



DASHBOARD

Changing News. Your Guide.

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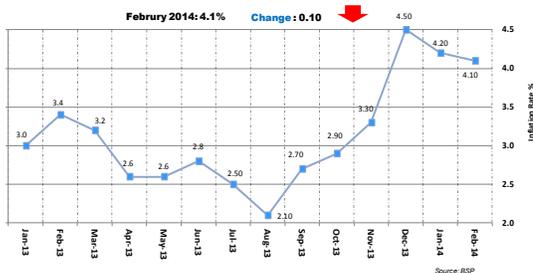
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Peso-US Dollar Rate



Inflation Rate



KEY INTEREST RATES

Overnight Lending, RP	5.50%
Overnight Borrowing, RRP	3.50%
91 Day T Bill Rates	0.87%
Interbank Call Loan Rate	2.00%

GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Yen Steady as Japan Inflation Rises 1.3%

Japan's inflation rate matched forecasts in February ahead of a sales-tax increase next week that could challenge the Bank of Japan's effort to stoke 2 percent price gains.

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MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Budget deficit balloons to P34.2 B

MANILA, Philippines - The country's budget deficit ballooned in January as the government ramped up spending for the reconstruction of areas devastated by Super Typhoon Yolanda.

In a statement, the Department of Finance said the deficit expanded by 75 percent to P34.2 billion in January from P19.5 billion in the same month last year.

A deficit occurs when government expenditure exceeds revenue over a particular period of time. (Philippine Star)

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Consumers warned of looming price hikes

The Department of Trade and Industry said it expects an increase in the prices of basic goods because of the recent move of the Confederation of Truckers Association of the Philippines (CTAP) to raise its hauling rates by 50 percent.

At the same time, the department said it was initiating an inquiry into the rate increase, which might lead to the filing of a complaint with the Department of Justice. (Business Mirror)

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FINANCIAL TRENDS

Monetary Board hikes reserve requirement

THE MONETARY BOARD, as expected, kept key interest rates steady at yesterday's policy meeting but hiked the reserve requirement for banks in a bid to mop up liquidity. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) policy-setting body also cut its 2014 and 2015 inflation forecasts. The central bank's overnight borrowing and lending rates were maintained at 3.5% and 5.5%, respectively, for an 11th straight meeting, with monetary authorities noting that inflation still remained manageable. Special deposit account (SDA) rates were also kept at 2%. (Business World)

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INDUSTRY BUZZ

Safe trucking tips

Reckless driving is an accident waiting to happen.

According to Transportation and Communications Assistant Secretary Dante Lantin, 79 percent of vehicular smash-ups in the country in 2012 were attributed to human error. This means that drivers who throw caution to the wind are likely to end up in misadventure.

Against this backdrop, the Cement Manufacturers' Association of the Philippines drew up a list of safety tips for motorists, specifically those driving alongside cargo haulers and other heavy duty vehicles. (Manila Standard)

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INTERNATIONAL

Bangkok 2014: Ford showcases Everest concept

Presenting a breakthrough blend of strength, style and technology, Ford showcased the new Ford Everest Concept at the Bangkok International Auto Show. The ASEAN debut of the Ford Everest Concept follows its global reveal in Sydney in August 2013.

"The Ford Everest Concept shows the bold new direction that we envision for a mid-size, seven-seat SUV that has been designed for ASEAN and global markets," said Matt Bradley, president, Ford ASEAN. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

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