



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

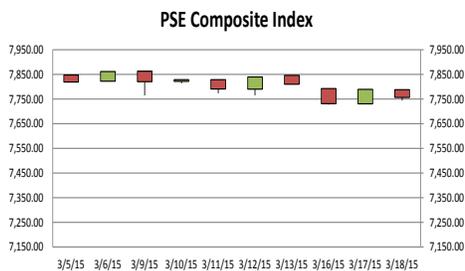
6.9 ↑ **Q4 2014 Gross Domestic Product**

2.50 ↑ **February 2015 Inflation Rate**

-21.8 ↑ **Q4 2014 Consumer Confidence**

16.9 ↑ **Q4 2014 Auto-buying Intention**

44.75 ↓ **Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate**



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



2 Rate Hikes for the US this Year?

Michael Hanson, senior U.S. economist at Bank Of America Merrill Lynch, explains what the projections of the Fed's overnight lending rate say about the timeline of a U.S. rate hike.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

IT-BPO Sector Posted 18.7% Revenue Growth in 2014

Danilo Sebastian L. Reyes, chair of the IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP), said that the sector's sustained growth was driven largely by the growing demand for its services from the global off-shoring industry, particularly in the voice and non-voice sectors, healthcare information management, global in-house centers (GICs), as well as gaming and animation.



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PHL, Indon Firms Found 3rd Most Bullish in Asia

Concern over a US interest rate hike kept sentiment in check at some of Asia's biggest firms, as optimism about the outlook for business over the next six months was near steady in the first quarter, a Thomson Reuters/INSEAD survey showed. The Thomson Reuters/INSEAD Asian Business Sentiment Index was 71 for the March quarter versus 72 three months earlier. A reading above 50 indicates an overall positive view.



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FINANCIAL TRENDS

BSP All Set to Approve Entry of 3 Asian Banks under New Law

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is set to approve the expansion of three Asian banks in the Philippines "very soon," which are on top of the growing number of applications coming from foreign banks within the region who are keen to establish a presence in the country following the passage of the law that authorized their entry here.



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INDUSTRY NEWS

Auto Industry on a Roll, Sales Up After "Ber" Months

Despite the seasonal slowdown in car sales after the Yuletide season, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (CAMPI) registered brisk sales in the first two months of 2015. "Normally we experience slow sales after the usual consumer spending of the Christmas season, but for this year sales were surprisingly on an upward trend," said CAMPI president Rommel Gutierrez.



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INTERNATIONAL

GM to Shut Russian Plant as Sales Slide

General Motors Co. will shut a Russian factory and wind down its Opel brand in the country, taking a \$600 million charge as it restructures to cope with a prolonged slump in the once-promising market, the U.S. carmaker said on Wednesday.



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