



# CIO OFFICE MORNING MARKET WRAP 22 April 2025

President Trump's latest broadside against Jerome Powell, demanding preemptive rate cuts and reportedly exploring legal grounds for dismissal, unnerved markets already reeling from trade uncertainty and earnings downgrades. The move was read as a direct threat to central bank independence, triggering a sharp unwind across asset classes. The S&P 500 plunged 2.4%, the dollar slipped to a 15-month low, and gold soared past \$3,400. Long-end Treasuries buckled under pressure, pushing 10-year yields to 4.42% as political risk priced into rate volatility. Holiday-thinned liquidity exaggerated the move. Credit markets showed signs of strain with CDS spreads widening and two out of three planned bond deals pulled. Tech and consumer discretionary led losses across all 11 S&P sectors. Within Asia, Japan's TOPIX fell 1.2% as the yen rallied sharply, pressuring exporters and banks. BOJ officials maintained a cautious tone, signaling no immediate policy shift but acknowledging risks to growth and inflation ahead of next month's outlook revisions. In China, the CSI 300 posted modest gains on renewed stimulus expectations. Policymakers kept lending rates steady, but fiscal signals are building through bond issuance and targeted sectoral support. Geopolitical friction remains a constraint. Beijing issued warnings to trading partners against cutting deals with Washington that undercut Chinese interests. Hong Kong remained shut for Easter. Indian equities extended their outperformance. The MSCI India Index climbed 1.4% as strong domestic earnings and macro stability continued to attract flows.

Commodities reflected the broader rotation out of US assets. The dollar fell 0.7% and gold rallied 2.9% to close above \$3,420, marking another record high as markets leaned into safe-haven trades. Brent oil slipped 2.5% to \$66.3 on softer global demand signals and rising inventory data.

### Markets this morning

Today, markets are stabilizing somewhat following Monday's rout. Asian equities are trading flat, S&P futures rose 0.5% and the dollar is fluctuating against G-10 peers. Gold extended gains and oil nudged up. Tariff negotiations remain front and center. Japan pushed back against US demands on autos and agriculture, and India is bracing for a potential tariff hike if a deal isn't reached. Beijing reiterated opposition to trade alignments that sideline Chinese interests. On the corporate side, Tesla and Verizon headline earnings today.

### Upcoming key events/data:

This week brings a dense mix of macro data and earnings reports. Today's highlights include results from Tesla, Verizon, and Northrop Grumman, as well as Eurozone consumer confidence. Wednesday delivers the Fed's Beige Book, US new home sales, and flash PMIs from the US, Europe, and Japan, alongside earnings from Boeing and Texas Instruments. Thursday is stacked with US durable goods orders, jobless claims, Germany's IFO survey, and earnings from Alphabet (after market). The week rounds off Friday with University of Michigan sentiment, Tokyo CPI, Eurozone wage data.

Have a good day!

Chief Investment Office Wealth Management Emirates NBD.

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