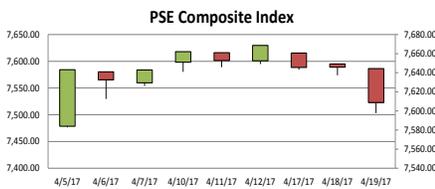




## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	<b>6.6</b>	<b>3.40</b>	
<a href="#">▶ Q4 2016 Gross Domestic Product</a>		<a href="#">▶ March 2017 Inflation Rate</a>	
	<b>8.7</b>	<b>7.1</b>	
<a href="#">▶ Q1 2017 Consumer Confidence</a>		<a href="#">▶ Q1 2017 Auto-buying Intention</a>	
	<b>49.73</b>		
	<a href="#">▶ Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate</a>		



### MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

#### BOP deficit widens to \$994M in 1st quarter

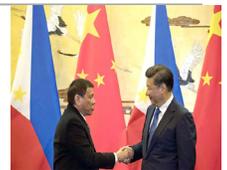
The country posted a balance-of-payments (BOP) deficit of \$550 million in March, the sixth straight month that the amount of dollars that left the economy was more than what came in.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

#### Duterte among 28 leaders to attend China's Belt & Road forum

President Rodrigo Duterte will be among the leaders of 28 countries who will attend the Belt and Road (B&R) Forum for International Cooperation next month, another major "home diplomacy" event for China after the Hangzhou G20 Summit in 2016.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

### FINANCIAL TRENDS

#### Peso weakens further on geopolitical noise

The peso extended its losing streak against the dollar to a third straight day as it tracked its regional peers due to safe-haven buying, still amid lingering geopolitical tensions offshore.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

### INDUSTRY NEWS

#### Diokno: CARS program currently not the main focus of gov't

In an effort to ramp up development for infrastructure, vehicles will soon be affected by the excise tax. This means higher sticker prices of cars, which we covered a few months ago. Despite that, the government is sticking to the CARS Program, also known as the Comprehensive Automotive Resurgence Strategy Program.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

### GLOBAL WATCHLIST



#### An 'unchecked Iran' could follow same path as North Korea: Tillerson

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson says the Iran nuclear deal ignores the other serious threats posed by Tehran and that, if it continues, Iran may go down the "same path" as North Korea.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

### INTERNATIONAL

#### GM expands operation and research into autonomous vehicles

The race to manufacture self-driving automobiles continues and General Motors isn't about to be left behind.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)