



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	6.1 ↑	1.30 ↓	
▶ Full Year 2015 Gross Domestic Product		▶ January 2016 Inflation Rate	
	- 11.6 ↑	20.0 ↓	
▶ Q3 2015 Consumer Confidence		▶ Q3 2015 Auto-buying Intention	
	47.58 ↑		
▶ Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate			

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

'Outperforming' economy to ride gov't spending -- HSBC
Philippine economic growth will outperform much of the region this year, according to HSBC Global Research, as government spending maintains its "strong momentum."



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Hot money flees in January

Foreign portfolio investments started the year in negative territory as investors shied away from emerging markets due to souring global economic prospects, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) reported yesterday.



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FINANCIAL TRENDS

BSP sets requirements for entry of new lenders

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has released official guidelines that will open the local banking industry to new players, detailing the process and the fees and requirements for putting up new banks and branches.



▶ [FULL STORY HERE](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

DTI taps foreign labs to do test on Montero

Eight foreign laboratories have expressed interest in conducting full vehicle tests on a model being produced by Japanese carmaker Mitsubishi Motors Corp. (MMC).



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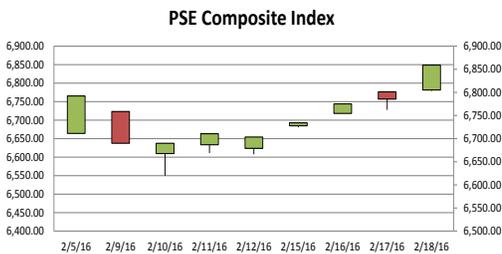
INTERNATIONAL

Toyota recalls 2.9M vehicles worldwide over seatbelt defect

Toyota said Thursday, February 18, it was recalling 2.87 million vehicles globally due to the possibility that their rear seatbelt could come apart in a crash and cause injuries.



▶ [FULL STORY HERE](#)



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



CNBC update: Obama enacts new sanctions
CNBC's Sharon Epperson reports the latest news making headlines today including President Obama enacting new sanctions against North Korea.

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