



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

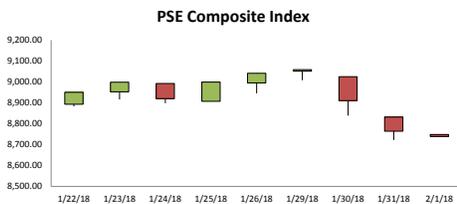
6.6 ↓ **Q4 2017 Gross Domestic Product**

3.30 ↓ **December 2017 Inflation Rate**

9.5 ↓ **Q4 2017 Consumer Confidence**

8.6 ↑ **Q4 2017 Auto-buying Intention**

51.58 ↓ **Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate**



MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Tax hikes temper demand, manufacturing sector growth

The increase in the excise tax rates slapped on various products to generate more revenue for the government under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) act tempered demand and manufacturing growth in January, the latest Nikkei Philippines Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) showed.



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Competition body walks a tightrope as it intensifies enforcement this year

Competition authorities will have to strike a balance between allowing investments to flourish and protecting the welfare of consumers as the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) ramps up enforcement this year.



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FINANCIAL TRENDS

BSP satisfied with current peso-dollar exchange rate

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Nestor A. Espenilla Jr. is still not worried about the exchange rate volatility and that the peso is only showing its flexibility to market conditions.



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INDUSTRY NEWS

Official: Here is BMW PH's 2018 pricelist with new excise taxes

Since the start of the year, automakers have been releasing post-TRAIN prices for their vehicles. It seems like BMW Philippines has taken a different approach with the excise tax by giving their product range an overhaul.



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GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Factories start 2018 on solid footing

Factories across the globe got off to a strong start in 2018, with manufacturing activity in many countries gaining momentum and hitting multi-year highs as demand for products remained strong. David Pollard reports.

INTERNATIONAL

Automakers, Dealers Should Keep Passenger Economy on Radar

In such a rapidly changing business environment, auto companies and dealers should prepare for a passenger economy that could dramatically re-define the industry.



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