

DAILY UPDATE April 17, 2025

MACROECONOMIC NEWS

US Economy - US retail sales MoM rose sharply in March, with headline sales up 1.4% (vs. 1.3% expected) and core sales up 0.5% (vs. 0.4% forecasted), driven largely by a surge in auto purchases as consumers rushed to buy ahead of potential tariffs. This follows gains of 0.2% and 0.7% in February, respectively. The stronger data prompted economists, including Jefferies, to raise Q1 GDP forecasts from 0.6% to 1.0%. Fed Chair Jerome Powell signaled that rate cuts are unlikely soon, emphasizing the need to prevent tariff-driven price increases from turning into persistent inflation. Speaking in Chicago, he stressed the Fed's focus on keeping long-term inflation expectations anchored, dampening hopes for near-term easing. His tone was more cautious than Fed Governor Waller's earlier remarks supporting a possible rate cut if tariffs significantly slow the economy.

US Market - The S&P 500 fell 2.2% Wednesday, led by a 6% drop in Nvidia after it warned of a USD 5.5B hit from US export curbs on AI chips to China, sparking a broader tech selloff. The NASDAQ slid 3.1%, and the Dow lost 699 points. AMD also flagged a USD 800M write-off, while ASML, Intel, Broadcom, and TSMC declined on China demand concerns. Powell's hawkish tone on rates added pressure. Elsewhere, Travelers rose 1% despite a USD 2B wildfire-related loss, Hertz jumped 56% on Pershing's increased stake, and Alphabet slipped nearly 1% amid a USD 6.6B UK lawsuit over search dominance.

US Tariff Policy - Markets were rattled Wednesday by confusion over a White House fact sheet citing a 245% tariff on some Chinese imports—much higher than the previously assumed 145%. While the figure is accurate, the White House clarified it's not a new tariff but a combination of existing measures, including a 125% reciprocal tariff, a 20% fentanyl-related tariff, and Section 301 tariffs ranging from 7.5% to 100%. The mix-up highlighted growing market frustration over the complexity of current China tariffs.

Equity Markets

	Closing	% Change
Dow Jones	39,669	-1.73
NASDAQ	16,307	-3.07
S&P 500	5,276	-2.24
MSCI excl. Jap	681	-1.21
Nikkei	34,103	0.54
Shanghai Comp	3,276	0.26
Hang Seng	21,067	0.05
STI	3,674	0.32
JCI	6,400	-0.65
Indo ETF (IDX)	12	-0.83
Indo ETF (EIDO)	16	-1.30

Currency

	Closing	Last Trade
US\$ - IDR	16,837	16,837
US\$ - Yen	141.88	142.77
Euro - US\$	1.1399	1.1360
US\$ - SG\$	1.311	1.314

Commodities

	Last	Price Chg	%Chg
Oil NYMEX	62.8	1.3	2.0
Oil Brent	66.0	1.17	1.8
Coal Newcastle	94.3	-1.25	-1.31
Nickel	15683	125	0.8
Tin	30800	-249	-0.8
Gold	3339	68.4	2.1
CPO Rott	1295		
CPO Malay	4034	-28	-0.7

Indo Gov. Bond yields

	Last	Yield Chg	%Chg
1 year	6.627	0.00	0
3 year	6.742	-0.006	-0.089
5 year	6.805	0.001	0.015
10 year	6.948	-0.001	-0.014
15 year	7.069	-0.001	-0.014
30 year	7.193	0.00	0.028

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Gold Price - Gold prices surged to a record high in Asia on Wednesday, with spot gold up 1.7% to USD 3,283.63/oz, driven by safe haven demand amid escalating US-China trade tensions and a weaker dollar. Investor anxiety grew as Trump signaled more tariffs, including on electronics and pharmaceuticals, despite some temporary exemptions. Uncertainty over US trade policy pushed investors toward gold and other safe assets, while platinum dipped 0.1% and silver rose 0.5%.

CORPORATE NEWS

ESSA - PT ESSA Industries Indonesia will distribute IDR 172 billion in dividends—double last year's amount—translating to IDR 10/share, supported by a strong cash position of USD 63 million and successful debt repayment. Major shareholders Chander Vinod Laroya and Garibaldi Thohir are set to receive 16% and 14% of the payout, respectively. ESSA attributes the higher dividend to improved margins and deleveraging, while maintaining stable operations and advancing its sustainability agenda, including plans to launch a low-carbon ammonia plant and a new SAF facility in Central Java targeting 200,000 tons of annual output by Q1 2028.

FREN - PT Smartfren Telecom (FREN) has been officially delisted from the IDX as of April 17th, 2025, following its merger with XL Axiata (EXCL). As a result, FREN shares can no longer be traded on the exchange. The delisting complies with IDX Regulation I-G regarding business mergers. Prior to the delisting, Smartfren shares were briefly reopened for negotiated market trading on April 16th to facilitate share buyback transactions via Trimegah Sekuritas.

KDTN - PT Puri Sentul Permai targets 10–17% revenue growth in 2025 by expanding hotel facilities, launching new rest area lounges, redesigning rooms, and enhancing digital services. The company also aims to obtain ISO 9001 certification and boost HR, ICT, and CSR initiatives. The KDTN's management expecting for its growth to be driven by holiday traffic and full hotel occupancy. To support this, KDTN allocated IDR 20 billion in working capital from IPO proceeds and internal cash. A dividend of IDR 1.17 billion (60% payout) was declared, reaffirming commitment to shareholders.

SUNI - PT Sunindo Pratama will conduct a buyback of up to IDR 80 billion, purchasing no more than 20% of its issued shares at a maximum price of IDR 900/share. This move aims to reinforce confidence in the company's long-term growth, optimize capital structure, and add value for shareholders amidst market fluctuations. The buyback, set to run from April 17 to July 15th, 2025, is not expected to negatively impact business operations, financial performance, or liquidity, as the company has sufficient cash flow. Maybank Sekuritas Indonesia has been appointed to execute the buyback on the IDX.

TRIS - PT Trisula International announced dividend of IDR 22 billion, or IDR 7/share, during the AGMS on April 16th, 2025. Despite challenges in the garment and manufacturing sectors, TRIS is targeting a 10% sales growth in 2025, focusing on expanding export markets, which currently make up over 50% of sales, and optimizing production efficiency through investment in new machinery. Major export markets include New Zealand, Australia, the US, Japan, and other Asian countries.

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