

Asia week ahead: Lots of Chinese and Indian data

Data out from China next week should show the third-quarter is off on a firmer start, but unlike China, the economic slump in India seems to be far from over and the data will only confirm that



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➔ China: More momentum

China's July data pipeline started this week and will continue throughout next week with figures on industrial production, fixed investment, retail sales, consumer and home price inflation, and monetary and lending indicators.

We think most indicators will post better readings than they did in June, suggesting that the third

quarter is off on a firmer start.

➔ India: Not looking any better

Unlike China, the economic slump in India seems to be far from over, while resurgent inflation has closed the door on central bank monetary easing this week. We don't think forthcoming data will alter this either.

We see July CPI inflation to be steady above the Reserve Bank of India's 6% policy limit. Food remained a dominant inflation driver but high utility and transport costs also contributed. Real economic activity may have seen some pick up in recent months following the relaxation of the Covid-19 lockdowns, though it still remains way below the level that was seen just a year ago, as will be reflected by persistently big declines in exports and manufacturing.

➔ Malaysia: The worst may be over

Malaysia's 2Q20 GDP is out next week too. We forecast an 8.3% year-on-year contraction - the steepest since the 1998 Asian crisis. We think markets have almost become indifferent to downside GDP growth surprises from around the region and they are unlikely to be perturbed if Malaysia's growth numbers follow a similar path.

With key drivers of exports and tourism missing, the negative GDP trend will remain over the second half of the year. And, with inflation continuing to be negative, the doors remain open for some more monetary easing from the central bank.

➔ Rest of Asia: Looks pretty slow

Other things on the calendar include July labour report in Australia, a central bank meeting in New Zealand, a couple of activity releases in Japan, and revised 2Q GDP in Singapore.

We share the consensus view of a sharp slowdown in Australia's jobs growth (ING forecast 62.5k vs. 210.8k in June). There is unlikely to be much happening at New Zealand's central bank meeting with rates remaining on hold.

Singapore's 2Q GDP might as well go unnoticed despite a likely downward revision from the -12.6% YoY first print on the back of weak June manufacturing.

Asia Economic Calendar

Country	Time	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 10 August					
China	0230	Jul PPI (YoY%)	-3.6	-2.5	-3.0
	0230	Jul CPI (YoY%)	2.7	2.6	2.5
		- Jul Money supply (M2) (YoY%)	11.1	11.2	11.1
		- Jul Aggregate finance (Yuan bn)	2799		3430
		- Jul Financial institution loans (Yuan bn)	1317		1810
Tuesday 11 August					
India	1300	Jun Industrial production (YoY%)	-18.0	-17.5	-34.7
Singapore	0100	2Q F GDP (Q) (YoY%)	-13.2	-	-12.6
	0100	2Q F GDP (QoQ Annualised %)	-42.9	-	-41.2
Wednesday 12 August					
India		- Jul Trade deficit (US\$bn)	-465.0	-	790.0
		- Jul Exports (YoY%)	-17.0	-	-12.4
		- Jul Imports (YoY%)	-45.0	-	-47.6
South Korea	0000	Jul Unemployment rate (% SA)	-	-	4.3
Thursday 13 August					
India	1300	Jul CPI (YoY%)	6.1	-	6.1
Friday 14 August					
China	0230	Jul New home prices (YoY%)	5.0	-	4.9
	0300	Jul Industrial Production (YoY%)	5.1	5.1	4.8
	0300	Jul Retail Sales (YoY%)	-2.0	0.2	-1.8
	0300	Jul Fixed asset investment (YTD, YoY%)	-0.1	-1.6	-3.1
India	0730	Jul WPI (YoY%)	-1.3	-	-1.8
Hong Kong	0930	2Q F GDP (Q) (YoY%)	-9.0	-	-9.0
	0930	2Q F GDP (Q) (QoQ% SA)	-	-	-0.1
Malaysia	0500	2Q GDP (YoY%)	-8.3	-	0.7
	0500	2Q Current account (Q) (MYR bn)	2800.0	-	9500.0
	0500	2Q GDP (Q) (QoQ% SA)	-7.7	-	-2.0

Source: ING, Bloomberg, *GMT

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