



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	6.6	2.70	
▶ Q4 2016 Gross Domestic Product		▶ January 2017 Inflation Rate	
	9.2	6.6	
▶ Q4 2016 Consumer Confidence		▶ Q4 2016 Auto-buying Intention	
50.31			
▶ Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate			

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Spending spurs deficit closer to plan

State moves to crank up spending in a bid to nudge economic growth to a higher plane pushed last year's fiscal balance closer to the program-- and the deficit-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio to its highest in six years-- even as most targets were missed, official data showed.



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Trade dep't aims to regain lost investment pledge momentum

The government is targeting a recovery this year in foreign investment commitments which sank in value in 2016, the country's Trade chief said yesterday.



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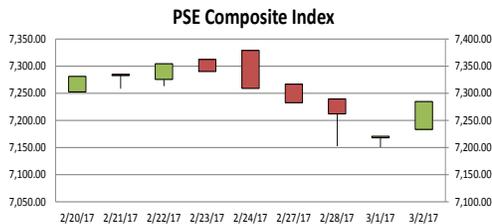
FINANCIAL TRENDS

Lower capital income tax to boost appetite -- BSP

Proposals to reduce taxes on capital income could boost investor appetite towards various assets and instruments, a central bank official said, but warned it could also prompt consumers to spend now instead of saving more as returns dip.



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GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Oil drops on record U.S. crude stocks

Crude prices fell after U.S. crude inventories rose to an all-time high last week and Russian output was unchanged in February. Fred Katayama reports.

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Cars illegally parked along fire lanes to be fined Php 6,500

Aside from getting cited and your vehicle towed to the impound for illegally parking along city streets of Metro Manila, you may soon find yourself paying a very hefty fine.



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INTERNATIONAL

Mexico economy minister to meet with Ford, GM in Detroit

Mexico's economy minister will travel to Detroit on Friday to meet with executives from automakers Ford Motor Co and General Motors Co, keeping a frenetic pace of meetings to deter President Donald Trump from punishing Mexican exports.



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