

Asia week ahead: China's 15th Five-Year Plan and South Korean rate decision

China's discussion of its 15th Five-Year Plan will be a major focus, along with GDP and property price data and a loan-prime-rate decision. The Bank of Korea is expected to leave rates unchanged, while markets will get key data from Japan and Taiwan



China: The 15th Five-Year Plan, while Q3 GDP expected to slow

It will be a busy start to the week in China. The Fourth Plenum meetings run from Monday to Wednesday, with the primary focus expected to be the discussion of China's 15th Five-Year Plan. It will cover the key development plans for China between 2026 and 2030. While the full Five-Year Plan likely won't be available until next year's Two Sessions, we will likely get some information on the key themes discussed. Of particular interest are priorities for development, including how to expand consumption, foster innovation, and the strategic focusses going forward.

Monday morning kicks off with a decision on loan prime rates. No change is expected after the People's Bank of China stood pat. Also Monday, China reports third-quarter GDP. Barring a

stronger-than-expected rebound in September -- we are currently expecting slight slowdowns in retail sales, industrial production, and fixed asset investment growth -- the data is likely to show China slowed substantially to 4.5% year-on-year. We will also get September property price data. Prices have been on a negative trajectory in recent months. With no fresh stimulus, there's little reason to expect a significant turnaround.

South Korea: BoK rate cut likely to be delayed

The Bank of Korea's policy meeting on Thursday should be the highlight of the week. Due to rising housing prices in the Seoul area, the USD/KRW exceeding 1,400, and ongoing uncertainties related to tariff negotiations with the US, the BoK's rate cut cycle may be postponed to November -- or even to next year. The government announced updated measures on mortgage and housing purchases this week, but it will take time to see their impact. Also, the outcome of the \$350 billion investment pledge is another major factor influencing both the currency and the BoK's policy stance. Thus, the BoK may monitor developments in the housing market and tariff discussions before making further decisions. We believe growth and inflation are likely to stay close to the BoK's current projections. Yet, downside risks have notably increased recently.

Japan: Exports and inflation expected to rebound

Ahead of the Bank of Japan's meeting on 30 October, this week's updates on exports, following the 15% US tariff deal and recent inflation developments, are of great interest. We expect exports to rebound to 4.0% YoY, as shipments of automobiles and chip-producing machinery return to normal. Imports are likely to decline 0.5%, mostly thanks to lower global commodity prices. We expect further export normalisation in the coming months after the trade agreement reached in September. Meanwhile, inflation is expected to rise to 2.9% YoY in September, with core prices likely to stay above 3.0%. The recent deceleration of inflation is largely thanks to government subsidies for energy and social welfare programs.

Taiwan: Exports expected to rebound due to reciprocal tariffs

It's a quiet week ahead in Taiwan. September export orders, out Tuesday, are expected to have rebounded to 25.4% YoY. Trade data has generally held up better since the reciprocal tariffs took effect. Taiwan also publishes its industrial production data on Thursday, which is expected to have moderated to 13.6% YoY.

Key events in Asia next week

Country	Time (GMT+8)	Data/event	ING	Prev.
Monday 20 October				
China	0900	Oct Loan Prime Rate 1Y	3	3
	0900	Oct Loan Prime Rate 5Y	3,5	3,5
	1000	Sep Fixed Asset Investment (YoY% ytd)	0,1	0,5
	1000	Sep Industrial Output (YoY%)	5,1	5,2
	1000	Sep Retail Sales (YoY%)	3,1	3,4
	1000	Q3 GDP (YoY%)	4,5	5,2
	1000	Sep Unemployment Rate	-	5,3
Tuesday 21 October				
Taiwan	1600	Sep Export Orders (YoY%)	25,4	19,5
Wednesday 22 October				
Japan	0750	Sep Exports (YoY%)	4	-0,1
	0750	Sep Imports (YoY%)	-0,5	-5,2
	0750	Sep Trade Balance (JPY bn)	100	-242,8
Indonesia	1530	Interest Rate Decision	-	4,75
Thursday 23 October				
Indonesia	1100	Sep Money Supply (YoY%)	-	7,6
Philippines	1300	Sep Budget Balance (PHP bn)	-	-84,8
Singapore	1300	Sep Core CPI (YoY%)	-	0,3
	1300	Sep CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-	0,5/0,5
Taiwan	1600	Sep Industrial Output (YoY%)	13,6	14,4
	1600	Sep Retail Sales (YoY%)	-	0,4
	1620	Sep Money Supply (YoY%)	-	4,8
South Korea	0900	BoK Rate Decision	2,5	2,50
Friday 24 October				
China		- FDI (YoY%)	-	-12,7
India	1300	HSBC Composite PMI	-	61
	1300	HSBC Manufacturing PMI	-	57,7
	1300	HSBC Services PMI	-	60,9
	1930	FX Reserves (USD bn)	-	700,0
Japan	0730	Sep CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	0,0/2,9	0,1/2,7
	0830	S&P Manufacturing PMI Flash	49	48,5
	0830	S&P Services PMI Flash	53,5	53,3
	0830	S&P Composite PMI Flash	51,5	51,3
Australia	0600	Oct Judo Bank Manufacturing PMI Flash	-	51,4
	0600	Oct Judo Bank Services PMI Flash	-	52,4
	0600	Oct Composite PMI Flash	-	52,4
Singapore	1300	Sep Industrial Output (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-	-9,7/-7,8
Taiwan	1600	Sep Unemployment Rate	-	3,4

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