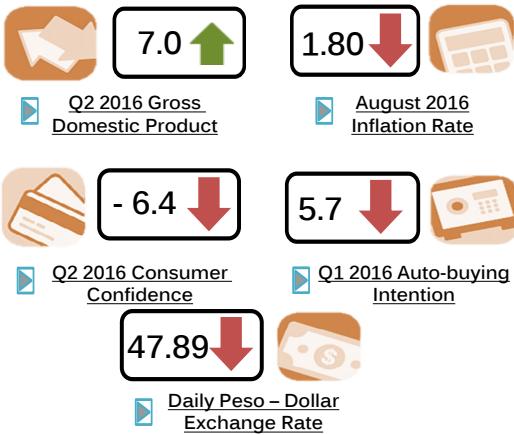




ECONOMIC INDICATORS



PSE Composite Index



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Fed keeps rates steady, signals one hike by end of year

The U.S. Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged, but strongly signaled it could still tighten monetary policy by the end of this year. Fred Katayama reports.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

S&P keeps PHL rating; upgrade unlikely

S&P Global Ratings has affirmed the Philippines' credit rating anew in the face of robust domestic activity and sound fiscal footing, but flagged "rising uncertainties" under the newly installed Duterte administration and said "a higher rating is unlikely" in the next two years.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

STANDARD & POOR'S



Philippines leads Asia's improving sentiment

Sentiment at Asian companies edged up to its highest level in five quarters in July-September, boosted by signs that China's economy is stabilizing and as concerns about Britain's move to exit the European Union recede, a Thomson Reuters/INSEAD survey showed.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

BPI takes control of BanKO

Alaya-led Bank of the Philippine Islands has taken full control of BanKO, the country's first mobile-powered microfinance-oriented savings bank, by completing the buyout of shares held by its parent conglomerate and telecommunications affiliate.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

Transport groups concerned about PUV phaseout

Jeepney operators and drivers warned on Wednesday that they plan to hold a nationwide transport holiday if Congress grants a proposal to phase out public-utility vehicles (PUV) 15 years old and above.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INTERNATIONAL

Women in Majority as Car Buyers, But Not as Dealer-ship Employees

Women influence 85% of overall buying decisions in North American households, "effectively becoming the family's chief purchasing officer," says Jody DeVere, CEO of AskPatty.com.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)