

16 April 2026

**Global Markets Research**
**Daily Market Highlights**

## 16 Apr: Mulling of a US-Iran peace deal lifted sentiment

**Gains for most global equity bourses; risk sensitive currencies like AUD**

**Steadier treasuries and crude oil prices; Dollar weakened against most peers**

**US economy growing at a slight-to-modest pace; all eyes on China GDP today**

- Optimism over a US-Iran peace deal and a strong start to the corporate earnings season drove the S&P 500 and Nasdaq to their record highs. Led by tech stocks, the broad market index gained 0.8% d/d, while Nasdaq rallied 1.6% d/d. The outlier was the Dow, which fell slightly by 0.2% d/d.
- Elsewhere, European luxury brands like Hermes and Kering pulled the French stock market (CAC 40: -0.6% d/d) into negative territory following a raft of disappointing earnings. Asian equity markets traded mixed with Nikkei 225 and Hang Seng up between 0.3-0.4% d/d each, while China's CSI 300 ended the session down 0.3% d/d overnight. With US and Iran mulling a peace deal, this will be positive for the regional bourses today.
- In the bond space, treasury yields were 2-4bps higher across the curve. The 2Y rose 2bps to 3.76%, while the 10Y increased 4bps to 4.28%. This comes after Fed President Beth Hammack said that she expects rates to remain on hold for a good while, and cited two-sided risks to rates. 10Y European bond yields, meanwhile, closed mixed in tune to -1 to +3bps.
- In the forex market, the DXY (-0.1% d/d to 98.06) extended its decline with most G10 currencies strengthening on the day. Risk-sensitive AUD led gainers against greenback (0.6% d/d to 0.7170), while haven JPY weakened 0.1% d/d to 159.00 at close. On the regional front, most Asian FX weakened against USD. CNH and MYR depreciated 0.1% d/d each at 6.8181 and 3.9580 respectively, while SGD closed just above its flatline at 1.2713, supported by its tightened monetary policy move recently.
- While stocks shrugged off uncertainty around the peace deal, oil prices were largely stable, inching up by 0-0.2% d/d to \$91.29/barrel for the WTI and \$94.93/barrel for Brent.

**Key Market Metrics**

	Level	d/d (%)
<b>Equities</b>		
Dow Jones	48,463.72	-0.15
S&P 500	7,022.95	0.80
NASDAQ	24,016.02	1.59
Stoxx Eur 600	617.27	-0.43
FTSE 100	10,559.58	-0.47
Nikkei 225	58,134.24	0.44
CSI 300	4,685.25	-0.34
Hang Seng	25,947.32	0.29
Straits Times	5,021.20	0.27
KLCI 30	1,683.42	-0.28
<b>FX</b>		
Dollar Index	98.06	-0.07
EUR/USD	1.1799	0.03
GBP/USD	1.3561	-0.04
USD/JPY	159.00	0.13
AUD/USD	0.7170	0.62
USD/CNH	6.8181	0.11
USD/MYR	3.9580	0.14
USD/SGD	1.2713	-0.03
USD/KHR	4,005.70	0.05
USD/THB	32.15	0.15
<b>Commodities</b>		
WTI (\$/bbl)	91.29	0.01
Brent (\$/bbl)	94.93	0.15
Gold (\$/oz)	4,800.00	-0.52
Copper (\$/MT)	13,247.50	-0.28
Aluminum(\$/MT)	3,621.50	1.64
CPO (RM/tonne)	4,457.00	-2.17

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

\* Closing as of 14 Apr for CPO

### **Fed Beige Book: US economic activity increased at a slight-to-modest pace for most districts**

- Key highlights from the latest Beige Book include: 1) Overall economic activity increased at a slight-to-modest pace in 8 of the 12 Fed districts, 2 reported little change, and 2, slight-to-modest declines (prior: 7 reported slight-to-moderate pace, 5 reported flat or declining activity). 2) Consumer spending increased slightly but many reported signs of consumer financial strain, increased price sensitivity and rising demand at food banks/other social service organizations. 3) Business outlooks varied amid widespread uncertainty about future conditions. 4) Given the surge in oil price, the Beige Book also reported that energy activity was up slightly, though many producers were cautious over ramping up drilling activities due to concerns over the persistence of higher prices. 5) By sectors, manufacturing activity rose slightly to moderately in most, banking sector activity was broadly steady, while housing market activity softened.
- Data released overnight largely echoed this. The Empire Manufacturing index improved more than expected to 11 in April (prior: -0.2). In the property market, mortgage applications grew a mere 1.8% w/w for the week ended April 10 (prior: -0.8% w/w), while the NAHB Housing Market Index, a measure builder confidence fell more than expected to 34 in April from 38 previously.
- Import prices unexpectedly eased more than expected to 0.8% m/m in March (prior: 0.9% m/m), but the yearly gain of 2.1% was the largest since December 2024. Despite the energy shock, import prices were softer m/m in March because higher prices for petroleum were offset by softer increases for nonfuel items like industrial supplies, capital goods and autos & parts. As it is, the trend still pointed to firming imported inflationary pressures with the Middle East conflict boosting oil prices, shipping costs, disrupting supply chains, and potentially foreign manufacturers passing through their higher tariffs/higher costs onto US shore.

### **Soft IPI growth for the Eurozone even before the war**

- IPI growth was better than expected at 0.4% m/m in February (prior: -0.8% m/m) but the production levels remained below its 2025 levels. More downward pressure is expected with disrupted supply chain and higher energy prices to put further pressure on manufacturer, especially energy-intensive industry. The increase was not broad-based, but led by intermediate, capital and non-durable consumer goods.

## House View and Forecasts

FX	This Week	2Q-26	3Q-26	4Q-26	1Q-27
DXY	97-101	100.63	99.80	97.96	96.48
EUR/USD	1.15-1.19	1.14	1.15	1.17	1.19
GBP/USD	1.32-1.36	1.31	1.32	1.34	1.35
USD/CHF	0.78-0.82	0.79	0.78	0.76	0.75
USD/JPY	156-161	159	155	152	152
AUD/USD	0.69-0.72	0.68	0.69	0.70	0.71
NZD/USD	0.56-0.59	0.57	0.58	0.58	0.59
USD/CNY	6.81-6.85	6.93	6.88	6.84	6.77
USD/MYR	3.95-4.01	3.98	3.96	3.93	3.90
USD/SGD	1.26-1.29	1.29	1.28	1.27	1.25
USD/THB	31.70-32.50	31.60	31.80	31.80	31.40

  

FX	Last close	2Q-26	3Q-26	4Q-26	1Q-27
EUR/MYR	4.6625	4.55	4.55	4.60	4.66
GBP/MYR	5.3660	5.23	5.23	5.26	5.28
AUD/MYR	2.8274	2.72	2.72	2.75	2.77
CNY/MYR	0.5803	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58
SGD/MYR	3.1116	3.09	3.10	3.11	3.12

Rates, %	Current	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	1Q27
Fed	3.50-3.75	3.50-3.75	3.50-3.75	3.25-3.50	3.25-3.50
ECB	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
BOE	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
SNB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BOJ	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00
RBA	4.10	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35
RBNZ	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25
BNM	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75

Source: HLBB Global Markets Research

## Up Next

Date	Events	Prior
16-Apr	AU Consumer Inflation Expectation (Apr)	5.20%
	CH New Home Prices MoM (Mar)	-0.28%
	CH Used Home Prices MoM (Mar)	-0.43%
	AU Unemployment Rate (Mar)	4.30%
	CH GDP YoY (1Q)	4.50%
	CH Retail Sales YTD (Mar)	2.80%
	CH Industrial Production YTD (Mar)	6.30%
	CH Fixed Assets Ex Rural YTD YoY (Mar)	1.80%
	CH Surveyed Jobless Rate (Mar)	5.30%
	UK Monthly GDP (MoM) (Feb)	0.00%
	US New York Fed Services Business Activity (Apr)	-22.6
	US Initial Jobless Claims	219k
	US Philadelphia Fed Business Outlook (Apr)	18.1
	US Industrial Production MoM (Mar)	0.20%
17-Apr	SI Non-oil Domestic Exports YoY (Mar)	4.00%
	MA CPI YoY (Mar)	1.40%
	MA GDP YoY (1Q A)	6.30%
	EC Trade Balance NSA (Feb)	-1.9b

Source: Bloomberg

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