



# Issues and Insights

In this edition: CFO insights, tariff strategies, Q1 trends, human-AI melds, private market investments, the data revolution, the labor market, and more

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## First-quarter economy tiptoes toward tariffs

Real GDP contracted at a 0.3 percent annualized rate in the first quarter, even as attempts to front-run tariffs helped support consumer spending, investment, and inventory stockpiling. But we don't expect the Fed to move on interest rates until the fourth quarter. Here's why: [Economy trips on tariff uncertainty in first quarter](#)



## Strategy session: CFOs confront tariffs and taxes

With tariffs now the new normal, CFOs are leveraging technology, advocacy, and planning to navigate the changed environment. Most rely on data models and use scenario planning to juggle the variables. Many have stepped up lobbying efforts. Explore their diverse strategies in Voice of the CFO. [CFOs engage in strategies for tariffs and taxes](#)



## Empowering human-AI collaboration for a trusted future

KPMG and the University of Melbourne surveyed 48,000 people in 47 countries and found that while AI adoption is rising quickly, trust remains a critical challenge. Here are the four key actions leaders should prioritize in building AI confidence. [Trust, attitudes and use of artificial intelligence: A global study 2025](#)



## What are the private market's investment priorities?

"KPMG Private Markets Pulse" explores the world of private company investments, highlighting key drivers such as financial performance, technological advancements, and rigorous governance practices. It provides valuable insights into securing funding and fostering growth in a sustainable, AI-supported, and transparent context. [KPMG Survey: Private market investment priorities](#)



## Harnessing data for faster progress

Leading companies are using data and new tools to drive operational excellence and cash flow optimization. They're transforming their culture, roles, and incentives. They're hiring data scientists and setting clear performance goals to accelerate progress. See how KPMG is helping organizations harness data to drive revenue, margins, and cash flow. [The long-awaited data revolution has begun](#)



## Job seekers find doors closed

It's a tight market. There were 7.2 million jobs available in March, the second lowest in over four years. Though the labor market was still relatively stable, policy changes are raising downside risks. With inflation expected to rise by midyear, a bout of stagflation is likely, and we doubt the Fed will cut rates until the fourth quarter. [Job seekers find fewer openings](#)



## Five steps to unlocking value with data products

Companies know that the road to growth begins with data—and often, data products. KPMG recently surveyed 250 executives across multiple industries to learn which sectors are using data products to gain competitive advantage, speed to market, and ensure regulatory compliance. Here's how they're doing it—and how you can, too. [Unlocking value with data products](#)

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