



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

6.9 ↑ **3.30** ↓

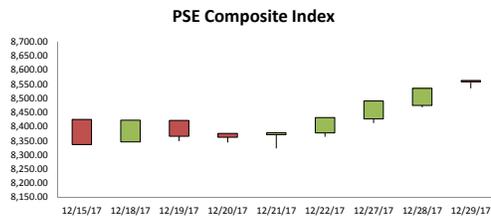
Q3 2017 Gross Domestic Product November 2017 Inflation Rate

10.2 ↓ **7.6** ↓

Q3 2017 Consumer Confidence Q3 2017 Auto-buying Intention

49.93 ↑

Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Saudi: fuel hikes and now VAT in bid for revenues

Saudi Arabia and the UAE introduce VAT on most goods and services as both seek new revenues after years of low oil prices. As David Pollard reports, the move is a first for Gulf states, and comes after a sharp hike in Saudi fuel prices.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Factory activity growth eases, still 'solid'

Improvement of operating conditions of factories in the country eased in December but remained "solid," setting the stage for "stronger growth" this year, according to a monthly survey IHS Markit conducts for Nikkei, Inc.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

Oil firms decry 'short notice directive' on TRAIN's IRR comments

House leaders on Tuesday called on the Duterte administration to keep an eye on oil firms and conduct on-the-spot audits to ensure that they do not engage in profiteering and prematurely hike their fuel prices following the implementation of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act.



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FINANCIAL TRENDS

Consumer lending to be banks' new battleground

Consumer lending will serve as the main battleground for banks in the Philippines over the next few years, a central bank official said, depending on how fast and efficient players can adopt digital channels to enhance financial services.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

Tax reform makes luxury vehicles cheaper – study

The Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law, which will take effect on Monday, is seen to slash prices of luxury vehicles, also known as toys of the rich.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INTERNATIONAL

Diesels' Share of New French Car Registrations Falls Below 50%

New passenger car registrations in France rose 4.74 percent to more than two million vehicles in 2017 but the share of new diesel cars fell below 50 percent for the first time since 2000, industry data showed on Monday.



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