

Global Stocks Rally on Trade Optimism and Corporate Earnings



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	25/04/2025	18/04/2025	% Change
BLOM Stock Index	2,064.10	2,043.77	0.99%
Average Traded Volume	10,178.75	26,692.00	-61.87%
Average Traded Value	230,503.50	281,537.75	-18.13%
Market Cap	21,155,315,110	21,253,552,755	

The **BLOM Stock Index (BSI)** compiled by BLOM Invest Bank daily rose weekly by 1% to 2,064.1 points on April 25th, 2025.

On the Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE), the real estate sector dominated trading, accounting for 83% of the exchange's total trading value, while the remaining were by the banking sector (16%) and industrial sector (1%). The most noteworthy trades throughout the mentioned period included:

	25/04/2025	18/04/2025	% Change
Solidere A	89.50	90.00	-0.56%
Solidere B	84.75	85.00	-0.29%
CB (N)	35.00	40.00	-12.50%
Audi (C)	2.60	2.62	-0.76%
BLOM (GDR)	5.27	5.30	-0.57%
BLC Pref D	39.00	3.00	1200.00%

	25/04/2025	18/04/2025	% Change
BLOM Preferred Shares Index	29.49	27.52	7.16%

As for the **BLOM Preferred Shares Index (BPSI)**, it increased by 7.16% to 29.49.

US Stocks

Index	Currency	25/04/2025	18/04/2025	% Change
S&P 500	USD	5,484.77	5,282.70	3.83%
Dow Jones	USD	40,093.40	39,142.23	2.43%
NASDAQ Comp	USD	17,166.04	16,286.45	5.40%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

Globally, U.S. stock markets ended the week higher. This optimism followed U.S. President Donald Trump's assurance that he had no plans to dismiss Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and his hint at potential tariff reductions for China. Trump also claimed that the U.S. is engaged in trade talks with China, though Beijing has denied this. Meanwhile, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent ruled out a unilateral tariff reduction, while Beijing continues to insist that the U.S. must remove all tariffs. Despite this, sources to Reuters indicated that China has eased some U.S. import tariffs and is consulting businesses on further exemptions. A list of 131 product categories circulated widely on social media and among trade groups on Friday, though Reuters could not verify its authenticity. China has yet to make any public announcements regarding these exemptions. Adding to the positive sentiment, Cleveland Fed President Beth Hammack suggested that a rate cut could come as early as June, if economic data supports it. U.S. markets also received a lift from Alphabet's Q1 above expectations earnings.

European Stocks

Index	Currency	25/04/2025	18/04/2025	% Change
DAX	EUR	22,064.51	21,205.86	4.05%
FTSE 100	GBP	8,407.44	8,275.66	1.59%
CAC 40	EUR	7,502.78	7,285.86	2.98%
STOXX600	EUR	518.61	506.42	2.41%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

Across the Atlantic, European stock markets posted solid gains this week, with Germany's DAX leading the rally as investor sentiment improved on hopes of reduced U.S.-China trade tensions and positive corporate earnings. The DAX index surged by 4.05% to close at 22,064.51. France's CAC 40 followed with a 2.98% increase to 7,502.78, while the pan-European STOXX600 advanced 2.41% to 518.61 and the UK's FTSE 100 rose by 1.59% to 8,407.44. Several companies listed on European stock exchanges reported strong Q1 earnings, including Finnish forestry group Stora Enso and French jet engine maker Safran, further boosting investor confidence.

Asia Stocks

Index	Currency	25/04/2025	18/04/2025	% Change
NIKKEI	JPY	35,673.77	34,730.28	2.72%
Hang Seng	HKD	22,137.28	21,395.14	3.47%
Shanghai Comp	CNY	3,299.55	3,276.73	0.70%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

Asian markets also recorded gains this week, fueled by encouraging policy signals and easing trade concerns. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index led regional gains with a notable 3.47% surge to 22,137.28, while the Shanghai Composite posted more moderate gains, rising by 0.70% to 3,299.55. These increases were fueled by eased trade tensions and by Beijing's decision to narrow the negative list for foreign investment from 117 to 106 sectors. China's Negative List identifies sectors where foreign investment is restricted or banned, serving as a key tool in China's strategy to regulate and gradually open its economy to foreign investors. Investor confidence was further bolstered by the People's Bank of China (PBoC) Governor Pan Gongsheng's reiteration of a supportive monetary policy stance that is going to be "appropriately loose". Japan's Nikkei also advanced, climbing 2.72% to 35,673.77, as markets responded positively to progress in the country's trade negotiations with the U.S.

Index	Currency	25/04/2025	18/04/2025	% Change
MSCI Emerging Market	USD	1,098.25	1,068.59	2.78%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

Similarly, the MSCI Emerging Market index went up this week by 2.78% to 1,098.25 points, as optimism over easing trade tensions lifted investor sentiment.

Arab Stocks

Index	Currency	25/04/2025	18/04/2025	% Change
S&P Pan Arab	USD	995.99	978.48	1.79%
Bourse Kuwait	KWD	8,483.01	8,419.61	0.75%
Saudi Stock Exchange	SAR	11,764.39	11,552.98	1.83%
Qatar Stock Exchange	QAR	10,260.17	10,135.84	1.23%
Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange	AED	9,424.93	9,277.65	1.59%
Dubai Financial Market	AED	5,195.82	5,096.93	1.94%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

Arab stock markets posted broad gains this week. Market sentiment was lifted after the Trump's softer tone on Federal Reserve leadership and tariffs, which eased concerns about global financial instability and trade tensions. This policy reassurance, combined with strong corporate earnings, especially in the banking sector, helped offset worries about lower oil prices and slower economic growth. The Dubai Financial Market led weekly increases and rose by 1.94% supported by positive earnings momentum, particularly Emirates NBD's impressive Q1 results. Saudi's Tasi followed and rose by 1.83% supported by robust first-quarter earnings especially from Saudi National Bank. These gains came despite the International Monetary Fund lowering its 2025 GDP growth forecast for Saudi Arabia to 3% from 3.3% in January and trimming the regional outlook for the Middle East and Central Asia to 3% from 3.6% earlier.

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