

Weekly Market Directions



Amundi
Investment Solutions

Trust must be earned



"Uncertainty on policy and tariffs, and weakening US economic growth call for a continued rotation towards regions such as Europe and selective emerging markets that may offer strong long-term opportunities."

Monica Defend

Head of Amundi Investment Institute

Trade war is clouding global growth

The recent IMF downgrade highlights how policy ambiguity could hurt global trade and economic activity.

The IMF raised inflation forecasts only marginally for this year; we think the disinflation trend should continue in medium term.

In such a context, the central banks' task becomes difficult as they try to balance supporting growth and fighting inflation.



In its latest release, the IMF has slashed its global growth forecast compared to January, owing to the trade war and policy uncertainty unleashed by the United States. 2025 global GDP growth is now seen at 2.8%, down from 3.3%, while for next year it is expected at 3.0%. Growth projections were cut across the board, with the United States having a sharp downgrade to 1.8% for 2025. We are more cautious on US growth amid concerns over consumption. European growth was not affected as much in the recent IMF projections. Germany is expected to show almost flat growth this year, following two annual contractions in 2023 and 2024. We forecast a mild expansion for the German economy this year. China was also downgraded, as the economy will be hit by external pressures from the United States.

Actionable ideas



Global bonds

In an environment of uncertain growth, government bonds such as those in EU could provide some stability. Investors may also explore high quality EU corporate credit for attractive returns.



EM equities

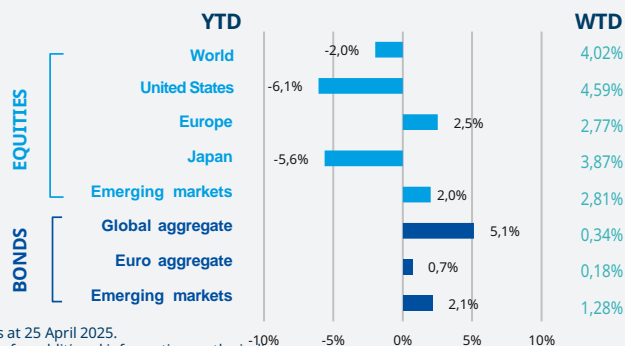
Emerging markets equities such as those in India and Latin America offer good long-term prospects and diversification* benefits to global investors.

This week at a glance

In a week that saw corporate earnings from some large companies, equities got a reprieve on expectations President Trump may go easy on his stringent tariff measures. Concerns also eased over the removal of the Fed Chair. Bond yields were mixed, and gold touched new record levels during the week but later fell marginally.

Equity and bond markets

Asset class performances, year to date and week to date



Source: Bloomberg, data as at 25 April 2025.
Please refer to the last page for additional information on the indices.

Government bond yields

2 and 10-year government bond yields, and 1 week change

		2YR		10YR	
	US	3,75	▼	4,24	▼
	Germany	1,72	▲	2,47	▼
	France	1,87	▼	3,19	▼
	Italy	2,01	▼	3,57	▼
	UK	3,85	▼	4,48	▼
	Japan	0,69	▲	1,34	▲

Source: Bloomberg, data as at 25 April 2025.
Please refer to the last page for additional information on the indices.
Trend represented refers to 1-week changes. Please refer to the last page for additional information

Commodities, FX and short-term rates, levels and weekly changes

Gold	Crude Oil	EUR/USD	USD/JPY	GBP/USD	USD/RMB	Euribor	T-Bill
USD/oz	USD/barrel	USD	JPY	USD	RMB	3M	3M
3319,72	63,02	1,14	143,67	1,33	7,29	2,17	4,30
-0,2%	-2,6%	+0,0%	+0,9%	+0,4%	-0,2%		

Source: Bloomberg, data as at 25 April 2025.
Please refer to the last page for additional information on the indices.

Amundi Investment Institute Macro Focus

Americas



US labour market stays healthy, for now

US initial jobless claims printed at their lowest level since February (215K) in the week ending 12 April, suggesting a steady pace of job gains this month. However, other surveys point to less optimism in labour markets and business sentiment is also affected by tariff-related uncertainty. Given high ambiguity around tariff announcements, we think the labour market is expected to weaken over the coming months.

Europe



EZ composite PMI holds above the 50 threshold

EZ composite PMI dropped from 50.9 in March to 50.1 in April, pointing to weak growth. In particular, the services index fell below 50 for the first time in five months, while the manufacturing index rose slightly. This data suggests that the damage to EZ production from the US trade policy has been limited so far. However, it is difficult to believe that this trend will continue.

Asia



Business sentiment held up despite tariff news

Flash PMIs in Asia have held up well in April, against the backdrop of extreme trade policy volatilities. Japan's composite PMI climbed to 51.1 in April from 48.9, driven by buoyant services sector activity and improvement in manufacturing output. India's composite PMI edged up to 60 from 59.5, with new export orders surprisingly firming up. Australia's figures ticked down marginally but held above 50.



NOTES

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Equity and bond markets (chart)

Source: Bloomberg. Markets are represented by the following indices: World Equities = MSCI AC World Index (USD) United States = S&P 500 (USD), Europe = Europe Stoxx 600 (EUR), Japan = TOPIX (YEN), Emerging Markets = MSCI Emerging (USD), Global Aggregate = Bloomberg Global Aggregate USD Euro Aggregate = Bloomberg Euro Aggregate (EUR), Emerging = JPM EMBI Global Diversified (USD)

All indices are calculated on spot prices and are gross of fees and taxation.

Government bond yields (table), Commodities, FX and short-term rates.

Source: Bloomberg, data as of **25 April 2025**. The chart shows IMF GDP growth projections for 2025.

Diversification does not guarantee a profit or protect against a loss.

GLOSSARY

IMF: International Monetary Fund

Fed: Federal Reserve System, the USA's central banking system

EM: Emerging Markets

EZ: Eurozone

US PCE: a measure of the spending on goods and services by people of the United States.

CPI: Consumer Price Index

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

PMI: Purchasing Managers Index

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