



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

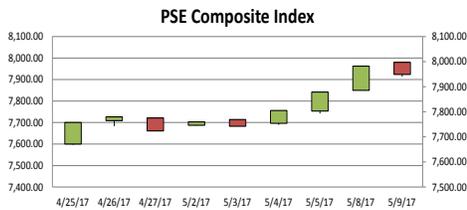
6.6 ↓ Q4 2016 Gross Domestic Product

3.40 ↑ April 2017 Inflation Rate

8.7 ↓ Q1 2017 Consumer Confidence

7.1 ↑ Q1 2017 Auto-buying Intention

49.91 ↓ Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Germany: stronger economy raises Merkel vote hopes

From online shopping firms to banks and autos, profits are up at German firms. As David Pollards reports, the results come as industrial output points to solid growth, giving a boost to Chancellor Angela Merkel as she bids for a fourth term in September's federal election.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

PHL to remain growth leader in Asia, but good jobs needed

The Philippines will likely continue to be a growth leader in Asia until 2018 on the back of robust domestic demand and a recovery in regional trade, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its latest report, noting that the country's young work force will help boost the local economy.



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Cimatu to allow responsible mining

Newly appointed Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu said that mining companies would be allowed to operate as long as they do not destroy the environment and are properly managed.



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FINANCIAL TRENDS

Government makes full award of Treasury bills

The government made a full award of P15 billion in Treasury bills (T-bills) on Monday, as investors sought shorter-termed papers amid heightened caution ahead of the anticipated interest rate hike by the US Federal Reserve next month.



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INDUSTRY NEWS

EVs and hybrid cars might be exempted from the excise tax increase

Recently, the local automotive industry was ruffled by news that the Department of Finance's (DOF) tax reform package had passed the House Committee on Ways and Means. If you're a prospective car owner looking for a bright side in all of this, it looks like there will be exemptions to the excise tax.



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INTERNATIONAL

Suzuki bolstering India auto output as competition revs up

Suzuki Motor will invest a further 100 billion yen (\$876 million) in Indian production, aiming to maintain its commanding share in a competitive market that soon will contribute over half the automaker's global vehicle output



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