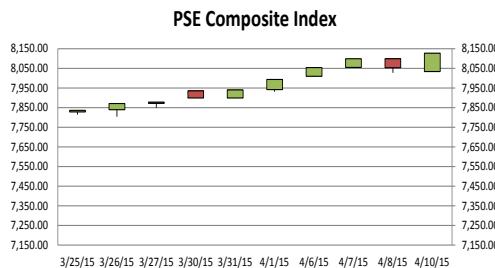
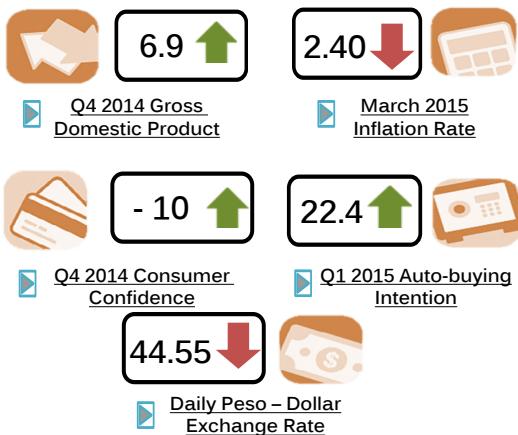




ECONOMIC INDICATORS



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Why China is in a Sweet Spot

Marcus Svedberg, chief economist at East Capital, explains the disconnect between China's economic situation and its stock market. He also explains why Europe is "almost out of the woods."

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

PHL Manufacturing Sector Recovered in February—Moody's

The country's manufacturing sector, a key output booster, was seen to have recovered in February from its poor showing the month before. In its latest forecast, Moody's Analytics, a division of the sovereign credit watcher Moody's Investors Service, said the Philippines's industrial production likely improved to 4.5 percent in February from low growth reported the previous month.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

Fitch Raises Philippine Growth Forecast

The economy could expand slightly faster than initially expected this year on the back of strong remittances and a growing business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, Fitch Ratings said in a recent report.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Foreign Direct Investments Weaken

Even as the domestic economy outperforms in the region, job-generating foreign investments slowed in January as economic conditions globally continued to slump. Documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed that foreign direct investments (FDI) at the start of the year stayed positive, but was lower by more than two-thirds over the same month in 2014.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



INDUSTRY NEWS

Affordable, 'Lifestyle' Cars Rev up PH Auto Industry

There are two standout automotive trends driving industry growth – affordable small vehicles and versatile vehicles that can be used for multiple purposes, an industry leader says. "It's a fantastic time for the automotive industry," said Maricar Cristobal-Parco, president of Asian Carmakers Corporation (ACC), the exclusive distributor of BMW vehicles in the Philippines.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



INTERNATIONAL

Volkswagen in Full-Blown Crisis as CEO Vows to Fight: Sources

Volkswagen has plunged into a full-blown leadership crisis after Chief Executive Martin Winterkorn let it be known on Saturday he will fight for his job even though the carmaker's chairman has reportedly withdrawn confidence in the CEO with rival BMW.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

