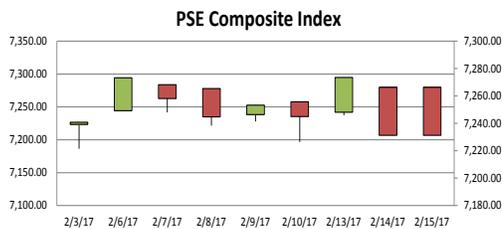




## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	<b>6.6</b>	<b>2.70</b>	
<a href="#">▶ Q4 2016 Gross Domestic Product</a>		<a href="#">▶ January 2017 Inflation Rate</a>	
	<b>9.2</b>	<b>6.6</b>	
<a href="#">▶ Q4 2016 Consumer Confidence</a>		<a href="#">▶ Q4 2016 Auto-buying Intention</a>	
<b>49.97</b>			
<a href="#">▶ Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate</a>			



## GLOBAL WATCHLIST



### Trudeau tells EU: the world needs you

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau praised the European Union as an unprecedented model for peaceful cooperation, in a speech to EU lawmakers that contrasted sharply with the critical stance of U.S. President Donald Trump. Fred Kayatama reports.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

## MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

### 2017 conditions to be ripe for rate hike

This year will see generally better business prospects, strong overall economic growth and a continued inflation pickup, two banks said in separate notes yesterday, with one adding to projections that conditions will eventually be ripe for a tightening of monetary policy.



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### 'Hot money' flows off to a strong start

More foreign capital entered the Philippines as the year opened, ending a two-month streak of outflows on the back of renewed optimism and strong economic growth reported last month, the central bank said yesterday.



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## FINANCIAL TRENDS

### Government urged to monitor nonbank lending outlets

The government needs to monitor the lending activities of inhouse lenders and other nonbank entities to contain risks of overexposure and avoid the financial pitfalls to certain front-running sectors, like real estate.



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## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Ayala supports tax reform, higher vehicle excise tax

The Ayala Group has expressed full support to the government's tax reform program, including the planned excise tax hike on automobiles, despite concerns this would dampen the vehicle industry's growth.



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## INTERNATIONAL

### Germany urges fair business environment for its car-makers in China

Germany wants China to create a fairer business environment for foreign companies, especially German carmakers seeking to tap into Beijing's drive for greener cars, Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel told his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Thursday.



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