



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

6.1 ↑ Full Year 2015 Gross Domestic Product

0.90 ↓ February 2016 Inflation Rate

-11.6 ↑ Q3 2015 Consumer Confidence

20.0 ↓ Q3 2015 Auto-buying Intention

46.62 ↑ Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Inflation seen at 1.4%

Zurich-based Credit Suisse has lowered its 2016 inflation forecast for the Philippines to 1.4 percent from the original 2.4 percent to reflect the stable food prices and soft oil prices in the world market.



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Luxury spending on the rise in Philippines

The Philippines is emerging as a growing market for luxury brands as the number of Filipinos with high purchasing power continues to rise significantly, economists said.



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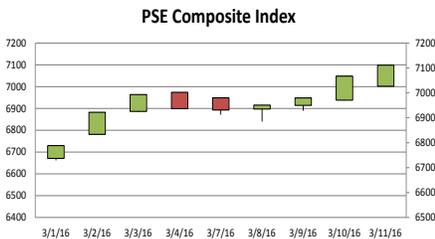
FINANCIAL TRENDS

Recovery plans required of big banks

The Central Bank has stepped up its watch on banks deemed "too big to fail," requiring them to submit by end-June contingency plans "[t]o ensure... continuous operation of essential and systemically important functions and services" should they face a funding crunch.



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INDUSTRY NEWS

Tata Motors seen expanding PH operation

After enjoying brisk business on its first full year of operation in the country, Indian-owned Tata Motors is expected to go into the next phase of its operation, which could be in the manufacture and assembly of automotive parts.



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INTERNATIONAL

Audi tops U.S. Consumer Reports vehicle ratings as Tesla falls

German luxury automaker Audi on Tuesday topped the annual ranking of new vehicles by influential U.S. magazine Consumer Reports despite the brand's emissions-cheating scandal while quality problems hurt Tesla Motors Inc's Model S luxury car.



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GLOBAL WATCHLIST

CHINA ECONOMY (JAN-FEB)

- Industrial Output: +5.4% y/y vs +5.6% est
- Retail Sales: +10.2% vs +10.8% est
- Fixed Asset Investment: +10.2% vs +9.5% est
- Housing Sales: +49.2%

Can China meet its GDP growth target?

China can hit its 6.5 percent GDP growth target because it has several stimulus options, explains Wei Li, China economist at CBA.

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