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Asia week ahead: China's Two Sessions grabs the spotlight

Next week, China's Two Sessions takes centre stage. Premier Li delivers the Government Work Report, detailing growth targets and priorities. We'll also get PMI readings for China and Taiwan and inflation data for Taiwan and South Korea



China: Two Sessions to set this year's growth target and policy priorities

Next week's main event is China's Two Sessions meeting. Markets will pay close attention to the Government Work Report, to be delivered by Premier Li Qiang on 5 March. It will announce China's 2025 growth target and detail top-level policy priorities. We expect China to stick with its "around 5.0%" GDP goal, the same as 2024, while providing much-anticipated details on the direction of fiscal and monetary policies. On the data front, China's official purchasing managers' index (PMI) for February is scheduled for Saturday morning. We expect a return to expansion at 50.1. The Caixin PMI follows on Monday. On Friday, we will get our first look at trade data in the first two

months of 2025 from China Customs.

Taiwan: PMI and CPI data in focus

Taiwan's PMI data is set for release on Monday. On Friday, Taiwan releases February inflation data. We expect the consumer price index (CPI) to cool to around 2.2% year-on-year after a hotter-than-expected January gain of 2.6% YoY. Also, Taiwan's February trade data is scheduled for Friday afternoon. The Lunar New Year effect may cause a rebound to double-digit growth for YoY trade.

Korea: activity data likely to point to a sluggish start

Monthly activity data will be released on Tuesday. We expect industrial production to drop sharply by 4.0% month on month, seasonally adjusted, (vs 4.6% in December) partly due to the longer-than-usual Lunar New Year holiday. Yet, retail sales may rebound thanks to government shopping voucher programmes. Overall, activity data will likely show a sluggish start to the year, with output and investment falling as political turmoil dampens sentiment. Meanwhile, consumer price inflation is expected to ease to 1.9% YoY in February. Gasoline prices declined from the middle of the month, while food costs stabilised after the LNY holiday.

Key events in Asia next week

Country	Time (GMT+8) Data/event	ING	Prev.
	Monday 3 March		
Japan	0830 Feb Jibun Bank Manufacturing PMI Final	48.7	48.7
China	0945 Feb Caixin Manufacturing PMI	-	50.1
Indonesia	1200 Feb CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-	-0.8/0.8
	1200 Feb Core CPI (YoY%)	-	2.4
Philippines	0830 Feb Manufacturing PMI SA	-	52.3
Singapore	2100 Feb Manufacturing PMI	-	50.9
Taiwan	0830 Feb S&P Global Manufacturing PMI	-	51.1
	Tuesday 4 March		
Japan	0730 Jan Unemployment Rate	2.4	2.4
	0750 Q4 Capital spending (YoY%)	5	8.1
Australia	0830 Q4 Current Account Balance (AUD bn)	-	-14.1
	0830 RBA Meeting Minutes	-	-
South Korea	0700 Jan Industrial Output (YoY%)	-2	5.3
	0700 Jan Industrial Output Growth	-4	4.6
	0830 Feb IHS S&P Global Manufacturing PMI	49.5	50.3
	Wednesday 5 March		
Japan	0830 Feb Jibun Bank Services PMI Final	53	53
Australia	0830 Q4 GDP (QoQ%/YoY%)	-/-	0.3/0.8
China	0945 Feb Caixin Services PMI	-	51
Philippines	0900 Feb CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-	0.5/2.9
5 .	0900 Feb Core CPI (YoY%)	-	2.6
Singapore	1300 Jan Retail Sales (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-	-1.5/-2.9
Taiwan	1620 Feb Foreign Exchange Reserve	-	577.583
South Korea	0700 Q4 GDP Growth (QoQ%/YoY%)	0.1/1.2	0.1/1.2
A 1 1:	Thursday 6 March		F 00
Australia	0830 Jan Trade Balance (AUD bn)	-	5.09
Philippines South Korea	0900 Jan Unemployment Rate	- 0.4/4.0	3.10
South Kored	0700 Feb CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	0.1/1.9	0.7/2.2
China	Friday 7 March	0.7	10.7
China	1100 Jan-Feb Exports (YoY%)	0.7	10.7
	1100 Jan-Feb Imports (YoY%) 1100 Jan-Feb Trade Balance (USD bn)	127.9	104.84
	1100 Jan-Feb Trade Balance (USD bil) 1100 Feb FX Reserves (USD tn)	127.9	3.209
Indonesia	1100 Feb For Reserves (USD tri)	-	156.1
	1700 Feb Forex Reserves (USD bit)	-	103
Philippines Singapore	1700 Feb Foreign Reserves USD	-	376.7
Taiwan	1600 Feb CPI (YoY%)	2.2	2.66
raiwari	1600 Feb Imports (YoY%)	20.4	-17.2
	1600 Feb Exports (YoY%)	21.2	-17.2 4.4
	1600 Feb Trade Balance (USD bn)	9.8	9.97
Source: Refinitiv, IN	·	5.0	5.51

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