FEATURE

The week in seven charts

Chart #1: The IMF made large downward revisions to economic growth this year

Read more on page 2 - Image ©iStock/tum3123

IMF rings alarm bells on 2025 Growth Outlook

Meanwhile, the US economic slowdown could worsen as the tariff battle with China escalates into a tit-for-tat trade war. Each week, the Syz investment team takes you through the last seven days in seven charts.

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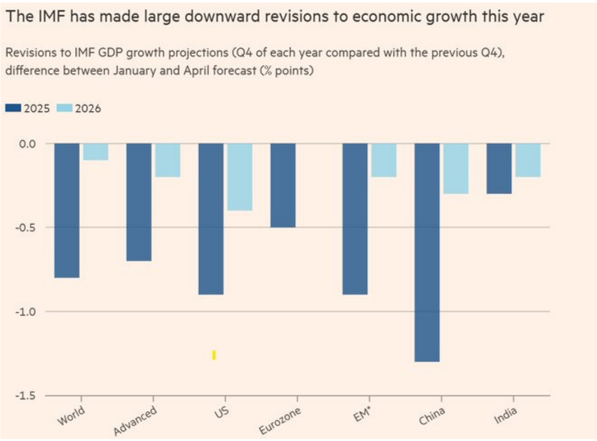
Chief Investment Officer

PRIVATE BANKING

Chart #1

The IMF made large downward revisions to economic growth this year

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) sharply downgraded its global growth forecasts for 2025 and 2026, citing soaring US tariffs and escalating trade tensions. It lowered growth estimates for the U.S., China, and many other countries, warning that continued trade disputes could slow growth even more. The IMF announced on Tuesday an updated World Economic Outlook, compiled just 10 days after President Trump announced universal tariffs on nearly all trading partners and higher rates on many countries—which are now currently suspended. The IMF lowered its global growth forecast by 0.5 percentage points to 2.8% for 2025, and by 0.3 points to 3% for 2026, down from its earlier estimate of 3.3% for both years. It also said inflation is now expected to fall more slowly than previously thought, reaching 4.3% in 2025 and 3.6% in 2026, with significant upward revisions for the US and other advanced economies. The IMF described the report as a ‘reference forecast’ based on data up to 4 April, noting the rapidly changing and complex global situation.



Source: FT, TRT World

Chart #2

Why this US economic slowdown could hit harder

In past economic downturns, US economic pain was often softened by falling bond yields and a rising dollar, which led to lower interest rates and boosting consumer spending power. This time, however, the opposite is happening. Bond yields remain high, and the dollar is far from strengthening. Households and businesses are exposed to tighter credit, sticky inflation, and fewer financial incentives. With the usual shock absorbers missing, the impact of the economic slowdown could be significantly more painful.

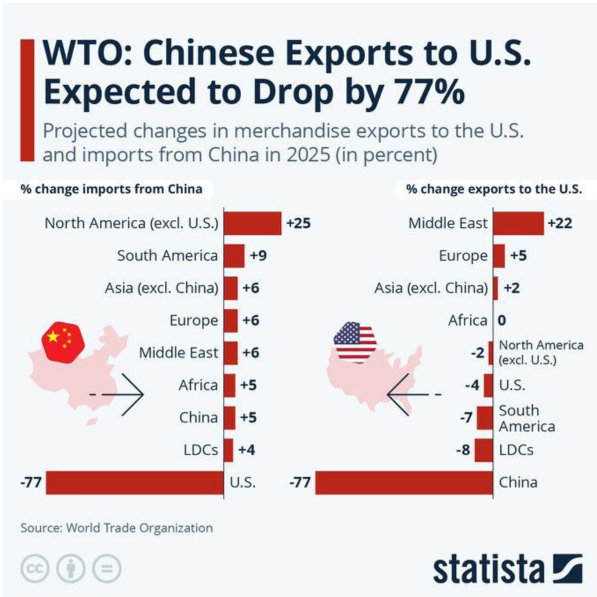
Source: FT

Chart #3

Tit-for-tat retaliation between China and the US

Although the Trump administration granted a 90-day tariff pause to most countries, China was left out of the list. Tariffs on Chinese goods soared to a staggering 145%. However, after weeks of tit-for-tat measures, the bold threats soon gave way to a more cautious tone. “145% is very high and it won’t be that high,” Trump told reporters during an Oval Office Q&A. “It won’t be anywhere near that high. It’ll come down substantially. But it won’t be zero.”

Decoupling from the world’s manufacturing giant is easier said than done, especially when American supply chains still heavily depend on Chinese production. According to the World Trade Organization, Chinese exports to the US are expected to decrease by 77% in 2025. China is set to make up ground elsewhere—while exports to the rest of North America are forecasted to rise by 25%.



Source: Statista @StatistaCharts, WTO

Chart #4

You don't lose until you sell

The S&P 500 has returned an average of 11% per year since 1950 and has done so despite an average intra-year drawdown of 14%, and often drawdowns that are much worse. The lesson? Volatility doesn't equal a permanent financial loss unless you sell.

S&P 500 Index: Max Intra-Year Drawdowns vs. End of Year Total Returns (1950 - 2025)

Year	DD	TR	Year	DD	TR	Year	DD	TR	Year	DD	TR
1950	-14.0%	30.8%	1969	-16.0%	-8.2%	1988	-7.6%	16.6%	2007	-10.1%	5.5%
1951	-8.1%	23.7%	1970	-25.9%	3.6%	1989	-7.6%	31.7%	2008	-48.8%	-37.0%
1952	-6.8%	18.2%	1971	-13.9%	14.2%	1990	-19.9%	-3.1%	2009	-27.6%	26.5%
1953	-14.8%	-1.2%	1972	-5.1%	18.8%	1991	-5.7%	30.5%	2010	-16.0%	15.1%
1954	-4.4%	52.6%	1973	-23.4%	-14.3%	1992	-6.2%	7.6%	2011	-19.4%	2.1%
1955	-10.6%	32.6%	1974	-37.6%	-25.9%	1993	-5.0%	10.1%	2012	-9.9%	16.0%
1956	-10.8%	7.4%	1975	-14.1%	37.0%	1994	-8.9%	1.3%	2013	-5.8%	32.4%
1957	-20.7%	-10.5%	1976	-8.4%	23.8%	1995	-2.5%	37.6%	2014	-7.4%	13.7%
1958	-4.4%	43.7%	1977	-15.6%	-7.0%	1996	-7.6%	23.0%	2015	-12.4%	1.4%
1959	-9.2%	12.1%	1978	-13.6%	6.5%	1997	-10.8%	33.4%	2016	-10.5%	12.0%
1960	-13.4%	0.3%	1979	-10.2%	18.5%	1998	-19.3%	28.6%	2017	-2.8%	21.8%
1961	-4.4%	26.6%	1980	-17.1%	31.7%	1999	-12.1%	21.0%	2018	-19.8%	-4.4%
1962	-26.9%	-8.8%	1981	-18.4%	-4.7%	2000	-17.2%	-9.1%	2019	-6.8%	31.5%
1963	-6.5%	22.6%	1982	-16.6%	20.4%	2001	-29.7%	-11.9%	2020	-33.9%	18.4%
1964	-3.5%	16.4%	1983	-6.9%	22.3%	2002	-33.8%	-22.1%	2021	-5.2%	28.7%
1965	-9.6%	12.4%	1984	-12.7%	6.1%	2003	-14.1%	28.7%	2022	-25.4%	-18.1%
1966	-22.2%	-10.0%	1985	-7.7%	31.2%	2004	-8.2%	10.9%	2023	-10.3%	26.3%
1967	-6.6%	23.8%	1986	-9.4%	18.5%	2005	-7.2%	4.9%	2024	-8.5%	25.0%
1968	-9.3%	10.8%	1987	-33.5%	5.8%	2006	-7.7%	15.8%	2025	-18.9%	?

1950 - 2025 YTD - Avg Drawdown: -13.7%; Ann. Return: +11.3%

Note: Drawdown Using Closing Prices as of 4/11/25 (does not include intra-day or dividends)

CREATIVE PLANNING @PeterMallouk

Source: Peter Mallouk

Chart #5

Brutal Q1 for Tesla

Tesla reported a rough first quarter, missing both revenue and earnings expectations. Automotive revenue fell by 20% year-over-year, while total revenues dropped 9%. Adjusted EBITDA also decreased by 17%. Surprisingly, despite the disappointing results, Tesla shares rose nearly 5% the following day.

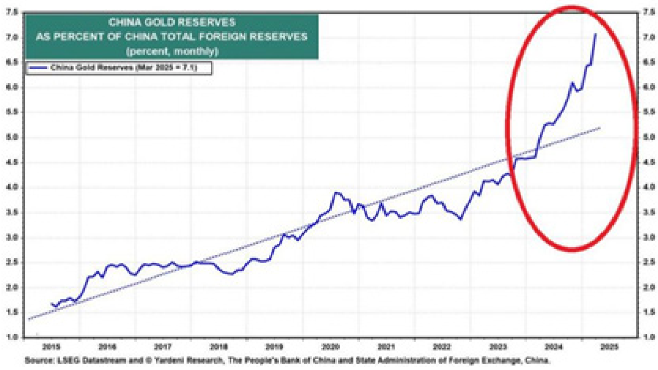
The market reacted positively to two key updates: Tesla confirmed it will a robotaxi pilot in Austin this June and start pilot production of its humanoid robots in Fremont later this year. Additionally, Elon Musk vowed he will reduce his involvement with the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) starting next month and dedicate more of his time to Tesla.

Source: Quartr

Chart #6

China's gold rush

China has dramatically increased its gold reserves, reaching a historic high of approximately 73.7 million troy ounces. Over the past 30 months alone, the country added about 11 million ounces, bringing gold to represent roughly 7.1% of its total foreign reserves, also a record level. This sustained accumulation reflects China's strategic aim to diversify away from the US dollar.

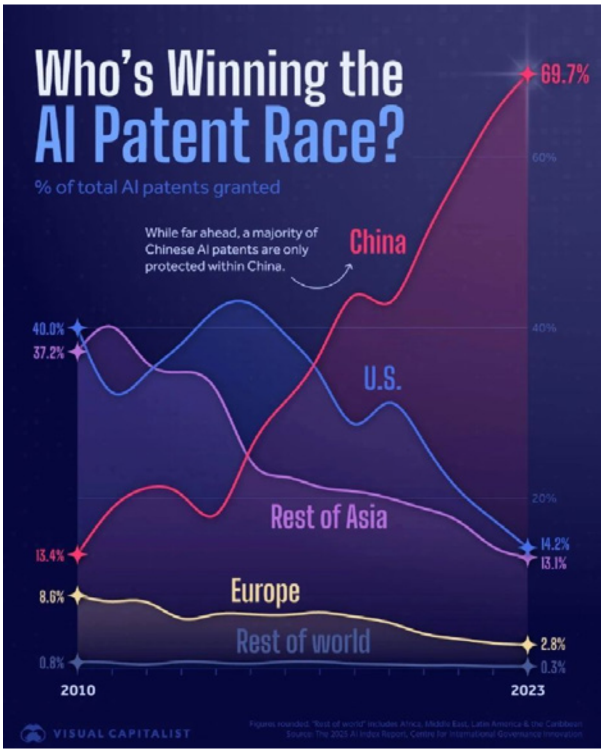


Source: Global Markets Investor

Chart #7

China has accumulated 70% of the world's AI patents

According the 2025 AI Index Report, America's share has fallen from roughly 40% in 2010, to 14% in 2023.



Source: Visual Capitalist

For further information

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