

PLAINSCAPITAL BANK

COMMODITY HIGHLIGHTS



Commodities Commentary
April 2026

By Kathy Robertson, RPL, CMM, Larry Smith, and Andrew Cunningham, CFA, CMT

Executive Summary

- WTI fell into the \$80-\$90 range after assurances of Hormuz reopening.
- Brent traded near \$95, while natural gas hovered around \$2.67.
- Oil prices fell by ten percent after the Hormuz reopening was announced.
- Prices partially rebounded after Iran backtracked on reopening commitments.
- Tankers cautiously resumed transit, signaling tentative activity in the Hormuz Strait.
- U.S. oil and gas rig counts declined and remain below last year's levels.
- U.S. crude production was flat at about 13.6 million barrels per day.
- Completion activity rose, while Permian and Eagle Ford rig counts remained depressed.
- Cattle supplies are at multi-decade lows after prolonged drought and herd liquidation.
- Beef demand has held firm despite record-high prices.
- Elevated feed, labor, and financing costs are pushing break-even prices higher.
- Cattle exports continue to support prices, though volatility remains.
- Slow herd rebuilding points to sustain high prices.
- Crypto markets rebounded in April following early-year volatility.
- Bitcoin recovered from the low seventy-thousands to the high seventy-thousands.
- Institutional inflows absorbed selling pressure amid heightened market fear.
- Historically, seasonal trends favor crypto and equities from April through June.
- Valuation metrics showed Bitcoin trading below long-term network value estimates.
- Sentiment indicators remained subdued despite improving prices.
- Institutional accumulation and stablecoin growth support long-term adoption.
- Near-term risks include geopolitical shocks and fragile macroeconomic sentiment.

Dedicated Oil & Gas Services

Kathy Robertson, RPL, CMM
Manager, Oil & Gas Property Operations
817.255.4955 |
Kathy.Robertson@plainscapital.com
Fort Worth

Dedicated Investment Team

Andrew Cunningham, CFA®, CMT®, ChFC®
Chief Investment Officer
512.457.7534 | andrew.cunningham@plainscapital.com
Central Texas

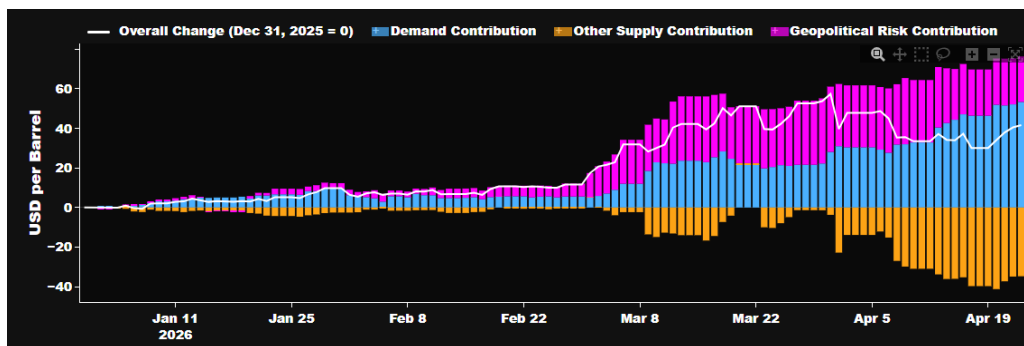
Larry Smith
Senior Portfolio Manager
806.791.7256 | larry.smith@plainscapital.com
West Texas

Oil and Gas Highlights

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) fell into the \$80-\$90 per barrel range after the Strait of Hormuz was announced to be open. Brent Crude is trading at \$95 per bbl, while Natural Gas is at \$2.67 per mcf.

Oil prices have risen since late 2025, driven mainly by demand growth and rising geopolitical risk. Demand has steadily put upward pressure on prices, while geopolitical tensions spiked sharply in March and April. Demand growth has been driven by stronger global economic activity, particularly the late-cycle rebound in the U.S. and in emerging markets, as well as by increased industrial and transportation fuel use. Both seasonal winter demand and improving petrochemical demand, supported by higher manufacturing output and plastics production, have lifted prices.

Oil prices fell 10% on Friday, April 17, after Trump and Iran announced that the Strait of Hormuz was fully open. However, on Monday, oil prices retraced about half of Friday's move as Iran backtracked on the agreement. Global energy markets have been rattled since February 28, when the United States and Israel launched airstrikes against Iran. With new developments daily, what the reopening means in practice remains unclear.



Oil tankers are testing the waters of the Strait of Hormuz. At least eight crude carriers began moving toward the chokepoint within hours of Iran declaring the Strait open to shipping under the ceasefire framework. It's the first real sign of activity in a corridor that has been effectively frozen since late February.

The total number of active oil and gas drilling rigs in the United States fell this week, according to the data. This is 63 fewer than the same time last year. The number of gas rigs fell by 2, after also declining last week. Gas rigs now stand at 125, 19 more than this time last year. The latest EIA data showed that U.S. crude oil production was unchanged for the week ending April 10. U.S. crude oil production averaged 13.596 million barrels per day (bpd) during the reporting period, 266,000 bpd below the all-time high. Primary Vision's Frac Spread Count, an estimate of the number of crews completing wells, rose by 5 during the week ending April 10, on top of the 7-crew gain in the prior week. The number of active drilling rigs in the Permian Basin remained at 242, 47 rigs below year-ago levels. The Eagle Ford rig count fell by 1 to 42, which is 5 fewer than last year.

Critical points for oil and gas:

- WTI fell into the \$80-\$90 range after assurances of Hormuz reopening.
- Brent traded near \$95, while natural gas hovered around \$2.67.
- Oil prices fell by ten percent after the Hormuz reopening was announced.
- Prices partially rebounded after Iran backtracked on reopening commitments.
- Tankers cautiously resumed transit, signaling tentative activity in the Hormuz Strait.
- U.S. oil and gas rig counts declined and remain below last year's levels.
- U.S. crude production was flat at about 13.6 million barrels per day.
- Completion activity rose, while Permian and Eagle Ford rig counts remained depressed.

Commodity Highlights

Cattle and beef markets continue to trade at record or near-record levels as the industry navigates one of the tightest supply environments in decades. Prolonged drought across the Southern Plains and Western states has sharply degraded pasture conditions over the past several years, forcing widespread herd liquidation. The result is an extremely low U.S. cattle inventory, with 1.6 million cattle on feed.

Despite elevated prices, demand has remained surprisingly resilient. At the retail level, beef prices have risen, reflecting higher wholesale values and increasing processing and transportation costs. Food service demand has also held up well, supported by consumer preference for high-quality protein.

Live Cattle (Blue) and Feeder Cattle (White)



For producers, today's pricing environment offers a strong revenue opportunity, but herd-rebuilding decisions remain complex. High interest rates, weather uncertainty, and elevated replacement costs are slowing expansion. As a result, meaningful supply recovery is expected to be gradual. With limited near-term supply growth, cattle and beef prices are likely to remain historically strong over the next several quarters. Volatility should be expected, but downside risk appears limited until herd expansion becomes more visible.

Critical Points for Commodities:

- Cattle supplies are at multi-decade lows after prolonged drought and herd liquidation.
- Beef demand has held firm despite record-high prices.
- Elevated feed, labor, and financing costs are pushing break-evens higher.
- Exports continue to support prices, though volatility remains.
- Slow herd rebuilding points to sustained high prices.

Crypto Highlights

Bitcoin and broader crypto markets gained momentum over the past month after a volatile start to the year. After trading under pressure earlier in the quarter, prices recovered meaningfully in April, with Bitcoin rebounding from the low-\$70,000 range to the high-\$70,000s by month's end. Year to date, performance has been marked by sharp swings driven by geopolitical uncertainty and shifting investor sentiment, yet sustained institutional participation has supported performance.

Seasonality patterns highlight that the April through June period has historically been constructive for both Bitcoin and U.S. equities, a pattern that has repeated frequently since 2015. Recent price action aligns with this tendency, as crypto markets stabilized and recovered alongside improving risk appetite in related growth-oriented sectors.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10 Yr Avg	-1.06	15.21	.79	9.97	8.54	1.48	10.94	.47	-3.20	22.51	8.49	11.13
2025	8.96	-17.53	-2.13	14.75	10.84	2.64	8.26	-6.32	5.05	-4.55	-16.68	-3.87
2024	-12	44.68	15.33	-15.49	12.96	-8.47	4.29	-8.68	8.19	9.65	38.47	-3.23
2023	38.76	.86	22.67	3.35	-7.60	12.07	-3.90	-10.93	4.07	27.99	8.95	12.60
2022	-17.04	8.37	9.87	-16.24	-17.08	-41.07	27.10	-15.17	-3.82	5.05	-16.18	-3.30
2021	12.43	38.79	30.30	-3.64	-35.42	-5.74	20.11	13.16	-7.60	40.38	-6.29	-18.91
2020	30.68	-7.71	-24.93	36.18	7.69	-3.77	24.04	2.93	-8.32	29.36	39.92	49.63
2019	-7.00	11.28	7.64	27.97	62.34	33.98	-11.99	-3.99	-14.39	11.51	-16.10	-7.16
2018	-29.06	5.78	-34.97	35.32	-18.70	-21.74	30.34	-8.39	-6.86	-3.95	-37.64	-6.52
2017	1.02	24.02	-9.89	26.18	68.59	9.47	15.35	64.25	-12.02	52.89	51.38	45.46
2016	-12.69	15.01	-3.93	9.19	14.63	27.51	-5.00	-9.43	5.87	15.87	5.85	28.09
2015	-27.63	10.97	-4.21	-3.10	-2.03	12.59	9.09	-19.07	2.86	36.39	16.58	14.68

Valuation indicators suggest that Bitcoin recently traded below long-term network-based estimates, a condition that has occurred only a few times historically. Charts comparing price to adoption- and network-value measures depict this period as a recovery phase rather than a short-term rally. Sentiment indicators, including the Fear and Greed Index, remained subdued for much of the month, even as prices improved, reflecting cautious retail positioning relative to price strength.



Source: Cane Island Digital

Critical Points for Crypto:

- Crypto markets rebounded in April following early-year volatility.
- Bitcoin recovered from the low seventy-thousands to the high seventy-thousands.
- Institutional inflows absorbed selling pressure amid heightened market fear.
- Historically, seasonal trends favor crypto and equities from April through June.
- Valuation metrics showed Bitcoin trading below long-term network value estimates.
- Sentiment indicators remained subdued despite improving prices.
- Institutional accumulation and stablecoin growth support long-term adoption.
- Near-term risks include geopolitical shocks and fragile macroeconomic sentiment.

The data and commentary provided herein is for informational purposes only. No warranty is made with respect to any information provided. It is offered with the understanding that Hilltop Holdings Inc., PlainsCapital Corporation, Hilltop Securities and PlainsCapital Bank (collectively "PCB") are not, hereby, rendering financial and/or investment advice, and use of the same does not create any relationship with PCB. This is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities that may be described or referred to herein. PCB does not provide tax or legal advice. Please consult your own tax or legal advisor regarding your specific situation. Whether any of the information contained herein applies to a specific situation depends on the facts of that particular situation. Investment and estate planning and management decisions may have significant financial consequences and should be made only after consulting with professionals qualified to offer legal, accounting and taxation advice. Neither this document nor any portion of its content's supplements, amends or modifies any account agreement with PCB. Unless otherwise noted:

*All economic release data referenced from public sources believed to be accurate

*The source of data for all charts/graphs included in this presentation is Bloomberg LP.

*Figures quoted represent monthly changes (m/m) and are seasonally adjusted

The outlook reflects resilience over uncertainty. Institutional accumulation, the growing use of stablecoins, and growth in real-world asset tokenization, such as tokenized stock listings, support longer-term adoption trends. At the same time, short-term market behavior remains sensitive to macroeconomic developments and shifts in risk sentiment.

Rank	Asset Name (Ticker)	Primary Chain(s)	Estimated Market Cap
1	Tesla Inc. (TSLAX)	Solana / Ethereum	\$87.4 Million
2	Alphabet Inc. (GOOGLX)	Solana / Ethereum	\$36.0 Million
3	Nvidia Corp. (NVDAX)	Solana / Ethereum	\$17.4 Million
4	Circle Internet (CRCLX)	Solana	\$23.4 Million
5	Forward Industries (FORDX)	Solana	\$16.2 Million
6	Apple Inc. (AAPLX)	Solana / Ethereum	—
7	Amazon.com (AMZNX)	Solana / Ethereum	—
8	Meta Platforms (METAX)	Solana / Ethereum	—
9	Coinbase Global (COINX)	Solana / Ethereum	—
10	Microsoft Corp. (MSFTX)	Solana / Ethereum	—

Key risks include ongoing geopolitical instability, persistent macroeconomic uncertainty, potential sentiment reversals following sharp rebounds, and the concentration of activity in a small number of major crypto assets. Key opportunities include historically supportive seasonal trends, evidence of institutional accumulation during periods of weak sentiment, valuation signals indicating a recovery from depressed levels, and the expanding adoption of stablecoins and tokenized assets.

The data and commentary provided herein is for informational purposes only. No warranty is made with respect to any information provided. It is offered with the understanding that Hilltop Holdings Inc., PlainsCapital Corporation, Hilltop Securities and PlainsCapital Bank (collectively "PCB") are not, hereby, rendering financial and/or investment advice, and use of the same does not create any relationship with PCB. This is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities that may be described or referred to herein. PCB does not provide tax or legal advice. Please consult your own tax or legal advisor regarding your specific situation. Whether any of the information contained herein applies to a specific situation depends on the facts of that particular situation. Investment and estate planning and management decisions may have significant financial consequences and should be made only after consulting with professionals qualified to offer legal, accounting and taxation advice. Neither this document nor any portion of its content's supplements, amends or modifies any account agreement with PCB. Unless otherwise noted:

*All economic release data referenced from public sources believed to be accurate

*The source of data for all charts/graphs included in this presentation is Bloomberg LP.

*Figures quoted represent monthly changes (m/m) and are seasonally adjusted