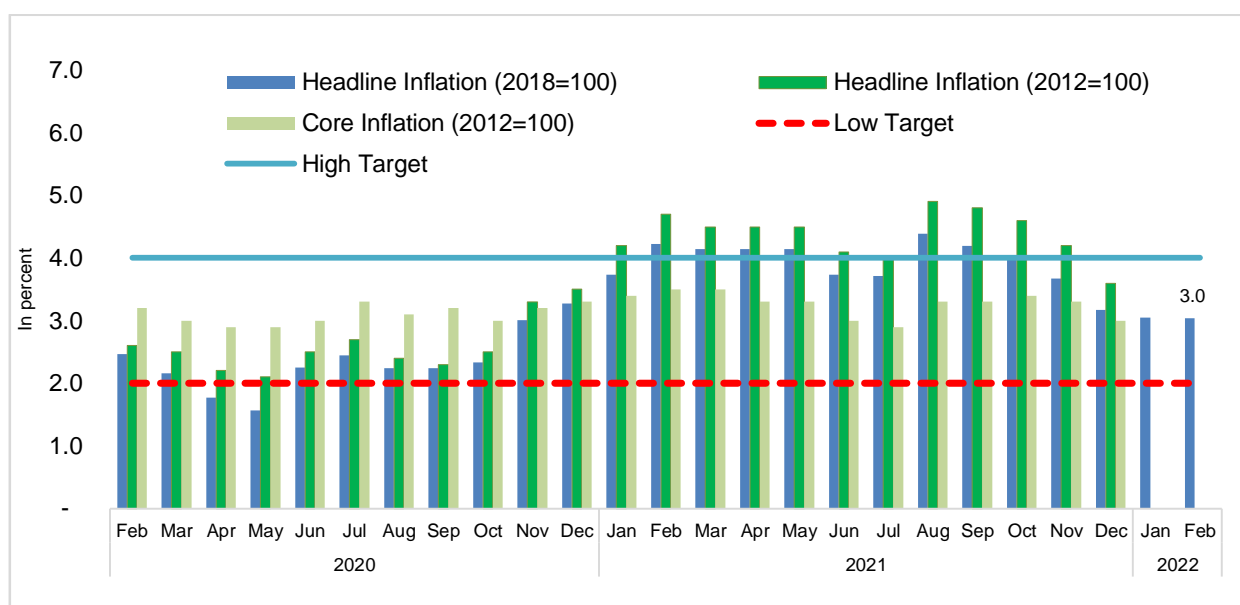
YTD = year-to-date

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

## 1. The headline inflation rate remained stable at 3.0 percent in February 2022; seasonally adjusted month-on-month inflation eased to 0.3 percent.

The Philippines' headline inflation remained steady at 3.0 percent in February 2022. This latest figure is within the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*' (BSP) forecast of 2.8 to 3.6 percent for February 2022, but lower than the private sector's median forecast of 3.3 percent.<sup>1</sup> For full year 2022, the BSP targets inflation between 2.0 and 4.0 percent.

**Figure 1. Headline inflation rates: February 2020 – February 2022**



The February inflation remained stable as the slower price adjustments in food and non-alcoholic beverages, alcoholic beverages and tobacco, health, restaurant and accommodation, clothing and footwear, house furnishings, and information and communication were offset by the faster inflation of transport, housing and utilities, and recreation, sports, and culture. Meanwhile, inflation in education, financial services, and personal care were unchanged in February (see Table 1).

<sup>1</sup> Noble, Luz T. Business World. "Inflation likely jumped 3.3% in Feb" [Bworldonline.com](https://www.bworldonline.com/inflation-likely-jumped-3-3-in-feb/)  
<https://www.bworldonline.com/inflation-likely-jumped-3-3-in-feb/> (accessed on 3 March 2022)

Month-on-month (m-o-m) seasonally-adjusted inflation slightly declined to 0.3 percent in February from 0.4 percent in January.

Meanwhile, inflation for the bottom 30 percent of households (2012=100) decelerated to 2.7 percent in February from 3.2 percent in the preceding month.

**Table 1. Headline inflation rates in the Philippines (in percent, 2018=100)**

Commodity Group	January 2022		February 2022	
	Y-O-Y	M-O-M <sup>2</sup>	Y-O-Y	M-O-M <sup>2</sup>
<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	1.7	2.3	1.2	-0.9
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	5.6	0.7	4.7	0.4
Clothing and Footwear	2.0	0.3	1.9	0.1
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels	4.5	0.2	4.8	0.6
Furnishing, Household Equipment, and Routine Maintenance of the House	2.4	0.5	2.3	0.1
Health	3.1	0.4	2.7	0.1
Transport	7.0	1.2	8.8	1.7
Information and Communication	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.0
Recreation, Sports, and Culture	1.5	0.2	1.6	0.3
Education Services	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.0
Restaurant and Accommodation	3.0	0.3	2.9	0.4
Financial Services	43.3	0.0	43.3	0.0
Personal Care and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	2.2	0.5	2.2	0.3

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

<sup>2</sup> The month-on-month (m-o-m) inflation figures cited in Table 1 are not seasonally-adjusted.

Five items under the food and non-alcoholic beverages commodity group are among the top contributors to inflation for this month. In particular, fish, corn, rice, bread and other cereals, and meat contributed a total of 0.6 percentage point (ppt) to total inflation. Meanwhile, electricity, gas and other fuels and the operation of personal transport equipment contributed 1.7 percentage points (see Table 2).

**Table 2. Top 10 contributors to inflation in February 2022  
(in percentage points)**

Commodity group	February 2022
Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels	0.9
Operation of Personal Transport Equipment	0.8
Food and Beverage Serving Services	0.3
Actual Rentals for Housing	0.2
Fish and Other Seafood	0.2
Corn	0.2
Rice	0.1
Personal Care	0.1
Flour, Bread, Other Bakery Products, Pasta Products, and Other Cereals	0.1
Meat and Other Parts of Slaughtered Land Animals	0.1
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTION TO INFLATION</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Others (e.g., education, clothing and footwear, furnishings, communications, recreation, etc.)	0.2
<b>OVERALL INFLATION</b>	<b>3.0</b>

## 2. Food inflation eased to 1.1 percent in February from 1.6 percent in January; non-food inflation picked up to 4.1 percent from 3.8 percent.

### Food

The inflation in food and non-alcoholic beverages decelerated to 1.2 percent in February from 1.7 percent in the preceding month. On a m-o-m seasonally-adjusted basis, food and non-alcoholic beverages recorded a -0.3 percent deflation from 0.7 percent in the previous month.

The slower food inflation was primarily driven by easing inflation across fish (2.9% from 6.2%) and meat (1.4% from 4.3%), which offset the slower deflation of fruits (-4.9% from -5.7%) and vegetables (-8.4% from -10.8%), and the uptick in rice (1.6% from 1.0%), corn (31.3% from 27.7%), and bread products (3.1% from 2.7%).

Fish inflation moderated amid favorable weather conditions, the lifting of closed fishing season in certain areas,<sup>3</sup> and increased imports. As of end-February 2022, 42.5 thousand metric tons (TMT) or 94 percent of fish imports with issued Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) have arrived at the Navotas Fish Port, although only 58.7 percent have been sold at the wholesale markets.

Meat inflation also decelerated to 1.4 percent, the lowest level since September 2020. This was mainly driven by slower pork inflation which slid anew to 4.5 percent (from 6.2% in the previous month). As of February 2022, the African Swine Fever (ASF) status in the country has improved with only six reported affected provinces<sup>4</sup> (compared to 51 provinces at the start of the ASF outbreak in August 2019), while imports for the month also increased by 4.5 percent to 18,947 MT. Nonetheless, easing meat inflation is primarily attributed to base effects as meat started to significantly accelerate across the first half of 2021.<sup>5</sup> Importers also

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<sup>3</sup> Closed fishing season lifted in Northeastern Palawan on February 1, 2022 and the Visayan Sea on February 14, 2022

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) Report

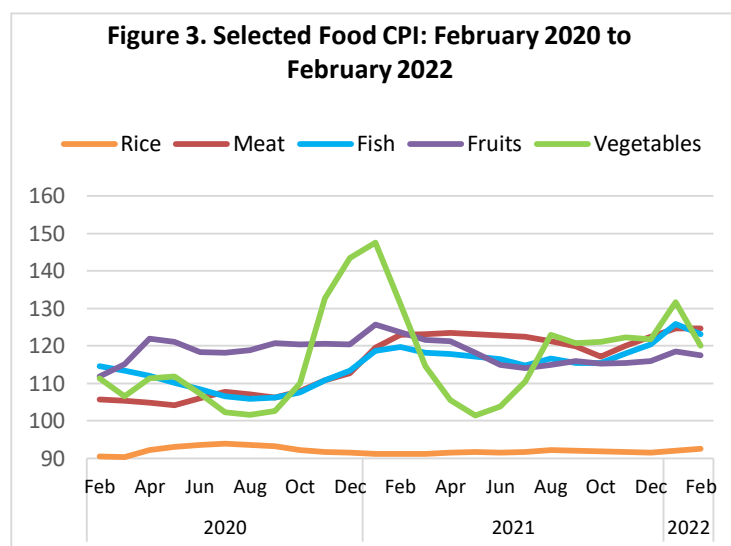
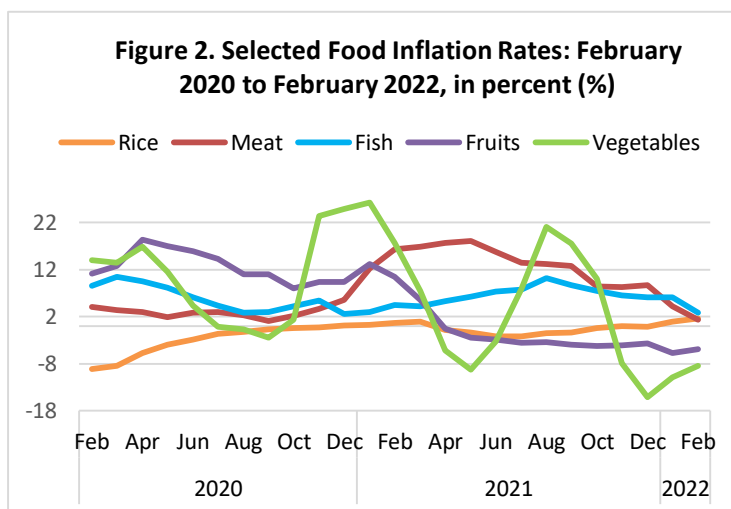
<sup>5</sup> Meat CPI was slightly higher in February 2022 than January 2022.

reported increased shipment delays from 30-60 days to 75-90 days, consequently limiting the impact of temporary import measures. The DA maintains a deficit outlook by end-2022 at around 120,889 MT or 27-day stocks.

Fruit and vegetable inflation remained in negative territory driven by cooling prices across both highland and lowland vegetables following the onset of the harvest season.<sup>6</sup>

On the other hand, rice inflation picked up to 1.6 percent from 1.0 percent. Despite ample domestic and import supplies, rice, together with corn and bread products, all experienced inflation upticks. This may be attributed to international oil price trends that have driven fertilizer prices higher. As of February 2022, local fertilizer prices increased by 47 to 150 percent year-on-year (y-o-y). Fertilizer inputs account for 6 to 21 percent of total farmer production costs.

Milk, other dairy products, and eggs slightly eased (0.7% from 0.9%), while oil and fats (8.9% from 8.5%), sugar and other sweetened items (4.9% from 2.8%), and ready-made food and other products (2.0% from 1.9%) have increased.



<sup>6</sup> Harvesting of onion starts in February and can last until April based on the DA-High Value Crops Development Program during the Task Group on Food Security Virtual Presser on March 23, 2021.

### Non-food

Non-food inflation picked up to 4.1 percent in February 2022 from 3.8 percent in January 2022. On a m-o-m seasonally adjusted basis, non-food inflation accelerated to 0.5 percent from 0.3 percent in the previous period.

Housing and utilities inflation accelerated to 4.8 percent from 4.5 percent, led by electricity, gas, and other fuels (12.8% from 12.3%). Meralco generation charges increased at a slower pace but remained high at 17.7 percent y-o-y from 21.7 percent in the previous month. Meanwhile, the increase in liquefied petroleum gas remained elevated at 17.6 percent y-o-y (from 19.9%), while kerosene continued its uptrend at 38.0 percent (from 33.0%).

Transport recorded faster inflation at 8.8 percent from 7.0 percent in the previous month. This was driven by the operation of personal transport equipment inflation which rose to 29.8 percent from 26.4 percent in the previous month, amid elevated domestic petroleum prices. In particular, unleaded gas (36.3% from 41.0%) and diesel (49.0% from 39.7%) both remained high. This reflects the rising international crude oil prices due to recovering global demand and limited supply prospects as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict amid Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Plus' (OPEC+) decision to maintain its current pace of supply increase (0.4mb/d).<sup>7</sup>

Inflation edged up for recreation and sports (1.6% from 1.5%), but eased for restaurants and accommodation (2.9% from 3.0%), clothing (1.9% from 2.0%), information and communication (0.6% from 0.7%), furnishings (2.3% from 2.4%), and health (2.7% from 3.1%).

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<sup>7</sup> OPEC Press Room. "26th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting concludes".  
[https://www.opec.org/opec\\_web/en/press\\_room/6830.htm](https://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/press_room/6830.htm) (accessed March 3, 2022)

Meanwhile, financial services (43.3%), education (0.6%), and personal care (2.2%) were stable. Financial services inflation remained elevated since April 2021 following increases in transaction fees for ATM withdrawal and money transfers.

### **3. Inflation in the National Capital Region (NCR) increased to 1.9 percent while inflation for areas outside the NCR (AONCR) slowed down to 3.4 percent. The Central Visayas Region recorded the highest inflation rate at 5.1 percent.**

Headline inflation in NCR accelerated to 1.9 percent in February 2022 from 1.3 percent in January 2022. This is due to faster price adjustments for transport (7.9% from 6.5%), restaurants and accommodation services (3.7% from 3.4%), personal care (1.4% from 1.2%), furnishing and household equipment (2.2% from 2.1%), and information and communication (0.6% from 0.5%), along with lower deflation of food and non-alcoholic beverages (-1.6% from -3.0%). These offset the slower inflation in alcoholic beverages and tobacco (4.0% from 4.7%), health (1.4% from 1.9%), and housing utilities (3.6% from 3.7%).

Meanwhile, financial services (46.0%), clothing and footwear (0.8%), recreation and sports (0.3%), and education services (-0.1%) inflation remained unchanged.

Inflation in AONCR inched lower to 3.4 percent from 3.5 percent. This was driven by slower price adjustments in food and non-alcoholic beverages (1.7% from 2.6%), alcoholic beverages and tobacco (4.8% from 5.7%), health (2.9% from 3.3%), restaurant and accommodation services (2.7% from 2.9%), clothing and footwear (2.2% from 2.3%), and information and communication (0.7% from 0.8%). These offset the sharp increase in transport (8.9% from 7.0%), along with housing and utilities (5.2% from 4.9%). Meanwhile, financial services (42.7%), furnishing and household equipment (2.4%), personal care and other services (2.3%), recreation and sports (1.8%), and education services (0.8%) were unchanged.



**Table 3. Y-O-Y regional inflation rates (in percent, 2018=100)**

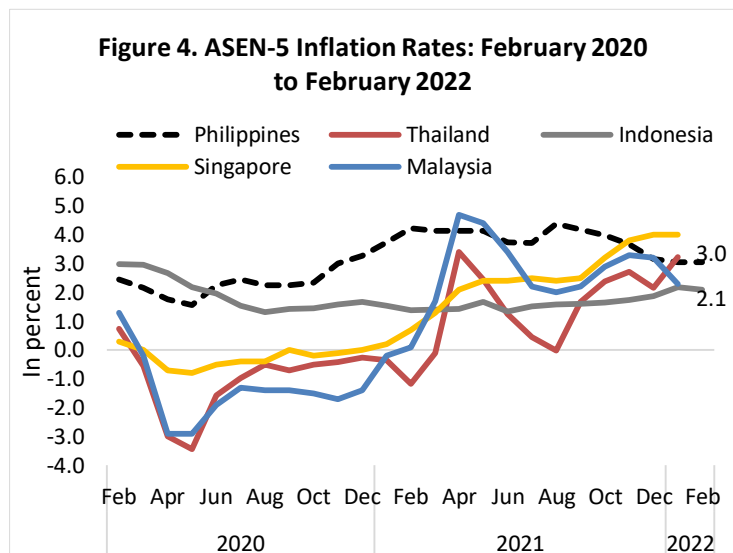
Regions	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	YTD 2022
NCR- National Capital Region	1.3	1.9	1.6
AONCR - Areas outside the NCR	3.5	3.4	3.4
CAR - Cordillera Administrative Region	4.2	4.3	4.2
I - Ilocos Region	3.4	3.1	3.2
II - Cagayan Valley	1.7	1.9	1.8
III - Central Luzon	2.5	3.0	2.8
IV-A - CALABARZON	2.4	2.6	2.5
IV-B - MIMAROPA Region	2.8	3.2	3.0
V - Bicol Region	2.7	2.8	2.8
VI - Western Visayas	4.6 <sup>r</sup>	3.3	3.9
VII - Central Visayas	5.0	5.1	5.1
VIII - Eastern Visayas	5.2	5.0	5.1
IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	6.0	3.8	4.9
X - Northern Mindanao	4.5	4.0	4.2
XI - Davao Region	5.1	4.4	4.8
XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	5.0	3.9	4.4
XIII - Caraga	4.3	3.4	3.8
BARMM	1.9	1.6	1.7

<sup>r</sup> revised

In AONCR, nine regions posted slower overall price movements while seven regions recorded an uptick (see Table 3). The Central Visayas region recorded the highest inflation rate at 5.1 percent in February 2022, faster than the 5.0 percent recorded in January. This was mainly driven by faster inflation in transport (4.8% from -4.0%), restaurant and accommodation services (1.3% from 0.3%), housing utilities (4.6% from 4.3%), and alcoholic beverages and tobacco (5.3% from 5.1%).

#### 4. Indonesia's headline inflation rate marginally eased to 2.1 percent. Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore have yet to release inflation figures for February 2022.

In February 2022, Indonesia's overall inflation slightly softened to 2.1 percent from 2.2 percent in January 2022. Inflation was slower in food, drinks, and tobacco (2.5% from 3.5%) while faster inflation was recorded in housing and utilities (1.5% from 1.2% in January 2022), food and beverage providers (3.0% from



2.7%), and personal care and other services (2.9% from 2.1%).<sup>8</sup> On February 10, 2022, the Bank Indonesia maintained its key policy rate at 3.5 percent to maintain exchange rate stability, control inflation, and stimulate economic growth.<sup>9</sup>

Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore have yet to report inflation figures for February 2022. In January 2022, inflation was faster in Thailand, slower in Malaysia, and unchanged in Singapore.

#### 5. Inflation outlook and policy implications

The BSP expects inflation at 3.7 percent in 2022 and 3.3 percent in 2023, slightly higher than its previous forecast of 3.4 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively.<sup>10</sup> For

<sup>8</sup> BI. "Deflation in February 2022 was 0.02 percent. The highest deflation occurred in Tanjung Pandan at 2.08 percent." <https://www.bps.go.id/pressrelease/2022/03/01/1858/deflasi-terjadi-pada-februari-2022-sebesar-0-02-persen--deflasi-tertinggi-terjadi-di-tanjung-pandan-sebesar-2-08-persen-.html> (accessed March 3, 2022)

<sup>9</sup> BI. "BI 7-Day Reverse Repo Rate held at 3.50%: Synergy Maintaining Stability and Strengthening National Economic Recovery" [https://www.bi.go.id/en/publikasi/ruang-media/news-release/Pages/sp\\_244122.aspx](https://www.bi.go.id/en/publikasi/ruang-media/news-release/Pages/sp_244122.aspx) (accessed March 3, 2022)

<sup>10</sup> BSP Monetary Board Meeting – February 17, 2022

2022, risks lean to the upside, mainly from supply issues in key food commodities, and the impact of increasing oil prices on transport fares. Downside risks stem mainly from the possible emergence of new COVID-19 variants. For 2023, risks remain broadly balanced. The country's monetary policy stance remains accommodative, with key policy rates remaining unchanged at 2.0 percent.<sup>11</sup> The BSP is carefully crafting its plan for the eventual normalization of liquidity measures, as needed, consistent with price and financial stability.<sup>12</sup>

### Food supply

Rice and chicken inventories for 2022 are estimated at 3.6 million MT (MMT) and 28.9 TMT, or equivalent to 96 and 7-day stocks, respectively.<sup>13</sup> A surplus in highland vegetables by year-end is also expected, with local production at 723.1 TMT or 171.3 percent of local demand.<sup>14</sup>

On the other hand, the supply of lowland vegetables is expected to fall short of demand, with a local production outlook of 1.3 MMT or only 80.2 percent of local demand. Similarly, pork supplies will remain in a deficit at 120.9 TMT,<sup>15</sup> despite the arrival of imports under Executive Order Nos. 133 and 134. The Pork minimum access volume (MAV) Plus remain underutilized where out of 200,000 MT,<sup>16</sup> less than 40 percent has been used. Meanwhile, for fish, a deficit may occur for the first quarter of 2022 due to the closed fishing season in some areas and damage brought by Typhoon Odette. Lastly, for yellow corn, a deficit may also take place for marketing year (MY)<sup>17</sup> 2021 or 2022, but this will be largely filled up by the importation of feed wheat and corn. While only 8 to 10 percent of Philippine wheat imports in 2020 were from Russia and Ukraine, and no corn was imported from

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<sup>11</sup> Overnight reverse repurchase facility at 2 percent, overnight deposit at 1.5 percent, and lending facilities 2.5 percent

<sup>12</sup> BSP Media and Research. "Monetary Board Holds Policy Settings Steady"  
<https://www.bsp.gov.ph/SitePages/MediaAndResearch/MediaDisp.aspx?ItemId=6168> (accessed March 3, 2022)

<sup>13</sup> DA estimates, presented during the Task Group on Food Security (TGFS) Meeting on February 2, 2022.

<sup>14</sup> NFA Council Meeting on 25 January 2022.

<sup>15</sup> DA estimates, presented during the Task Group on Food Security (TGFS) Meeting on February 2, 2022.

<sup>16</sup> Total of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche

<sup>17</sup> Marketing year starts from July to June of succeeding year.

these countries, the indirect impact through higher prices (wheat prices up to 14% since February 24, 2022) may be more substantial.

To further increase the utilization of MAV Plus, NEDA reiterates its recommendation to extend EO 133 and 134 to increase local supply and ensure regular unloading of stocks. Additionally, the DA can consult with importers to determine reasons for the MAV Plus underutilization, and continue to distribute more imported meat to targeted areas outside of NCR.<sup>18</sup> Aside from this, more timely unloading of pork stocks from cold storage is needed. As of the third week of February 2022, the average stock of frozen pork has been continuously decreasing since November 2021 but remains higher than in 2019.<sup>19</sup>

The proposed Livestock Development and Competitiveness (LDC) Bill seeks to modernize the livestock, poultry, and corn sectors of the country and lower meat prices in the market. Among the major provisions of the LDC Bill is the updating of the corn industry roadmap, along with the establishment of “competitiveness enhancement funds” for the livestock value chain. This can cover corn farmers. As corn is used as animal feeds for livestock, poultry, and fish, this can also help address fish prices which remain elevated despite the recent slowdown in inflation.

To augment fish supply amid the ongoing closed fishing season, the DA has issued two Certificates of Necessity to Import (CNI)<sup>20</sup> with a combined Maximum Importable Volume (MIV) of 120 TMT to augment the domestic supply of fish for wet markets for Q4 2021 to Q1 2022. The new CNI also includes an additional provision that requires imported fish to be immediately disposed of within 20 days upon arrival to address the low disposal rate under the previous CNI.<sup>21</sup> As of February 28, 2022, 45.1 TMT has been issued an SPSIC and entry permit while 42.5

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<sup>18</sup> DA’s Memorandum Circular No. 23 Series of 2021, dated October 25, 2021, expanded the market coverage under MAV Plus. It allowed the distribution outside of the NCR Plus (composed of Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna, and Cavite) to areas with relatively high prices of pork meat.

<sup>19</sup> Based on NMIS stock inventory data as of February 2022

<sup>20</sup> DA. “Administrative Order No. 01 s. 2022” [DA.gov.ph https://www.da.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/ao01\\_s2022.pdf](https://www.da.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/ao01_s2022.pdf);  
DA. “Administrative Order No. 22 s. 2022” [DA.gov.ph https://www.da.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ao22\\_s2021.pdf](https://www.da.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ao22_s2021.pdf)  
(accessed on March 3, 2022)

<sup>21</sup> Section 2 of the DA-Administrative Order 01-2022

TMT has already arrived at the Navotas Fish Port. However, only 24.9 TMT or 58.7 percent of the total arrival has already been disposed. Hence, the DA should facilitate the immediate distribution of imported fish under the CNI issued during the previous quarter to ensure sufficient supply in the market. Additionally, there are several bills that intend to build additional fish hatcheries – ensuring the sustainability of the country’s marine product supply.<sup>22</sup>

### Weather conditions

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA),<sup>23</sup> the La Niña phenomenon is present in the tropical Pacific and is likely to persist between March and May 2022 before returning to El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral conditions around May to July 2022. Meanwhile, four to seven tropical cyclones may enter or develop in the Philippines between March to August 2022. PAGASA expects below-normal to normal rainfall conditions over some parts of the country in the coming months. Farmers and fisherfolk can take advantage of the favorable weather forecast over the near term. Likewise, the government needs to maximize the period to implement key infrastructure projects that would improve productivity and resiliency in the agriculture sector and ensure sufficient water and energy supply.

### Transport Services

Oil prices have gone up significantly following the Russia-Ukraine conflict. To mitigate the adverse impact of higher oil prices on the transport sector, the government is preparing to release PHP2.5 billion for the Fuel Subsidy Program of the Department of Transportation. This aims to provide fuel vouchers to over 377,000 qualified public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers who are operating jeepneys, buses, UV express, transport network vehicle services, taxis, tricycles, and other

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<sup>22</sup> Cudis, Christine. “Setting up hatcheries to boost fish supply: DA-BFAR” [PNA.gov.ph](https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1167937)  
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1167937> (accessed on March 1, 2022)

<sup>23</sup> PAGASA. “Climate Outlook March 2022 – August 2022” [DOST.gov.ph](https://pubfiles.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/climps/climateforum/climateoutlook.pdf)  
<https://pubfiles.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/climps/climateforum/climateoutlook.pdf> (accessed on February 28, 2022)

full-time ride-hailing and delivery services nationwide.<sup>24</sup> Passenger transport capacity was also increased to 100 percent as restrictions shift to Alert Level 1. The government may also increase PUV routes to increase the availability of vehicles and minimize the over-congestion of passengers. The higher transport capacity will support passenger mobility and benefit drivers through increased income.

### Economic recovery

Moreover, to help insulate the economy from external shocks from the Russia-Ukraine crisis, it is important to shift the entire country to Alert Level 1 and fully resume face-to-face learning. The National Economic and Development Authority estimates that shifting the entire country to Alert Level 1 will generate an estimated PHP16 billion of economic activity per week and will translate to 297,000 less unemployed over the next quarter. On top of this, the full resumption of face-to-face learning can increase economic activity by PHP12 billion per week due to the return of services around schools such as transport, dormitories, food stalls, and school supplies stores, among others. By doing this, it will enable more people to earn income and strengthen our domestic economy amid upward price pressures due to global political tensions.

### Global oil prices

Amid the Russia-Ukraine tensions, OPEC+ maintains the 0.4 mb/d increase in oil production for April 2022 with global demand expected to expand by 4.2 mb/d in 2022.<sup>25,26</sup> As of March 2, 2022, Dubai crude oil futures prices have increased to USD 95.4/b in March 2022 but may decrease by December to USD 82.4/bbl.

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<sup>24</sup> <https://www.dbm.gov.ph/index.php/secretary-s-corner/press-releases/list-of-press-releases/2092-dbcc-statement-on-the-government-s-response-to-rising-fuel-prices>

<sup>25</sup> OPEC. "26<sup>th</sup> OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting concludes". OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report. [opec.org https://www.opec.org/opec\\_web/en/press\\_room/6830.htm](https://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/press_room/6830.htm) (accessed March 3, 2022)

<sup>26</sup> OPEC. "The Joint Technical Committee meets to review oil market conditions. [opec.org https://www.opec.org/opec\\_web/en/press\\_room/6827.htm](https://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/press_room/6827.htm) (accessed March 3, 2022)