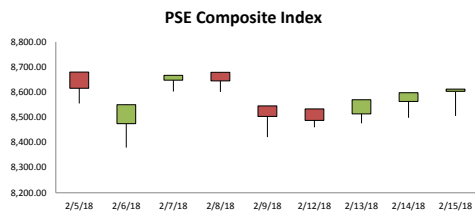
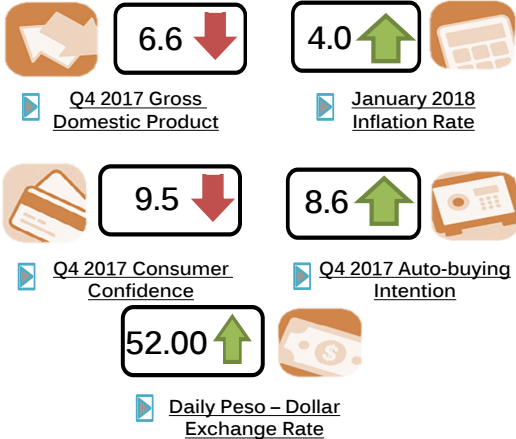




ECONOMIC INDICATORS



MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Growth push driving trade gap — BSP

A widening trade deficit should not be taken as a sign of a weakening Philippine economy but that growth will be fueled further, a central bank official said.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

Dec. sees record-high remittances

Cash remittances surged anew to a fresh record high in December, the central bank reported on Thursday, propelling these inflows past the growth forecast for the full year.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

ICBC gets BSP green light to start PHL operations

A chinese bank has secured regulatory approval to operate in the Philippines, which comes at a time of warmer ties between the two nations.



ICBC

中国工商银行

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

GLOBAL WATCHLIST



U.S. and Turkey agree to mend ties

The United States and Turkey agreed on Friday to try to rescue a strategic relationship that Washington acknowledged had reached a crisis point, with Turkey proposing a joint deployment in Syria if a U.S.-backed Kurdish militia leaves a border area.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

DTI prefers local players in the PUV modernization program

Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon M. Lopez expressed preference for local firms instead of importers as participants in the Philippine Utility Vehicle (PUV) Modernization Program.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INTERNATIONAL

Record Renault earnings strengthen Ghosn's hand

French carmaker Renault posted record sales and profit for 2017, bolstering Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn's position in the face of government demands for a clearer succession plan and deeper integration with alliance partner Nissan.



RENAULT

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