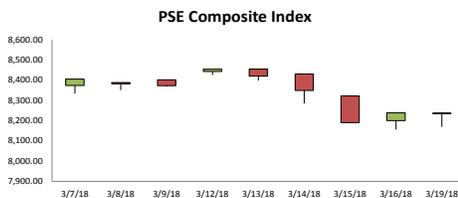




ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	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	
	52.10		
	▶ Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate		



MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

DTI: PH to keep enjoying EU trade perk

The Philippines would keep a trade perk extended by the European Union notwithstanding the latter's request for the United Nations (UN) to look into President Duterte's bloody war on drugs, Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez said.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

Balance of payments deficit persists, though narrower, in February

The country's external payments position remained in deficit in February with outflows driven by debt payments and central bank intervention in the foreign exchange market, but is deemed still comfortable for now.



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FINANCIAL TRENDS

Peso weakens ahead of Fed meet

The peso weakened against the dollar yesterday ahead of the monetary policy meeting of the US central bank.



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GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Retailers urge Trump against China tariffs

Several large retail companies, including Wal-Mart, Target, Best Buy, and Macy's, are making a direct appeal to President Donald Trump not to impose tariffs on goods imported from China. Aleksandra Michalska reports.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

Philippines, Japan sign loan deal for first Metro Manila subway

The Philippines and Japan on Friday signed a P51.3-billion loan agreement for the construction of the first Metro Manila subway, which is expected to ease traffic gridlock in the capital.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INTERNATIONAL

GM to pilot Airbnb-style vehicle-sharing service, says report

GM's pilot program is set to start in the summer, and it will allow owners to rent out their own vehicles when they're not using them. Testing will take place through GM's Maven platform, which is where owners will put their vehicles up for rent online and share the financial proceeds with the automaker.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

