

Geopolitics

BBVA Research Big Data Geopolitics Monitor

Big Data Unit

U.S. Launches Naval Blockade of Iran, Escalating Strait of Hormuz Crisis. Iran Proposes Limited Nuclear Concessions as Talks Stall. Hungary Enters New Political Era After Orbán's Defeat

U.S. Launches Naval Blockade of Iran, Escalating Strait of Hormuz Crisis: The United States has initiated a naval blockade targeting Iranian ports and traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, marking a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict with Iran. Washington warned that vessels attempting to breach the blockade could face military action, while Tehran condemned the move as a violation of international law and appealed to the United Nations. The measure follows failed diplomatic talks in Pakistan and a fragile ceasefire agreement.

Iran Proposes Limited Nuclear Concessions as Talks Stall:Iran has proposed a temporary suspension of uranium enrichment for up to five years, falling short of U.S. demands for longer-term restrictions. The proposal emerged during recent negotiations but failed to produce a breakthrough, leaving key issues unresolved, including nuclear oversight and maritime security in the Gulf. Diplomatic channels remain open

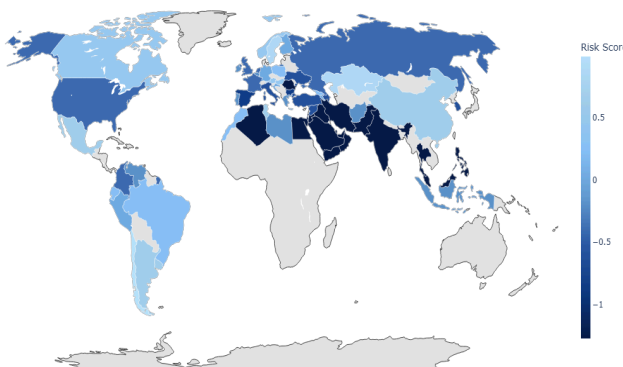
Hungary Enters New Political Era After Orbán's Defeat: Hungary is undergoing a major political transition following the electoral defeat of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, ending his 16-year rule. Opposition leader Péter Magyar and his centre-right Tisza party secured a two-thirds parliamentary majority, granting them the power to implement sweeping constitutional and institutional reforms. Magyar has pledged to restore democratic checks and balances, tackle corruption, and realign Hungary more closely with the European Union

The BBVA Monitor: Fragile ceasefire eases sentiment last week, but still extreme values in the Middle East

- The global **economic sentiment** index landscape shows that the main hotspot is in the **Middle East**, extending to some neighboring countries in North Africa and Asia, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 4. Focusing on the Middle East and the recent performance of the indicators, economic sentiment indicators have shown some signs of improvement in the **Gulf countries**, supported by ongoing negotiations and the recent ceasefire. However, the U.S. naval blockade targeting Iranian ports and traffic through the Strait of Hormuz yesterday could lead to a renewed deterioration in the coming days (see Fig. 3 and Fig. 5).
- **Hungary's** election outcome sharply decreases **political tensions and geopolitical risk** (see Fig. 2).
- **Geopolitical risk indicators** have slightly moderated over the past week, although they remain in the extreme risk area in the Gulf countries, reflecting the fragile nature of the initial ceasefire (see Fig. 6).

FIG 1. GLOBAL MAP - ECONOMIC SENTIMENT

(Total media. 28-day weighted mov avg, normalized by its own history)



Source: .BBVA Research & www.gdelt.org. Positive (negative) values indicate greater (lower) risk relative to the mean of period 2021-nowadays)

FIG 2. HUNGARY: MAIN INDICATORS

(Total media. 28-day weighted mov avg, normalized by its own history)



Source: BBVA Research & www.gdelt.org. Positive (negative) values indicate greater (lower) interest relative to the mean of period 2021-nowadays)

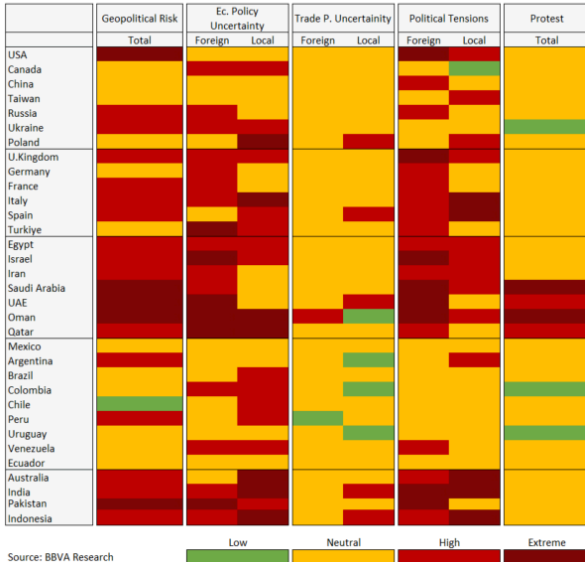
*The selection of news has been enriched by the BBVA Research Geo Assistant developed with Chat-GPT.

FIG 3. BBVA RESEARCH GEOPOLITICS MONITOR "SIGNAL" CHANGES

(Signals in Geopolitical Risk, Economic Policy Uncertainty, Trade Policy Uncertainty, Political Tensions and Protest according to Standard Dev)

Summary of signals (April 07th, 2026)

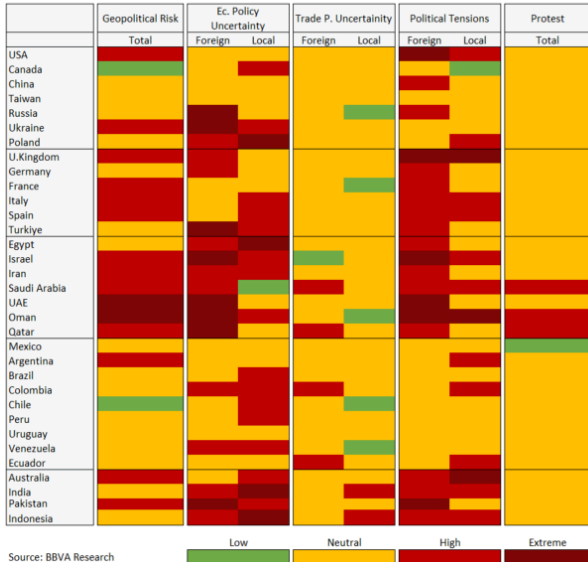
(News Sentiment Map. Sentiment relative to average sentiment in each country)



Source: BBVA Research

Summary of signals (April 14th, 2026)

(News Sentiment Map. Sentiment relative to average sentiment in each country)

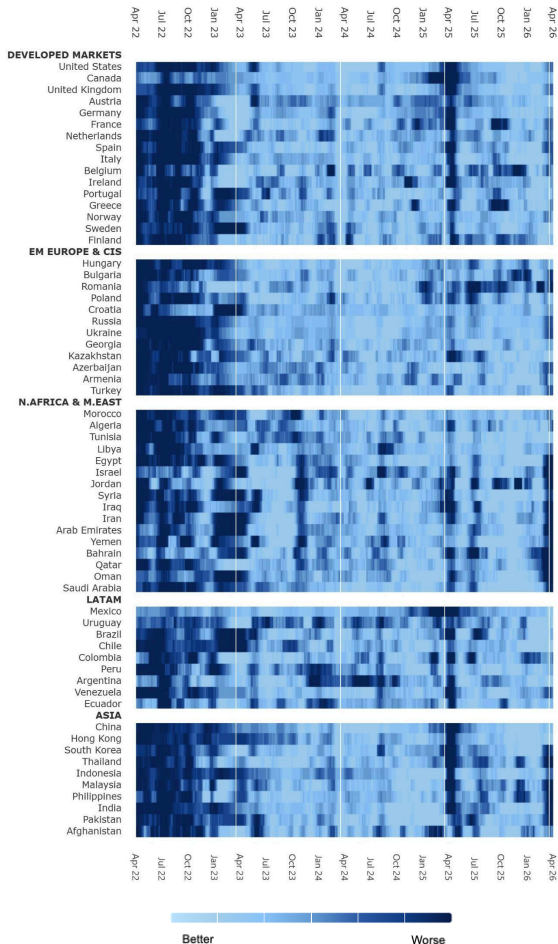


Source: BBVA Research

Source: BBVA Research and <http://www.gdelt.org/>

FIG 4. ECONOMIC SENTIMENT MAP

(Local media. 28-day weighted mov avg, normalized by its own history)



Source: BBVA Research & www.gdelt.org. Darker Blue colors stands for higher economic policy uncertainty while lighter blue colors for low uncertainty

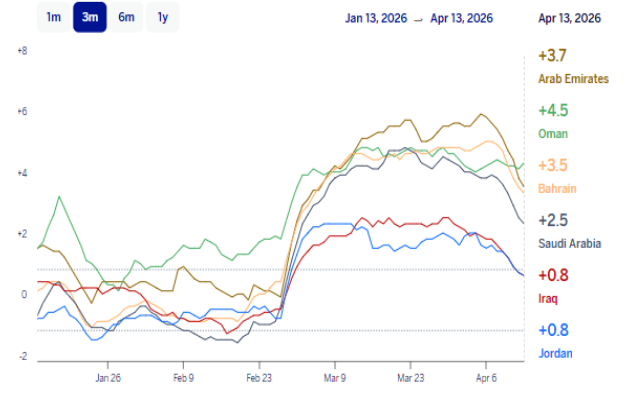
FIG 5. CONFLICT AREA: ECONOMIC SENTIMENT

(Total media. 28-day weighted mov avg, normalized by its own history)



FIG 6. MIDDLE EAST - GEOPOLITICAL RISK

(Total media. 28-day weighted mov avg, normalized by its own history)



Source: BBVA Research & www.gdelt.org. Positive (negative) values indicates greater (lower) risk relative to the mean of period 2021-nowadays

Methodological annex: indicators' construction

We have developed a daily tracker with weekly updates to monitor protest and conflict indicators for every country in the world from 2019 to present day. To construct this, we use a rich 'big database' of international events (GDELТ), created by Leetaru and Schrodt (2013). GDELТ is an open-source database that extracts and parses digital news monitoring world events covered by news media from nearly every corner of the world, whether broadcast, printed, or published on the web, in over 100 languages, every moment of every day, updated every 15 minutes. Thus, it contains a comprehensive and high-resolution catalog of geo-referenced events and themes.

Using different dictionaries, several thousands of taxonomies and themes are identified in the news pieces to classify the information. The algorithms used by GDELТ also identify emotions, organizations, locations, news sources, and events across the world as well as their average sentiment using Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques and the lexicon approach.

The included indicators are:

- Geopolitical Risk: or sentiment (weighted by coverage) of the country's geopolitical risk perception.
- Political Tensions: or sentiment (weighted by coverage) of the country's political tensions.
- Economic Policy Uncertainty or sentiment (weighted by coverage) about the country's economic policy uncertainty, also disaggregated by media origin.
- Protests or coverage regarding social protests or unrest in the country.
- Conflict or coverage of armed conflicts, which go beyond verbal protests.
- Bilateral Tensions or the sentiment (weighted by coverage) between a specific pair of countries that appear together in the news article (plus NATO and EU).

The indicators track the evolution of tensions and are normalized by their country's history since 2019, thus they are all expressed in terms of standard deviations from their historical patterns. Indicators usually lie within the range [-1,1]. Therefore, when the values exceed one (the upper boundary of the range), this means escalating tensions. While it's possible to observe simultaneous tensions arising in multiple countries (for example, due to geopolitical events affecting several nations, as seen in some of our heatmaps), using these indicators for direct quantitative comparisons of risk levels between countries is not recommended.

We apply a weighted moving average of 28 days (to include four complete weeks with the same number of days of the weeks) to reduce the noise of daily information and identify signals more clearly. The weights have been calculated using a discrete geometric distribution such that it puts more weight on recent data and less on past data (see Graph 1). Aggregating by weeks, the weight of the most recent week has a weight of 68%, the past week 22%, the previous 7%, and the fourth 3%. The weight of the 28 days can be seen in the following image. In such a way, the indicators reflect what has been happening in the last few days.

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