

Smart Money Radar: **Weekly Institutional Insights**

22 Top Research Reports · Cross-Institution Consensus & Divergence · Incl. Citrini Field Research

Data as of April 6, 2026 · Coverage: Citi · GS · JPM · DB · UBS · BofA · HSBC · Robeco · Man Group · Apollo · Research Affiliates · Citrini

● TLDR — This Week's Key Takeaways

5 KEY CONCLUSIONS

1. The Strait of Hormuz is a "toll booth," not a "blockade" — 15 vessels confirmed transiting on April 2 (Citrini field research)
2. Energy EPS revisions remain strongly positive — 7 of 22 institutions holding rare unanimous overweight
3. Stagflation probability jumps to 27%; Fed faces a dilemma — only 1 rate cut expected in 2026
4. AI compute demand accelerating — TSMC/Broadcom capacity booked through 2027
5. US petrochemicals (DOW/WLK) emerge as the most asymmetric trade — Middle East refinery damage will take years to rebuild

STRONGEST CONSENSUS

Energy is the only asset class with unanimous institutional overweight. **Citrini's field report** reveals the market is pricing in a "blockade" when reality is a "toll booth" — a significant expectation gap.

BIGGEST DIVERGENCE

US equity resilience deeply split: **GS/JPM/Apollo** see earnings resilience supporting a medium-term rebound; **Citi/Robeco/UBS** warn that if the Strait crisis extends into Q2, it triggers a deep S&P bear market (target 5,350).

OVERALL SENTIMENT

Cautiously bearish (but Citrini field data provides an important contrarian correction signal). Key focus areas this week: Energy, AI compute infrastructure, Gold.

● Featured Report

Hormuz as a "Toll Booth" — Citrini Field Research

Citrini Research (Independent Research Firm) · Field Investigation Report

KEY FINDINGS

- Hormuz is evolving into a "toll booth" (analogous to the Montreux Convention governing the Bosphorus)
- 15+ vessels confirmed transiting on April 2 (previously 2–5/day over prior two weeks; pre-conflict: 100+/day)
- Approved nations: China, Russia, India, Iraq, Pakistan, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, France, Japan (list expanding rapidly)
- Payment methods: cash, cryptocurrency, diplomatic channels; Kunlun Bank is the primary clearing mechanism

KEY TAIL RISKS

- Houthis are deliberately constrained by Iran — Bab al-Mandab Strait is being kept as a reserve card
- If Iran activates this card (e.g., in response to direct US strikes on Iranian soil), a dual-chokepoint blockade scenario becomes possible
- Iran's fundamental interest: full blockade is economically harmful to Iran — "managed transit" is preferred over "full closure"

Base case: 50% of pre-conflict traffic restored within 4–6 weeks. No global energy crisis scenario.

CITRINI TRADE FRAMEWORK

- Most asymmetric: Long US petrochemicals — DOW, WLK
- Long tanker ETF BWET (rates up 4x, Citrini sees more upside)
- Long European Aerospace & Defense — EUAD ETF
- Long Dec WTI futures CLZ6 vs short front month
- Long SFRH7 (Fed will cut rates despite inflation shock)
- Country pairs: Long Norway/Short Australia, Long Malaysia/Short India, Long Japan/Short Korea, Long Turkey/Short Germany

● Institutional Consensus & Divergence

Duration of Hormuz crisis is the key variable — 4–6 weeks is the inflection point

95%

Citi · GS · JPM · UBS · BofA · Robeco · DB

Energy overweight — strongest EPS positive revision across all sectors

78%

Citi · GS · JPM · UBS · BofA · Man Group · Apollo

AI hardware compute chain (TSMC/Broadcom/NVDA) demand accelerating

67%

GS · JPM · DB · UBS HOLT · Robeco · Apollo

Software/SaaS sentiment extremely fragile — multiple institutions underweight

56%

JPM · UBS · BofA · Research Affiliates

Hormuz evolving to "toll booth," not binary blockade (Citrini field + institutions beginning to revise)

NEW

Citrini exclusive field research · Select institutions starting to revise views

DIVERGENCE 1: US EQUITY RESILIENCE

Bulls: GS / JPM / Apollo — earnings resilience supports medium-term recovery

Bears: Citi / Robeco / UBS / BofA — Hormuz into Q2 triggers deep bear market

DIVERGENCE 2: IS AI DEFLATIONARY?

Minority: DB / Research Affiliates — AI is a deflationary variable suppressing wages and pricing power

Mainstream: GS / JPM / Apollo — AI drives compute demand beyond expectations

DIVERGENCE 3: HORMUZ FRAMING (NEW)

Market pricing: Full blockade, binary risk

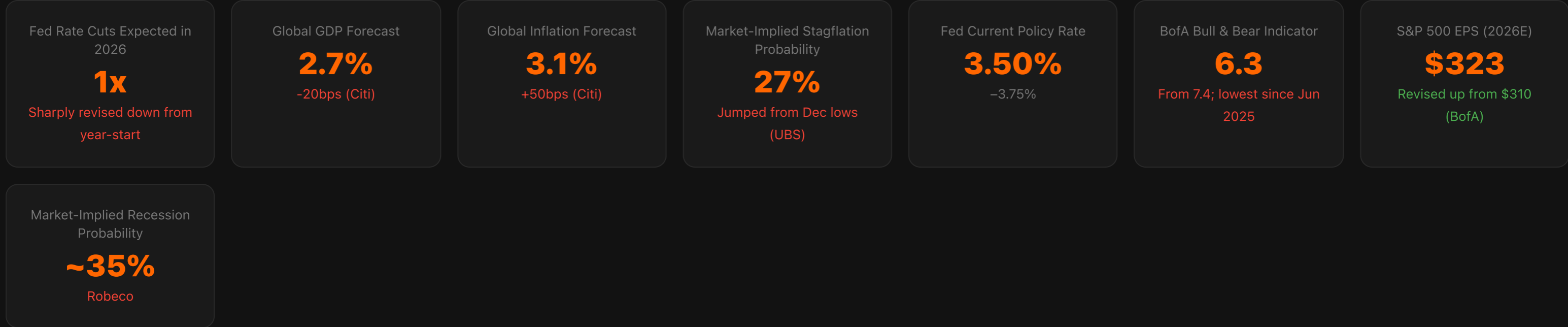
Citrini field data: Toll booth, managed access, 50% flow restored in 4–6 weeks — massive expectation gap

● Institutional View Matrix

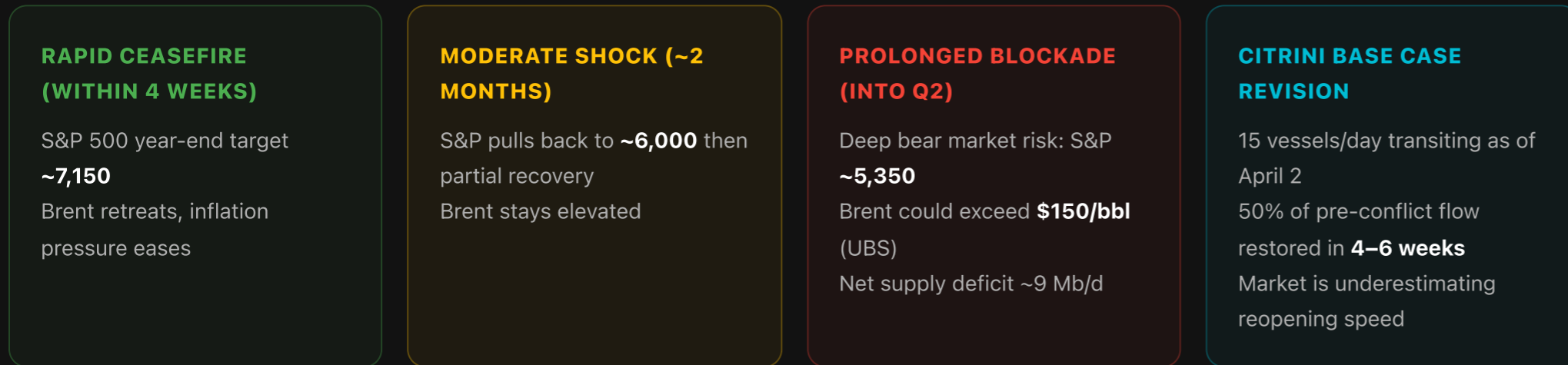
Asset Class	Citi	GS	JPM	DB	UBS	BofA	HSBC	Robeco	Man Group	Apollo	Citrini
Energy (Oil/Gas)	Bullish	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	Neutral	Bullish	Bullish	Bullish
AI Hardware / Semis	Neutral	Bullish	Bullish	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	—	Bullish	Neutral	Bullish	—
US Equities (Broad)	Neutral	Bullish	Neutral	Neutral	Bearish	Neutral	—	Bearish	Neutral	Bullish	Neutral
European Equities	Bearish	Neutral	Bullish	Neutral	Neutral	Bearish	—	Neutral	—	—	Bullish*
Emerging Markets	Neutral	Neutral	Bullish	—	—	Bullish	—	Bullish	—	—	Mixed**
Software / SaaS	Neutral	Neutral	Bearish	Neutral	Bearish	Bearish	—	Bullish	—	—	—
Gold	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	—	—	Bullish	—	—	Bullish	Bullish	—
Healthcare	Bullish	Bullish	Neutral	—	Bullish	—	—	Bullish	—	—	—
Utilities	Bullish	Bullish	Bearish	—	Bullish	—	—	Bearish	—	—	—
US Treasuries (Long)	Neutral	—	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Bullish	—	Bullish	—	Bearish	Bullish
US Petrochemicals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Strong Buy

Note: *Citrini bullish on European Aerospace & Defense (EUAD ETF). **Citrini: Bullish Malaysia/Norway, Bearish Korea/India. Citrini is an independent research firm (teal column).

● Macro & Liquidity



● **Oil Price Scenario Model (UBS + Citrini Revision)**



● **Today vs. 2022 Comparison (JPM)**

Dimension	2026 (Today)	2022 (Comparison)
Wage Growth	Downward trend	Accelerating
Central Bank Stance	Near neutral	Far below neutral
Consumer Excess Savings	Depleted	Ample
Corporate Pricing Power	Weakened	Strong
AI Job Displacement Threat	Present (stagflation-to-deflation swing variable)	Absent

● **Sector Views & Stock Picks**

Overweight Sectors

Energy (Oil & Gas)

Overweight

Hormuz closure creates ~9 Mb/d net supply deficit; energy EPS revisions are the strongest across all sectors. US shale producers are "relative winners." GS raised 2026 Brent average forecast to \$85/bbl.

Coverage: Citi · GS · JPM · UBS · BofA · Man Group

AI Compute Infrastructure (Semis / Networking)

Overweight

Agentic AI workloads are accelerating compute demand. TSMC N3/N2 capacity sold out through 2027; N3 revenue expected to double to 30%+ of total revenue in 2026. Broadcom's latest earnings confirmed strong GW deployment.

Coverage: GS · JPM · DB · UBS HOLT · Robeco · Apollo

US Petrochemicals

Citrini Most Asymmetric

Middle East refining infrastructure (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait) severely damaged — years to rebuild, not months. Europe's major energy imports disrupted, creating surging demand for alternative sources. US petrochemical producers gain on both fronts. Citrini identifies this as the most asymmetric medium-term trade this week.

Source: Citrini (exclusive) · DOW · WLK

Healthcare (Pharma / Life Sciences)

Overweight

Defensive earnings in a stagflation environment; AI-driven drug development efficiency gains. Citi references the 2022 stagflation playbook — healthcare was a clear outperformer. GS Conviction List includes JNJ, ABT.

Coverage: Citi · GS · UBS · Robeco

Gold / Commodities

Overweight

Geopolitical risk premium repricing. Gold pulled back 16% on liquidity selling, but Apollo/Man Group both confirm the structural de-dollarization thesis is intact, with EM central banks continuing to accumulate.

Coverage: BofA · Man Group · Apollo

Underweight Sectors

Software / SaaS

Underweight

AI competition increasingly eroding pricing power. UBS sentiment scores declined sharply; BofA shorting AI hyperscaler bonds; JPM explicitly underweight software and media.

Coverage: JPM · UBS · BofA · Research Affiliates

European Equities (ex-UK)

Underweight

Europe is the most energy-import-dependent developed market. Citi explicit underweight. BofA shows European equity two-week outflows of \$6.6B — largest since December 2024.

Coverage: Citi · BofA (outflows)

AI Hyperscaler Cloud (Valuation)

Underweight

Research Affiliates: ~80% of \$650B annual AI capex is maintenance spending; GPU economic life is ~2–3 years; rental rates have fallen from \$8/hr to below \$1. BofA analogizes to the "skyscraper curse."

Coverage: Research Affiliates · BofA

US Real Estate

Underweight

UBS sector scorecard ranks this lowest. Elevated rates suppress valuations; rising debt service pressure across the sector.

Coverage: UBS (lowest score)

Stock Picks

AVGO

Broadcom

AI GW deployment acceleration confirmed; dual drivers from networking and custom ASIC chips.

Price target: \$480

+55% upside

GS Conviction List

2330.TW

TSMC

N3/N2 capacity booked through 2027; FY26 USD revenue growth +35%.

Target: NT\$2,400 (raised from NT\$2,250)

JPM Overweight

JPM Overweight

NVDA

NVIDIA

Dual demand from GPU training and inference; Agentic AI is the new growth driver.

UBS HOLT score: **97/100**

UBS HOLT 97/100

UBS HOLT

NFLX

Netflix

Triple engine: subscriptions + advertising + capital returns; potential to buy back 20–25% of market cap.

Target: \$120 (+22%)

+22%

GS Upgraded to Buy

NOW

ServiceNow

Largest beneficiary of enterprise AI workflow automation.

Target: \$216 (+107%)

+107%

GS Conviction List

COP

ConocoPhillips

Low-cost asset base; direct beneficiary of Hormuz closure; FCF expanding materially.

GS Conviction List

GS Conviction List

CRGY

Crescent Energy

US shale winner with zero Hormuz exposure; direct beneficiary of the supply deficit.

JPM Upgrade to OW

JPM Upgraded

MSFT

Microsoft

Azure acceleration + M365 AI monetization; recent -23% decline creates entry opportunity.

Target: \$600 (+61% long-term)

+61% long-term

GS Maintains Buy

LOAR

Loar Holdings

Aerospace & defense supplier; benefits from increased defense spending.

Target: \$98 (+71%)

+71%

GS Conviction List

DOW

Dow Inc.

Most asymmetric trade: Middle East refinery damage + European demand substitution; US ethylene cracking advantage is substantial.

Citrini Top Pick

Citrini Exclusive

WLK

Westlake Corp

PVC/polyethylene leader benefiting from Middle East supply chain disruption; paired with DOW as the US petrochem long.

Citrini Top Pick

Citrini Exclusive

BWET

Breakwave Tanker ETF

Rerouting significantly extends voyage distances; rates already up 4x but Citrini sees further upside — supply/demand mismatch persists.

Rates 4x, not peaked

Citrini Exclusive

Risk Monitor

1

Critical Risk

Hormuz Closure Extends into Q2 — Stagflation Becomes Base Case

If the closure extends beyond 6 weeks, global inflation revises up 2ppts, GDP revises down 1ppt, the Fed cannot cut, and the S&P could fall to 5,350 (UBS bear case). Most frequently cited risk topic this week.

Citi · UBS · Robeco · BofA · JPM

2

Critical Risk

Iran Strikes GCC Energy Infrastructure

If Iran attacks Saudi/UAE refineries or pipelines (not yet occurred), Brent could spike above \$150/bbl — analogous to the 1973 Yom Kippur War shock.

UBS Oil · GS Oil Analyst · Man Group

3

Critical Risk · Citrini Exclusive

Iran Unleashes the Houthis — Activating the Bab al-Mandab Card

Citrini's field report reveals: the Houthis are currently deliberately restrained by Iran, with a Bab al-Mandab closure kept as a reserve card. If Iran activates this option (e.g., in response to direct US strikes on Iranian soil), the world faces a dual-chokepoint blockade — impact would far exceed the current scenario.

Citrini (exclusive field intelligence)

4

High Risk

Asian Naphtha/LPG Extreme Tightness — Chemical Supply Chain Disruption

GS notes South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan rely on Persian Gulf crude for 50–75% of supply; buffer inventories are only ~30–70 days. Diesel and jet fuel prices already up ~150%.

GS Oil Analyst · HSBC Mining

5

Medium-High Risk

AI Capex ROI Crisis

Research Affiliates: ~80% of \$650B in annual AI capex is maintenance spending; GPU economic life is ~2–3 years. If application-layer revenue cannot cover costs, a technology sector valuation re-rating becomes likely.

Research Affiliates · BofA · DB