TBC CAPITAL

WEEKLY GLOBAL MARKETS WATCH

4 May 2026

Rati Tsiklauri
Senior Analyst, Global Market Research

Aleksandre Gvelesiani
Junior Analyst, Global Market Research

Nika Kvashali
Junior Analyst, Global Market Research

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

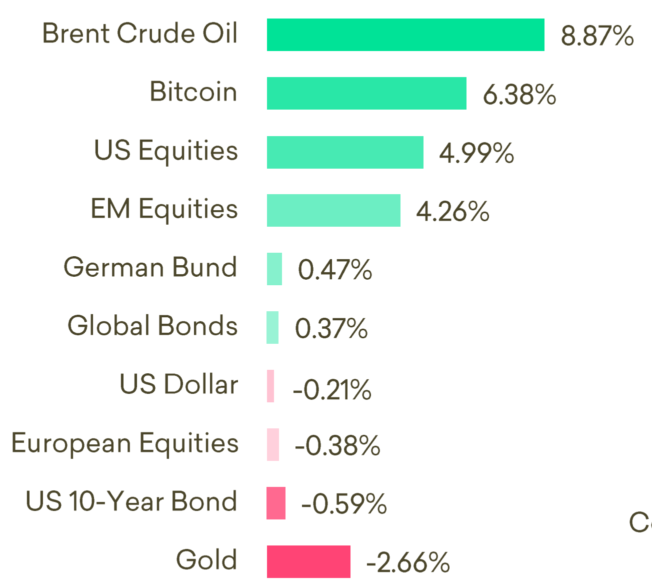
WORLD MARKET OVERVIEW

MSCI Equity Indices	Price Return (USD,%) 1-Week	YTD
United States	0.89	5.43
Europe	0.18	3.09
Asia Ex.Japan	(0.21)	13.95
Japan	0.19	9.84
Emerging Markets	(0.52)	14.03
The World	0.93	5.50

MARKET PULSE

The S&P 500 gained 0.9% for the week, with the Nasdaq Composite surging to a fresh all-time high at 25,114 by Friday's close, while the Dow Jones slipped 0.3%. Brent crude held near $105 per barrel as US-Iran ceasefire tensions persisted and the Strait of Hormuz remained effectively closed. Equities pushed higher regardless, with the week dominated by a historic Magnificent Seven earnings blitz: Alphabet surged nearly 10% after a blowout quarter, Apple climbed 3% on record iPhone revenue, while Meta tumbled roughly 10% on sharply higher capital expenditure guidance.

WEEKLY ASSET-CLASS RETURNS



WEEKLY U.S. SECTOR RETURNS

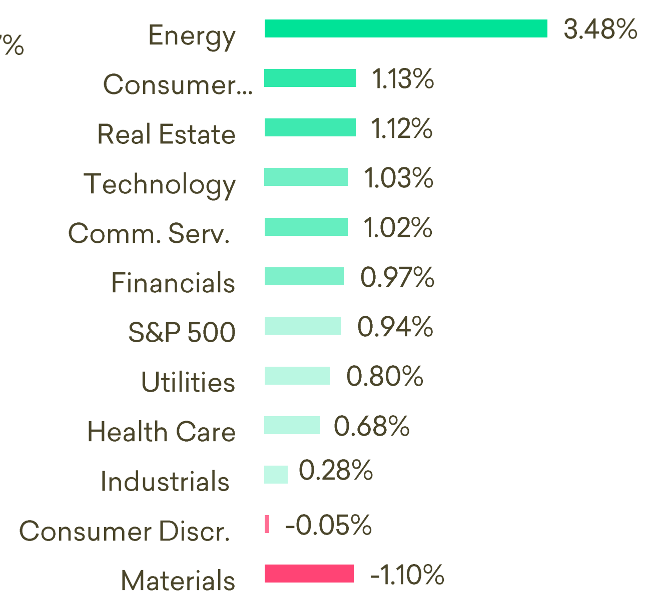
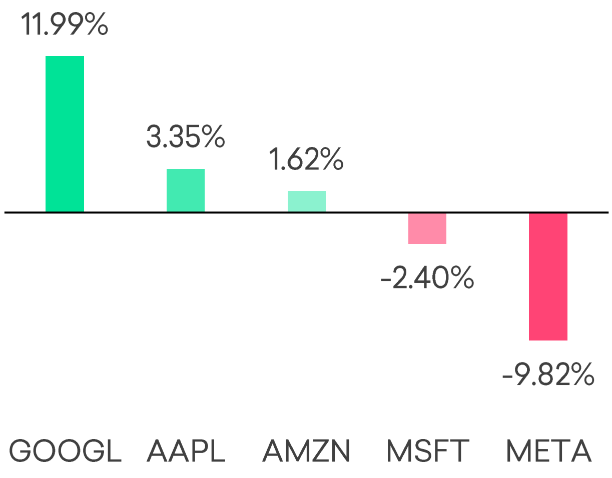
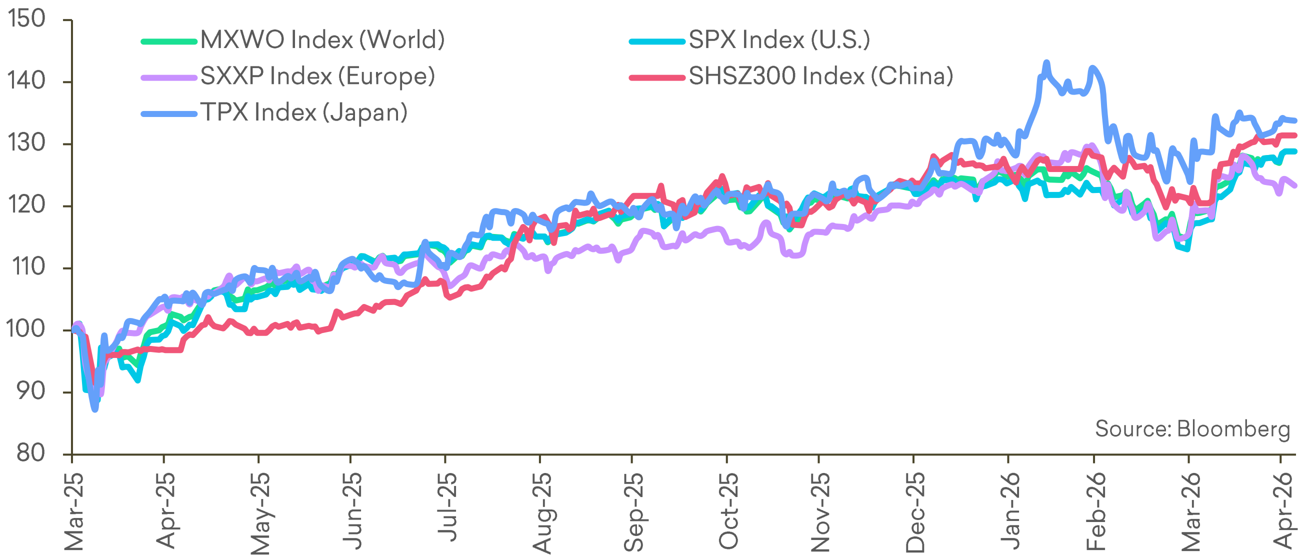


CHART OF THE WEEK

Tech giants Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Apple, and Meta reported impressive earnings this week, but received mixed reactions. Meta and Microsoft delivered strong results but saw shares slip due to concerns over high costs and unmet expectations. Amazon faced volatility, as its outlook left investors unsettled despite solid performance. Conversely, Alphabet and Apple were bright spots; Alphabet's cloud growth and dividend hike fueled a 10% stock jump, while Apple's robust revenue guidance lifted its shares.



WORLD INDICES OVERVIEW



	Price Return (USD,%)			Source: Bloomberg
MSCI Equity Indices	**1-Week**	**1-Month**	**YTD**	**1-Year**
United States	0.89	9.82	5.43	26.94
Europe	0.18	2.31	3.09	13.52
Asia Ex.Japan	(0.21)	11.58	13.95	38.55
Japan	0.19	3.05	9.84	39.11
Emerging Markets	(0.52)	11.14	14.03	41.31
The World	0.93	8.30	5.50	25.50

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

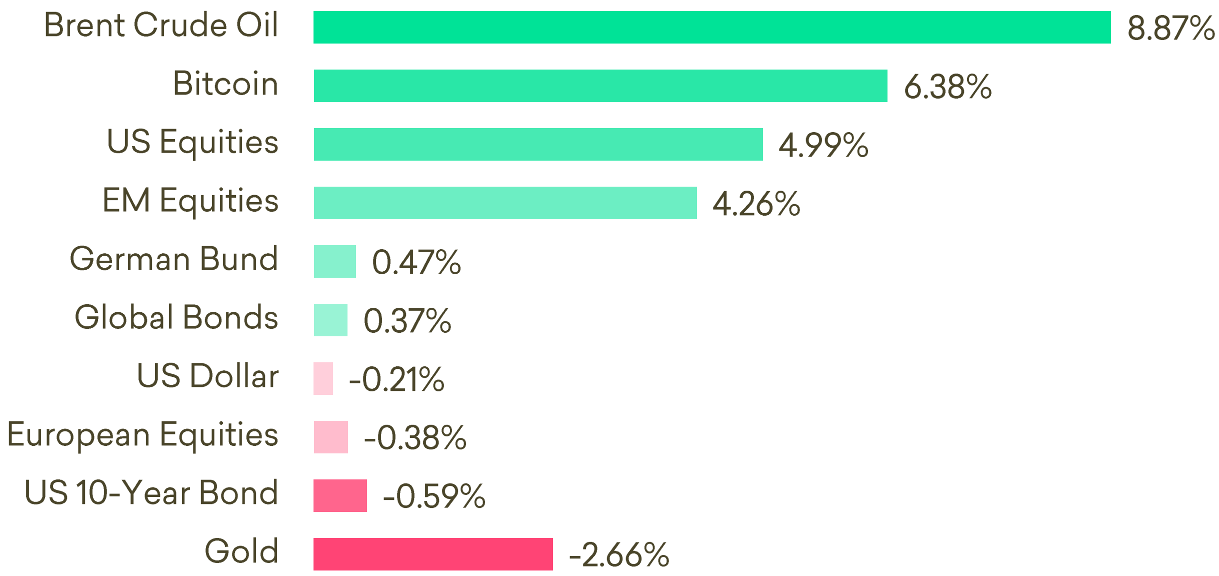
- The week belonged to Magnificent Seven earnings and the AI capital expenditure cycle. Alphabet's near-10% surge on Thursday, following a blowout quarter driven by 63% Google Cloud growth and 81% net income growth, served as the catalyst for broad Communication Services and Technology outperformance. Both sectors led the S&P 500, while Consumer Discretionary also outperformed on the back of strong earnings beats across retail and e-commerce names.

- Energy was the week's clear laggard, as oil prices pulled back from highs after Iran signaled openness to temporary resumption of Strait of Hormuz oil exports. Financials also underperformed, with four Fed dissenters at the April FOMC meeting rattling rate-sensitive names and pushing 30-year Treasury yields briefly to 5% for the first time since July 2025.

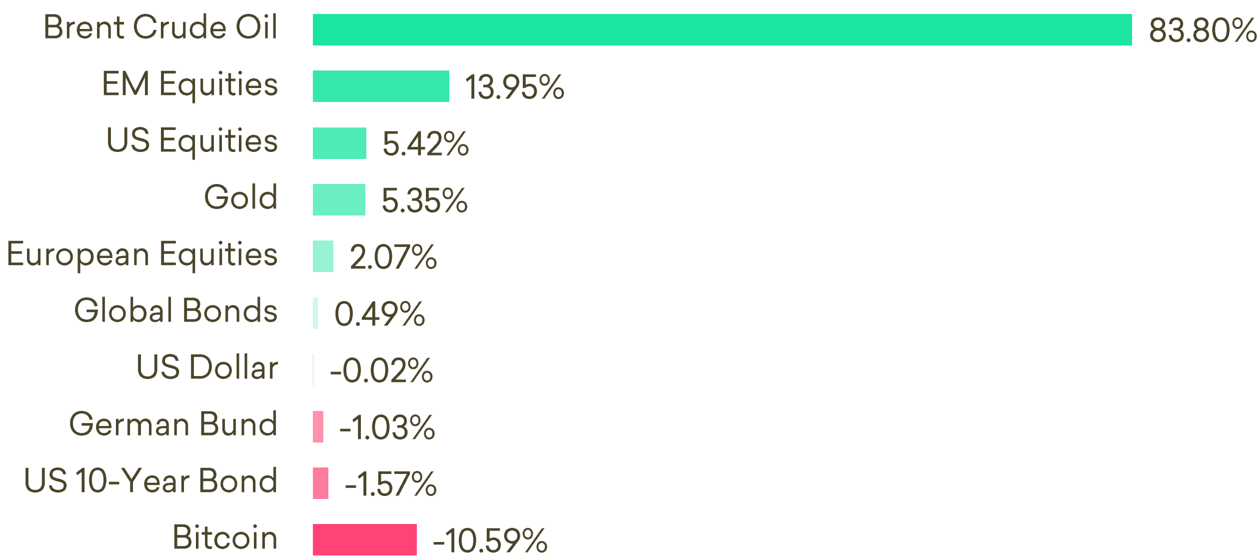
- European equities underperformed their US counterparts, weighed down by energy-sector exposure and persistent concerns about the inflationary impact of elevated crude on continental growth. Asian markets also struggled; Taiwan and South Korea faced profit-taking after strong prior-week gains in the semiconductor space, while Japan contended with a weaker yen and renewed inflation pressure.

ASSET MARKET SNAPSHOT

ASSET CLASS PERFORMANCE - WEEKLY



ASSET CLASS PERFORMANCE - YTD



Source: Bloomberg

LAST WEEK'S NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

- **Bitcoin** gained ground through the week, rising from near $76,500 on Tuesday to close near $80,000 by Friday.
- **The US Dollar** edged higher as the four-way FOMC dissent and pushback against the easing bias sent rate-cut expectations further out the calendar.

GEOPOLITICAL UPDATE

Project Freedom

The US-Iran ceasefire entered its most dangerous phase yet following the launch of Project Freedom. Trump announced the naval escort mission Sunday on Truth Social, describing it as humanitarian, but Iran's parliament national security chief immediately called any interference a "violation of the ceasefire." On Monday, Iranian forces fired on US warships and UAE targets; US Central Command sank six Iranian fast boats in response. Schools across the UAE moved to remote learning through the week. Adm. Bradley Cooper, CENTCOM commander, declined to confirm whether the ceasefire had ended. Trump wrote to congressional leaders that the war begun February 28 has "terminated," though the Strait of Hormuz remains all but closed and commercial confidence in the waterway remains near zero. Trump's planned Beijing visit next week adds further diplomatic complexity to any decision to resume full combat operations.

MACRO UPDATE

Fed Holds Rates

The Federal Reserve held the federal funds rate unchanged at 3.50%–3.75% for the third consecutive meeting, in what was likely Chair Jerome Powell's final FOMC meeting as Chair. The decision drew the most dissents in 34 years — four officials voted against the decision or against the statement's easing bias. The Fed cited elevated energy-driven inflation and Middle East uncertainty as key obstacles to any near-term pivot. Markets shifted to price in a slightly higher probability of a 2026 rate hike, sending 30-year Treasury yields briefly to 5%, their highest since July 2025.

CHART OF THE WEEK

Earnings Week

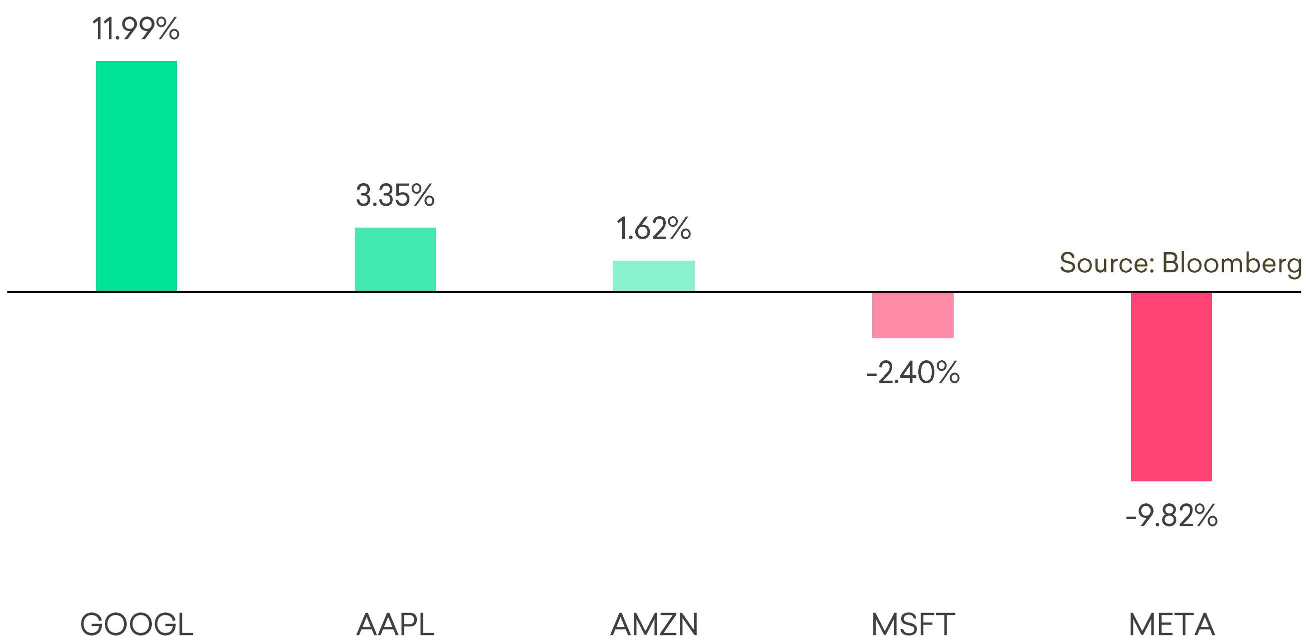
This week, five of the biggest tech companies in the world - Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Apple, and Meta - reported their quarterly earnings, and the results were broadly impressive. Almost all of them beat what analysts had expected, both in terms of revenue and profit. But the market's reaction was more complicated than the numbers alone suggested.

Meta beat expectations comfortably, but its stock fell after the company revealed plans to spend up to $145 billion on infrastructure this year - far more than investors had anticipated. Good business, expensive ambitions. Microsoft told a similar story: strong numbers across the board, with its Azure cloud business growing 40%, but the stock slipped anyway because the beat simply wasn't exciting enough. Amazon's core business and cloud division both impressed, but a murky outlook for the next quarter left investors unsettled - the stock swung back and forth before closing slightly up.

Alphabet and Apple were the clear bright spots of the week. Google's parent company nearly doubled earnings expectations, powered by a strong performance in its cloud business, and sweetened the mood further with a 5% dividend increase. The market responded enthusiastically - shares jumped 10%. Apple, meanwhile, guided for revenue growth far above what analysts had expected for next quarter, and beat estimates across almost all of its product segments. The only concerns were rising chip costs and Mac shortages, but investors looked past those and pushed the stock higher.

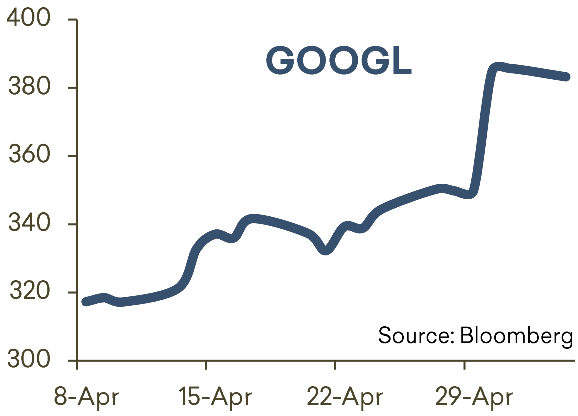
The overarching theme? These businesses are growing strongly, but they are spending enormous amounts on AI - and the market is watching that bill very closely.

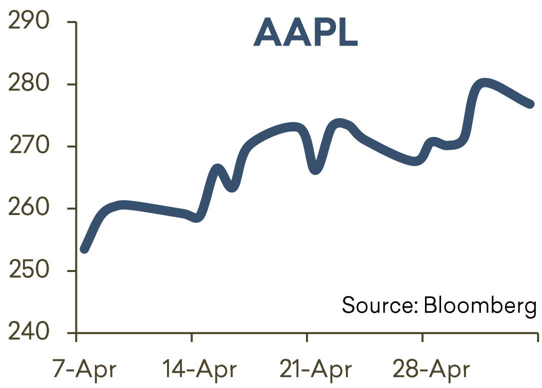
5/Mag7 Report Diverse Results



MARKET MOVERS

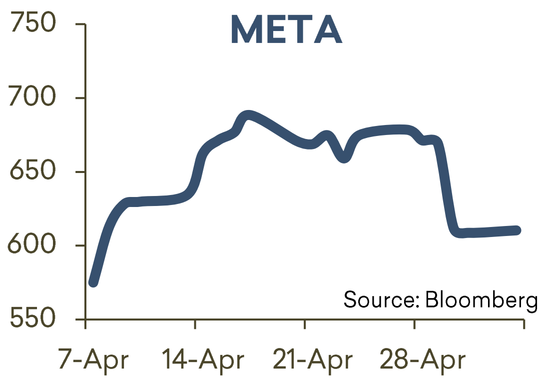
Alphabet (Google) was the week's standout performer, surging nearly 10% on Thursday after reporting Q1 revenue of $109.9 billion — up 22% year on year — and net income that more than doubled. Google Cloud grew 63%, its fastest pace ever, validating years of AI infrastructure spending.

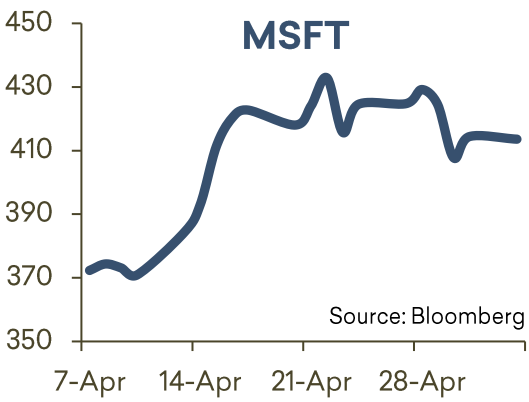




Apple climbed more than 3% on Friday after its fiscal Q2 results showed 17% revenue growth, a 22% surge in iPhone sales to $57 billion, and a $100 billion share buyback. CEO Tim Cook cited the iPhone 17 as the most popular lineup in Apple's history and guided Q3 revenue growth of 14%–17%, well above Wall Street expectations.

Meta tumbled roughly 10% after raising 2026 capex guidance to $145 billion — up from $135 billion — driven by higher memory component costs. Despite Q1 revenue of $56.3 billion growing 33% year on year and an operating margin of 41%, investors punished the stock on decelerating Q2 constant-currency growth guidance of ~23% vs. 29% in Q1, with ad volumes flat and AI spending escalating.





Microsoft slipped roughly 5% on Thursday despite beating on Azure cloud growth at 40% and reporting a $37 billion AI annualized run rate. Investors focused instead on management's $190 billion 2026 capex guide — up 61% year on year — which drove gross margin to its narrowest level since 2022.

WEEK AHEAD

Monday

Region	Event

Ticker	Type
PLTR	Earnings
VRTX	Earnings
WMB	Earnings
FANG	Earnings

Tuesday

Region	Event
US	• JOLTs Job Openings

Ticker	Type
AMD	Earnings
HSBC	Earnings
ANET	Earnings
SHOP	Earnings

Wednesday

Region	Event

Ticker	Type
ARM	Earnings
NVO	Earnings
DIS	Earnings
APP	Earnings

Thursday

Region	Event
AU	• Balance of Trade

Ticker	Type
SHEL	Earnings
MCD	Earnings
GILD	Earnings
MCK	Earnings

Friday

Region	Event
DE	• Balance of Trade
US	• Unemployment Rate

Ticker	Type
ENB	Earnings
BAM	Earnings
UI	Earnings
AU	Earnings

Legal Notice

This publication (the "Publication") has been prepared and distributed by TBC Capital LLC ("TBC Capital") member of TBC Bank Group PLC ("Group") for informational purposes only and independently of the respective companies mentioned herein.
TBC Capital is operating and performing its professional services on the territory of Georgia and is duly authorized to prepare and distribute this Publication on the territory of Georgia.
Nothing in this Publication shall constitute an offer or invitation to treat to solicit buying or selling or subscribing any assets and/ or securities and nothing herein shall form the basis of any contract or commitment whatsoever or shall be considered as a rec- ommendation to take any such actions.
Since distribution of this Publication may be restricted by law in certain jurisdictions, persons into whose possession this Publi- cation comes are required by TBC Capital to inform themselves about and to observe any and all restrictions applicable to them.
As this Publication is not directed to or intended for distribution, directly or indirectly, to or use by any person or entity in any juris- diction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to the applicable law or which would require any registration or licensing within such jurisdiction, neither TBC Capital nor any member of the Group nor any of their respective director(s), partner(s), employee(s), affiliates, adviser(s) or agent(s) ("Representatives") accept any direct or indirect liability to any person in relation to the publication, distribution or possession of this Publication in or from any jurisdiction.
This Publication is not intended to provide any investment, business, tax and/or legal advice, and credit or any other evaluation. Recipients of this Publication are strongly required to make their own independent investigation and detailed appraisal of the matters discussed herein. Any investment decision should be made at the investor's sole discretion and consideration. Any and all information contained in this Publication is subject to change without notice, and neither TBC Capital nor any member of the Group nor any of their Representatives are under any obligation to update or keep information contained in this Publication.
Distribution of this Publication, at any time, does not imply that information herein is correct, accurate and/or complete as of any time after its preparation date or that there has been no change in business, financial condition, prospects, credit worthiness, sta- tus or affairs of the respective companies or anyone else since that date. Accordingly, this Publication should not be considered as a complete description of the markets, industries and/or companies referred to herein and no reliance should be placed on it. TBC Capital does not undertake to update this Publication or to correct any inaccuracies therein which may become apparent.
The Publication may include forward-looking statements, but not limited to, statements as to future operating results. Any "for- ward-looking statements", which include all statements other than statements of historical facts, involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors beyond TBC Capital's control that could cause the actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such for- ward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are based on numerous assumptions regarding present and future business strategies and the environment operating in the future. By their nature, forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that may or may not occur in the future. No assurances can be given that the forward-looking statements in this document will be realized. TBC Capital does not intend to update such forward-looking statements.
Opinions, forecasts, estimates and/or statements relating to expectations regarding future events or the possible future perfor- mance of investments represent TBC Capital's own assessment and interpretation of information available to it currently from third party sources. Information obtained from the third party sources believed to be reliable, but that there is no guarantee of the accuracy and/or completeness of such information.
TBC Capital does and seeks to do and any member of the Group may or seek to do business with companies covered in this Publication. Thus, investors should be aware that TBC Capital may have a potential conflict of interest that could affect the ob- jectivity of the information contained in this Publication.
This Publication may not be reproduced, redistributed or published, in whole or in part, in any form for any purpose, without the written permission of TBC Capital, and neither TBC Capital nor any member of the Group nor any of their Representatives accept any liability whatsoever for the actions of third parties in this respect.
TBC Capital makes no expressed or implied representation or warranty of usefulness in predicting the future performance or in estimating the current or future value of any security or asset, and expressly disclaims all warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose or use with respect to any data included in this Publication.
Without limiting any of the foregoing and to the extent permitted by law, TBC Capital or any member of the Group or any of their Representatives expressly disclaim all liability whatsoever (in negligence or otherwise) for any loss or damages however arising, directly or indirectly, from any use of this Publication or its contents (including without limitation to the accuracy and/or completeness of information therein) or otherwise arising in connection with this Publication or for any act or failure to act by any party on the basis of this Publication.

7 Marjanishvili Str., Tbilisi 0102, Georgia Email: research@tbccapital.ge
Tel: +995 32 2 272727 | +995 32 2 272733 Email: macro@tbcbank.com.ge

TBC CAPITAL