



CIO OFFICE MORNING MARKET WRAP 15 April 2025

Tariffs continue to dominate the market narrative. The list of exempted sectors seem to be growing day by day. The latest in the list were the auto tariffs. President Trump floated the idea of a pause in vehicles and auto component tariffs. Detroit's big automakers for weeks have lobbied the Trump administration to exclude certain low-cost car components from planned tariffs. On the bad news side, probes by the commerce ministry were initiated as the administration pressed forward with plans to impose tariffs on semiconductor and pharmaceutical imports.

Markets breathed a sigh of relief. US Treasury yields dropped 8 to 16 bps outperforming G7 peers. Treasury Secretary Bessent refuted rumours that foreign accounts are dumping treasury securities citing increased foreign demand at auctions for 10-year and 30-year Treasury securities last week. He referred to increasing the size of the current Buyback programs of off-the-run securities, if required. Fed's Atlanta President Raphael Bostic emphasized officials must wait for further clarity on President Donald Trump's policies before adjusting interest rates. He joins a bevy of Fed speakers who want the central bank to focus on inflation ruling away pre-emptive rate cuts. US stock markets were volatile. Stocks initially rose but later gave up some of the gains. S&P 500 closed 0.8% higher, while European stock markets fared better increasing more than 2% yesterday. Apple, GM, Ford and Stellantis performed well based on tariff related developments. LVMH sales dropped more than expected in Q1 as customers tightened their belts.

Today is the deadline for annual tax filings in the US which should lead to money market and deposit outflows putting focus on the funding markets. JPM suggests that electronic tax receipts are tracking somewhere between the robust 2022 tax season and the more average 2024 season. The tax deadline combined with mid-month Treasury settlements could drain liquidity from the financial system and lift

short-term borrowing costs.

Goldman Sachs released stellar earnings continuing the trend of equity trading desks notching their highest ever quarterly revenue. CEO David Solomon advised clients to "go slow" and cited "good chance" that regulators will lessen capital requirements. Today, Citi Bank, Bank of America and Johnson & Johnson are among the key companies releasing their earnings.

Markets this morning

Asian shares are in a flux this morning. Japan is positive up 0.9%, on the back of auto-tariff exemption expectations. Hang Seng is marginally down 0.2%. President Xi marks his first overseas trip of 2025 visiting Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia. US equity futures are in the red. Benchmark 10-year yields are down 3 bps at 4.34%. Gold trades around \$3,225. Brent Crude trades slightly below \$65.

Upcoming key events/data:

We get the Empire manufacturing which may show continued contraction. UK's unemployment report due today may show a flat unemployment rate of 4.4% and wage increase of 5.7%. India's March CPI could be below RBI range at 3.5%. German ZEW survey and European industrial production data are also due today.

Have a good day!

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