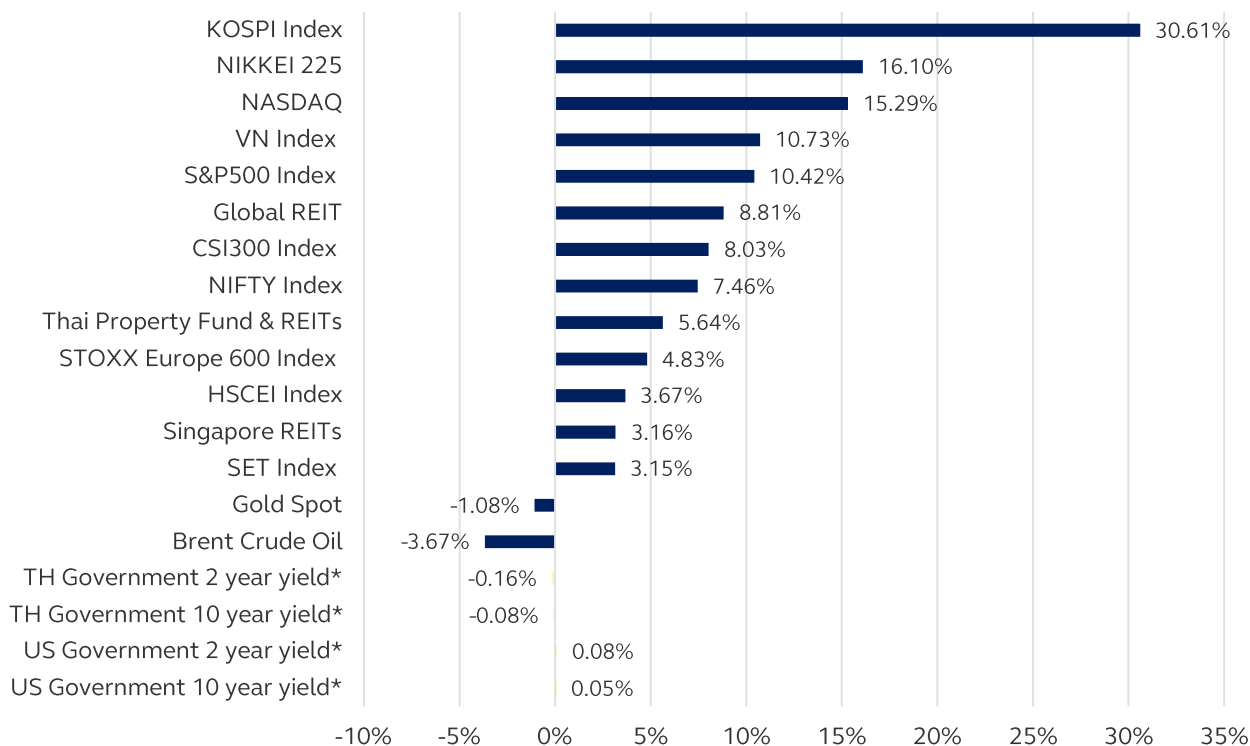
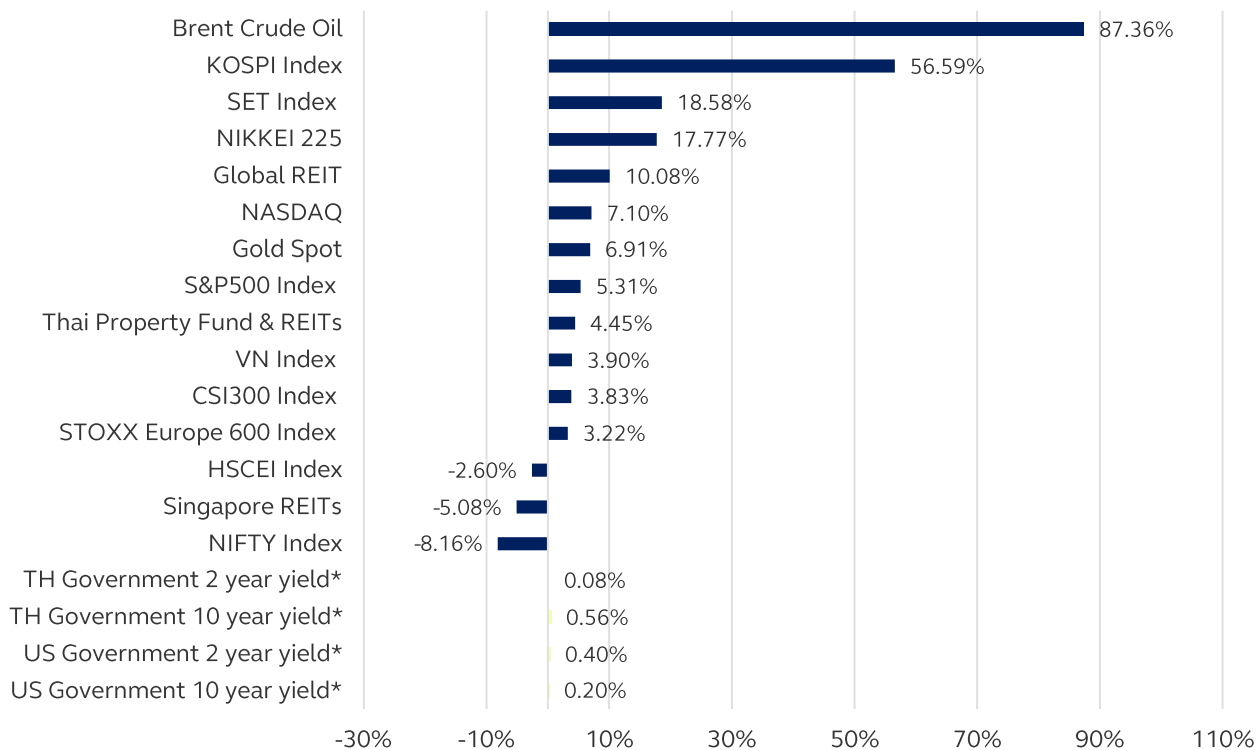


Market Outlook

1-month performance (April)



Year-to-date performance (Jan-Apr)



*Information illustrated percentage of bond yield change not return.
Source : Bloomberg, data as of 30 April 2026

Global stock markets rebounded in April as geopolitical tensions eased and investors refocused towards corporate earnings beyond the conflict. Overall, Q1/2026 earnings results broadly exceeded market expectations, particularly among leading technology and semiconductor companies such as Intel and Samsung Electronics. This supported positive sentiment in global equity markets. We maintain a Neutral view on global assets while having a Slightly Overweight view on Global equity and Vietnam equity.

Fixed Income: 2-year and 10-year U.S. government bond yields rose slightly in April. An easing in geopolitical tensions has reduced inflation concerns and energy price volatility. Principal Asset Management maintains a Neutral view on fixed income investments.

Global Equity: Principal Asset Management shifts global stock markets to Slightly Overweight view due to the announcement of a U.S.-Iran ceasefire. Global equity markets responded positively. The S&P 500 rose by 10.42% and the Nasdaq rose by 15.29%, reaching new record highs. The market has also been supported by solid corporate earnings. Companies representing 65% of the S&P 500 have reported 1Q/2026 earnings, with 82% beat market expectations. However, the market continues to face headwinds from trade policy and the appointment of a new Fed chair following the end of Jerome Powell's term in May.

In Europe, the STOXX 600 index increased by 4.83%, supported by a de-escalation in geopolitical conflict, reduced inflationary pressure from energy prices, and resilient corporate earnings. Analysts continue to revise earnings upwards, despite the ECB maintaining a hawkish policy stance. The market are pricing in the possibility of 1-2 rate hikes this year.

In Japan, the NIKKEI225 index surged by 16.10%, reaching a new high, driven by strong demand for AI and semiconductors related products. This momentum reflects Japan's upstream positioning within the global AI supply chain. Additionally, a weaker yen supported exporter revenues and attracted net foreign inflows into Japanese equities. Meanwhile, the BoJ maintained its policy rate in April, signaling a gradual normalization of monetary policy.

Indian Equity: The Indian stock market rose by 7.46%, supported by easing tensions in the Middle East. Despite the rebound, the market faces headwinds from the continuing depreciation of the Indian rupee and high energy prices which weight on domestic consumption and inflation. Furthermore, India has relatively limited exposure to beneficiaries of the AI super cycle. As a result, foreign investors continue to be net sellers. Principal Asset Management maintains a Slightly Underweight view on Indian equities.

Thai Equity: The SET Index raised by 3.15% in April. Demonstrating resilience amidst geopolitical tensions. However, valuations have become less attractive (0.5SD of Forward P/E), while positive catalysts such as economic stimulus measures having already been priced in. Consequently, the upside potential for the SET Index appears limited. We shift our view on Thai equities to Neutral.

Vietnam Equity: The VN Index soared by 10.73% as an easing in U.S.-Iran tensions led to falling energy prices, along with FTSE's reaffirmation of Vietnam's market upgrade status in its interim review, effective this September. Valuations remain attractive and analysts continuing to revise earnings estimates upwards. Principal Asset Management maintains a Slightly Overweight view on the Vietnam stock market.

Property Funds / REITs: Global property funds and REITs rose by 8.81% amid easing inflation concerns. However, major central banks have signaled a more hawkish policy outlook. Principal Asset Management maintains a Neutral view on REIT investments.

Gold: Gold prices fell by 1.08% as the U.S. dollar has strengthened. Higher U.S. Treasury yields along with major central banks adopting a higher-for-longer stance have reduced the attractiveness of holding non-yielding assets. We maintain a Neutral view on gold.

Asset Allocation Outlook

	UW	Slightly UW	Neutral	Slightly OW	OW
Cash	○	●	○	○	○
Fixed Income	○	○	●	○	○
• Global	○	○	●	○	○
• Thailand	○	○	●	○	○
Equity	○	○	●	○	○
• Global	○	○	○ → ●	○	○
• Thailand	○	○	● ← ○	○	○
• India	○	●	○	○	○
• Vietnam	○	○	○	●	○
Property Funds/REITs	○	○	●	○	○
Gold	○	○	●	○	○

Viewpoints reflect a 1-month horizon

○ → ● indicates a change in preference from the previous month (light blue ○) to the current month (dark blue ●)

Description of Asset Allocation Outlook table

- OW or Overweight : Allocate asset more than its benchmark
- Slightly OW or Slightly Overweight : Allocate asset slightly more than its benchmark
- Neutral : Allocate asset equal to its benchmark
- Slightly UW or Slightly Underweight : Allocate asset slightly less than its benchmark
- UW or Underweight : Allocate asset less than its benchmark

Caution: Principal Asset Allocation Plan is a service providing advice on allocating investment portfolios by diversifying investment into various financial assets according to investor’s investment risk tolerance. Advisement is considered on market conditions to create or adjust balance portfolio, which will be monthly evaluated and adjusted investment mix or portfolio to ensure that the portfolio is well-diversified and consistent with investment outlooks. Due to market price changing from market conditions, the proportion of each asset may deviate from appropriate allocation. This may cause the portfolio to be at higher or lower risk than it should be. Principal Asset Allocation Plan is only advice from Principal Asset Management and investors may not receive return as expected. Investors should make sure that understand about basic investment allocation, recommended by SEC. / Investors should understand product characteristics (mutual funds), conditions of return and risk before making an investment decision. / Past performance does not guarantee future results.

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