



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

7.1 ↑ **Q3 2016 Gross Domestic Product**

2.60 ↑ **December 2016 Inflation Rate**

9.2 ↑ **Q4 2016 Consumer Confidence**

6.6 ↓ **Q4 2016 Auto-buying Intention**

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

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Policy stance will not follow US Fed – BSP chief

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. reiterated that the data-dependent monetary policy stance is still appropriate and there is no need to “adjust in sync” with the US Federal Reserve rates’ movements.



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Foreign debt service up 21.74%

The public and private sectors paid \$5.152 billion in external debt service burden as of end-third quarter last year, higher by 21.74 percent compared to the same period in 2015 of \$4.23 billion due in part to the weakness of the peso, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) reported.



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FINANCIAL TRENDS

PSEi to test 7,300 as mart prices in Fed hike plans

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) is set to test the 7,300 mark in the coming days, with the US Federal Reserve’s planned rate hikes for the year getting clearer following the release of the minutes of its December meeting last week.



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INDUSTRY NEWS

Assemblers convene to tackle tax hike impact

Assemblers are convening their group to put out a common stand on the planned increase in excise taxes and its impact on their operations.



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GLOBAL WATCHLIST



The rise of the greenback: unstoppable?

The U.S. dollar has been at 14-year peaks on an abundance of upbeat global economic data and signs of quickening inflation, and a new Reuters polls shows most analysts expect the rally to continue through 2017. David Pollard reports on the winners and the losers of the greenback’s surge.

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INTERNATIONAL

As Trump targets Toyota over Mexico, Nissan faces bigger risk

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has threatened Toyota Motor Corp over its Mexican-built cars, but the biggest risk from a punitive tariff would be for its compatriot Nissan Motor Co., the largest automaker operating in the country.



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