

Asia Week Ahead: BoJ meeting and inflation readings from Australia, Japan and Singapore

Next week features inflation readings from Australia and Indonesia plus several reports from China, Japan and Korea. The Bank of Japan also meets to discuss policy



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Quiet week for greater China

It looks like a relatively quiet week ahead for China after some major releases this week. The People's Bank of China's loan prime rate update will be on Monday. Given the recent stronger-

than-expected economic data, ongoing efforts to stabilise the yuan, and the earlier MLF decision, we expect one-year and five-year rates to remain unchanged at 3.45% and 3.95%, respectively.

In Taiwan, export orders and industrial production data will be published on Tuesday. We expect export order growth to recover to positive territory after a sharp drop in February. Separately, Hong Kong will publish its inflation and trade data on Tuesday and Thursday.

Australia CPI inflation

Australia's April CPI index likely rose by 0.5% month-on-month. This will leave annual inflation at 3.4% for a fourth consecutive month, just above the Reserve Bank of Australia's 2-3% inflation target. Markets have been scaling back their bets on RBA cuts this year, but this could encourage easing expectations at a time when US Federal Reserve rate cut expectations are being scaled back.

Flurry of data from Japan: PMI, Tokyo CPI, and the BoJ meeting

We believe that strong wage negotiations and solid demand for IT and automobiles are likely to push up the upcoming PMI numbers, supporting our view of a cyclical recovery in the near term.

Tokyo CPI should remain choppy. Headline inflation is likely to cool to low 2.0% year-over-year mainly due to last year's high base though we expect it to rebound again in May. Slower CPI inflation could give the Bank room to pause on its decision to raise rates for a few more months.

We expect the BoJ to keep its policy target unchanged, but the market's focus should be on its quarterly outlook report. Given higher inflation in the first quarter, stronger-than-expected wage growth, and a weaker-than-expected yen, we expect the inflation outlook to be revised up, while car-related production disruptions could lead to a slight downward revision to growth. We believe that the BoJ's rate hike expectations will grow as the year progresses.

India's PMI could pullback

India's April manufacturing PMI is due a slight statistical pullback from the current level of 59.1 after three months of gains, but this doesn't merit any concern and should still be consistent with strong growth. We expect the service sector PMI to remain close to the 61.2 level recorded for March.

Korea: CSI, BSI, and GDP

This week, we will have survey data from Korea. These surveys were conducted before the Iran/Israel dispute and the re-acceleration of the Korean won's depreciation, so the results do not reflect recent events. With weak asset markets and fresh food and gasoline prices rising, consumer confidence is likely to slide again but the CSI index may remain above the neutral level.

Meanwhile, we expect manufacturing sentiment to rise on the back of strong global demand for IT, but non-manufacturing sentiment is likely to weaken as domestic demand conditions remain sluggish. This trend will be well echoed in the 1Q24 GDP data. We expect GDP growth to moderate only marginally from 0.6% quarter-on-quarter (seasonally-adjusted) in 4Q23 to 0.5% in 1Q24. Exports should remain a growth driver, but construction and investment may drag down overall growth.

Singapore inflation

Singapore reports March inflation next week. We expect core inflation to stay elevated at 3.5% YoY, although this will be slightly slower than last month's 3.6%. This should keep the central bank on notice and we continue to expect the Bank to extend its pause with any tweaks only likely possible by the October meeting.

Key events in Asia next week

Country	Time (GMT+8)	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 22 April					
Australia	0000	Apr Manufacturing PMI Flash	-		47.3
	0000	Apr Services PMI Flash	-		54.4
	0000	Apr Composite PMI Flash	-		53.3
Japan	0030	Apr Manufacturing PMI Flash	49		48.2
	0030	Apr Services PMI Flash	54.5		54.1
	0030	Apr Composite PMI Flash	52		51.7
China	0215	Apr Loan Prime Rate 1Y	3.45		3.45
	0215	Apr Loan Prime Rate 5Y	3.95		3.95
Indonesia	0500	Mar Imports Growth (YoY%)	1.9		15.84
	0500	Mar Trade Balance (\$ Bln)	1057		0.87
	0500	Mar Exports Growth (YoY%)	-6.3		-9.45
Taiwan	0900	Mar Unemployment rate (%)	-		3.4
Tuesday 23 April					
Singapore	0600	Mar Core CPI (YoY%)	3.5		3.6
	0600	Mar CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	0.2/3.0		1.1/3.4
Taiwan	0900	Mar Export Orders (YoY%)	2.5		-10.4
Taiwan	0900	Mar Industrial Output (YoY%)	-		-1.1
South Korea	2200	Apr BoK Consumer Sentiment Index	100		100.7
Wednesday 24 April					
Australia	0230	Q1 CPI (QoQ%/YoY%)	-/-	/	0.6/4.1
Indonesia	0800	Apr 7-Day Reverse Repo	6		6
Philippines	-	Mar Budget Balance	-		-164.7
Taiwan	0920	Mar Money Supply - M2 (YoY%)	-		5.59
South Korea	2200	May BOK Manufacturing BSI	76		74
Thursday 25 April					
Japan	0600	Feb Leading Indicator Revised	-		2.3
Indonesia	0500	Mar M2 Money Supply (YoY%)	-		5.3
South Korea	0000	Q1 GDP Growth (QoQ%/YoY%)	0.5/2.4	/	0.6/2.2
Friday 26 April					
Japan	0130	Tokyo CPI (YoY%)	2.2	/	2.6
	0130	Tokyo CPI Ex-Fresh Food (YoY%)	2	/	2.4
Japan		BoJ Target Rate (Upper Bound)	0.1	/	0.1
		BoJ Target Rate (Lower Bound)	0	/	0
Singapore	0600	Mar Manufacturing Output (MoM%/YoY%)	0.9/-10.7	/	14.2/3.8

Source: Refinitiv, ING

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