



## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

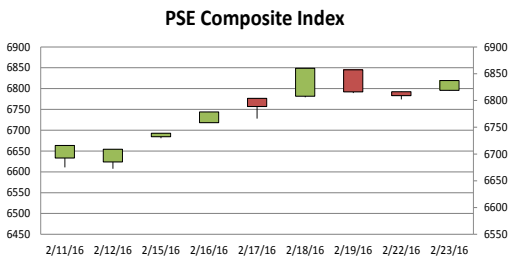
**6.1** ↑ Full Year 2015 Gross Domestic Product

**1.30** ↓ January 2016 Inflation Rate

**- 11.6** ↑ Q3 2015 Consumer Confidence

**20.0** ↓ Q3 2015 Auto-buying Intention

**47.64** ↓ Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate



### GLOBAL WATCHLIST



#### China's becoming a world-class arms dealer

Sales of weapons made in China have nearly doubled in the past five years, according to a study out Monday. Reuters' Megha Rajagopalan explains how it plays into China's military ambitions on the South China Sea and elsewhere.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

### MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

#### Foreign investment pledges rise in 2015

Foreign businessmen have become more optimistic about the Philippines' long-term economic prospects as they committed nearly a third more in job-generating investments during the last full year of the Aquino administration.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

#### 'Business as usual' amid global headwinds, but policy continuity vital

The Philippines can be expected to fare well against external headwinds, monetary officials said yesterday, but more must be done to attract investments in order to sustain fast growth.



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### FINANCIAL TRENDS

#### Metrobank posts lower income

Net income of Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank) dipped last year, although its core earnings surged on the back of the sustained good performance of its key businesses.

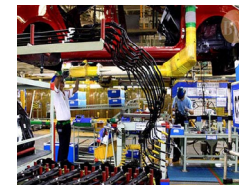


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### INDUSTRY NEWS

#### Seven ways the CARS program will affect buyers

For an automotive industry program that's named after the very thing Pinoy's are crazy about, it's truly ironic that the average motorist doesn't seem to "connect" with it. A big part of that disconnect may have stemmed from the program being explained from a pure business standpoint.



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### INTERNATIONAL

#### Volkswagen teases us with small SUV concept

Just weeks before the 2016 Geneva Motor Show in Switzerland, Volkswagen sent out a teaser photo of what seems to be the T-Cross. Though officially they're still keeping its name and specs under wraps, they did promise that a production version is on the horizon.



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