Weekly Bulletin
April 2026 / 18

TÜRKİYE İŞ BANKASI | research.isbank

	24-Apr	29-Apr	Change		24-Apr	29-Apr	Change
BIST-100 Index	14,409	14,311	-0.7 % ▼	**EUR/USD**	1.1720	1.1677	-0.4 % ▼
TRY 2 Year Benchmark Rate	40.15 %	40.91 %	76 bp ▲	**USD/TRY**	44.9925	45.1103	0.3 % ▲
Türkiye 5-Year CDS Premium	240	253	13 bp ▲	**EUR/TRY**	52.7570	52.6777	-0.2 % ▼
MSCI EM Equity Index	1,610	1,618	0.5 % ▲	**Gold** (USD/ounce)	4,709	4,542	-3.5 % ▼
US 10-Year Bond Rate	4.31 %	4.42 %	11 bp ▲	**Brent Oil** (USD/barrel)	105.3	118.0	12.1 % ▲

bp: basis point

While the Fed kept its policy rate unchanged in line with expectations, disagreement among FOMC members came to the fore. The BoJ and the BoE also maintained their policy rates unchanged at their meetings this week. According to preliminary data, economic growth in the Euro Area slowed in the first quarter, while inflation gained momentum in April. In a week marked by the failure of a lasting agreement between the U.S. and Iran and the United Arab Emirates' decision to leave OPEC, oil prices rose sharply. Domestically, headline unemployment declined in March, while the underutilized labor rate reached its highest level since 2014. In the first quarter, both tourism revenues and total visitor numbers increased on an annual basis. Looking ahead, April inflation and PMI data, along with March industrial production figures, will be released domestically next week, while global markets will focus on U.S. nonfarm payrolls data for April.

Major central banks kept policy rates unchanged.

The Fed, at its latest meeting chaired by Powell, kept its policy rate within the range of 3.50%–3.75%, in line with market expectations. The meeting highlighted growing disagreements within the FOMC, as one member voted in favor of a rate cut, while three members objected the easing bias in the statement and advocated for a more hawkish stance. As a result, the policy decision was adopted with an 8–4 vote split. The statement noted that economic activity remained stable, employment growth had slowed in recent months while the unemployment rate remained broadly unchanged, and inflation continued to stay elevated, partly due to rising energy prices. In the press conference following the meeting, Powell emphasized that inflation had deviated from the long-term target due to high energy prices stemming from the Iran war, while also noting that core PCE inflation which is more influential in the Fed's rate decisions, remained elevated due to tariffs. Additionally, Kevin Warsh's nomination for Fed Chair was forwarded for final Senate approval with a 13–11 vote.

The ECB left its key policy rates unchanged. Accordingly, the deposit rate remained at 2.0%, the main refinancing rate at 2.15%, and the marginal lending rate at 2.40%. The meeting's statement emphasized the increasing concentration of upside risks to inflation and downside risks to growth.

The Bank of Japan (BoJ) also kept its policy rate unchanged at 0.75%, in line with expectations. Notably, three members voted in favor of a rate hike, citing inflationary risks stemming from the U.S.–Iran conflict. In its quarterly outlook report, the BoJ stated that growth is expected to slow due to the war, revising its 2026 growth forecast downward to 0.5% (previous: 1.0%), while raising its core inflation forecast from 1.9% to 2.8%. The report also noted that CPI inflation is approaching the BoJ's 2% target, suggesting that the Bank may continue to raise policy rates in the coming period.

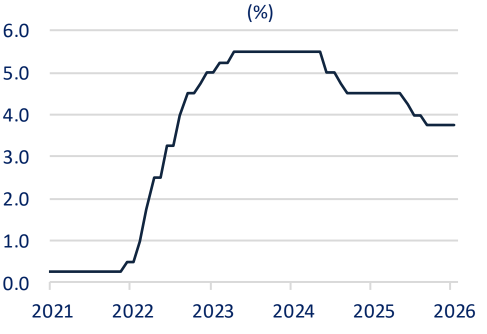
The Bank of England (BoE) also kept its policy rate unchanged at 3.75%, in line with expectations. Within the Monetary Policy Committee, eight members voted to hold rates, while one member supported a rate increase.

U.S. real sector indicators and PCE data were released.

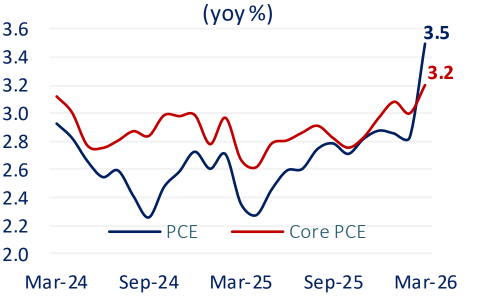
In the U.S., real sector and consumer confidence indicators presented a positive outlook. Durable goods orders increased by 0.8% mom in March, exceeding expectations, while orders for core capital goods (excluding defense and aircraft) rose by 3.3%, marking the fastest increase since June 2020. The rise in core capital goods orders was largely driven by investments in artificial intelligence. Meanwhile, the U.S. consumer confidence index came in at 92.8 in April, above both expectations (89.0) and the previous month's level (92.2). Although the current conditions index declined, the increase in the expectations index pointed to a limited improvement in consumers' short-term outlook, despite ongoing uncertainty stemming from developments in the Middle East.

On the other hand, the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index increased by 0.7% mom in March, marking the fastest rise since June 2022, while annual PCE inflation reached 3.5%, the highest level since May 2023. The sharp increase in prices was largely driven by energy. Accordingly, core PCE inflation stood at 0.3% on a monthly basis and 3.2% annually. In addition, according to preliminary estimates, annualized GDP growth in the U.S. was 2.0% in the first quarter, following a modest expansion of 0.5% in the previous quarter.

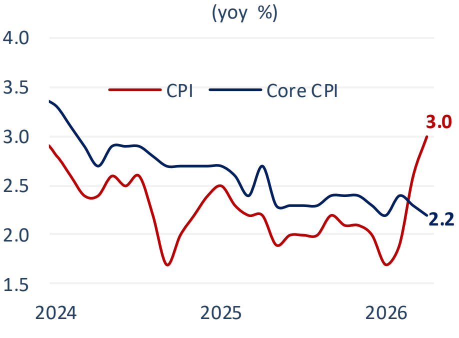
Fed Policy Interest Rate
(%)



US Inflation Indicators
(yoy %)



Euro Area Inflation Indicators
(yoy %)



Source: Datastream

Annual growth in the Euro Area stood at 0.8% in the first quarter.

According to preliminary data, quarterly GDP growth in the Euro Area came in at 0.1% in the first quarter of the year, below expectations. During this period, annual GDP growth came in at 0.8%, also below expectations and at its lowest level in the last three quarters. Additionally, preliminary data indicate that CPI inflation in the region reached 3.0% yoy in April, exceeding expectations and marking the highest level since September 2023. This development was driven by the increase in oil prices, particularly due to the war in Iran. Meanwhile, annual core CPI inflation continued to decline, reaching 2.2% in April.

The news flow regarding the uncertainty in the Middle East was closely monitored.

Developments related to the ongoing ceasefire process between the U.S. and Iran were also closely monitored by the markets this week. In a statement released by the White House at the beginning of the week, it was stated that Trump was evaluating Iran's peace proposal—which included ending the war and postponing nuclear talks—with his national security officials. However, it was reported that Trump rejected the proposal, arguing that Iran's nuclear weapons program must be the main item on the agenda. As the negotiation process stalled, statements emerged later in the week that dampened expectations of a compromise between the parties. While Trump stated that the blockade in the Strait of Hormuz would continue until an agreement addressing U.S. concerns regarding the nuclear program was reached, statements from the Iranian side followed indicating an unprecedented response to the blockade.

The United Arab Emirates announced that it will withdraw from OPEC.

In a statement issued this week, the United Arab Emirates government announced that the country will withdraw from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the OPEC+ coalition effective May 1. The UAE has been an OPEC member since 1967. The UAE government cited the country's long-term strategy and its vision to respond more quickly to evolving energy market needs as the rationale for the decision.

While the domestic unemployment rate declined, underutilized labor rate has risen to 31.5%.

According to data released by the TURKSTAT (TÜİK), the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points in March to 8.1%. In this period, the employment rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to 48.5%, while the underutilized labor rate, considered a broad measure of unemployment, reached 31.5% in March, the highest level since the data series began in 2014.

The trade deficit stood at $11.2 billion in March.

According to TÜİK data, exports fell by 6.4% yoy in March, while imports rose by 8.2% yoy. As a result, the trade deficit reached $11.2 billion in March, widening by 56.0% yoy. Moreover, excluding energy and gold products, exports decreased by 5.5% during this period, and imports increased by 11.2%. As a result, the trade deficit reached $28.7 billion in the first quarter of the year, widened by 27.5% compared to the same period of the previous year.

In March, the number of visitors increased by 8.2% yoy.

According to border statistics from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the total number of visitors arriving in Türkiye in March was 3.2 million, marking an 8.2% increase yoy. As a result, the total number of visitors in the first quarter reached 9.2 million, a 4.2% increase compared to the same period last year. In the first quarter, tourism revenues also rose by 4.2% yoy, reaching $9.9 billion.

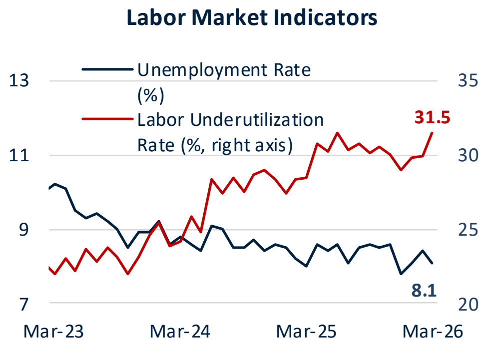
Financial markets…

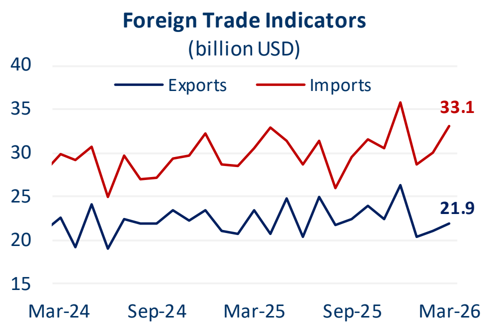
The main development in global markets this week was the continued rise in oil prices. In the week that the UAE announced its decision to withdraw from OPEC, and the failure of the U.S. and Iran to reach an agreement regarding the Strait of Hormuz and Iran's nuclear program, the price of Brent crude oil reached reaching $118.00 per barrel rising by 12.1% compared to Friday. The price of Brent crude oil is currently trading above the $120 level. Meanwhile, according to Wednesday's closing figures, the price of gold fell by 3.5% compared to Friday, dropping to $4,542 per ounce.

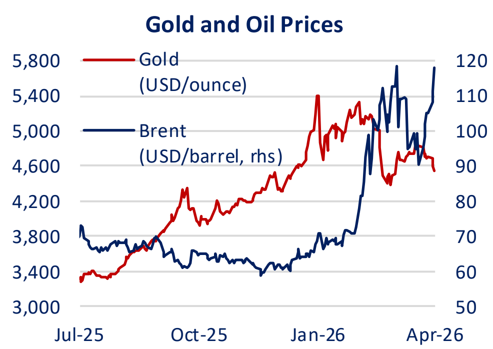
The BIST-100 index, which closed at 14,311 on Wednesday, fell by 0.7% compared to the previous week, while Türkiye's 5-year CDS spread rose by 13 basis points to 253 in line with developments in the Middle East. Turkish lira lost value against the U.S. dollar this week, it gained only slightly against the euro.

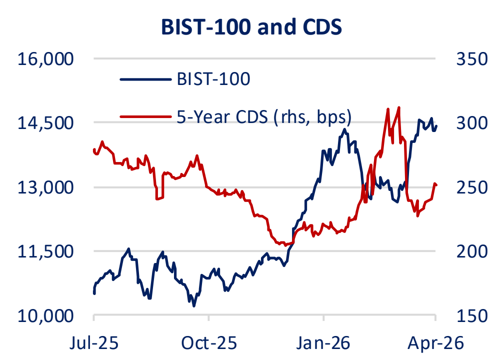
Next week's agenda…

Next week in domestic markets, April inflation data, the Istanbul Chamber of Industry's Türkiye Manufacturing PMI and the March Industrial production index will be released. Globally, the April U.S. non-farm payrolls data will be in the spotlight.









Source: Datastream, Turkstat

Data Releases

		Period	Consensus	Prior
May 4	TR CPI Inflation, mom	April	-	1.94%
	TR D-PPI Inflation, mom	April	-	2.30%
	TR Istanbul Chamber of Industry Manufacturing PMI	April	-	47.9
	US Factory Orders, mom	March	-	0.0%
	Euro Area Manufacturing PMI, final	April	-	52.2
	Euro Area Sentix Index	May	-	-19.2
May 5	TR CPI Based Real Effective Exchange Rate	April	-	104.61
	US ISM Services PMI	April	54.0	54.0
	US Services PMI, final	April	-	51.3
	US New Home Sales, units	March	-	587 thousand
May 6	US ADP Employment Report	April	-	62 thousand
	Euro Area Services PMI, final	April	-	47.4
	Euro Area PPI Inflation, yoy	March	-	-3.0%
	China RatingDog Services PMI	April	-	52.1
May 7	Euro Area Retail Sales, mom	March	-	-0.2%
	Germany Industrial Orders, mom	March	-	0.9%
May 8	TR Industrial Production, yoy	March	-	2.2%
	TR Treasury Cash Balance	April	-	-279.6 billion TRY
	US Nonfarm Payrolls	April	73 thousand	178 thousand
	US Unemployment Rate	April	4.3%	4.3%
	US Michigan Consumer Confidence, prelim	May	-	49.8
	Germany Industrial Output, mom	March	-	-0.3%

Source: Datastream, TCMB, TÜİK

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