

Asia week ahead: Regional inflation and trade data in focus ahead of China's Golden Week

It's Golden Week in China, but there is plenty of action elsewhere, including Japan's Tankan survey and South Korea's data dump as well as inflation data in Southeast Asia



Japan: Tankan survey and industrial production

We think the Tankan survey will be the highlight of the week in Japan. We expect the service-led recovery to continue thanks to strong wage growth and cooling inflation. Manufacturing should also make some progress as auto production returns to normal, and IT demand is likely to grow. We expect industrial production to remain flat after a big jump in July. Toyota's production has only gradually normalised since September, dragging down overall production. Labour market conditions will probably remain tight due to labour shortages. The Bank of Japan is likely to downplay the weak IP results, but if the Tankan survey describes positive business sentiment, it should support the BoJ's policy normalisation as early as December.

South Korea: Data dump in the week ahead

Consumer inflation is expected to cool to 1.8% year-on-year in September, mostly due to last year's high base. On a monthly basis, we believe there are still some upside pressures, such as rising fresh food prices due to severe weather conditions, coupled with the early arrival of Chuseok holidays and public service fee hikes. However, falling global oil prices and the KRW appreciation should have offset some of this upside pressure.

For September trade, due to unfavourable calendar day effects, export growth is likely to decelerate to 8.0% YoY from 11.2% in August. But working day-adjusted exports should record a solid double-digit rise thanks to strong global chip demand. Sluggish domestic demand is likely to weigh on industrial production. Auto production should decline due to ongoing labour strikes and production line maintenance jobs.

China and Taiwan: PMI data moving into Golden Week holiday

China will enter its Golden Week holiday next week, and we will monitor whether the strong recovery of domestic tourism can continue as the “eat drink and play” theme has been a lone bright spot in an otherwise soft environment for consumption. Before the festivities begin, China publishes both the official and Caixin PMI data on Monday morning. We are looking for a slight recovery of the official manufacturing PMI to 49.3 from 49.1.

Taiwan also releases its PMI data on the coming Tuesday. Data has been softening slightly in the last two months after peaking in June, but has remained in expansion for the last five months after a 22-month streak of contraction. We expect the resilient trade data to support the PMI remaining in expansion in September.

Indonesia and Philippines: September CPI

Indonesia's inflation was steady in August at 2.1%. The September rate may come in slightly lower thanks to lower crude energy prices. Core inflation remains at around 2.0%, and poses no constraint on Bank Indonesia's future consideration of monetary easing, which has also been made easier by recent IDR appreciation. We anticipate some easing at the next rate-setting meeting.

The Philippines' small decline in rice prices in September and lower transport fuel prices will have been offset by increases in fruit and veg and some other prices. That should leave the CPI index up 0.7% month-on-month, though that will still allow the inflation rate to decline from 3.3% YoY to 2.9% YoY. That should provide Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) with an excuse for another 25bp of rate cuts at its next meeting on 17 October.

India: Fiscal deficit data

Data for India's August fiscal deficit is due in the coming week. So far this fiscal year, the deficit has averaged considerably less in absolute terms than it did over the same period last year. Combined with solid economic growth, that leaves the deficit well on track for the government's 4.9% deficit to GDP target for the year, with some chance of beating it. Last year's August deficit was INR6.4tr, but even if this is exceeded, the cumulative outperformance this fiscal year means that the deficit target is still likely to remain achievable.

India's core industries output for August is also due. Output has been growing steadily at around a 6% YoY pace and will likely come in close to that in August, perhaps a little lower.

Key events in Asia next week

Country	Time (GMT+8)	Data/event	ING	Prev.
Monday 30 September				
Japan	0750	Aug Retail Sales (YoY%)	3	2.6
	0750	Aug Industrial Output (MoM%/YoY%)	0/0	3.1/2.9
South Korea	0700	Aug Industrial Output (MoM%/YoY%)	-0.5/2.0	-3.6/5.5
China	0930	Sep NBS Manufacturing PMI	49.3	49.1
	0945	Sep Caixin Manufacturing PMI Final	-	50.4
	0945	Sep Caixin Services PMI	-	51.6
India	2000	Q2 Current Account Balance (USD bn)	-	5.7
		Aug Eight Infrastructure Industries (YoY%)	5.9	6.1
		Aug Fiscal Deficit (INR tr)	-	2.8
Tuesday 1 October				
Japan	0730	Aug Unemployment Rate	2.6	2.7
	0750	Tankan Large Manufacturing Outlook	15	14
	0750	Tankan Large Non-Manufacturing Outlook	35	33
	0830	Sep Jibun Manufacturing PMI Final	49.6	49.8
	1300	Sep Consumer Confidence	-	36.7
India	1300	Sep HSBC Manufacturing PMI Final	-	57.7
South Korea	0800	Sep Exports (YoY%)	7	11.4
	0800	Sep Imports (YoY%)	5.9	6
Indonesia	1200	Sep CPI (YoY%)	2.00	2.12
Wednesday 2 October				
Japan	0750	Q3 Tankan Large Manufacturers Index	-	13
South Korea	0700	Sep CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	0.3/1.8	0.4/2.0
	0830	Sep S&P Global Manufacturing PMI	51.5	51.9
Thursday 3 October				
Japan	0830	Sep Jibun Services PMI Final	53.9	53.7
	0830	Sep Jibun Composite PMI Final	52.5	52.5
Friday 4 October				
India	1300	Sep HSBC Services PMI Final	-	60.6
Philippines	0900	Sep CPI (YoY%)	2.9	3.3

Source: Refinitiv, ING

Author

Lynn Song

Chief Economist, Greater China

lynn.song@asia.ing.com

Min Joo Kang

Senior Economist, South Korea and Japan

min.joo.kang@asia.ing.com

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