



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

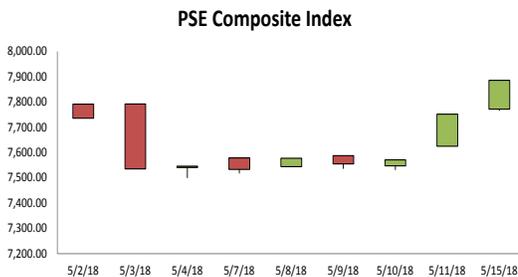
6.8 ↑ **Q1 2018 Gross Domestic Product**

4.5 ↑ **April 2018 Inflation Rate**

1.7 ↓ **Q1 2018 Consumer Confidence**

6.2 ↓ **Q1 2018 Auto-buying Intention**

52.29 ↓ **Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate**



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Data dilemma: is global economy slowing, or not?

German growth halved in the first quarter of the year due to weaker trade and less state spending, though analysts say they see it as a temporary blip. As David Pollard reports, the data came after China also reported weaker-than-expected investment and retail sales, clouding its economic outlook.

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MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Remittances fall after Kuwait ban

Remittances dropped in March to post the steepest fall in 15 years due to lower amounts sent by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) based in the Middle East, the central bank reported yesterday.



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House committee eyes retention, expansion of tax, non-tax incentives

The House Committee on ways and means is looking to retain and even expand tax and non-tax incentives for those sectors with good performances and in need of a boost, its chairman said, as it is set to begin public hearings on the second package of the tax reform program.



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FINANCIAL TRENDS

S&P ups PHL banks' risk assessment

S&P Global Ratings has upgraded its risk assessment on the Philippine banking industry, supported by the sector's improved credit fundamentals.



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INDUSTRY NEWS

MINI Philippines Freezes Prices Until June 15, 2018

In the market for a brand-new MINI? Well, you better get it before June 15 since British United Automobiles, the exclusive distributor and dealer of MINI has announced that by then, they'll be increasing their prices up to 10 percent.



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INTERNATIONAL

Volvo Says 50 Percent of Sales Will be EVs by 2025

Volvo Cars aims for fully electric cars to make up 50 percent of its sales by 2025. This recent announcement builds on Volvo Cars' 2017 industry-first announcement that all new models released from 2019 will be available as a mild hybrid, plug-in hybrid, or battery electric vehicle.



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