



DASHBOARD

Changing News. Your Guide.

March 31, 2014
Volume 7 No. 38
AVID Daily E-News



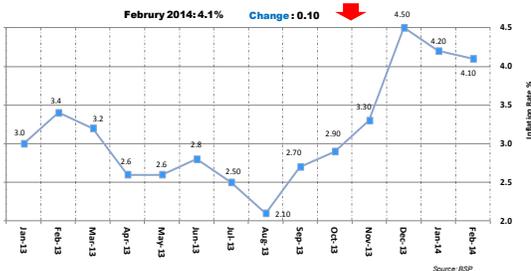
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



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



Why Japan Tax Hike May Be Nothing To Fear

An imminent sales tax increase has cast a further pall over Japan's struggling stock market - but some observers say it won't be the body-blow many investors are bracing for.

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MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Economist warns PH against heavy reliance on remittances

The Philippines is enjoying a "stable" and "balanced" growth backed by rising consumption and investment spending but its main structural weakness is too much reliance on overseas remittances, the chief economist of regional life insurer AIA Group said. Brian Murray, in a briefing to investors of Philam Asset Management Inc. Thursday night, said the country could sustain a gross domestic product growth of 6.9 percent this year, coming off a high base of 7.2 percent in 2012. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)



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Volume of domestic trade drops in Q4 2013

Domestic Trade flows fell in volume in the fourth quarter, though value increased in the same period, according to a statement uploaded on the Web site of the Philippine Statistics Authority on Friday. Specifically, total quantity of domestic trade transactions dropped 9.6% to 4.56 million metric tons (MT) from 5.04 million MT -- with water-borne trade accounting for 99.8% in the fourth quarters of 2012 and 2013 -- though value increased by 5.2% to P149.18 billion from P141.76 billion. (Business World)



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FINANCIAL TRENDS

Risk-averse investors help fuel 36-percent deposit growth in 2013

Bank deposits grew 36 percent in 2013, indicating the industry's continued dependence on cheap deposits as source of funds for lending, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). Total deposits swelled to P6.1 trillion in 2013, based on latest data. This means that total deposits grew by 36.2 percent over the span of 12 months. Bank deposit level at end-2013 stood \$1.7 trillion higher compared to the P4.4 trillion at end-2012. (Business Mirror)



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INDUSTRY BUZZ

LOCAL

Chery Motors plans assembly hub in PHL, unveils new autos

Chery Motors Philippines, in a bid to reestablish presence in the local automotive industry, unveiled on Thursday a new lineup of passenger vehicles and bared plans to make the Philippines its third assembly hub in the Southeast Asian region. The local unit of Chinese auto manufacturer Chery Automobile Co. Ltd. on Thursday revealed five new vehicle offerings along with a plan to establish an assembly plant in the Philippines, the company's third in Asia. (Business Mirror)



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INTERNATIONAL

Mitsubishi Motors to buy a Ford plant in the Philippines: Nikkei

Mitsubishi Motors Corp (7211.T) will buy a car plant from Ford Motor Co (F.N) in the Philippines for around 10 billion to 15 billion yen (\$97 million-\$145.7 million), the Nikkei newspaper reported on Monday without citing sources. The newspaper said Mitsubishi Motors is increasingly relying on Southeast Asia to boost sales. (Business Mirror)



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