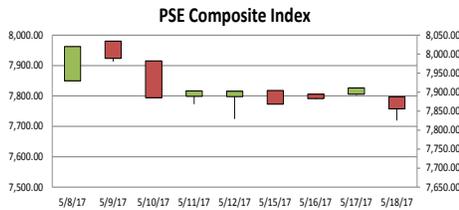




ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	6.4	3.40	
▶ Q1 2017 Gross Domestic Product		▶ April 2017 Inflation Rate	
	8.7	7.1	
▶ Q1 2017 Consumer Confidence		▶ Q1 2017 Auto-buying Intention	
	49.81		
▶ Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate			



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Japan hits longest GDP growth run in a decade
Japan's economy grew at the fastest pace in a year in the first quarter, marking the longest period of expansion in a decade. Reuters Leika Kihara explains why that's a win for the country, as well as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Manila could kiss duty-free export privilege to EU goodbye soon

The decision of President Duterte to reject grants from the European Union (EU) also put at risk the future of Philippine companies that depend on the tariff-free privilege they are enjoying in exporting to Europe.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

BSP says outlook 'strong' but banks see case for hike

The Central Bank said that the outlook for growth remains strong-- even as the economy expanded less than anticipated in the first quarter-- signaling that its current monetary policy remains appropriate although economists continue to expect hawkish moves later this year.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Peso drops further on US, GDP

The peso continued to slide versus the greenback on Thursday after markets resorted to safe-haven buying amid heightened political uncertainties offshore and due to weaker-than-expected Philippine economic growth in the first quarter.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

Volkswagen PH gives 2017 Jetta more features, variants

For 2017, Volkswagen Philippines has added more variants, features, and an updated engine for the Jetta. Starting off with its updated powerplant, the 2.0-liter direct injection turbo diesel engine now produces 150 PS and 340 Nm of torque. Still delivering power to the front wheels is the same 6-speed dual-clutch gearbox.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INTERNATIONAL

Four carmakers settle claims over Takata inflators for \$553 million

Four automakers agreed to a \$553 million settlement to address class-action economic loss claims covering owners of nearly 16 million recalled vehicles with potentially defective Takata airbag inflators, according to court documents filed on Thursday.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

