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CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICE

Capital Market Outlook

April 20, 2026

All data, projections and opinions are as of the date of this report and subject to change.

IN THIS ISSUE

Macro Strategy—*A Secular Bull Market In Earnings:* Accelerating technological progress is bullish for the outlook for earnings and living standards. This is not a new phenomenon. It's the reason behind the relentless march higher in living standards. What's new is the speed of progress which keeps increasing. Artificial Intelligence (AI) represents the inflection point known as the "singularity" when machine intelligence rivals and ultimately exceeds biological human intelligence, causing this progression to move at warp speed. Equity ownership is a major way to participate in this progress and we remain overweight.

Market View—*Asian Markets and the Energy Shock—Staying Constructive:* Since the ceasefire announcement earlier this month, investors appear to have discounted the peak in escalation risk for the Middle East conflict and global risk appetite has recovered. Equity markets have also risen in Asia, despite their greater exposure to the energy shock than other regions. We remain constructive on both Japan and Emerging Markets (EM) in Asia. And even with oil and gas prices likely to stay higher for longer in the wake of the conflict, we continue to see a number of counterweights to energy-driven economic pressures in the region.

Thought of the Week—*Some Quick Thoughts on the U.S. Federal Budget Deficit:* A frequently asked question from investors is the following: What is the status of America's finances? Our short answer: more manageable than precarious but worth watching as the U.S. and the world shift toward higher sovereign debt levels and rising government borrowing costs. The encouraging news is that, at 5.2% of gross domestic product (GDP) on a trailing 12-month basis, the deficit/GDP ratio isn't far off the long-term average of 4.6% for this century and has improved over the past year due to the narrowing of the federal budget deficit. The more sobering news is that there isn't much fiscal runway after accounting for defense, net interest payments, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which consumed 75% of outlays over the last 12 months. With larger defense outlays and fading tariff revenue, the deficit for fiscal year (FY) 2026 could widen from here. Still, U.S. public sector debt remains manageable, in our opinion, supported by the most dynamic and resilient economy in the world. We continue to watch but not worry over the federal budget deficit.

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Portfolio Considerations

The overall growth outlook remains largely unchanged for now, though a prolonged war could pressure discretionary spending through higher energy, commodity, and food prices. Despite recent volatility, U.S. Equities remain preferred given economic resilience and easing valuations. Fixed Income remains constructive but underweighted to support an Equity overweight, with neutral duration and expectations for range-bound yet potentially volatile yields amid sticky inflation, steady GDP growth, and upcoming Fed leadership changes.

Our sector positioning reflects reduced Utilities exposure after valuation-driven outperformance, continued confidence in resilient consumers, positive outlooks for Financials, and selective increases to Energy.

MACRO STRATEGY

A Secular Bull market In Earnings

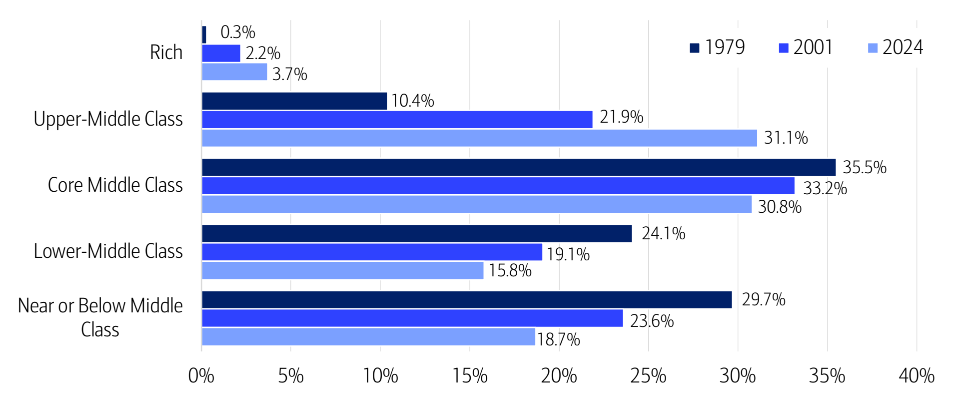
Chief Investment Office, *Macro Strategy Team*

The University of Michigan consumer sentiment measure hit an all-time low in early April. News reports are full of contentious and worrisome signs of what's wrong with the world and what could get even worse. Polls show the majority of Americans feel the country is headed in the wrong direction. There is a widespread belief that things are going downhill and that the next generation faces insurmountable obstacles to achieving the American dream. This downbeat view is often reinforced by the widespread perception of a shrinking middle class.

What's odd about all this conventional wisdom of pessimism is irrefutable evidence to the contrary. While each new generation likes to complain about how hard times are, the fact is living standards keep improving, incomes keep rising and people keep getting richer. They are living longer. Despite the human tendency toward pessimism technological progress is an unrelenting force for longer lives, more leisure time and better health.

This trend toward higher income and a wealthier future has been confirmed by a recent study. It turns out the widespread belief in the shrinking middle class is not the result of more people falling into poverty. Rather more people are moving into the upper income echelons (Exhibit 1). From 1979 until 2024, the share of households that are rich or in the upper middle class rose from just over 10% to about 35%. The share of below or lower middle-class households dropped dramatically from over half to about a third. A major reason behind this surge in upward income mobility is the big increase in female labor force participation and college education. In 1970 just over 10% of women had college degrees. Today, it is more like 40%. Dual-income households dominate the rise into the upper income ranks according to the study.

Exhibit 1: More Rich Households Fewer Near or Below Middle-class Households



Source: American Enterprise Institute. Data as of April 14, 2026.

Earnings Driving Income Growth. As society becomes richer, it's natural for capital income to become a bigger share of the pie, while labor's share drops and people enjoy more leisure time. Travel-and-leisure themed stocks have been one of the top performing areas of the market in recent years. This is a mega theme.

Concurrently with the rise in wealthier households has been a drop in the labor share of income to less than half the pie with capital income comprising more and more. The acceleration in technological progress is making the capital share grow even faster. Companies on the forefront of technology have much higher margins, lower labor cost shares and a bigger and bigger piece of the earnings pie.

Investment Implications

The bull market in earnings shows no signs of ending despite all the headlines around geopolitical risks. The trends that dominated relative performance before the Iran War began have reemerged as war concerns are dissipating. These include relative outperformance by Small-caps, certain international, and resource stocks. In our view, a pro-cyclical focus has also resumed after the brief correction in these trends.

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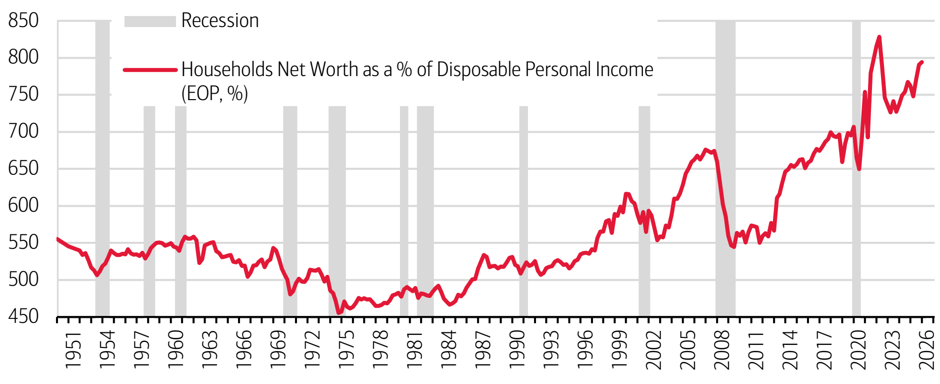
It's amazing given all the angst generated by recent events that the earnings outlook continues to surprise to the upside. First quarter earnings reports to date show no sign of let-up. According to Yardeni Research, analysts' estimates currently see S&P 500 operating earnings per share rising by 19.3% in 2026 and 16.7% next year. The average annual growth rate since 1993 is 8.8%. A natural question is how long earnings can grow essentially twice as fast as this long-term average.

The answer depends on whether this earnings bonanza is powered by a structural shift with long-term staying power or simply a typical cyclical peak in earnings that will likely be reversed by a downturn in the next recession. While there are certainly cyclical forces that could cause some reversion toward the mean over time, historical models don't account for the secular shift into a new AI world with the potential for capital income taking a much bigger share of the income pie. In the extreme, this implies further increases in already record margins and an earnings explosion over the next decade. While the creep higher in capital income to date has already pushed margins into record territory, the transition into an AI world has the potential to accelerate the positive earnings and margin trends.

Another aspect of this new capital-income-dominated world is the rising ratio of wealth to income, which dates to the beginning of the internet. As the stock of wealth rises relative to disposable personal income, it implies that households have a bigger reservoir of future income to draw on when needed. The aging population helps drive this trend as people accumulate savings for their nonworking retirement years. This makes the economy more vulnerable to big fluctuations in asset values like Equity prices, as many bearish analysts are fond of noting. It also, however, makes aggregate demand less vulnerable to cyclical downturns because a deep pool of savings can be drawn on for a rainy day. In essence, it helps smooth out the economy's cyclicality.

Exhibit 2: Higher Wealth to Income Ratio Reflects Transition from Labor to Capital Income.



Source: Federal Reserve Board/Haver Analytics. Data as of March 19, 2026.

The rising level of wealth to income helps prevent recessions. This is one reason why the economy spends so much less time in recession compared to the past. Technological progress has reached an inflection point that is propelling faster earnings growth and promising more leisure time and an abundant future. For investors, owning a well-diversified mix of the companies that are taking us into this promising future is an important component of a prudent investment strategy in our view. We remain overweight Equities.

MARKET VIEW

Asian Markets and the Energy Shock—Staying Constructive

Ehiwario Efeyini, *Director and Senior Investment Strategist*

Investment Implications

We see a range of offsets to the energy shock that keep our constructive view of the Asia region intact. Ongoing expansion of global AI infrastructure investment remains a tailwind for key enablers of the data center buildout. Export exposure to oil, gas and coal benefits select local producers. China is insulated by local stockpiles, diversified supply sources and domestic capacity in clean energy. And local funding stress across the region should remain limited.

Since the ceasefire announcement earlier this month, investors appear to have discounted the peak in escalation risk for the Middle East conflict, and global risk appetite has recovered. Equity markets have posted strong gains even as energy production, shipping volumes and insurance rates have remained stressed, and as oil and gas prices have come off their highs but stayed well above pre-conflict levels.

In Asia, the region most exposed to the energy shock, equity markets have also risen. Asian economies are reliant on imports for the majority of their oil and gas supply, including higher-income countries such as Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan, which import virtually all their hydrocarbon consumption and rely heavily on transit through the Persian Gulf. In the weeks since the start of the conflict, this has resulted in bouts of energy rationing, increased household subsidies and service curtailment in industries such as air travel and hospitality. We have remained constructive on both Japan and EMs in Asia in large part due to their significant exposure to enablers of the global expansion in data center investment. And indeed, the Technology sector (the largest by market capitalization weight in Asia) has led the regional recovery over recent weeks. But aside from its links to growth in AI, we see a number of additional counterweights to energy-driven economic pressures in the Asia region.

As a major net exporter of both oil and gas, Malaysia has been a direct beneficiary of the rise in prices, with its local equity market outperforming over the past two months. Indonesia has benefitted from its trade surplus in natural gas. And demand for its coal exports has also increased as the conflict boosts thermal coal usage in electricity production elsewhere in the region. Asia's largest market, China, has been insulated in part by its large oil stockpiles which, at an estimated roughly 1.2 billion barrels, cover some three to four months of domestic supply. And it has a much lower dependence on imported oil and gas than most other markets in the region given its domestic production capacity and more diversified energy mix (Exhibit 3).

Exhibit 3: China Less Dependent on Imported Oil and Gas than Other Markets in Asia.

Energy supply by source (Share of total energy supply)

	Coal	Oil	Natural gas	Nuclear	Renewables	Hydropower	Biofuels and waste	Oil + Gas
China	61%	18%	8%	3%	4%	3%	3%	26%
India	46%	25%	5%	1%	2%	1%	20%	30%
Korea	22%	37%	20%	17%	1%	0%	2%	56%
Taiwan	35%	34%	24%	4%	2%	0%	2%	58%
Hong Kong	34%	27%	38%	0%	0%	0%	2%	65%
Singapore	1%	65%	32%	0%	0%	0%	2%	96%
Japan	26%	37%	21%	7%	3%	2%	5%	57%

Source: International Energy Agency. Data as of 2024 (latest available).

In the wake of the crisis, China is also well positioned for an expected increase in global demand for renewable energy hardware such as solar panels, wind turbines and batteries as countries look to strengthen their domestic energy security. And just as the oil shocks of the 1970s lifted demand for fuel-efficient autos made in Japan, the current conflict is likely to reinforce global electric vehicle (EV) adoption—a further support for China as the world leader in EV manufacturing.

As we had emphasized when the Federal Reserve was rapidly hiking interest rates in 2022 and 2023, emerging Asian markets today are also much less vulnerable to external shocks than they have been in previous cycles. In most cases they have much stronger current account positions (80% of regional market capitalization came into 2026 in outright surplus) and much larger central bank reserves than in the past. And therefore, the local currency and equity market declines have been smaller than in other balance of payments shocks such as the late '90s Asian financial crisis or the 2015 taper tantrum. In effect their trade surpluses from export revenues in other sectors have cushioned the impact from deteriorating terms of trade in energy, preventing the type of funding stress that has historically led to crises and much deeper selloffs.

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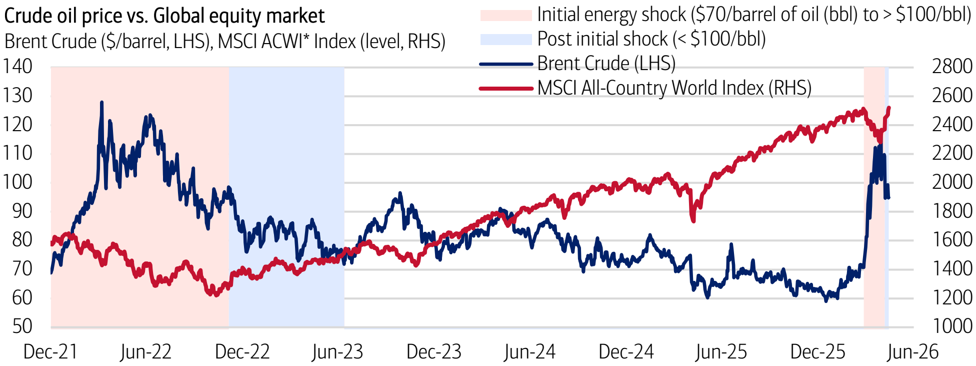
No two episodes are directly comparable, but with oil futures and industry analysts projecting further moderation in prices but still elevated price levels over the remainder of the year, investors might look to the 2022 energy shock for parallels. After the initial spike, Brent crude oil prices in 2022 reached a higher peak of close to $130 per barrel and maintained levels close to or above the $100 threshold until the latter part of the year, producing a larger decline in Asian equity markets (Exhibit 4). But Equities subsequently staged a strong and sustained recovery (with EM Asia and Japan outpacing the S&P 500) as the oil price eventually eased back below $100, despite staying above its pre-conflict levels for the next seven to eight months. Similarly in 2026, Asian equity markets sold off sharply in the initial phase of the conflict but have led the global rally since crude prices fell back below $100 after the April 7 ceasefire announcement. And the parallel to watch in the current environment as investors continue to look past the peak in escalation risk could be ongoing strength in Asian Equities, even if energy prices remain higher for longer over the coming months and normalize only gradually.

Exhibit 4: Equity Market Recoveries After Initial Energy Price Shock—2022 and 2026.



		MSCI EM Asia	MSCI Japan	MSCI Europe	S&P 500
Russia-Ukraine Conflict (2022)	Initial energy shock ($70/bbl to > $100/bbl)	-29.2%	-23.0%	-19.1%	-15.2%
	Post initial shock (< $100/bbl)	18.4%	25.7%	23.2%	16.3%
Iran Conflict (2026)	Initial energy shock ($70/bbl to > $100/bbl)	-9.8%	-8.9%	-8.2%	-3.7%
	Post initial shock (< $100/bbl)**	8.8%	4.5%	6.7%	6.2%

*MSCI All-Country World Index. **Since 4/7/2026 ceasefire announcement. Sources: Bloomberg; Chief Investment Office. Data as of April 15, 2026. Total returns in USD. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.** Please refer to index definitions at the end of this report. it is not possible to invest directly in an index.

Beyond the risks to output, consumption and terms of trade, higher inflation and interest rates could also pose a challenge for Asian markets in the wake of the energy shock. But here too we see less cause for concern than markets might expect. Compared to the levels of early 2022, inflation rates across the region remain contained, with most countries in the low single digit range or even slightly negative. And crucially most are well below their central bank targets, limiting the need for rate hikes in response to higher energy prices. By contrast, inflation across many developed markets has already exceeded central bank targets, causing investors to price out interest rate cuts or even consider outright rate hikes. The main exception has been the Bank of Japan, which more than others has placed a greater emphasis on the disinflationary effects of the energy shock, signaling plans to delay a rate increase that had been expected later this month.

For both emerging and developed Asian markets, we therefore see a range of offsets to the energy shock that keep our constructive view of the region intact. Ongoing expansion of global AI infrastructure investment remains a tailwind for key enablers of the data center buildout, particularly in Korea and Taiwan. Export exposure to oil, gas and coal benefits producers in Malaysia and Indonesia. China is insulated by buffers from local stockpiles and diversified sources of supply, as well as its domestic capacity in clean energy equipment manufacturing. Across the region, balance of payments strength as well as a lack of pressure to raise interest rates should also limit local funding stress. And assuming no reescalation in the conflict, the 2022 experience suggests that equity markets can deliver additional gains even if energy prices remain elevated.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Some Quick Thoughts on the U.S. Federal Budget Deficit

Joseph P. Quinlan, *Managing Director and Head of Market Strategy*

A frequently asked question from clients is the following: What is the status of America's finances? Our short answer: more manageable than precarious but worth watching and monitoring as the U.S. and the world shift toward higher sovereign debt levels and rising government borrowing costs.

Exhibit 5A provides a snapshot of the U.S. federal budget deficit as a percentage of GDP. The encouraging news: At 5.2% of GDP on a trailing 12-month basis, the deficit/GDP ratio isn't that far off from the long-term average of 4.6% for this century. The ratio has actually improved over the past year owing to the narrowing of the federal budget deficit. To wit, in the first six months of FY 2026 (October 2025-March 2026), the budget deficit totaled $1.2 trillion. That amount is $139 billion less than the deficit recorded during the same period a year ago and represents a 10.6% reduction. Revenues rose by $222 billion (or 10%), while outlays increased $84 billion (or 2%).

Now for the more sobering news: There isn't much fiscal runway after accounting for spending on defense, net interest payments on debt, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid (Exhibit 5B). Outlays for the five largest mandatory spending programs consumed 75% of outlays over the past 12 months, with spending on Social Security benefits accounting for roughly 23% of outlays, followed by Medicare (14.5%), Interest payments (14.1%), defense (13.1%) and Medicaid (9.9%). In addition, the narrowing of the fiscal deficit could be a thing of the past as the provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (lower corporate taxes and fatter household refunds) kick in. And with the administration asking for larger defense outlays, and with tariff revenue fading, we wouldn't be surprised to see the deficit for FY 2026 reverse course and begin to widen.

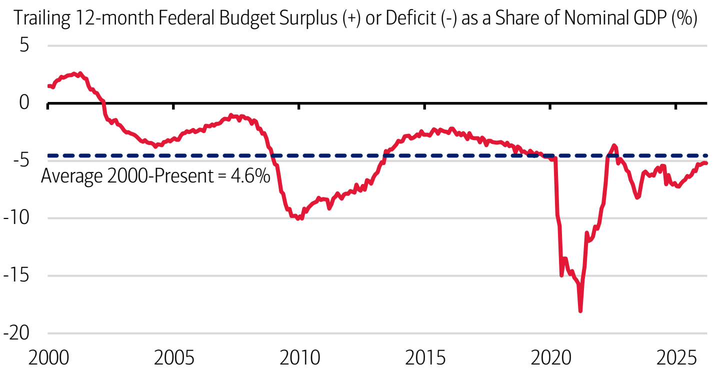
That is hardly worrisome, however. U.S. public sector debt as a percentage of GDP remains at around 100% of GDP—a level quite manageable, in our opinion, given that Uncle Sam's finances are backstopped by the most dynamic and resilient economy in the world. That equates to more growth and a sustainable fiscal path forward. We continue to watch but not worry over the federal budget deficit.

Investment Implications

Gross public sector debt will remain manageable in the medium term. Foreign and domestic appetite for U.S. government debt bears watching but is unlikely to wane in our view.

Exhibit 5: A Snapshot of America's Fiscal Health.

A) Deficit as a Share of GDP Not Far Off Historical Average.



B) Mandatory Outlays + Interest Payments + Defense = 75% of U.S. Government Outlays.

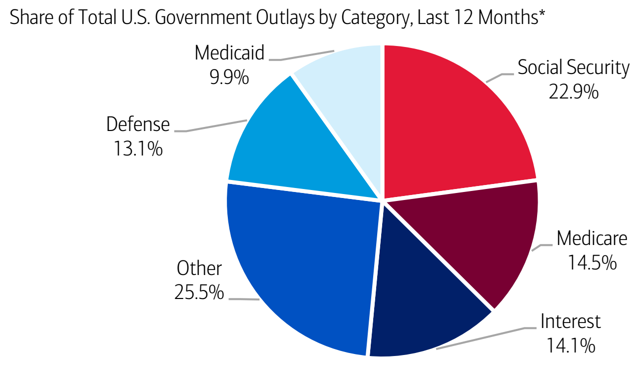


Exhibit 5A) Sources: U.S. Treasury; Congressional Budget Office; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Bloomberg. Data as of April 10, 2026. Exhibit 5B) *Refers to data from April 2025-March 2026. Source: U.S. Treasury. Data as of April 10, 2026.

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Equities

	Total Return in USD (%)			
	Current	WTD	MTD	YTD
DJIA	49,447.43	3.2	6.8	3.4
NASDAQ	24,468.48	6.8	13.3	5.5
S&P 500	7,126.06	4.5	9.2	4.5
S&P 400 Mid Cap	3,646.35	3.5	8.0	10.7
Russell 2000	2,776.90	5.6	11.3	12.3
MSCI World	4,650.40	4.0	9.3	5.4
MSCI EAFE	3,111.50	2.2	9.8	8.4
MSCI Emerging Markets	1,597.13	3.2	14.4	14.2

Fixed Income†

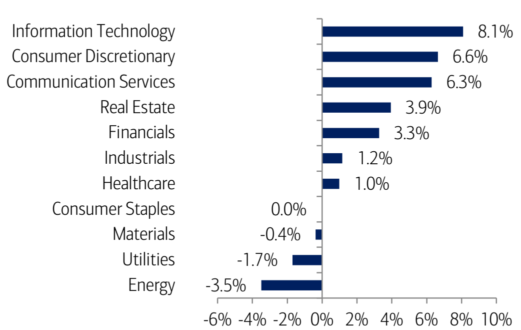
	Total Return in USD (%)			
	Current	WTD	MTD	YTD
Corporate & Government	4.37	0.55	0.87	0.67
Agencies	4.12	0.38	0.52	0.74
Municipals	3.59	0.31	1.46	1.28
U.S. Investment-Grade Credit	4.45	0.55	0.88	0.84
International	4.97	0.67	1.32	0.78
High Yield	6.75	0.66	1.97	1.47
90 Day Yield	3.68	3.67	3.67	3.63
2 Year Yield	3.71	3.80	3.79	3.47
10 Year Yield	4.25	4.32	4.32	4.17
30 Year Yield	4.88	4.91	4.91	4.84

Commodities & Currencies

	Total Return in USD (%)			
Commodities	Current	WTD	MTD	YTD
Bloomberg Commodity	334.71	-0.4	-2.6	21.2
WTI Crude $/Barrel††	83.85	-13.2	-17.3	46.0
Gold Spot $/Ounce††	4830.34	1.7	3.5	11.8

	Total Return in USD (%)			
Currencies	Current	Prior Week End	Prior Month End	2025 Year End
EUR/USD	1.18	1.17	1.16	1.17
USD/JPY	158.64	159.27	158.72	156.71
USD/CNH	6.82	6.83	6.89	6.98

S&P Sector Returns



Sources: Bloomberg, Factset. Total Returns from the period of 04/13/2026 to 04/17/2026. †Bloomberg Barclays Indices. ††Spot price returns. All data as of the 4/17/2026 close. Data would differ if a different time period was displayed. Short-term performance shown to illustrate more recent trend. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

Economic Forecasts (as of 4/17/2026)

	Q1 2026E	Q2 2026E	Q3 2026E	Q4 2026E	2026E	2027E
Real global GDP (% y/y annualized)	-	-	-	-	3.1	3.4
Real U.S. GDP (% q/q annualized)	2.5*	2.5	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.2
CPI inflation (% y/y)	2.7	4.0	3.7	3.5	3.5	2.4
Core CPI inflation (% y/y**)	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.6
Unemployment rate (%)	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3
Fed funds rate, end period (%)	3.63	3.63	3.38	3.13	3.13	3.13

The forecasts in the table above are the base line view from BofA Global Research. The Global Wealth & Investment Management (GWIM) Investment Strategy Committee (ISC) may make adjustments to this view over the course of the year and can express upside/downside to these forecasts. Historical data is sourced from Bloomberg, FactSet, and Haver Analytics. **There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. Economic or financial forecasts are inherently limited and should not be relied on as indicators of future investment performance.**
A = Actual. E/* = Estimate. Data as of April 17, 2026.
Sources: BofA Global Research; GWIM ISC as of April 17, 2026.

Asset Class Weightings (as of 4/7/2026)

	CIO View				
Asset Class	Underweight		Neutral		Overweight
Global Equities				●	
U.S. Large-cap Growth				●	
U.S. Large-cap Value				●	
U.S. Small-cap Growth				●	
U.S. Small-cap Growth				●	
International Developed		●			
Emerging Markets				●	
Global Fixed Income		●			
U.S. Governments		●			
U.S. Mortgages		●			
U.S. Corporates		●			
International Fixed Income		●			
High Yield		●			
U.S. Investment-grade Tax Exempt		●			
U.S. High Yield Tax Exempt		●			
Alternative Investments					
Hedge Strategies					
Private Equity					
Private Credit					
Real Assets					
Cash					

CIO Equity Sector Views

	CIO View				
Sector	Underweight		Neutral		Overweight
Financials				●	◄
Consumer Discretionary				●	
Industrials				●	
Utilities			●	◄	
Energy	►		●		
Information Technology			●		
Healthcare			●		
Materials			●		
Real Estate		●			
Consumer Staples		●			
Communication Services		●			

* Many products that pursue Alternative Investment strategies, specifically Private Equity and Hedge Funds, are available only to qualified investors. CIO asset class views are relative to the CIO Strategic Asset Allocation (SAA) of a multi-asset portfolio. Source: Chief Investment Office as of April 7, 2026. All sector and asset allocation recommendations must be considered in the context of an individual investor's goals, time horizon, liquidity needs and risk tolerance. Not all recommendations will be in the best interest of all investors.

Index Definitions

Securities indexes assume reinvestment of all distributions and interest payments. Indexes are unmanaged and do not take into account fees or expenses. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Indexes are all based in U.S. dollars.

S&P 500 Index is a stock market index tracking the stock performance of 500 leading companies listed on stock exchanges in the United States.

MSCI All-Country World Index is a premier benchmark representing global equity performance, covering large and mid-cap stocks across 23 developed and 24 emerging markets.

MSCI Emerging Markets Asia Index captures large and mid-cap representation across Emerging Markets (EM) countries in Asia.

MSCI Japan Index is designed to measure the performance of the large and mid cap segments of the Japanese market.

MSCI Europe Index captures large and mid cap representation across Developed Markets (DM) countries in Europe.

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Asset allocation, diversification and rebalancing do not ensure a profit or protect against loss in declining markets.

Investments have varying degrees of risk. Some of the risks involved with equity securities include the possibility that the value of the stocks may fluctuate in response to events specific to the companies or markets, as well as economic, political or social events in the U.S. or abroad. Small cap and mid cap companies pose special risks, including possible illiquidity and greater price volatility than funds consisting of larger, more established companies. Investing in fixed-income securities may involve certain risks, including the credit quality of individual issuers, possible prepayments, market or economic developments and yields and share price fluctuations due to changes in interest rates. When interest rates go up, bond prices typically drop, and vice versa. Investments in high-yield bonds (sometimes referred to as "junk bonds") offer the potential for high current income and attractive total return, but involves certain risks. Changes in economic conditions or other circumstances may adversely affect a junk bond issuer's ability to make principal and interest payments. Income from investing in municipal bonds is generally exempt from Federal and state taxes for residents of the issuing state. While the interest income is tax-exempt, any capital gains distributed are taxable to the investor. Income for some investors may be subject to the Federal Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). Treasury bills are less volatile than longer-term fixed income securities and are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by the U.S. government. Bonds are subject to interest rate, inflation and credit risks. Investments in foreign securities (including ADRs) involve special risks, including foreign currency risk and the possibility of substantial volatility due to adverse political, economic or other developments. These risks are magnified for investments made in emerging markets. Investments in a certain industry or sector may pose additional risk due to lack of diversification and sector concentration. There are special risks associated with an investment in commodities, such as gold, including market price fluctuations, regulatory changes, interest rate changes, credit risk, economic changes and the impact of adverse political or financial factors.

Alternative Investments are speculative and involve a high degree of risk.

Alternative investments are intended for qualified investors only. Alternative Investments such as derivatives, hedge funds, private-credit, private equity funds, and funds of funds can result in higher return potential but also higher loss potential. Changes in economic conditions or other circumstances may adversely affect your investments. Before you invest in alternative investments, you should consider your overall financial situation, how much money you have to invest, your need for liquidity and your tolerance for risk.

Nonfinancial assets, such as closely-held businesses, real estate, fine art, oil, gas and mineral properties, and timber, farm and ranch land, are complex in nature and involve risks including total loss of value. Special risk considerations include natural events (for example, earthquakes or fires), complex tax considerations, and lack of liquidity. Nonfinancial assets are not in the best interest of all investors. Always consult with your independent attorney, tax advisor, investment manager, and insurance agent for final recommendations and before changing or implementing any financial, tax, or estate planning strategy.