

WEEKLY REVIEW (04/01/24 – 04/05/24)**What Happened Last Week**

- US bond and equity prices declined as strong US jobs report tempered expectations of early Federal Reserve rate cuts.
 - Change in Nonfarm Payrolls in March came in 303k, higher than market estimate of 214k.
 - February JOLTS Job Openings came in at 8.76m, higher than market estimate of 8.73m.
 - The unemployment rate fell to 3.8% in March versus 3.9% print the prior month.
- Local equities had a worse performance driven by weakening peso, high oil prices and downgrade of economic outlook.
 - NEDA downgraded PH GDP growth outlook to 6%-7% from 6.5% to 7.5% for 2024.
 - Brent Crude Oil price rose further by 4%, bringing YTD rally to 18%.
- Asset prices WoW changes:
 - The 10-year US Treasury yield closed higher at 4.40% from 4.20%.
 - The 10-year PHP benchmark yield higher at 6.33% from 6.24%.
 - PHP depreciated versus the USD at 56.50 from 56.24
 - S&P 500 declined by 0.95% to 5,204.34.
 - The PSEi declined by 2.29% to 6,745.46.

What to Expect This Week

- The market will focus on inflation-related data releases and FOMC minutes in the US.
 - US March CPI is expected to print at +3.4% YoY, higher than previous month's 3.2%.
 - US March PPI is expected to print at +2.2% YoY, higher than previous month's 1.6%.