



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

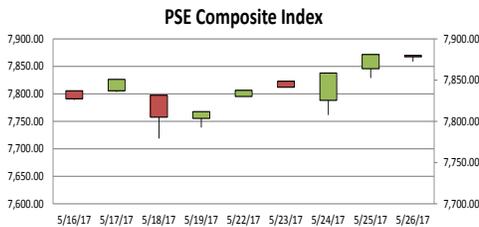
6.4 ↓ **Q1 2017 Gross Domestic Product**

3.40 ↑ **April 2017 Inflation Rate**

8.7 ↓ **Q1 2017 Consumer Confidence**

7.1 ↑ **Q1 2017 Auto-buying Intention**

49.75 ↑ **Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate**



MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

State infrastructure spending, other capital outlays weaken in April

The government's infrastructure spending and other capital outlays fell by a little over a fifth as this quarter began despite the expected pickup in public works before seasonal rains, a performance the Budget chief blamed on lingering base effects of the previous administration disbursed funds as it wound up its term towards June last year. [FULL STORY HERE](#)



Firms to hire fewer workers in Q3—survey

Local businesses are looking to hire fewer new employees in the next quarter of the year, as firms expect tighter financial conditions and stale expansion plans during the period. [FULL STORY HERE](#)



FINANCIAL TRENDS

PHL banks going from 'strength to strength'

When leadership at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) changes hands by the end of next month, the new governor will inherit a banking system that is set to-- in the words of a top banker-- "go from strength to strength."



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

5-year driver's license validity a "done deal" in Senate, says Poe

After members of the House of Congress formed a panel last week to merge bills on driver's license validity, their counterpart in the Senate has done one better and assured is passing in the plenary. [FULL STORY HERE](#)



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



U.S. grows at tepid 1.2 pct

The economy grew faster than initially thought in the first quarter, but it's still the worst performance since the first quarter of 2016. Fred Kata-yama reports. [FULL STORY HERE](#)

INTERNATIONAL

London and Paris announce real-world emissions testing for cars

Real-world emissions testing will be introduced in London and Paris by the end of 2017 to help score new cars based on how environmentally friendly they are, encouraging their uptake and reducing air pollution in cities. [FULL STORY HERE](#)

