

Japan’s economy shows better-than-expected growth

<p>Notes & Cues:</p>	<p>Article:</p> <p>Japanese GDP expanded a better-than-expected 0.5 percent in the first quarter of this year, official data showed Monday, although analysts cautioned that the world’s third-largest economy was still facing headwinds.</p> <p>”The headline figures were unexpectedly good but if you take a closer look, the data was not something we should be pleased about, ” said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute. ”Rather, the data clearly showed weak points in the economy with poor consumption and corporate investment on plants and equipment, ” he told AFP.</p> <p>Net exports contributed strongly to the latest growth figures — but only because the fall in imports outweighed a decline in exports, according to the data from the Cabinet Office.</p> <p>”There is no clear sign of a bottoming out in exports, production, and business confidence, and so I don’t think we can be optimistic about the future of the economy, ” said Yoshiaki Shinke, chief economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute.</p> <p>There is mounting gloom on the corporate side as well, with a survey by the Nikkei daily showing Japanese companies are expected to log a second straight decline in full-year profits for the current fiscal year.</p>
<p>Summary:</p>	