



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

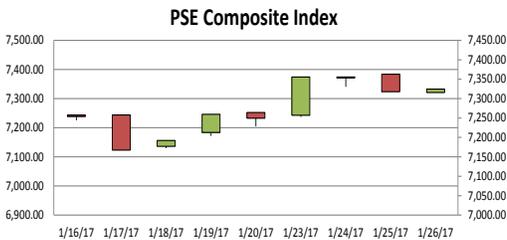
6.6 **Q3 2016 Gross Domestic Product**

2.60 **December 2016 Inflation Rate**

9.2 **Q4 2016 Consumer Confidence**

6.6 **Q4 2016 Auto-buying Intention**

49.81 **Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate**



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



UK's May en route to Trump - and trade?
British Prime Minister Theresa May becomes the first foreign leader to meet U.S. President Donald Trump. As David Pollard reports, her visit to Washington carries high stakes for both leaders.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Economy grows fastest in three years

The Philippine economy grew at a three-year high in 2016, closing the period near the upper end of the official target range and providing impetus to meet 2017's higher goal.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

Imposition of excise tax on petroleum products needs further study—TMAP

The Tax Management Association of the Philippines (TMAP) has asked the House of Representatives to conduct more studies on the proposal of the Department of Finance (DOF) to impose excise tax on petroleum products.



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FINANCIAL TRENDS

Businesses grapple with impact of weaker peso

The Philippine peso is expected to lose further ground to the US dollar this year, but the depreciation failed to make a significant dent on corporations, with the higher cost of imports likely to be borne by household consumers.



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INDUSTRY NEWS

Mitsubishi 'looking for ways' to include SMEs in auto production

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (MMPC) said it continues to look for ways to include small auto parts makers in its local car production under the government's Comprehensive Automobile Resurgence Strategy (CARS) Program.



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INTERNATIONAL

Could 'Brexit' put the brakes on Britain's car industry?

Britain's car industry reached its highest production level of the 21st century last year, but with "Brexit" talks imminent manufacturers are facing uncertain times ahead of the country's European Union (EU) exit.



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