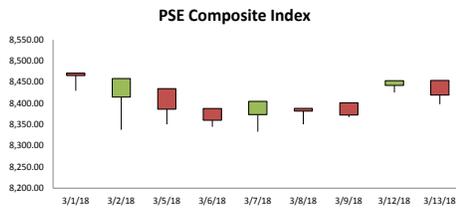




ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	6.6	4.5	
▶ Q4 2017 Gross Domestic Product		▶ February 2018 Inflation Rate	
	9.5	8.6	
▶ Q4 2017 Consumer Confidence		▶ Q4 2017 Auto-buying Intention	
	52.04		
▶ Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate			



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Trade tensions cloud best global growth outlook in 7 years - OECD

The global economy will see its strongest growth in seven years in 2018 thanks to a rebound in trade and investment. But, as Sonia Legg reports, the OECD's forecast also warned a trade war could threaten the improved outlook

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Investments seen taking a hit from second tax bill

The country's rapidly growing foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows—which soared to an all-time high in 2017—could hit a snag this year, as the second tranche of the Duterte administration's tax-reform agenda is seen to force investors to take a wait-and-see approach on the Philippines anew, an international think tank said.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



Trump's higher steel duty potential bane to 'BBB'

President Donald J. Trump's latest protectionist policy—slapping higher tariffs on steel and aluminum products—could give President Duterte a big headache in the coming months. This, according to Trade Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo Jr., is because such a move would disrupt the global market and create a glut of steel in the days to come.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



FINANCIAL TRENDS

Central banks urged to study digital currencies

Digital currencies are a revolutionary tool that central banks should consider, but they remain far too risky to be used as legal tender any time soon, according to the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



INDUSTRY NEWS

Mercedes Benz raises the bar for mass transportation

Mercedes Benz is known for pushing the envelope of technology and engineering. Recently Auto Nation Group (ANG), the exclusive distributors of Mercedes Benz in the country, organized an event that required motoring writers to lay back, relax and become passengers for a day.



Mercedes-Benz

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INTERNATIONAL

Malaysia Turns to India's Tata to Upgrade Automaking

Second International Trade and Industry Minister Ong Ka Chuan says working with Tata is the next step for Malaysia after linking up with China to keep the country's automotive industry on a strong footing.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

