

REFERENCE ONLY

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Daily Korea Market Brief

May 4, 2026 - English Visual Edition

Semiconductor-led rally pushes KOSPI toward 6,900

At a glance

- KOSPI broke above 6,800 intraday for the first time and moved toward the 6,900 area.
- User-provided intraday screens showed multi-trillion won foreign buying with electronics as the key sector.
- Samsung Electronics and SK hynix led market-map strength as AI infrastructure demand stayed in focus.
- Trump's Hormuz-related Project Freedom kept energy, shipping and FX risk on the macro checklist.
- Cloud backlog growth remained a key context for memory, server SSD and power infrastructure demand.

Keywords

KOSPI 6,900 watch

Foreign flows

Semiconductors

AI infrastructure

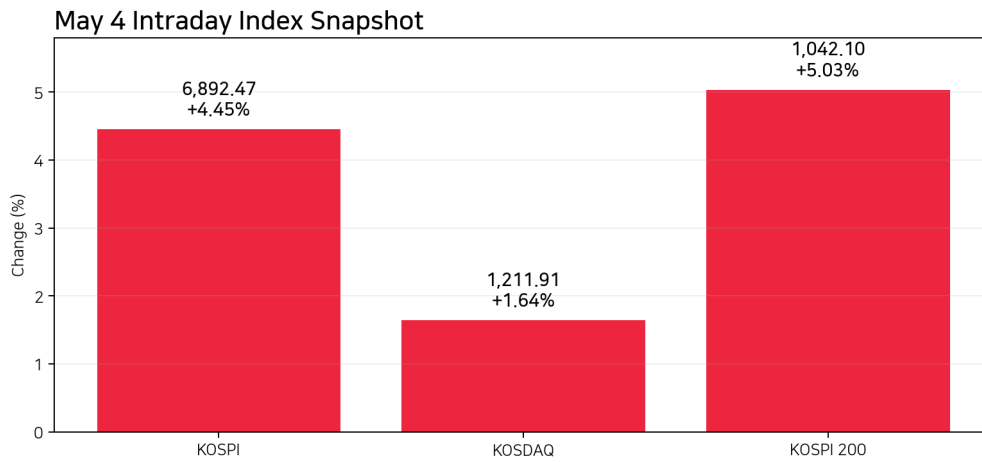
Cloud backlog

Hormuz

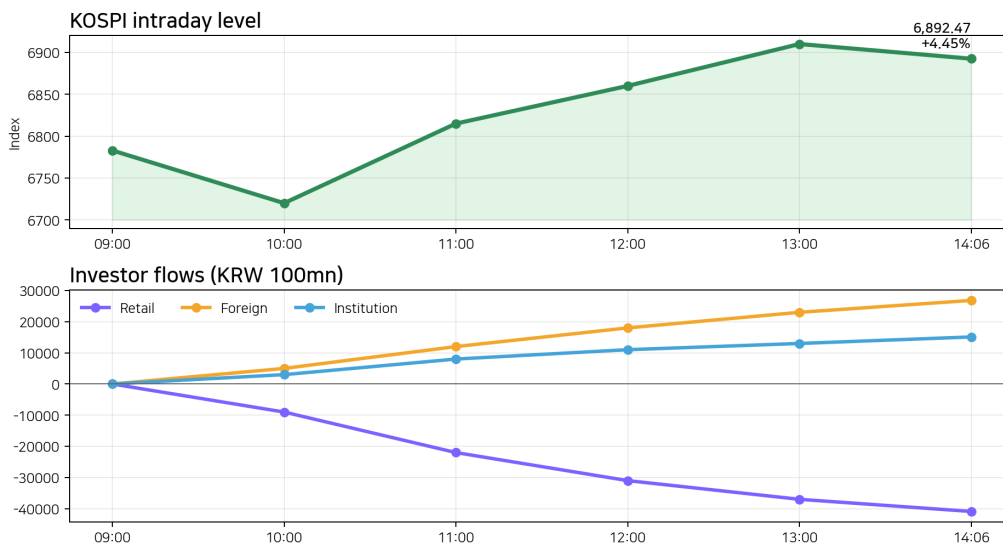
FX

Domestic Indices and Investor Flows

Intraday screen at 14:06 KST; final close should be verified separately.



Source: user-provided intraday market screen, 2026-05-04 14:06 KST. Verify closing data separately.



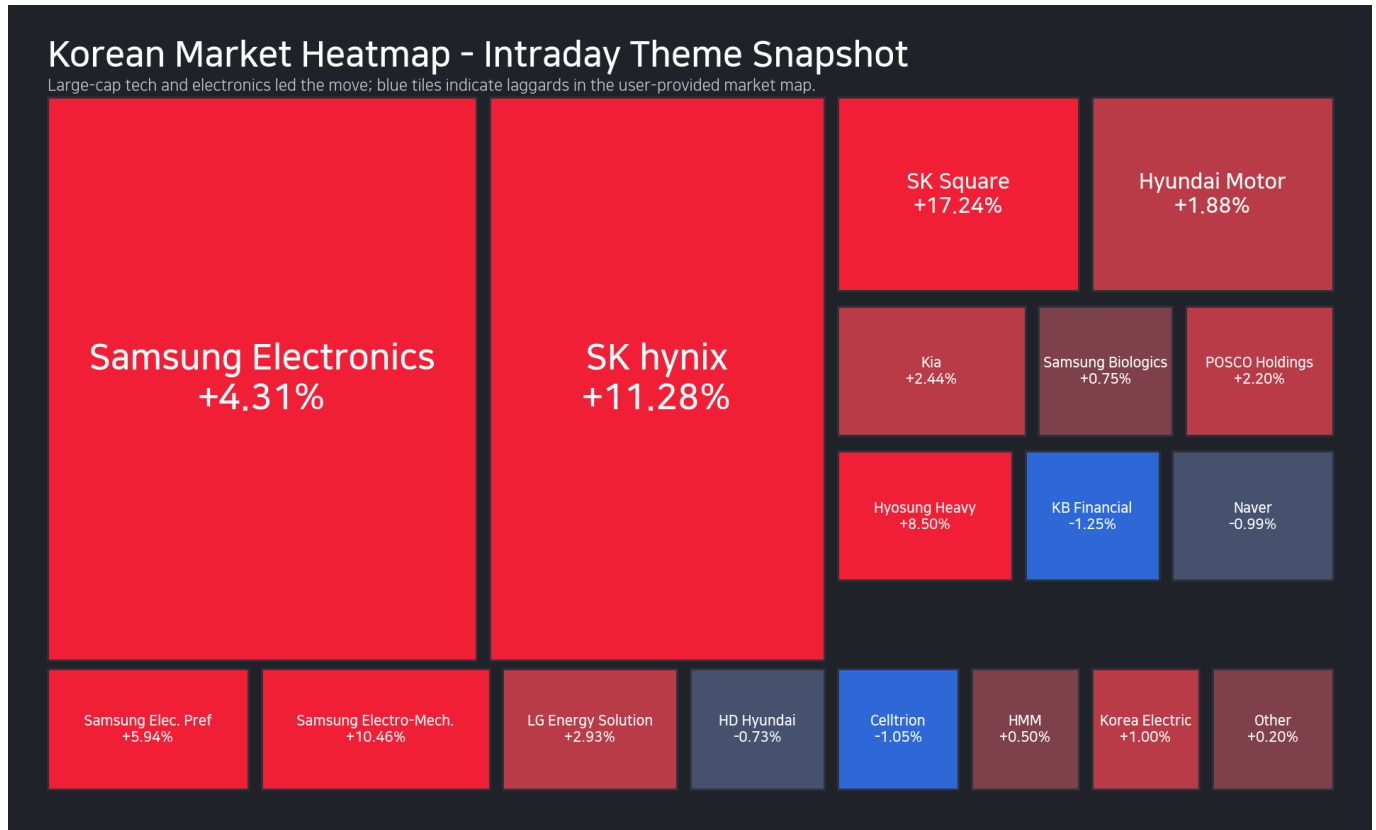
Source: user-provided intraday screen, 2026-05-04 14:06 KST. Intraday only; verify closing data.

English read-through

- The user-provided screen shows KOSPI at 6,892.47 (+4.45%), KOSDAQ at 1,211.91 (+1.64%) and KOSPI 200 at 1,042.10 (+5.03%).
- The same screen shows foreign and institutional buying as major intraday drivers in the KOSPI panel.
- Treat these as intraday observations, not closing data.

Heatmap and Sector Flow

Large-cap electronics and semiconductors carried the market tone.



What to notice

- Leadership was highly concentrated in electrical/electronics and semiconductor-linked large caps.
- A concentrated rally can lift the index quickly, but breadth still matters for durability.
- Power equipment, wires and data-center supply-chain themes remain important second-order AI infrastructure links.

Macro Signals: Hormuz, FX, and Rate-Talk Risk

The rally occurred while macro risk remained active.

Signal	Why it matters for Korea
Hormuz / Project Freedom	Energy, shipping and logistics risk can affect an export-heavy and energy-importing market.
USD/KRW and foreign flows	FX direction can influence foreign participation in large-cap Korean equities.
Rate-hike discussion	A hot equity market plus energy/FX pressure can revive policy debate.
IBKR / global access theme	Global retail access headlines highlight Korea's rising visibility among overseas investors.

Read-through

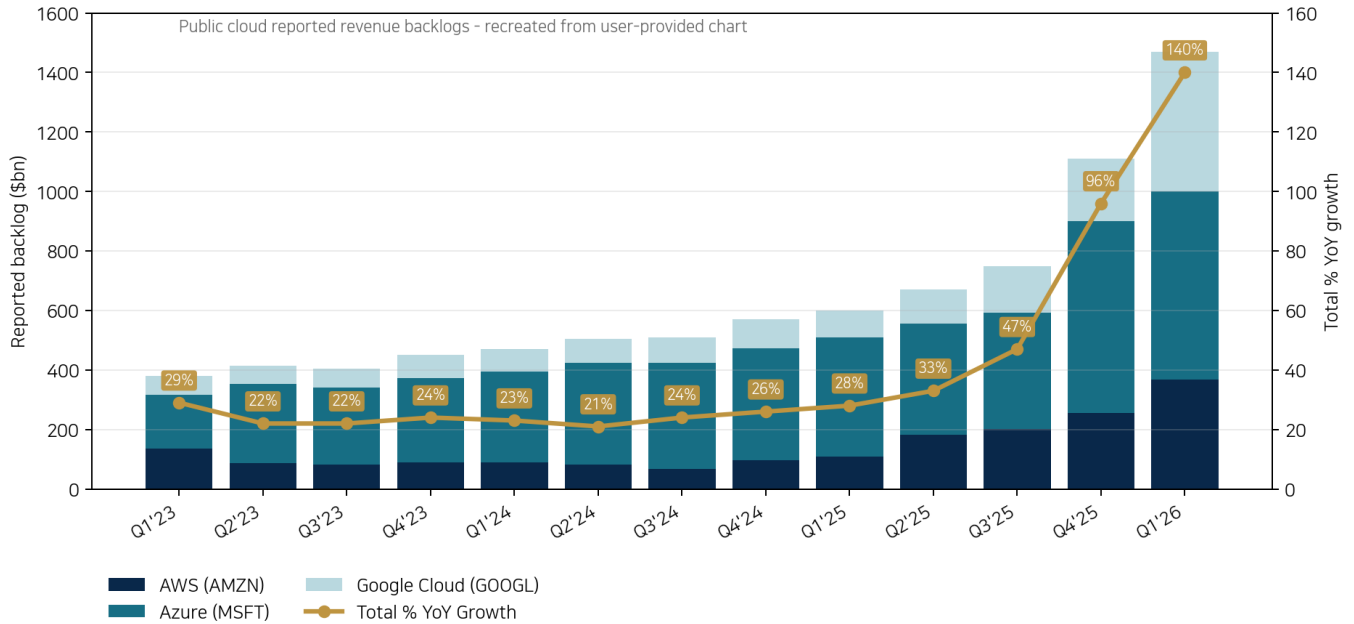
Trump said Project Freedom would help third-country vessels leave the Strait of Hormuz. Iran warned that such action could be viewed as a ceasefire violation. This kept oil, shipping and FX risk on the market checklist even as Korean equities rallied.

Domestic rate-hike discussion was treated as a macro watch item, not a policy forecast. The key is whether oil, FX and inflation expectations remain calm enough to support the current risk-on tone.

Cloud Backlogs and AI Infrastructure Demand

Why global cloud commitments matter for Korean memory and power themes.

Cloud Revenue Backlogs Going Parabolic



Source: user-provided a16z-style chart / company data note. Values are visual approximation for MVP preview; verify with original filings.

How to use this visual

- The user-provided chart shows reported backlog growth accelerating sharply into Q1 2026.
- This supports the market narrative around AI servers, HBM, DRAM/NAND, server SSDs and data-center power demand.
- The chart is context only. It is not a price forecast or a stock recommendation.

Korea Company Focus and DART Watch

Company context, not a rating or recommendation.

Company / theme	Context
Samsung Electronics	Large-cap market leader; memory, HBM, server SSD and AI infrastructure exposure.
SK hynix	HBM and high-end memory leadership; user-provided screens showed strong intraday move.
Power infrastructure	Cloud/data-center capex links to wires, transformers and power-equipment themes.
DART filings	Watch treasury shares, earnings, facility investment and material-event reports.

Filing-type guidance

- Treasury share acquisition result: check share count, amount, period, execution method and cancellation follow-up.
- Preliminary earnings: check period, revenue, operating profit, comparison base and whether figures are preliminary.
- Facility investment: check amount, timeline, funding method and stated purpose.
- Material event report: check event type, size, board approval status and correction filings.

What to Watch Next

The next test is whether flow, macro and breadth can support the move.

- Whether foreign net buying remains strong into the close and subsequent sessions.
- Whether leadership broadens beyond semiconductors and electronics.
- Whether KOSPI can stabilize near or above the 6,900 area and keep 7,000 in sight.
- Whether Hormuz headlines affect oil, FX, freight and foreign-flow sentiment.
- Whether cloud backlog and AI capex expectations continue to support Korean memory and power-infrastructure themes.

Bottom line

May 4 was a strong, semiconductor-led intraday rally supported by large foreign inflows. The symbolic move toward 6,900 matters, but the more important question is whether flows, macro stability and sector breadth can sustain the rally.

Sources and Notes

Reference-only MVP report. Verify all figures against original sources.

- Yonhap: KOSPI broke above 6,800 intraday and later challenged 6,900 on May 4, 2026.
- Yonhap: Trump's 'Project Freedom' for vessels in the Strait of Hormuz.
- User-provided intraday Korean market screens and cloud backlog chart.
- Interactive Brokers global access page: clients from 200+ countries and access to 170+ global markets.

Safety rules used

- No buy/sell/hold language, no target price, no upside language and no security recommendation.
- Intraday screenshots are labeled as intraday and should not be treated as final close data.
- The cloud backlog chart is used as a thematic visual; production versions should recreate charts from licensed or source-backed data.
- This report is for market-context understanding only.