

P-14

# US economy grew 2.9% in 2018, highest in 13 yrs

AGENCIES  
Washington, February 28

**THE US ECONOMY** kicked into high gear last year, recording the strongest growth in 13 years in the wake of sweeping tax cuts and fiscal stimulus, government statistics showed Friday.

But the world's largest economy was slowing toward the end of 2018, suggesting the boom had begun to fade, according to the commerce department report.

**The world's largest economy was slowing toward the end of 2018, suggesting the boom had begun to fade**

GDP expanded by 2.9% in 2018, up from 2.2% the year before, approaching the target set by President Donald Trump.

But in the October-December period growth tapered down to an annual rate of

2.6%, from 3.4% in the third quarter. The GDP data may reinforce analyst criticism of the government's recent report on December retail sales. That showed the biggest drop in nine years, even as other figures -- particularly reports from the country's largest retailers -- indicated consumers continued to open their wallets in the quarter.

Thursday's report showed the third-quarter slowdown in business spending may have been temporary.