

Asia week ahead: Chinese holiday may reduce market volatility

Plenty of activity data and central bank meetings should keep markets busy, though the National Day Golden Week holiday in China may provide some respite from recent elevated volatility



Source: Shutterstock

➔ Manufacturing data dominates

The usual end- and start-of-the-month activity releases dominate the calendar at the crossover from September to October and a typical focus around this time is on purchasing manager indices.

As we see from advance September PMI releases in developed countries, manufacturing has likely gained some more traction while services continued to suffer.

China's PMIs are usually more market-moving than those in the rest of Asia. We expect a slightly higher manufacturing index but a lower services PMI than August readings, though both indices should stay comfortably in growth territory. Meanwhile, China's industrial profits data for August due over the weekend will be another clue to manufacturing recovery.

Judging from upbeat August exports and industrial production (up 9.5% YoY and 5.6% YoY, respectively), profits growth remain strong. If so, firms should continue to expand production, in our view. But, as they gear up for the long National Day holiday (1-8 October), the local markets might overlook this data flow.

Korea's export data for September - the first from the region, will be a leading indicator for the rest of Asia's export recovery. The upturn of the semiconductor cycle bodes well for Asia's electronics heavyweights, such as Korea, and the same goes for Malaysia, which reports August trade data next week.

Hong Kong's retail sales and Indonesia's CPI inflation will tell us more about the consumption recovery, as high unemployment continues to weigh on consumer spending.

Central bank policy non-events

The central banks of India and the Philippines will meet next week and announce their decisions on Thursday, 1 October.

We believe the Reserve Bank of India's easing cycle has ended. With inflation running well above the 6% policy limit, the central bank has no scope to ease policy any further. The RBI paused after 115bp in rate cuts from March to May. This, together with rampant liquidity measures, has pushed the real interest rate to negative and flooded the system with liquidity. Yet, bank lending growth remains on a steady downward grind. As such, additional stimulus isn't going to be of much use for the economy. Confidence has to return first.

Likewise for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, whose chief Benjamin Diokno sees the monetary accommodation provided so far, including a total of 175bp of policy rate cuts this year, as sufficient for the next two years.

Asia Economic Calendar

Country	Time	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Sunday 27 September					
China	0230	Aug Industrial profits (YTD, YoY%)	13.9	-	19.6
Monday 28 September					
Malaysia	0500	Aug Exports (YoY%)	6.5	-	3.1
	0500	Aug Imports (YoY%)	-6	-	-8.7
	0500	Aug Trade balance (RM bn)	20.6	-	25.2
South Korea	2200	Oct BOK Business Survey Index, mfg	-	-	68.0
	2200	Oct BOK Business Survey Index, non-mfg	-	-	69.0
Tuesday 29 September					
South Korea	0000	Aug Industrial production (MoM/YoY%)	-/-	-/-	1.6/-2.5
Wednesday 30 September					
China	0200	Sep Manufacturing PMI	51.4	51.5	51.0
	0200	Sep Non-manufacturing PMI	54.8	-	55.2
	0245	Sep Caixin Manufacturing PMI	53.3	53.0	53.1
India	-	Aug Fiscal deficit (INR crore)	-	-	158986
Hong Kong	0930	Aug Retail sales value (YoY%)	-20.1	-22.8	-23.1
	0930	Aug Retail sales volume (YoY%)	-21	-	-23.9
Thailand	0430	Aug Manufacturing index (YoY%)	-10.6	-	-14.7
Thursday 1 October					
India	0600	Sep Nikkei Manufacturing PMI	-	-	52
	0715	RBI policy decision (repo rate, %)	4	4	4
Indonesia	0500	Sep CPI core (YoY%)	-	-	2.03
	0500	Sep CPI (YoY%)	1.4	-	1.32
Philippines	0130	Sep Nikkei Manufacturing PMI	48.9	-	47.3
	0900	Overnight Borrowing Rate	2.25	-	2.25
South Korea	0100	Sep Imports (YoY%)	-	-	-15.8
	0100	Sep Exports (YoY%)	-	-	-10.1
	0100	Sep Trade balance (US\$mn)	-	-	3838
Friday 2 October					
Singapore	1400	Sep Purchasing Managers Index	-	-	50.1

Source: ING, Bloomberg, *GMT