



## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

**6.6**

**3.40**

**8.7**

**7.1**

**49.83**

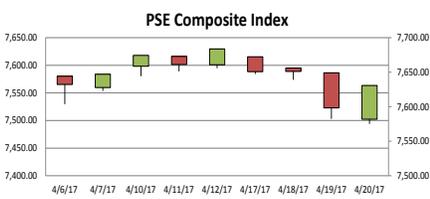
Q4 2016 Gross Domestic Product

March 2017 Inflation Rate

Q1 2017 Consumer Confidence

Q1 2017 Auto-buying Intention

Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate



## GLOBAL WATCHLIST



**Students and firms fear Trump visa changes**  
International students pursuing post-graduate degrees in the sciences and engineering are expressing grave concerns after President Trump signed an executive order seeking a review of the U.S. visa program for bringing high-skilled foreign workers into the country.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

## MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

### Board of Investments releases draft rules for Investment Priorities Plan

The Board of Investments (BOI) has released the draft guidelines for implementing the 2017 Investments Priorities Plan (IPP) which serves as the blueprint for activities entitled to incentives from the government.



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### BSP sees end of rice QRs helping ease inflation

The government must find a way to support local farmers to cushion the blow from the influx of cheap rice, the bangko sentral ng pilipinas (bsp) said as it backed the lifting of rice import restrictions by July.



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## FINANCIAL TRENDS

### BSP ready to act vs financial shocks — Tetangco

Philippine monetary authorities are ready to deploy macroprudential measures to address potential tightness in funding conditions as well as strong capital outflows due to shocks from interest rate hikes in the US and tensions in the Korean Peninsula.



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## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Administration aims to finish five major expressways by 2022

The DPWH will be hard at work if they aim to finish five major expressways before President Duterte's term finishes. During the Duterteonomics forum, Secretary Mark Villar outlined the department's plans to build – and complete – the said highways that promises faster travel times from Northern Luzon to Southern Luzon.



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## INTERNATIONAL

### Malaysia Aims for Leadership in SE Asia EV Marketing

Malaysia plans to duke it out with Thailand to be South-east Asia's marketing hub for electric vehicles. Thailand is offering automakers tax breaks for green-car production, and it has established excise-duty exemptions for vehicle buyers.



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