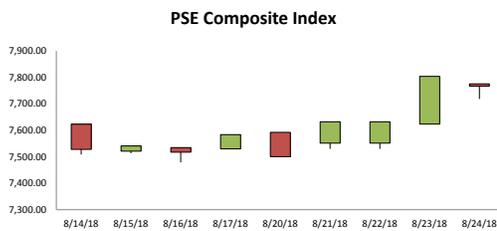
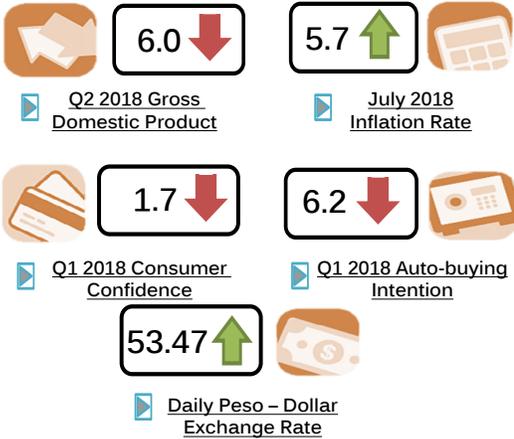




ECONOMIC INDICATORS



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Fed's Powell defends gradual interest rate hikes
Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell on Friday defended the U.S. central bank's push to raise interest rates as healthy for the economy and signaled more hikes were coming despite President Donald Trump's criticism of higher borrowing costs.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

S&P says Q2 slack a mere 'setback'

S&P Global Ratings has kept its 6.7% Philippine growth forecast this year despite last quarter's slower-than-expected expansion, amid signs that the economy's "strength" remains intact.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

Economic managers to meet on economic impact of federal shift

Economic managers of President Rodrigo R. Duterte will meet this week to assess economic implications of the planned shift to a federal system of government in order to come up with a uniform position on this issue.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



FINANCIAL TRENDS

Thrift banks' NPLs up at end-June

Soured debts held by thrift banks continued to climb in June to take a bigger share in loans for retail borrowers, latest central bank data showed.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



INDUSTRY NEWS

Isuzu unveils production ready PUVs at PhilAPEX

Isuzu Philippines Corp. (IPC) recently presented to the public its new line of production-ready PUVs at the 2nd Philippine Auto and Parts Expo (PhilAPEX) held last August 9 and 10 at the SMX Convention Center at the Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



INTERNATIONAL

More People Are Saying Car Ownership is Unnecessary

In a recent study that would certainly please the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and those favoring the unpopular HOV traffic scheme happy, more and more people are saying that while access to transportation is necessary, car ownership is not. Conducted by Cox Automotive on American consumers, the study has the potential to have global implications, as ride-sharing and ride-hailing services become more prevalent worldwide.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

