

Weekly Market Report

Apr 13, 2026 to Apr 17, 2026

For educational and informational purposes only. Not financial advice.

OVERVIEW

Mid-April 2026 was defined by a major "risk-on" shift as geopolitical de-escalation in the Middle East sparked a powerful relief rally. The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz for commercial traffic collapsed oil's war premium, sending the Nasdaq to its longest winning streak since 1992 and Bitcoin past \$77,000. While crude prices plunged, safe havens like gold remained resilient, supported by cooler U.S. producer price data.

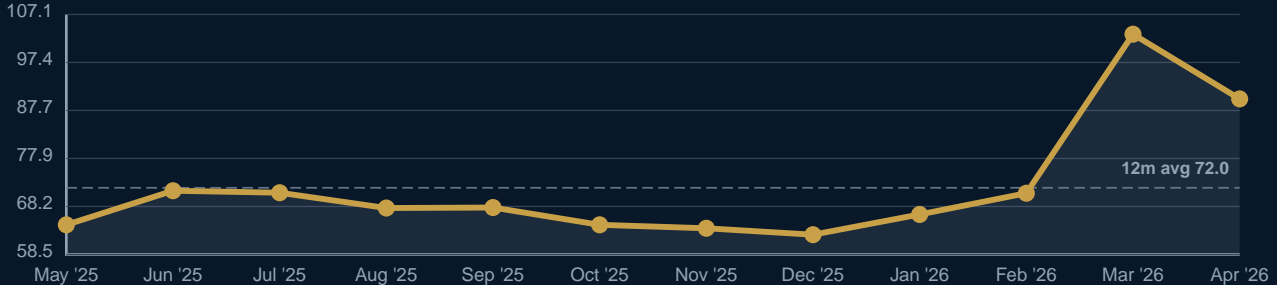
PERFORMANCE TABLE

Instrument	1W	1M	6M	1Y	Distance from 52-Week High
Bitcoin (BTC-USD)	+7.3%	+8.4%	-10.2%	+15.5%	-3.5%
Nasdaq 100	+6.8%	+8.2%	+14.5%	+46.0%	-0.0% (New ATH)
S&P 500	+4.6%	+5.5%	+11.2%	+26.4%	-0.4%
Nikkei 225 (Japan)	+3.5%	+5.6%	+24.0%	+38.5%	-0.0% (New ATH)
STOXX Europe 50	+2.3%	+1.4%	+5.8%	+13.9%	-0.0%
Gold (USD/oz)	+1.7%	+0.9%	+40.1%	+45.3%	-3.2%
iShares IG Corp Bond (LQD)	+0.8%	-2.2%	+3.5%	+4.8%	-2.6%
CSI 300 (China)	-0.4%	-5.2%	-3.9%	+2.1%	-0.5%
Hang Seng Index (Hong Kong)	-0.9%	-4.1%	+3.2%	+10.5%	-3.3%
Natural Gas	-5.3%	-12.7%	-16.4%	-11.3%	-34.3%
Brent Crude Oil	-7.6%	-14.4%	+12.1%	+38.7%	-23.1%
WTI Crude Oil	-9.4%	-11.3%	+18.4%	+37.6%	-30.9%

Note: Rows ranked by one-week return (highest first); the 1W column is highlighted as the sort key. ETF proxies for the core sleeve match the Research page methodology (1W/1M/6M/1Y vs ~7/30/180/365 calendar days). Natural Gas, Brent, and WTI are indicative spot / prompt-month returns for this issue (editorial snapshot). Last column: last close vs highest daily high over the prior ~252 sessions (52-week rolling) where applicable. ETF proxy closes in this batch: Apr 17, 2026 to Apr 18, 2026 (proxies may refresh on different sessions).

CHARTS OF THE WEEK

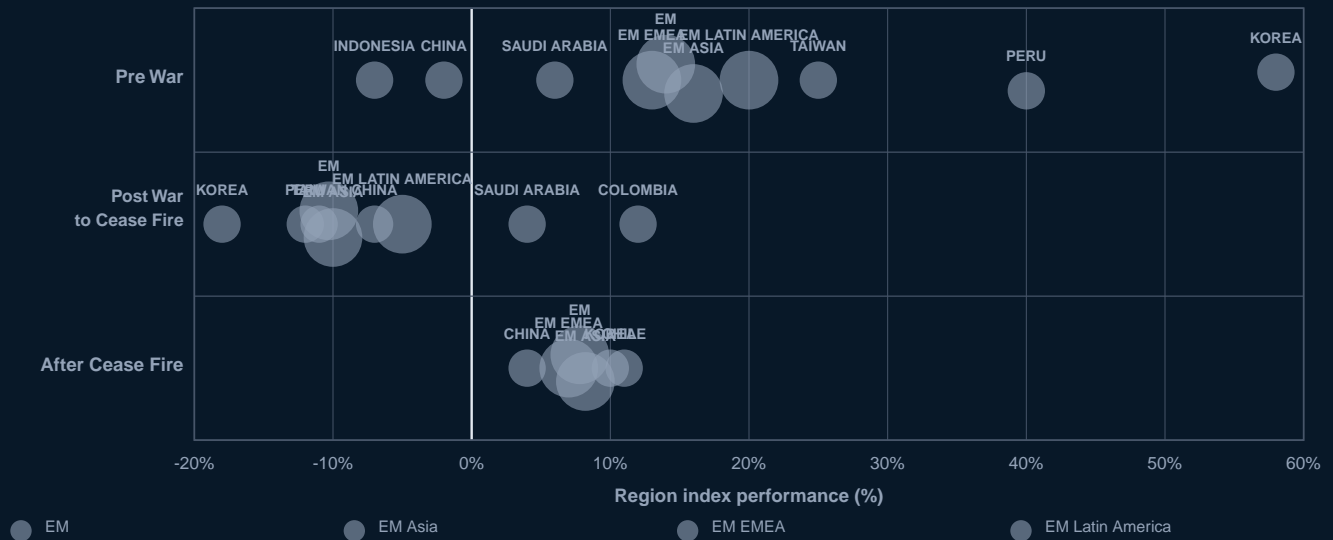
Brent crude (USD/bbl): trailing 12 months, monthly average spot (geopolitical risk channel); latest spot ~\$90, 18 Apr 2026



Source: FRED DCOILBRENTU monthly averages through Mar 2026; Apr bar and latest spot ~\$90/bbl as of 18 Apr 2026 (post Hormuz relief), editorial alignment for this issue.

The chart shows monthly average Brent (EIA/linked spot series): a mid-\$60s base through early 2026, a March spike on Gulf risk, then a lower April print as Hormuz and ceasefire headlines improved; the dashed line is the trailing 12-month mean (\$72.0/bbl) and the latest indicative spot is about \$90/bbl as of 18 Apr 2026 after the relief move. Energy equities often lag a collapsing crude premium while bonds and growth factor can catch a bid when headline inflation fears ease.

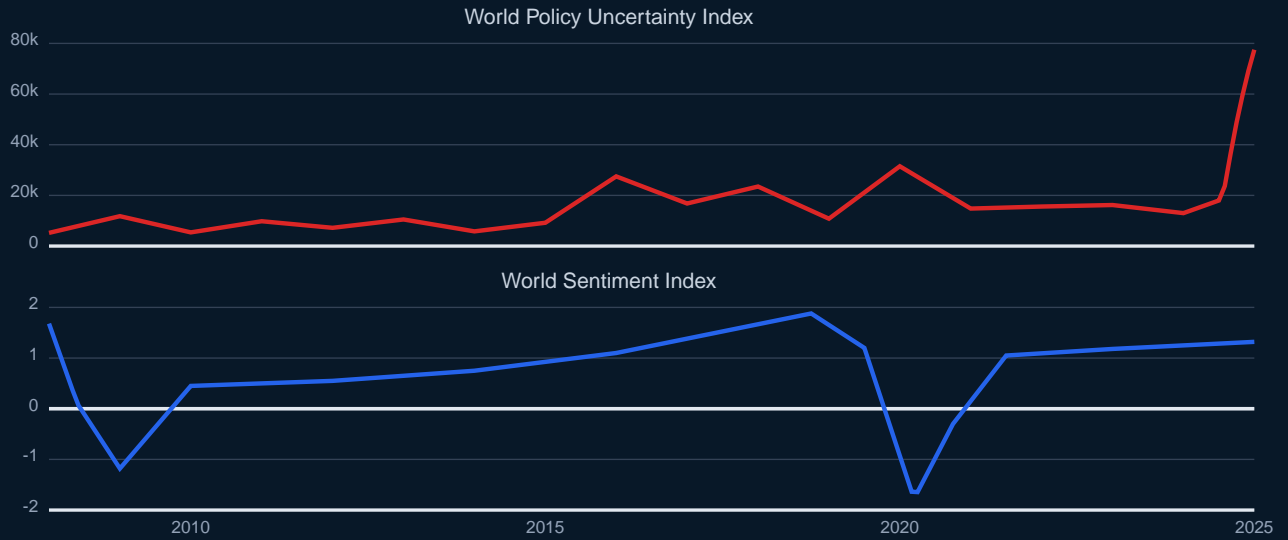
Emerging Markets Through the Middle East Conflict: Uneven Impact of the Energy Shock



Source: <https://www.msci.com/indexes/markets-in-motion/visualizations/emerging-markets-through-the-middle-east-conflict-uneven-impact-of-the-energy-shock>

MSCI EM indexes show wide pre-war dispersion, acute Asia-led weakness when crude and LNG routes were in focus, then a tighter positive band after the ceasefire. Country and terms-of-trade exposure dominated simple regional beta.

Despite record-high policy uncertainty, global sentiment remains relatively positive



Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/blogs/articles/2025/11/10/even-as-global-uncertainty-surges-economic-sentiment-remains-positive>

IMF text-based gauges show policy uncertainty spiking while sentiment stayed positive, matching staff messaging of a resilient but slowing global expansion. Elevated uncertainty argues for quality and careful cyclical timing rather than maximum risk.

Commentary: AVANTAS Research

TOP CATALYSTS

1. Editor's pick: Earnings vs. diplomacy, two speeds for risk

Early Q1 prints are testing whether margins can absorb logistics and wage pressure, while markets also chase a sharp relief trade: President Trump cited "pretty good news" on Iran and global equities rallied as oil fell and Hormuz headlines improved. Allocators must weigh guidance trends against a macro week that can re price the Fed if data disappoint.

Market Impact:

Favor quality earnings stories and growth sectors leading the one month tape; keep oil and headline CPI on watch, energy equities can lag when crude mean reverts even if diplomacy holds.

Further Reading:

- [Reuters: Global markets wrap](#)
- [Reuters: U.S. earnings](#)

2. Oil Plunges, Equities Rip on U.S. to Iran De Escalation Hopes

Brent and WTI sold off sharply as investors priced a possible path away from acute Gulf conflict; bonds also rallied as headline inflation fears eased. The move extends a volatile two week swing from shock to relief across crude and risk assets.

Market Impact:

Supports broad equities and duration near term; underweights tactical energy beta until inventories confirm whether physical tightness is truly easing.

Further Reading:

- [Reuters: Markets & Hormuz instant view](#)
- [Reuters: Iran war and the economy](#)

3. U.S. Sector Tape: XLK / XLY Leadership, XLE Lags on One Month

SPDR snapshots show technology and consumer discretionary atop one month returns while energy and utilities trail, consistent with a growth over commodities rotation once oil risk premium compresses. Communication services and financials also participate in the relief rally.

Market Impact:

Tilts factor sleeves toward growth and quality cyclicals; treat energy as tactical until earnings and inventories clarify demand.

Further Reading:

- [Reuters: Business](#)
- [State Street SPDRs](#)

4. Europe Banks, Asia Tech Top Regional Sector Leaderboards

STOXX Europe 600 sector data show banks and technology leading one month performance while energy is soft. MSCI AC Asia Pacific screens mirror the global pattern: information technology and financials outperform; energy is the laggard.

Market Impact:

Favors selective EU financials and Asian tech proxies; keep country ETFs over broad passive EM when oil and FX whipsaw.

Further Reading:

- [Reuters: Europe](#)
- [Reuters: Asia Pacific](#)

5. Data Week: Retail Sales, EIA, Claims, Preliminary PMIs

The research calendar (GMT+8) highlights March U.S. retail sales Tue evening, EIA crude inventories Wed, and Thursday's jobless claims plus preliminary S&P Global services and manufacturing PMIs, releases that can validate or break the relief narrative.

Market Impact:

Rates and the dollar remain the transmission mechanism; stronger consumption data can cap duration rallies; weak data revives cut pricing.

Further Reading:

- [Federal Reserve calendar](#)
- [CME FedWatch](#)

MARKET THEMES

BY REGION

US economy & markets

United States: After acute Gulf stress, markets seized on U.S. to Iran diplomacy headlines, President Trump cited “pretty good news” on Iran while oil fell sharply and equities pushed toward records. Sector proxies show a growth rebound on one month: SPDR Technology (XLK) and Consumer Discretionary (XLY) lead the leaderboard while Energy (XLE) lags as the crude risk premium mean reverts.

Europe & Asia

Europe: STOXX Europe 600 sector snapshots show banks and technology atop one month returns while energy is soft, consistent with relief in risk assets when oil drops and curves steepen modestly. Asia Pacific: MSCI AC Asia Pacific information technology and financials lead; energy is the laggard, mirroring the U.S. growth over energy rotation in our tables.

Commodities & credit

Commodities: A sharp crude pullback on diplomacy hopes eased near term inflation fears and supported both equities and government bonds in the Reuters global wrap; gold can still act as a hedge if talks stall or physical balances stay tight.

Cross asset read

Cross asset: when oil and geopolitical risk compress together, correlations briefly favor “risk on” across stocks and bonds, fade that assumption if U.S. data disappoint or diplomacy backtracks; use the performance and sector tables for attribution.

MARKET OUTLOOK

Near term outlook (3 to 6 months):

The next three to six months hinge on whether Gulf diplomacy stabilizes energy and headline inflation, and whether Q1 earnings guidance confirms margins outside AI infrastructure. U.S. equities can extend record highs when oil falls and data cooperate, but leadership is sector skewed: technology and discretionary lead on one month proxies while energy lags; Europe's banks and Asia's information technology echo similar tilts in regional sector snapshots.

Medium term outlook (6 to 12 months):

If inventories and freight confirm easing physical tightness, markets can re price Fed paths toward gradual easing; if CPI re accelerates or talks stall, the mid 2026 cut narrative compresses again. Institutional positioning still favors quality balance sheets, pricing power, and selective international exposure over passive beta.

Long term outlook (12+ months):

AI linked power, semiconductors, and supply chain resilience remain multi year themes; energy security and financial sector profitability in a higher rate world are parallel structural stories. Portfolios that blend regional diversification, explicit inflation hedges, and disciplined duration fare better when geopolitics and oil drive repeated volatility spikes.

Asset Class Impact of the Week

■ Underweight
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Overweight

Asset	View	Commentary
US Equities	 +1	Constructive / selective. Relief on Iran to U.S. headlines and lower oil helped benchmarks press records; one month sector tables favor technology and discretionary over energy, stay factor aware into retail sales and PMIs.
International Equities		Neutral / selective. European banks and Asian technology lead regional sector snapshots; energy lags globally as crude mean reverts, country ETFs beat broad passive EM.
Fixed Income		Neutral. Bonds rallied with oil down and risk on, but the Fed remains data dependent; front end pricing can reverse fast if CPI or retail sales surprise.
Commodities		Neutral / tactical. Crude fell sharply on diplomacy hopes; gold can still hedge a failed truce. Watch EIA inventories for physical confirmation.
Cryptocurrency		Neutral / tactical. Crypto correlates with liquidity and risk appetite; size for volatility alongside a busy macro week.

Source: AVANTAS Research Analysis

LATEST AVANTAS RESEARCH ARTICLES

1. May to June FOMC Data Watch: Prints, Scenarios, and Positioning

After the March hold, April and May inflation and labor data will set the table for the May and June meetings. We map key releases, cut vs hold scenarios, and implications for duration and equities.

Read article: <https://www.avantasresearch.com/research-article.html?article=may-june-fomc-data-watch>

2. Japan 2026: BoJ Normalization, Yen, and Nikkei Positioning

The BoJ is normalizing gradually while global rate gaps and risk appetite drive yen and Nikkei outcomes. We outline policy, currency sensitivity, and portfolio hedging choices.

Read article: <https://www.avantasresearch.com/research-article.html?article=japan-boj-yen-nikkei-2026>

3. Corporate Credit 2026: IG Carry, HY Spreads, and Late-Cycle Risk

IG offers carry in a high-rate world; HY prices growth and refinancing risk. We compare dynamics across the cycle and how to size credit with equities and Treasuries.

Read article: <https://www.avantasresearch.com/research-article.html?article=corporate-credit-spreads-carry-2026>

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

Stay informed of key upcoming economic events and data releases that may impact global markets.

Date	Time (GMT+8)	Event	Country	Forecast	Previous	Impact
Tue 21st	20:30	Retail Sales (MoM) (Mar)	US	-	0.6%	High
Tue 21st	20:30	Core Retail Sales (MoM) (Mar)	US	-	0.5%	High
Wed 22nd	22:30	Crude Oil Inventories	US	-	-0.913M	High
Thu 23rd	20:30	Initial Jobless Claims	US	-	207K	High
Thu 23rd	21:45	S&P Global Services PMI (Apr) P	US	-	49.8	High

Date	Time (GMT+8)	Event	Country	Forecast	Previous	Impact
Thu 23rd	21:45	S&P Global Manufacturing PMI (Apr) P	US	-	52.3	High

NEXT WEEK EXPECTATIONS

Focus: Fed Chair Powell (Mon 30th), China manufacturing PMI and euro area CPI (Tue 31st), U.S. consumer confidence and JOLTS (Tue 31st), ADP and retail sales through ISM and oil inventories (Wed 1st Apr), jobless claims (Thu 2nd), then Good Friday and U.S. employment (Fri 3rd). All times GMT+8; consensus and prior figures are indicative.

RISK WATCHLIST

- Labor market inflection: payrolls, earnings, and jobless claims could shift rate expectations.
- Inflation persistence: CPI prints remain the key hurdle for a sustained risk on move.
- Crypto volatility: liquidation driven selloffs can spill into broader risk sentiment.
- Commodities whipsaw: gold profit taking and oil headlines keep hedges in focus.

SECTOR PERFORMANCE

United States (S&P 500 sector proxies, SPDR Sector ETFs) (as of 18 Apr 2026)

Rows ranked by one month total return (highest first). Growth and rate sensitive cyclicals lead, technology, communication services, and discretionary sit atop the stack while energy and utilities lag as crude mean reverts from Gulf stress and investors chase relief in equities. Financials and real estate benefit from a calmer rate path near term.

Sector	Ticker	1-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Technology	XLK	+8.2%	+15.5%	+55.0%
Cons. Discretionary	XLY	+6.7%	+2.8%	+25.1%
Communication	XLC	+4.5%	+14.2%	+30.1%
Real Estate	XLRE	+3.9%	-0.8%	+9.1%
Financials	XLF	+3.4%	+8.1%	+10.4%
Industrials	XLI	+1.1%	+4.2%	+35.5%
Health Care	XLV	+1.0%	-1.5%	+7.3%
Cons. Staples	XLP	+0.1%	+1.1%	-0.8%
Materials	XLB	-0.1%	+3.2%	+26.1%
Utilities	XLU	-1.7%	+8.9%	+18.4%
Energy	XLE	-2.5%	+18.4%	+39.9%

Source: editorial snapshot 18 Apr 2026 (SPDR sector proxies; 1M / 6M / 1Y as supplied).

Europe (STOXX Europe 600 sectors) (as of 18 Apr 2026)

Ranked by one month return (highest first). Banks and technology outperform on the STOXX Europe 600 snapshot; energy trails as oil prices ease on diplomacy headlines. Materials remain pressured on industrial and China linked demand worries; utilities still show strong twelve month inertia.

Sector	1-Month	6-Month*	1-Year
Banks	+7.4%	+12.1%	+22.5%
Technology	+6.8%	+2.5%	+14.2%
Industrials	+5.5%	+5.8%	+16.1%
Healthcare	+1.2%	+3.1%	+8.9%
Utilities	+0.8%	+6.2%	+36.8%
Cons. Staples	-0.4%	+1.5%	+2.9%
Materials	-1.5%	-6.4%	-5.2%
Energy	-3.2%	+4.1%	+12.5%

Source: STOXX Europe 600 sector indices (indicative). *6-Month column per provider convention.

Asia Pacific (MSCI AC Asia Pacific sectors) (as of 18 Apr 2026)

Ranked by one month return (highest first). Information technology and financials anchor regional leadership; energy is the clear laggard as crude pulls back. Consumer discretionary and communication services follow; real estate is mildly positive on one month but still underwater over six months.

Sector	1-Month	6-Month*	1-Year
Information Tech	+8.5%	+18.2%	+46.5%
Financials	+6.2%	+11.4%	+19.8%
Consumer Discretionary	+5.8%	+6.5%	+24.3%
Communication Services	+4.1%	+12.0%	+28.9%
Industrials	+2.4%	+8.9%	+18.7%
Real Estate	+0.5%	-2.8%	-1.2%
Materials	-0.8%	-1.4%	+7.2%
Energy	-3.5%	+12.6%	+14.6%

Source: MSCI AC Asia Pacific sector indices (indicative). *6-Month column per provider convention.

Sources: Reuters; Montanaro Asset Management; AVANTAS Research.

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