



## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

**6.9** ↑ **Q4 2014 Gross Domestic Product**

**2.20** ↓ **April 2015 Inflation Rate**

**-10** ↑ **Q1 2015 Consumer Confidence**

**22.4** ↑ **Q1 2015 Auto-buying Intention**

**44.54** ↑ **Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate**

### MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

#### Q1 Growth Likely Slower Than 4th Quarter

The economy likely expanded at a slower pace in the first three months of the year compared to the five-quarter high seen at the close of 2014 as growth in merchandise exports has so far disappointed, an official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said yesterday.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

#### Group Urges Lina to Take on Reforms

The Semiconductor and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc. (SEIPI) has urged newly appointed Customs Commissioner Alberto D. Lina to pursue crucial pro-business reforms that will boost the industry's competitiveness amid high power costs, inadequate infrastructure and logistics inefficiency.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

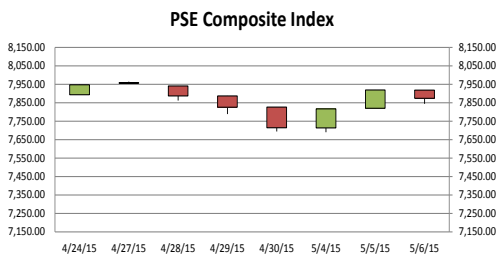
### FINANCIAL TRENDS

#### PHL Financial System Posts 'Solid' Showing in 2014 -- BSP

The country's financial system continues to be sound at the end of last year as the balance sheets of banks and non-banks remain healthy, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) yesterday said in a new report.



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### INDUSTRY NEWS

#### MMDA Pushes Bus Express Lane on Skyway 3

Long before the completion of the Skyway Stage 3 project, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has asked the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) to designate an express lane for buses on the elevated roadway, one of the major infrastructure projects aimed at easing the capital's perennial traffic jams.



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### GLOBAL WATCHLIST



**Time to be Cautious After Yellen's Warning: Pro**  
John Burke, CEO of Burke Financial Strategies, explains why Fed chair Janet Yellen's comments on equity valuations and interest rates overnight are "scary".

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

### INTERNATIONAL

#### VW Eyes Return To 'Calmer Waters' After Leadership Battle

Following a bitter power struggle in recent weeks, German auto giant Volkswagen is hoping to return to "calmer waters" and concentrate on its business of building cars, its chief executive Martin Winterkorn said Tuesday.



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