



## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

**6.8** ↑

Q1 2018 Gross Domestic Product

**4.5** ↑

April 2018 Inflation Rate

**1.7** ↓

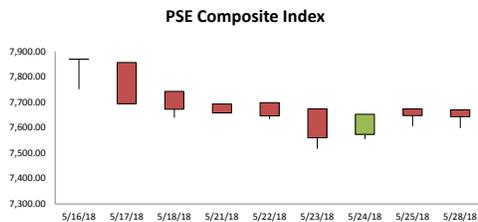
Q1 2018 Consumer Confidence

**6.2** ↓

Q1 2018 Auto-buying Intention

**52.49** ↑

Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate



### GLOBAL WATCHLIST



#### N. Korea suspends talks with South over military drills

North Korea said on Wednesday it had no choice but to suspend high-level talks with South Korea due to U.S.-South Korean military exercises that went against the trend of warming North-South ties.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

### MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

#### DOF: No suspension of excise tax on fuel

Despite consumers' cries of desperation and demand for relief, the government cannot just suspend a provision in the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law that is widely blamed for the spike in the prices of basic goods, especially fuel.



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#### 'Ease of Doing Business Act of 2018' signed

President Duterte signed yesterday Republic Act 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business Act of 2018 in an effort to correct bureaucratic red tape that continues to hound government institutions.



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### FINANCIAL TRENDS

#### Currency depreciation poses risk to PH – Moody's

Moody's Investors Service said that the currency depreciation witnessed across Asia Pacific (APAC), especially in countries like the Philippines, in recent months poses risks to the region's emerging and frontier markets.



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### INDUSTRY NEWS

#### Mitsubishi starts joint study on EVs with academe

Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (MMC) formally signs a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the academe for a joint study on electric vehicles (EV) in the country. MMC seeks to promote the use of eco-friendly vehicles such as the Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV (Plug-in Hybrid Vehicle) and i-MiEV.



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### INTERNATIONAL

#### Uber to continue autonomous driving program despite Arizona incident

Uber is still carrying out tests in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and San Francisco, California, where the company still has active permits to run autonomous cars on the road. There are two more cities in California wherein they are seeking permits to test autonomous vehicles in public.



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