

PEACE AND SECURITY

Index crimes, defined as crimes against persons and property, significantly decreased by more than 90 percent. Total crime volume decreased by 1.78 percent, and crime solution efficiency increased by 73.34 percent.

The total crime volume recorded in the third quarter of 2018 was estimated at 4,813, around 1.78 percent lower than the level in the same period of 2017. Of the total crime volume, 771 crimes or about 16.02 percent were index crimes, while the remaining 83.98 percent were non-index crimes. The total crime solution efficiency rate improved to 73.34 percent, or 19.08 percentage points higher compared to the performance in the second quarter of 2017.

In general, the Philippine National Police (PNP) Regional Office XII was able to reduce the incidence of crime due to the continued implementation of martial law and various police operations against all forms of criminality, constant coordination with other law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and their counterpart in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Moreover, the support of the LGUs, continuing intensification of police presence, community relations through barangay visitations have contributed significantly in the decrease of crimes.

CRITICAL INCIDENTS AND DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK

The surge in the prices of oil, commercial rice and fish products in the region have caused the increase in inflation rate.

With the onset of the rainy season, crop production is expected to increase for both irrigated and non-irrigated areas. Such favorable weather will also contribute to a positive growth in livestock and fish production.

Inflation rate will continue to decrease with the implementation of various measures by the National Government to stabilize supply and implement monetary policies that will dampen inflation rates. Accordingly, a moderate decrease in prices for most of the basic commodities is expected for the succeeding period as the prices of oil have started to decrease.

Christmas is also celebrated in the last quarter of the year, hence, the economy is expected to be more vibrant at this time of the year.

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The region at a glance:

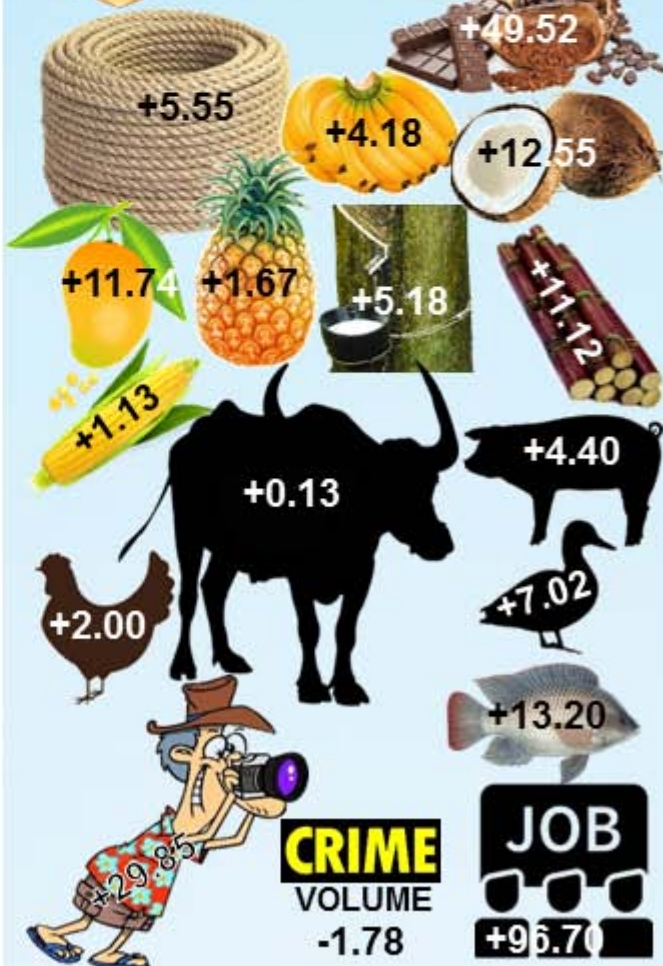
GAINERS



- Production of High Value Commercial Crops (HVCC), such as abaca, banana, cacao, coconut, mango, pineapple, rubber and sugarcane
- Yellow corn production
- Production of livestock and poultry, such as carabao, hog, chicken and duck
- Municipal inland fish production
- Tourist arrivals
- Crime solution efficiency rate
- Employment rate



- Index crimes
- Total crime volume
- Underemployment rate

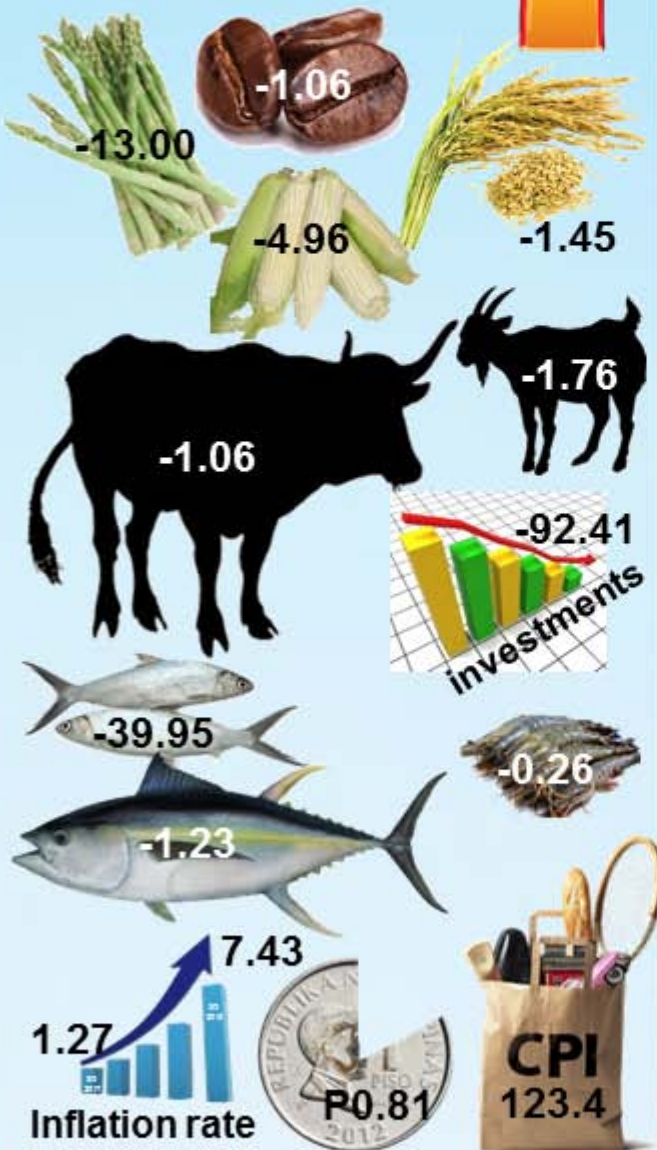


CRIME
VOLUME
-1.78

JOB
+96.70

LOSERS

- Production of High Value Commercial Crops (HVCC), such as asparagus and coffee
 - Production of irrigated and rainfed palay and white corn
 - Production of livestock, such as cattle and goat
 - Commercial and municipal marine fish production
 - Investments
 - Aquamarine production
 - Purchasing power of peso
- Inflation rate
 - Non-Index crime



INVESTMENTS

The amount of investments in the 3rd quarter of 2018 was significantly lower by 92.41 percent as compared to the same period in 2017 as the Board of Investments (BOI) approved only two (2) projects with a total investment of PhP930.04 million as compared to the four (4) projects approved during the same period in 2017 with combined investments amounting to PhP12.26 billion.

PRICES AND INFLATION

As of September 2018, inflation rate rose to 8.2 percent from 6.5 percent in July 2018 or a difference of 1.7 percentage points. One of the reasons for the increase was the surge of prices of commercial rice as the supply in the local market dwindled. The prices of fish products also contributed to rising inflation as fish supplies were limited due to the contraction in the performance of the fishery sub-sector. Another factor for the increase in inflation rate was the continuing price hikes of fossil fuel wherein prices were dictated by foreign market. The purchasing power of peso for the period was thus pegged at PhP 0.81, while the consumer price index (CPI) was recorded at 123.4 on 2012 baseline (2012=100).

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

For the period under review, labor force participation rate was registered at 61.7 percent with employment rate reaching 96.7 percent.

TOURISM

Tourist arrivals in the region increased by 29.85 percent from 995,019 in the third quarter of 2017 to 1,418,483 in the same period of 2018. About 28.46 percent of the tourists in the third quarter of 2018 were overnight tourists, while 71.54 percent were day tourists. Around 98.97 percent of day tourists were domestic tourists and the remaining were foreign tourists. For overnight tourists, 98.64 percent were domestic tourists, while 1.36 percent were foreign tourists.