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Weekly Market Report For 16 – 17 April 2026



Overview

- U.S. stocks extend record high as easing Middle East tensions and strong earnings lift sentiment, while falling bond yields support fixed-income markets.
- Global risk sentiment buoyed by a U.S.–Iran ceasefire deal, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and ongoing signals of continued nuclear negotiations.
- US bank earnings beat estimates, while TSMC and ASML also post strong results, underscoring continued chip industry growth driven by AI demand.
- US producer prices (PPI) ease, signaling moderating inflation pressures.
- The ECB slows its rate hikes, while the IMF cuts its GDP growth forecast to 1.1%.
- Japanese equities hit fresh highs on AI optimism, strong fundamentals, and the BOJ delays rate hikes, though manufacturing remains weak.
- China’s GDP beats expectations, but the recovery remains fragile amid weak domestic demand.

Market Brief


- 🔍 **Global equities advanced last week** as easing Middle East tensions, better-than-expected earnings and upbeat data lifted U.S. stocks for a third straight week to fresh records, with S&P 500 +4.5%, Nasdaq +6.8% and Dow +3.2%, while fixed income rebounded alongside declining bond yields late in the week.
- 🔍 **Global risk sentiment improved after a US–Iran ceasefire** and Tehran’s reopening of the Strait of Hormuz to commercial shipping, sending oil prices sharply lower, amid reports Iran will suspend its nuclear program indefinitely and will resume talks this week.
- 🔍 **Corporate earnings**
 - Major U.S. banks largely beat expectations as revived capital markets activity boosts results, while asset management gains track market strength.
 - TSMC posts stronger-than-expected revenue and profit on robust demand for advanced chips, led by ai and high-performance computing, supporting high margins and a solid full-year outlook.
 - ASML posts continued growth and a strong backlog, though near-term volatility is emerging as some customers delay investments; medium- to long-term prospects remain supported by demand for advanced chips.
 - Overall, results from ASML and TSMC underscore continued expansion in the semiconductor sector, with AI remaining the key growth driver.
- 🔍 **U.S. economic data**
 - March producer prices rose 0.5% MoM, below expectations, while core PPI increased just 0.1%, signaling easing inflationary pressures.
 - Manufacturing shows early signs of recovery, with New York and Philadelphia Fed indices improving, though input costs remain elevated.
- 🔍 **Europe**
 - The STOXX Europe 600 rose 1.9%, supported by strong earnings and easing Middle East tensions.
 - The ECB signaled no rush to raise rates, opting to wait for clearer inflation trends and demand impacts.
 - The IMF cut its Eurozone GDP growth forecast to 1.1% from 1.3%, citing energy-related risks.
- 🔍 **Japan**
 - The Nikkei 225 hit a record high, supported by easing Middle East tensions and strong fundamentals, including AI momentum and solid earnings growth.
 - The BOJ signaled a slower pace of rate hikes amid economic and energy price uncertainties, while manufacturing sentiment fell to a more than three-year low due to supply chain disruptions and elevated energy costs.
- 🔍 **China**
 - Equities advanced after first-quarter GDP grew 5% YoY, beating expectations and accelerating from the prior quarter on stronger exports and industrial output. However, the recovery remains fragile as weak domestic demand persists, with March retail sales rising just 1.7% and the property sector still contracting.
- 🔍 **Thailand**
 - Thailand’s SET Index fell 1.6% to 1,482.45, pressured by negative sentiment toward DELTA after trading curbs were imposed, alongside profit-taking. Foreign investors post net sales of 7.3 billion baht and institutions sold 2.2 billion baht over the week.

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