

## Stocks Rise amid Ceasefire Hopes and Improving Market Sentiment



BLOMINVEST  
BANK

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### Contact Information

Jana Boumatar

[jana.boumatar@blominvestbank.com](mailto:jana.boumatar@blominvestbank.com)

	17/04/2026	10/04/2026	% Change
<b>BLOM Stock Index</b>	1,827.11	1,760.85	3.76%
<b>Average Traded Volume</b>	29,689	6,475	358.51%
<b>Average Traded Value</b>	837,211	268,200	212.16%
<b>Market Cap</b>	18,726,306,148	18,047,224,403	

The **BLOM Stock Index (BSI)** compiled by BLOM Invest Bank daily increased by 3.76% to 1,827.11 points by April 17<sup>th</sup> 2026.

On the Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE), the real estate sector dominated trading; accounting for 92.35% of the exchange's total trading value, while the remaining were grasped by the banking sector (7.65%). The most noteworthy trades throughout the mentioned period included:

	17/04/2026	10/04/2026	% Change
<b>Solidere A</b>	74.8	73	2.47%
<b>Solidere B</b>	72.95	70.5	3.48%
<b>Audi Listed</b>	1.98	1.47	34.69%
<b>Byblos (C)</b>	0.84	0.69	21.74%
<b>BLOM Listed</b>	7.25	7.46	-2.82%

	30/01/2026	23/01/2026	% Change
<b>BLOM Preferred Shares Index</b>	19.35	19.35	0.00%

As for the **BLOM Preferred Shares Index (BPSI)**, it stabilized at 19.35 points.

### US Stocks

Index	Currency	17/04/2026	10/04/2026	% Change
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	USD	7,041.28	6,816.89	3.29%
<b>Dow Jones</b>	USD	48,578.72	47,916.57	1.38%
<b>NASDAQ Comp</b>	USD	24,102.70	22,902.89	5.24%

\*prices are as of the time of writing this report

US equities recorded strong gains over the week, with the Nasdaq leading sharply higher by 5.24%, followed by the S&P 500 rising by 3.29% and the Dow Jones posting gains of 1.38%. The rally was largely driven by growing optimism that the US-Iran conflict could de-escalate, with expectations of renewed negotiations and a potential agreement supporting investor confidence and pushing major indices to record highs. Technology stocks were at the forefront of the advance, benefiting from continued momentum in AI-related names and strong earnings, which explains the Nasdaq's outperformance. At the same time, improving sentiment was reinforced by solid corporate results across several sectors, although some volatility emerged from weaker guidance in select companies such as Netflix and Charles Schwab. Overall, the market reflected a clear shift from early-week geopolitical concerns to risk on sentiment, underpinned by easing fears over energy disruption and sustained earnings strength.

### European Stocks

Index	Currency	17/04/2026	10/04/2026	% Change
<b>DAX</b>	EUR	24,270.92	23,803.95	1.96%
<b>FTSE 100</b>	GBP	10,578.60	10,600.53	-0.21%
<b>CAC 40</b>	EUR	8,289.44	8,259.60	0.36%
<b>STOXX600</b>	EUR	617.59	614.84	0.45%

\*prices are as of the time of writing this report

European equities posted modest gains overall, with the DAX rising by 1.96%, while the CAC 40 and STOXX 600 recorded smaller increases of 0.36% and 0.45%, respectively, while FTSE 100 decreased slightly by 0.21% driven by lower banking stocks. Market performance reflected a week dominated by shifting sentiment around the US-Iran conflict, where early losses driven by the collapse of negotiations, rising oil prices, and fears of energy-driven inflation were gradually

reversed as optimism over renewed talks and a potential ceasefire improved risk appetite. This supported cyclical sectors such as technology and industrials, particularly in Germany, while easing oil prices mid-week helped lift broader European indices. However, gains remained limited as persistent uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz blockade and fragile diplomacy kept investors cautious, with weakness in luxury stocks and mixed corporate earnings capping stronger upside, particularly in France and the broader Euro Area.

**Asian Stocks**

Index	Currency	17/04/2026	10/04/2026	% Change
<b>NIKKEI</b>	JPY	58,475.90	56,924.11	2.73%
<b>Hang Seng</b>	HKD	26,160.33	25,893.54	1.03%
<b>Shanghai Comp</b>	CNY	4,051.43	3,986.23	1.64%

\*prices are as of the time of writing this report

Asian markets ended the week firmly higher, with Japan’s Nikkei gaining 2.73%, while China’s Shanghai Composite rose by 1.64% and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng increased by 1.03%. The region followed a similar trajectory to global markets, where early declines triggered by escalating Middle East tensions and surging oil prices were later offset by optimism surrounding potential US-Iran negotiations and a ceasefire agreement. In Japan, strong gains were driven by technology and AI-related stocks, alongside support from global equity momentum and improving sentiment, although profit-taking toward the end of the week led to some pullback from record highs. Chinese markets were supported by stronger than expected economic data, particularly GDP growth, though performance remained mixed due to concerns over energy supply disruptions, high oil prices, and cautious policy outlook. Meanwhile, Hong Kong equities benefited from improved global sentiment and easing inflation concerns earlier in the week, before late-week declines emerged due to lingering uncertainty over the durability of a geopolitical resolution, prompting investor caution and profit-taking.

**Global Stocks**

Index	Currency	17/04/2026	10/04/2026	% Change
<b>MSCI Emerging Market</b>	USD	1,603.26	1,547.49	3.60%

\*prices are as of the time of writing this report

The MSCI Emerging Market index rose by 3.60% to reach 1,603.26 by April 17<sup>th</sup> 2026.

**Arab Stocks**

Index	Currency	17/04/2026	10/04/2026	% Change
<b>S&amp;P Pan Arab</b>	USD	1,053.98	1,033.90	1.94%
<b>EGX30 - Egypt</b>	EGP	51,437.78	49,078.60	4.81%
<b>Saudi Stock Exchange</b>	SAR	11,554.16	11,343.17	1.86%
<b>Qatar Stock Exchange</b>	QAR	10,714.65	10,641.68	0.69%
<b>Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange</b>	AED	9,944.31	9,838.39	1.08%
<b>Dubai Financial Market</b>	AED	5,969.08	5,715.47	4.44%

\*prices are as of the time of writing this report

Arab stock markets recorded a broad-based weekly increase, with the S&P Pan Arab index rising by 1.94%, as regional markets reacted positively to shifting developments in the Middle East conflict. Gains were particularly strong in Egypt, where the EGX30 advanced by 4.81%, and in Dubai, where the market rose by 4.44%, reflecting a rebound in investor sentiment following signs of a potential de-escalation, including discussions around a ceasefire and renewed negotiations. In the Gulf, Saudi Arabia’s stock exchange increased by 1.86%, Abu Dhabi by 1.08%, and Qatar by 0.69%, as markets remained supported by energy revenues despite earlier volatility driven by the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and rising oil prices. Overall, the region’s performance reflects a shift from early-week caution, triggered by escalating tensions and energy market disruptions, toward improved confidence as prospects of easing geopolitical risks began to support regional equities.

**For your Queries:**

**BLOMINVEST BANK s.a.l.**

Research Department

Zeituna Bey

POBOX 11-1540 Riad El Soloh

Beirut 1107 2080 Lebanon

Jana Boumatar

[jana.boumatar@blominvestbank.com](mailto:jana.boumatar@blominvestbank.com)

Research Department

Tel: +961 1 991 784

[research@blominvestbank.com](mailto:research@blominvestbank.com)

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