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Daily Korea Market Brief

April 30, 2026 - English Visual Edition

Oil and FX pressure weighed on Korean equities, while AI infrastructure investment remained a key theme.

At a glance

- KOSPI closed below the 6,600 level, while KOSDAQ fell more than 2%.
- Foreign selling was the main pressure point in KOSPI flows.
- Oil, FX, and FOMC-related uncertainty kept macro pressure elevated.
- Big Tech AI capex and power-infrastructure themes remained important context for Korea.

Keywords

FOMC hold

Energy inflation

Foreign selling

AI capex

Samsung earnings

Power infrastructure

Domestic Indices and Investor Flows

The latest Korean report included a market-close visual for index levels, intraday flow, and investor buying/selling by group.

국내 지수·수급

구분	증가	등락	등락률
KOSPI	6,598.87	-92.03	-1.38%
KOSDAQ	1,192.35	-27.91	-2.29%
KOSPI200	992.15	-14.44	-1.43%

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Visual inserted from the latest Korean report: domestic index and supply/demand page.

English read-through

- KOSPI: 6,598.87 / -92.03 / -1.38%.
- KOSDAQ: 1,192.35 / -27.91 / -2.29%.
- Foreign investors sold 1.4559 trillion won in KOSPI, while individuals and institutions were net buyers.

Heatmap and Sector Flow

The heatmap helps global users see where weakness and resilience were concentrated across Korean equities.

국내 히트맵·업종 흐름



강세 테마	약세 업종·테마
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Visual inserted from the latest Korean report: domestic heatmap and sector-flow page.

What to notice

- Major large-cap sectors were broadly weaker, including semiconductors, batteries, autos, and IT services.
- Power equipment, wires, and fertilizer themes were relatively resilient despite a weak market tone.
- The report frames this as a theme concentration issue, not a stock recommendation.

News 1 - FOMC Hold and Energy Inflation Pressure

The FOMC decision itself was less surprising than the continued focus on inflation, energy costs, and geopolitical uncertainty.

Key points

- The Federal Reserve held the target range at 3.50-3.75%.
- The statement described economic activity as expanding, while inflation remained elevated.
- Energy prices and Middle East uncertainty were highlighted as important sources of macro risk.
- For Korea, oil, FX pressure, and foreign selling were closely linked in the day's market action.

Why it matters for Korea

Korea is an export-heavy, energy-importing market. When oil prices and the dollar rise together, foreign flows, margins, and investor sentiment can come under pressure.

News 2 - Big Tech Earnings and AI Capex

Cloud growth and AI infrastructure spending remained central to global market attention.

What the report tracked

- Google Cloud revenue growth and 2026 capex guidance.
- Microsoft cloud and Azure-related growth.
- Amazon AWS revenue and first-quarter capex.
- Meta capex guidance moving higher.

Korea connection

- Memory demand: HBM, DRAM, NAND.
- Server SSD and data-center infrastructure.
- Power equipment and wires related to data-center buildout.
- This is industry context, not a stock pick.

Reference-only note

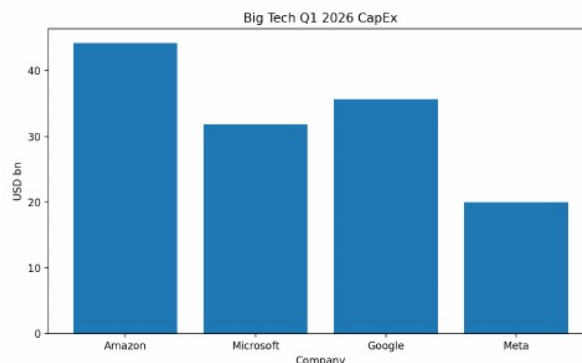
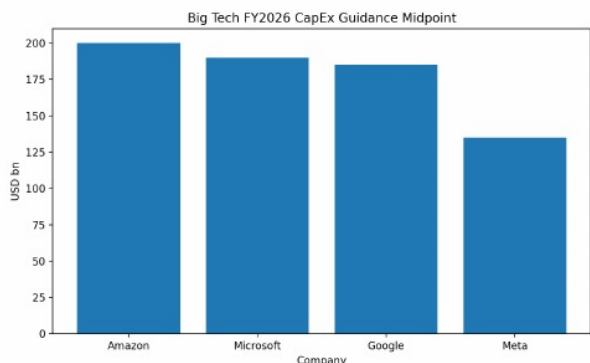
The English version keeps the AI capex theme but removes language that could read like a trading recommendation. Figures should be verified against official company releases.

Big Tech Capex Graphs

The latest Korean report included visual comparisons of hyperscaler capex and annual guidance.

빅테크 CAPEX 그래프

아래 그래프는 사용자 제공 JP모건 정리와 실적 발표 자료를 바탕으로 4대 하이퍼스케일러의 1분기 CAPEX와 2026년 간 CAPEX 가이드언스 중간값을 비교한 것입니다.



기업	1Q26 CAPEX	2026 연간 가이드언스
Amazon	\$44.2bn	\$200bn
Microsoft	\$31.9bn	\$190bn
Google	\$35.67bn	\$180~190bn
Meta	\$20.0bn	\$125~145bn

단위: 달러. 일부 가이드언스는 범위값이며 표에는 범위 또는 중간값 기준으로 정리했습니다.

Visual inserted from the latest Korean report: Big Tech 1Q26 capex and FY2026 capex guidance midpoint.

How to use this visual

- Higher capex can support demand for chips, servers, storage, networking, and power infrastructure.
- For Korea, the link is most relevant to memory, HBM, server SSD, foundry, and power-infrastructure themes.
- The chart is context only and should not be treated as a price forecast.

News 3 - Samsung Electronics 1Q26 Results and Call

Samsung’s semiconductor segment accounted for most of reported operating profit, while the call emphasized memory, HBM, and advanced storage demand.

Revenue	KRW 133.87T	Operating profit	KRW 57.23T
Net income	KRW 47.10T	Semiconductor revenue	KRW 81.7T
Semiconductor operating profit	KRW 53.7T	Mobile/network OP	KRW 2.8T
Display OP	KRW 0.4T	Home appliance OP	KRW 0.2T

Conference-call items highlighted in the report

- Some customers signed long-term supply arrangements.
- DRAM and NAND prices rose significantly quarter over quarter.
- HBM revenue was described as expected to increase more than threefold year over year.
- HBM4 supply is expected to expand in the second half; HBM4E sample shipments were planned for 2Q.
- PCIe Gen6 SSD development was completed and customer evaluation was under way.

Samsung Call - Q&A Topics

The English version condenses the Q&A into topic cards and avoids recommendation language.

Long-term supply agreements

Some customers had already completed more binding long-term arrangements, helping frame capacity and investment planning.

Memory demand

AI-related demand was described around HBM, server DRAM, and server SSD. DRAM bit growth met guidance, while NAND exceeded guidance.

Geopolitical and labor risks

Production lines were described as operating normally; logistics cost pressure from oil prices remained a factor to monitor.

HBM and advanced process

HBM4 supply expansion, HBM4E sampling, 2nm discussions, and base-die demand were highlighted as topics to watch.

NAND and storage

AI diffusion was linked to high-performance and high-capacity storage demand, including server SSD roadmaps.

Taylor fab

Taylor Fab 1 was framed around 2026 operation and 2027 production targets, with Taylor Fab 2 still under early discussion.

Korean Earnings Digest

The report compresses earnings releases into factual one-line updates, not ratings or recommendations.

Samsung Electronics Revenue KRW 133.87T; operating profit KRW 57.23T; semiconductor OP KRW 53.7T.

Samsung Electro-Mechanics Revenue KRW 3.2091T; operating profit KRW 280.6B; AI server, automotive MLCC, FCBGA supply expansion noted.

NAVER Revenue KRW 3.2411T; operating profit KRW 541.8B; commerce and platform growth noted.

LG Energy Solution Revenue KRW 6.555T; operating loss KRW 207.8B; ESS growth and North America EV softness cited.

POSCO Holdings Revenue KRW 17.876T; operating profit KRW 707.0B; lithium losses narrowed.

Krafton Revenue KRW 1.3714T; operating profit KRW 561.6B; quarterly revenue exceeded KRW 1T.

Hanwha Aerospace Revenue KRW 5.7T; operating profit KRW 638.9B; defense export flow noted.

GS E&C Revenue KRW 2.4005T; operating profit KRW 73.5B; revenue declined while operating profit rose modestly.

Commodities, FX, and Risk Indicators

Oil, gold, VIX, dollar index, and USD/KRW were highlighted as macro inputs for the Korea market.

WTI crude futures	108.60 / +1.72 / +1.61%	Energy inflation pressure and energy-sector context
Gold futures	4,631.41 / +69.91 / +1.53%	Hedging demand and geopolitical risk tone
VIX	18.48 / -0.33 / -1.75%	Risk sentiment was not in panic mode
Dollar index	98.83 / -0.13 / -0.13%	Dollar pressure was limited in the snapshot
USD/KRW	1,483.3	FX pressure remained relevant to foreign flows

Memo

Oil and gold both moved higher in the report. Oil can affect inflation and cost structures, while gold can reflect risk hedging. USD/KRW remained a key factor behind foreign investor flow pressure.

Key Events

Times are Korea time. Results can be updated in the next report once published.

Economic indicators

Europe rate decision; U.S. PCE price index; initial jobless claims; U.S. 1Q GDP; Chicago PMI; leading indicators; EIA natural-gas inventories.

Earnings - before market

Caterpillar, Royal Caribbean, Eli Lilly.

Earnings - after market

SanDisk, Western Digital, Apple.

Next update candidates

Apple, SanDisk, Western Digital, PCE, GDP, and jobless-claims results can be added in the next report.

Sources and Notes

This English visual version is built for an MVP report preview and should remain reference-only.

Visual assets inserted

Domestic index/flow visual from page 2, heatmap/sector-flow visual from page 3, and Big Tech CAPEX visual from page 6 of the latest Korean report.

Data sources

User-provided market-close captures; FOMC statement; Samsung Electronics 1Q26 earnings and conference call; Big Tech earnings and capex-related materials; Korean company earnings releases and disclosures.

Safety rules

No buy/sell/hold, target price, upside, or brokerage-style recommendation language is added in the English version.

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Korean market data, filings, and context for global investors