

Asia week ahead: China data releases and trade reports up ahead

Next week features several reports out of China, regional trade data and a central bank decision



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Flurry of data reports out of China

A flurry of data reports from China are due on Monday, including first quarter GDP, industrial production, retail sales and fixed asset investments. We don't expect the full impact of the current lockdown in Shanghai will be reflected in this set of March data. However, we do expect retail sales to be in contraction on a yearly basis.

On 20 April, the Loan Prime rate is scheduled for release. It is highly expected that the loan prime rate will be trimmed by 10bps as authorities bank on the easing of monetary policy to help drive the economic recovery from Covid.

Trade reports from the region

In the coming week, a number of trade figures from the region will be published, and will likely showcase the impact of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Indonesia is scheduled to release trade data on 18 April and we expect both exports and imports to sustain double-digit gains. Indonesia's export sector benefits from the pickup in commodity prices, however imports are also likely to

bloat given the country's reliance on imported crude oil. Indonesia's overall trade balance should remain in surplus, although we do expect this to narrow.

Japan trade data will be released next week, and the overall balance of trade is expected to widen its deficit. Given import price surges in energy and other commodities, import growth should outpace the growth of exports.

Korea's early trade report will be out on 21 April. We expect that IT and petrochemical exports will continue to be strong, while weakness in auto and machinery exports will deepen. It will be worth closely monitoring this data point to monitor how the Ukraine war and China lockdowns are impacting regional/global trade in real time.

Lastly, Singapore's March non-oil domestic exports are set to reverse into contraction, largely due to base effects but we cannot rule out the impact of the conflict on global demand.

Bank Indonesia to shift hawkish?

Bank Indonesia (BI) has kept policy rates at accommodative levels to support the economy's recovery from the fallout from Covid. BI Governor Perry Warjiyo hinted that he would consider tightening policy should core inflation become a problem. With recent inflation reports showing a pickup both in headline and core inflation, we can expect Warjiyo to signal a potential rate hike in the near term, contingent on further acceleration in price pressures.

Asia Economic Calendar

Country	Time	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 18 April					
China	0300	Q1 GDP (YoY%)	2.3		4.0
	0300	Mar Retail Sales (YoY%)	-6.0		1.7
	0300	Mar Industrial Output (YoY%)	4.0		7.5
	300	Mar Fixed Asset Investments (YTD YoY%)	9.0		12.2
Indonesia	0500	Mar Imports Growth (YoY%)	19.9		25.4
	0500	Mar Exports Growth (YoY%)	21.1		34.1
	0500	Mar Trade Balance (Bln of \$)	2.1		3.8
Tuesday 19 April					
Japan	0050	Mar Trade Balance Total Yen	-		-668
	0050	Mar Imports (YoY%)	-		34.0
	0050	Mar Exports (YoY%)	-		19.1
Indonesia	-	Apr 7-Day Reverse Repo	3.5		3.5
Wednesday 20 April					
China	0215	Apr Loan Prime Rate 5Y	4.6		4.6
	0215	Apr Loan Prime Rate 1Y	3.6		3.7
Taiwan		Export orders (YoY%)	12.4		21.1
Thursday 21 April					
Japan	0030	Mar CPI (YoY%)	-		0.9
Australia	0230	Mar Reserve Assets Total	-		82768
	0000	Apr Composite PMI Flash	55.5		55.1
	0000	Apr Services PMI Flash	56.1		55.6
	0000	Apr Manufacturing PMI Flash	58.1		57.7
Friday 22 April					
Taiwan	0900	Mar Unemployment rate (%)	3.8		3.7

Source: Refinitiv, ING, *GMT

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