

Hassan Fox Wealth Management

Market Commentary

Portfolio Strategy

April marked a significant reversal from the risk-off environment that dominated March, as equity markets rebounded sharply following easing geopolitical tensions, stabilizing oil prices, and stronger-than-expected corporate earnings. Investor sentiment improved meaningfully during the month, particularly in the United States, where large-cap technology and AI-related companies once again assumed market leadership after experiencing considerable weakness in March.

In the United States, the S&P 500 advanced strongly during the month, while the Nasdaq outperformed as investors returned aggressively to growth-oriented sectors. Technology, communication services, and semiconductors were among the strongest-performing areas of the market, supported by continued enthusiasm surrounding artificial intelligence, cloud infrastructure spending, and resilient earnings growth from several mega-cap companies. Strong quarterly results and optimistic forward guidance from key technology firms reinforced the view that AI-driven capital investment remains in the early stages of a longer-term secular trend.

April's rebound was also aided by a moderation in some of the geopolitical concerns that weighed heavily on markets in March. While tensions surrounding the conflict in Iran remain elevated, fears of a broader disruption to global energy supply eased modestly during the month. Oil prices stabilized after their sharp March increase, helping calm inflation expectations and reduce some of the pressure on interest rates. As a result, investor appetite for risk assets improved materially.

In Canada, the S&P/TSX Composite Index also rebounded, though gains were more moderate relative to the U.S. market. The Canadian market continued to benefit from strength in energy, mining, and financials, while improving sentiment toward global growth supported cyclical sectors more broadly. Canadian bank earnings generally remained stable, and higher commodity prices continued to support resource-oriented equities.

Economic data throughout the month continued to paint a mixed but generally stable picture. Inflation remains above central bank targets in both the U.S. and Canada, though recent data suggests price pressures continue to moderate gradually. Labour markets have softened modestly but remain relatively resilient overall, supporting the view that economic growth may slow without entering a deep recession.

Fixed-income markets stabilized during April following March's sharp rise in yields. U.S. Treasury yields moved modestly lower through much of the month as investors reassessed the likelihood of

additional near-term tightening and focused instead on the eventual timing of future rate cuts. The Federal Reserve maintained its data-dependent stance, continuing to emphasize that sustained progress on inflation will be required before meaningful policy easing occurs. While bond returns improved modestly during the month, fixed income continues to provide attractive income opportunities and portfolio diversification benefits.

The Bank of Canada maintained its overnight rate at 2.25%, reinforcing its cautious and measured approach as policymakers continue balancing moderating inflation against soft domestic growth conditions. Canadian bond yields declined modestly alongside U.S. Treasury yields, though policymakers remain hesitant to signal aggressive rate cuts given ongoing inflation concerns and geopolitical uncertainty.

As we move further into the second quarter of 2026, markets remain focused on several key variables: the trajectory of inflation, the timing and magnitude of eventual rate cuts, corporate earnings sustainability, geopolitical developments, and the continued evolution of artificial intelligence across industries. While volatility is likely to remain elevated, April demonstrated that investor confidence in long-term structural growth themes—particularly AI and technology infrastructure—remains firmly intact.

At HassanFox Wealth Management, our approach remains consistent. We continue to emphasize quality, identification of leadership, and disciplined risk management. Our portfolios remain market weight equities, underweight fixed income, and maintain an allocation to gold as a strategic diversifier.

Why Everyone Needs a Power of Attorney

Most families understand the importance of having a Will, but few ascribe the same weight to drafting a power of attorney (POA). More often than not, a POA is an afterthought, but not having one in place can be disastrous if you're ever in a position where you can't make decisions on your own. The article linked here highlights the importance of having POA's in place.

[Why everyone needs a Power of Attorney - BMO Private Wealth](#)

As always, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

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