WEEKLY MARKET INSIGHTS

THE WEEK'S BIG THEMES

ECONOMY

- **Major central banks on hold, as expected: i/** The US Fed held rates steady at 3,5%-3,75%, but faced rare internal disagreement (three members opposed the easing signal, while one supported an immediate rate cut), signaling mixed policy views. Powell is stepping down as chair but plans to stay on the board, citing political pressures, ii/ the European central bank held rates steady at 2% but highlighted rising economic risks and seriously considered a potential increase, iii/ the Bank of England held rates steady at 3,75%, while flagging inflation risk and uncertainty around energy prices, iv/ the Bank of Japan held rates around 0,75%, but signaled a hawkish stance with growing support for hikes, as it balances rising inflation against a weakening growth outlook. The BoJ upgraded its inflation outlook (2,8% in 2026 from 1,9% in January) and lowered growth forecasts (from 1% to 0,5%), reinforcing expectations of possible rate hikes, while bond yields edged higher
- **Economic sentiment deteriorated in Europe: i/** the European Commission reported a multi-year low level (November 2020) for the consumer confidence index, while industry and construction remained comparatively stable, ii/ UK retail sales sentiment fell to a record low, according to the Confederation of British Industry.
- **Inflation accelerates in the Eurozone:**, with Germany's inflation (2.9% in April) and France's inflation (2,2,%) edging up, mainly due to rising energy prices. Of note that the government' annual growth is forecasted at 0,9% .
- **French economy stagnated in Q1 2026** (0% from 0,2%/0,3% forecasted) due to a decline in household consumption .
- **Moody's revised up China's credit outlook to stable**, citing economic resilience and manageable debt risks, with authorities pledging continued reforms. Industrial profits in the country grew strongly (+15,8% YoY in March, strongest performance for that period since 2017)), led by high-tech and export sectors, but disparities widened as some industries struggled with rising costs.
- **The UAE announced leaving the OPEC and OPEC+,** reflecting a strategic and geopolitical divergence with Saudi Arabia (UEA pushed for higher production while Saudi Arabia favored limiting supply to keep prices higher), potentially weakening the group's unity and increasing future oil market volatility

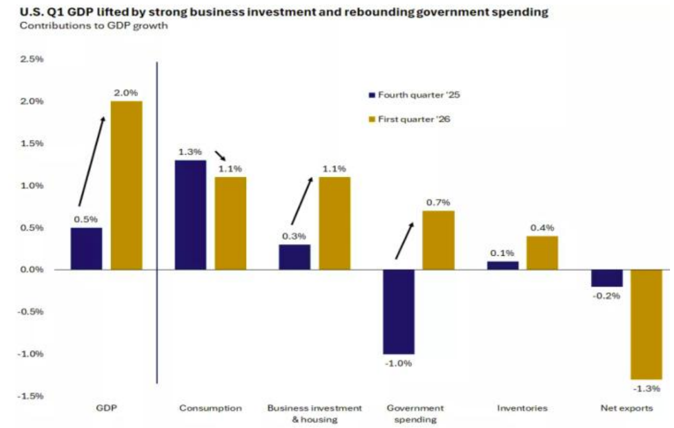
GEOPOLITICAL TENSION

- **Conflicting headlines about the conflict in the Middle-East,** combined with a persistent gridlock in U.S.–Iran negotiations, the ongoing closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and the ensuing elevated oil prices, weighed on market sentiment

REPORTING SEASON

- Five of the Mag 7 companies reported solid earnings overall. Alphabet's shares rose on strong AI and cloud demand, while Meta's stock fell after announcing increased AI spending and issuing $25bn in bonds

CHARTS OF THE WEEK



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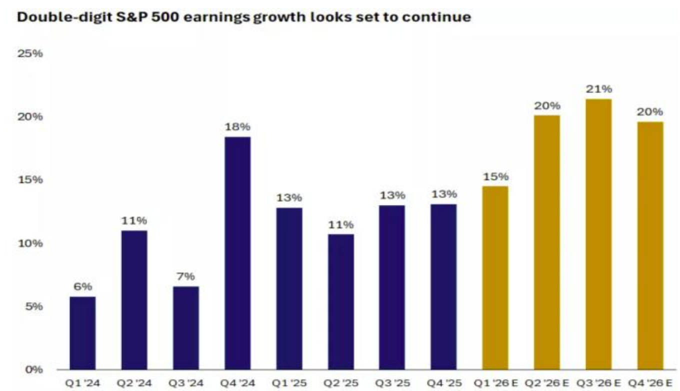

Source Edwardjones

ECONOMIC EVENTS TO WATCH

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
• ECB President Lagarde Speech (EA) • ECB Annual Report (EA)	• GDP Growth Rate YoY (ID) • JOLTs Job Openings (US) • RBA Interest Rate Decision (AU)	• API Crude Oil Stock Change (US) • Inflation Rate YoY (KR)	• Balance of Trade (AU) • Balance of Trade (FR) • Interest Rate Decision (MX)	• Balance of Trade (DE) • Non-Farm Payrolls (US) • Unemployment Rate (US)

24 Apr 2026 – 01 May 2026

WEEKLY MARKET INSIGHTS

Heritage wealth

MARKET'S REACTION

EQUITY

- Despite persistent uncertainties surrounding the Middle East conflict, **investors largely ignored geopolitical risks around Iran and oil.** Global equities posted positive return (MSCI World: +1,5%, MSCI Emerging Markets: +1,3%).
- **US equity markets pushed to new record levels,** with both the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq hitting new highs on robust earnings. Tech stocks led the upward move (S&P 500: +0,9%, Nasdaq: +1,1%, Russell 2000: +0,9%). Large-cap equities outperformed smaller companies, while value stocks led growth, supported by a further rise in oil prices that boosted the energy sector.
- **European equities showed a mixed trend over the week:** the STOXX 600 posted roughly flat return while the DAX led the performance (+0,7%). The CAC 40 and the UK Footsie ended the week lower. The corporate earnings season continued, with signs of positive earnings momentum. Most European markets, except for the London Stock Exchange, were closed for International Workers' Day on May 1st.
- **Japanese equities posted slightly negative return**, with the Nikkei 225 edging down 0.3%. Currency swings were a major influence, highlighted by a sharp rebound in the yen (the result of potential official intervention).
- **Onshore Chinese equities ended the holiday-shortened week higher** (CSI: +0,8%), with sentiment supported by Moody's revision of China's sovereign outlook. Of note that mainland markets were closed May 1st and will be so until May 5th for Labor Day, while Hong Kong markets were shut May 1st.

FIXED INCOME

- **US Treasury yields generated slightly negative return,** with yields drifting up across the curve. The US 10-year benchmark closed the week at 4,39% (+8 pbs), reaching 4,436% on renewed inflation concerns. Yields on US 30-year surged to 5% for the first time since July before pulling back. **European yields were broadly flat,** with the German 10-year benchmark ending the week at 3,03% (+2bps), while experiencing a spike to 3,13%.
- **Corporate bonds underperformed US Treasuries,** in a context of busy issuance calendar in the US investment grade spectrum, with most transactions attracting strong demand and being oversubscribed. High Yield was more resilient. EU credit outperformed its US peers.

COMMODITIES

- **Oil prices were volatile**, with the Brent hitting $126,41 per barrel. Brent and WTI ended the week higher, respectively +2,7% and +8%. Natural gas drifted up approx. 10%.
- **Precious metals drifted down over the week**, with gold easing by 2% and silver falling by 0,6%.
- **Agricultural commodities edged up**, with broader implications both for policymakers and society

CURRENCIES & CRYTO

- **The U.S. dollar index drifted down by 0,3% versus its currencies basket**. The yen rebounded sharply from multi-decade lows, thanks to official intervention, strengthening to around JPY 156.7 against the US Dollar, from JPY 160.1.
- **Crypto assets posted mixed returns,** with the Bitcoin ending the week in slightly positive territory (+0,9%) while the Ethereum and the Ripple underperformed (respectively -0,9% and -3,4%).

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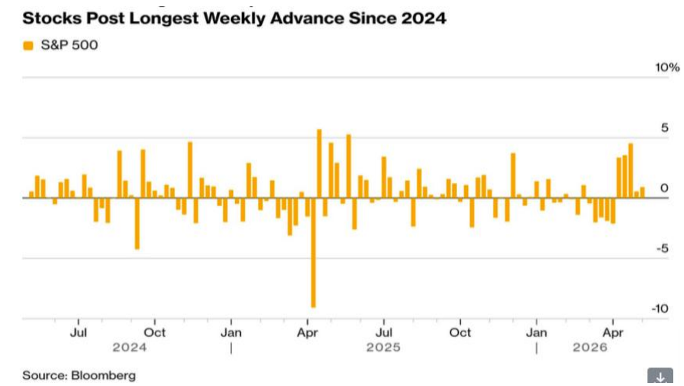
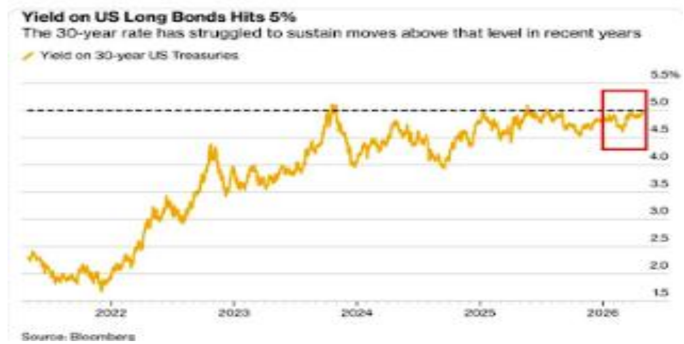


Source: Bloomberg



Source: Bloomberg

Source: Octavio Costa, LinkedIn

WEEKLY MARKET INSIGHTS

24 Apr 2026 – 01 May 2026

WEEKLY MARKETS REVIEW (As of 1st May 2026)

EQUITY MARKETS

	WoW	MTD	YTD
MSCI World (USD)	+1.5%	+1.0%	+5.8%
MSCI Emerging (USD)	+1.3%	+1.5%	+17.3%
S&P 500 (USD)	+0.9%	+0.3%	+5.6%
NASDAQ (USD)	+1.5%	+0.9%	+9.7%
RUSSELL 2000 (USD)	+0.9%	+0.5%	+13.3%
STOXX 600 (EUR)	+0.1%	+0.0%	+3.2%
DAX (EUR)	+0.7%	+0.0%	-0.8%
CAC 40 (EUR)	-0.5%	+0.0%	-0.4%
FTSE 100 (GBP)	-0.1%	-0.1%	+4.4%
NIKKEI (JPY)	-0.3%	+0.4%	+18.2%
CSI 300 (CNY)	+0.8%	+0.0%	+3.8%
BOVESPA (BRL)	-1.8%	+0.0%	+16.3%
HANG SENG (HKD)	-0.8%	+0.0%	+0.6%

FIXED INCOME MARKETS

	WoW	MTD	YTD
Global Aggregate USD (Hedged)	-0.1%	+0.1%	+0.2%
Global Aggregate EUR (Hedged)	-0.4%	+0.0%	-0.5%
US Investment Grade	-0.5%	+0.2%	+0.1%
US High Yield	-0.0%	+0.1%	+1.3%
EU Investment Grade	-0.0%	+0.1%	-0.0%
EU High Yield	+0.1%	+0.2%	+0.2%
EM Local Ccy. Gov (Unhedged)	-0.1%	+0.7%	+0.8%
EM Hard Ccy. Aggregate (Unhedged)	+0.2%	+0.4%	+1.0%

CRYPTO CURRENCY MARKETS

	WoW	MTD	YTD
Bitcoin	+0.9%	+2.5%	-10.7%
Ethereum	-0.9%	+1.7%	-22.6%
Ripple	-3.4%	+1.3%	-24.7%

COMMODITY MARKETS

	WoW	MTD	YTD
Gold	-2.0%	+0.3%	+7.0%
WTI Crude	+8.0%	-3.0%	+77.5%
Brent Crude	+2.7%	-5.1%	+77.8%
Silver	-0.6%	+3.3%	+8.3%
Natural Gas	+10.2%	+0.5%	-24.6%
Copper	-1.5%	+0.1%	+5.4%

CURRENCY MARKETS

	WoW	MTD	YTD
US Dollar Index (DXY)	-0.3%	+0.1%	-0.1%
EURUSD	+0.4%	+0.4%	-0.2%
GBPUSD	+1.0%	+0.8%	+1.0%
AUDUSD	+1.0%	+1.0%	+7.5%
USDCHF	-0.6%	-1.2%	-1.3%
USDJPY	-1.7%	-2.0%	+0.4%

Source: Bloomberg

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