

Asia week ahead: Bank of Korea - will it, or won't it?

China's purchasing manager's index, India's GDP and Korea's central bank meeting- where we expect a 25 basis point rate cut - are the key highlights in Asia next week



Source: Shutterstock

➔ China: Trade war impact is coming through

The week kicks off with China's industrial profits for April. Keeping in line with the trend of slowing exports and production, industrial profits have been shrinking. As such, surprisingly strong 13.9% annual industrial profit growth in March appears to be an aberration from a weak trend, while the cumulative profits in the first three months were still down 3.3% from a year ago. Both exports and

industrial production growth slowed sharply in April, pushing the profits growth back to negative territory.

China's economic downtrend will undoubtedly exacerbate further with the escalation of the trade tensions this month. The upcoming data on purchasing manager index for manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors will shed light on this.

➔ Korea: Mixed market signals on BoK policy

The market isn't pricing a Bank of Korea rate cut next week and neither is the latest Bloomberg poll suggesting anything of sorts. But the Korean Won's (KRW) recent underperformance, with close to 5% depreciation against US dollar since the central bank's last meeting on 18 April, seems to suggest that a rate cut is just around the corner.

What this economy needs is some fiscal support, some economic reforms, and the end of the global tech slump. The BoK can't perform miracles. – Rob Carnell, ING Asia chief economist

We believe the poor trade environment and ongoing tech slump will continue to depress Korea's growth, making it difficult for the central bank to defy easing. The 1.8% YoY GDP growth in 1Q19 was the lowest since the global financial crisis. This combined with negligible inflation, running well below 1% currently, underpins our outlier view of a 25bp BoK rate cut.

➔ India: The best of election-related market rally is behind

The odds of prime minister Narendra Modi winning the elections in India cheered the markets this week. Indeed, his Bharatiya Janata Party is leading with an absolute majority in the vote count, still going on at the time of writing this piece, and it looks set to form the government with existing coalition partners. We believe the best of election rally is behind and the economy will be back to re-assert its influence on the markets - almost negatively amid prevailing risk-off sentiments globally.

India's economic slowdown gained speed in the final quarter of the financial year 2018-19 ended in March, for which GDP data is due next week (31 May). If true, our forecast of a slowdown of growth to 6.0% from 6.6% in the previous quarter will make it the slowest growth quarter in two years. While this will validate the Reserve Bank of India's two rate cuts this year, we expect the potentially higher inflation will keep it from easing again at the next meeting in early June.

Asia Economic Calendar

Country	Time*	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 27 May					
China	0230	Apr Industrial Profits (YoY%, YTD)	-3.3	-	13.9
Hong Kong	0930	Apr Exports (YoY%)	-1.5	-	-1.2
	0930	Apr Imports (YoY%)	-0.5	-	-0.1
	0930	Apr Trade Balance (HK\$ bn)	-50.0	-	-59.2
South Korea	2200	May BOK Consumer Sentiment Index	102.4	-	101.6
Tuesday 28 May					
South Korea	2200	Jun BOK Business Survey Index, Mfg	76.0	-	77.0
	2200	Jun BOK Business Survey Index, Non-mfg	76.0	-	77.0
Thursday 30 May					
Thailand	-	Apr Manufacturing Index (YoY%)	-1.5	-	-2.5
Friday 31 May					
China	0200	May Manufacturing PMI	50.2	-	50.1
	0200	May Non-manufacturing PMI	50.1	-	54.3
India	1300	1Q GDP (Q) (YoY%)	6.0	-	6.6
	1300	2019 GDP Annual (YoY%)	7.0	-	7.0
	-	Mar Fiscal Deficit (INR crore)	-	-	80654.0
Hong Kong	0930	Apr Retail sales Value (YoY%)	-0.5	-	-0.2
	0930	Apr Retail sales Volume (YoY%)	-1.2	-	-0.8
South Korea	0000	Apr Industrial Production (MoM, SA/YoY%)	1.0/-2.8	-/-	1.4/-2.8
	-	7-Day Repo Rate	1.5	-	1.75
Thailand	0730	Apr Current Account Balance (US\$bn)	2.2	-	6.1

Source: ING, Bloomberg, *GMT

Author

Alissa Lefebre

Economist

alissa.lefebvre@ing.com

Deepali Bhargava

Regional Head of Research, Asia-Pacific

Deepali.Bhargava@ing.com

Ruben Dewitte

Economist

+32495364780

ruben.dewitte@ing.com

Kinga Havasi

Economic research trainee

kinga.havasi@ing.com

Marten van Garderen

Consumer Economist, Netherlands

marten.van.garderen@ing.com

David Havrlant

Chief Economist, Czech Republic

420 770 321 486

david.havrlant@ing.com

Sander Burgers

Senior Economist, Dutch Housing

sander.burgers@ing.com

Lynn Song

Chief Economist, Greater China

lynn.song@asia.ing.com

Michiel Tukker

Senior European Rates Strategist

michiel.tukker@ing.com

Michal Rubaszek

Senior Economist, Poland

michal.rubaszek@ing.pl

This is a test author

Stefan Posea

Economist, Romania

tiberiu-stefan.posea@ing.com

Marine Leleux

Sector Strategist, Financials

marine.leleux2@ing.com

Jesse Norcross

Senior Sector Strategist, Real Estate

jesse.norcross@ing.com

Teise Stellema

Research Assistant, Energy Transition

teise.stellema@ing.com

Diederik Stadig

Sector Economist, TMT & Healthcare

diederik.stadig@ing.com

Diogo Gouveia

Sector Economist

diogo.duarte.vieira.de.gouveia@ing.com

Marine Leleux

Sector Strategist, Financials

marine.leleux2@ing.com

Ewa Manthey

Commodities Strategist

ewa.manthey@ing.com

ING Analysts

James Wilson

EM Sovereign Strategist

James.wilson@ing.com

Sophie Smith

Digital Editor

sophie.smith@ing.com

Frantisek Taborsky

EMEA FX & FI Strategist

frantisek.taborsky@ing.com

Adam Antoniak

Senior Economist, Poland

adam.antoniak@ing.pl

Min Joo Kang

Senior Economist, South Korea and Japan

min.joo.kang@asia.ing.com

Coco Zhang

ESG Research

coco.zhang@ing.com

Jan Frederik Slijkerman

Senior Sector Strategist, TMT

jan.frederik.slijkerman@ing.com

Katinka Jongkind

Senior Economist, Services and Leisure

Katinka.Jongkind@ing.com

Marina Le Blanc

Sector Strategist, Financials

Marina.Le.Blanc@ing.com

Samuel Abettan

Junior Economist

samuel.abettan@ing.com

Franziska Biehl

Senior Economist, Germany
Franziska.Marie.Biehl@ing.de

Rebecca Byrne
Senior Editor and Supervisory Analyst
rebecca.byrne@ing.com

Mirjam Bani
Sector Economist, Commercial Real Estate & Public Sector (Netherlands)
mirjam.bani@ing.com

Timothy Rahill
Credit Strategist
timothy.rahill@ing.com

Leszek Kasek
Senior Economist, Poland
leszek.kasek@ing.pl

Oleksiy Soroka, CFA
Senior High Yield Credit Strategist
oleksiy.soroka@ing.com

Antoine Bouvet
Head of European Rates Strategy
antoine.bouvet@ing.com

Jeroen van den Broek
Global Head of Sector Research
jeroen.van.den.broek@ing.com

Edse Dantuma
Senior Sector Economist, Industry and Healthcare
edse.dantuma@ing.com

Francesco Pesole
FX Strategist
francesco.pesole@ing.com

Rico Luman
Senior Sector Economist, Transport and Logistics
Rico.Luman@ing.com

Jurjen Witteveen
Sector Economist
jurjen.witteveen@ing.com

Dmitry Dolgin

Chief Economist, CIS
dmitry.dolgin@ing.de

Nicholas Mapa
Senior Economist, Philippines
nicholas.antonio.mapa@asia.ing.com

Egor Fedorov
Senior Credit Analyst
egor.fedorov@ing.com

Sebastian Franke
Consumer Economist
sebastian.franke@ing.de

Gerben Hieminga
Senior Sector Economist, Energy
gerben.hieminga@ing.com

Nadège Tillier
Head of Corporates Sector Strategy
nadege.tillier@ing.com

Charlotte de Montpellier
Senior Economist, France and Switzerland
charlotte.de.montpellier@ing.com

Laura Straeter
Behavioural Scientist
+31(0)611172684
laura.Straeter@ing.com

Valentin Tataru
Chief Economist, Romania
valentin.tataru@ing.com

James Smith
Developed Markets Economist, UK
james.smith@ing.com

Suvi Platerink Kosonen
Senior Sector Strategist, Financials
suvi.platerink-kosonen@ing.com

Thijs Geijer
Senior Sector Economist, Food & Agri
thijs.geijer@ing.com

Maurice van Sante

Senior Economist Construction & Team Lead Sectors

maurice.van.sante@ing.com

Marcel Klok

Senior Economist, Netherlands

marcel.klok@ing.com

Piotr Poplawski

Senior Economist, Poland

piotr.poplawski@ing.pl

Paolo Pizzoli

Senior Economist, Italy, Greece

paolo.pizzoli@ing.com

Marieke Blom

Chief Economist and Global Head of Research

marieke.blom@ing.com

Raoul Leering

Senior Macro Economist

raoul.leering@ing.com

Maarten Leen

Head of Global IFRS9 ME Scenarios

maarten.leen@ing.com

Maureen Schuller

Head of Financials Sector Strategy

Maureen.Schuller@ing.com

Warren Patterson

Head of Commodities Strategy

Warren.Patterson@asia.ing.com

Rafal Benecki

Chief Economist, Poland

rafal.benecki@ing.pl

Philippe Ledent

Senior Economist, Belgium, Luxembourg

philippe.ledent@ing.com

Peter Virovacz

Senior Economist, Hungary

peter.virovacz@ing.com

Inga Fechner

Senior Economist, Germany, Global Trade

inga.fechner@ing.de

Dimitry Fleming

Senior Data Analyst, Netherlands

Dimitry.Fleming@ing.com

Ciprian Dascalu

Chief Economist, Romania

+40 31 406 8990

ciprian.dascalu@ing.com

Muhammet Mercan

Chief Economist, Turkey

muhammet.mercan@ingbank.com.tr

Iris Pang

Chief Economist, Greater China

iris.pang@asia.ing.com

Sophie Freeman

Writer, Group Research

+44 20 7767 6209

Sophie.Freeman@uk.ing.com

Padhraic Garvey, CFA

Regional Head of Research, Americas

padhraic.garvey@ing.com

James Knightley

Chief International Economist, US

james.knightley@ing.com

Tim Condon

Asia Chief Economist

+65 6232-6020

Martin van Vliet

Senior Interest Rate Strategist

+31 20 563 8801

martin.van.vliet@ing.com

Karol Pogorzelski

Senior Economist, Poland

Karol.Pogorzelski@ing.pl

Carsten Brzeski

Global Head of Macro
carsten.brzeski@ing.de

Viraj Patel
Foreign Exchange Strategist
+44 20 7767 6405
viraj.patel@ing.com

Owen Thomas
Global Head of Editorial Content
+44 (0) 207 767 5331
owen.thomas@ing.com

Bert Colijn
Chief Economist, Netherlands
bert.colijn@ing.com

Peter Vanden Houte
Chief Economist, Belgium, Luxembourg, Eurozone
peter.vandenhoute@ing.com

Benjamin Schroeder
Senior Rates Strategist
benjamin.schroeder@ing.com

Chris Turner
Global Head of Markets and Regional Head of Research for UK & CEE
chris.turner@ing.com

Gustavo Rangel
Chief Economist, LATAM
+1 646 424 6464
gustavo.rangel@ing.com

Carlo Cocuzzo
Economist, Digital Finance
+44 20 7767 5306
carlo.cocuzzo@ing.com