

Asia week ahead: Regional inflation and GDP reports out next week

Inflation readings and growth reports are the highlights for the coming week



Inflation readings from Australia, Tokyo and Singapore

Following Australia's recent strong labour report, 2Q22 CPI will need to come in soft to avoid another 50bp rate hike by the Reserve Bank of Australia at its 2 August meeting. A stronger inflation figure could bring 75bp hikes into play, but with the wage cost index for 2Q still to come later in August, we believe the RBA can take its time, especially as the Bank meets monthly. The RBA may be less pressured to deliver bigger increments at each meeting than say the US Federal Reserve, which meets less frequently.

We anticipate the 2Q CPI figure rising 1.2% quarter-on-quarter from the previous quarter (a bit less than the 1.9% QoQ gain in 1Q22) but still taking the year-on-year inflation rate to 5.5%-5.6%, up from 5.1% in 1Q22.

Singapore also reports inflation next week and we expect headline inflation to accelerate further,

settling at 5.9% for the month of June. The potent mix of supply side pressures and resurgent demand are expected to drive prices higher which should also be reflected in a higher core inflation reading. Faster inflation could keep the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) on notice with further tightening a possibility despite several tightening moves by MAS to date.

Meanwhile, Tokyo CPI inflation is likely to stabilise as commodity prices fell mainly due to the government's subsidy programme.

Growth momentum slowing in Korea and Taiwan

The coming week also features growth reports, with Korea's 2Q GDP expected to decelerate from the first quarter. The contribution from net exports likely turned negative while manufacturing activity worsened during the quarter due to supply chain disruptions. However, we believe that the reopening of the economy and fiscal support, which began in early June, should partially offset the slowdown.

Taiwan's 2Q GDP should also be slower than the first quarter due to logistical disruptions from Mainland China's lockdowns from March to May. Weaker consumption demand for handsets in Mainland China could further derail the growth of semiconductor manufacturing, which is a key support to the economy. As such, industrial production for June should reflect growth similar to that in May of roughly 4%-5%, with potential for a downside surprise.

India's fiscal deficit

The May fiscal deficit for India moved quite a bit higher than for the same month last year, with pressure on government finances to absorb high prices of global commodities through subsidies and reduced excise revenues. We think the June numbers may also overshoot what would be consistent with the government's 6.4% fiscal deficit target for FY22/23.

Other important releases

Other important data releases next week include China's industrial profits, which should show a small contraction on a yearly basis in June. However, the continuous contraction in profits implies that the number of jobs offered by manufacturing industries should be fewer than last year. This would put pressure on consumer purchasing power and therefore demand for goods, which will in turn affect production activity further.

Japan's June industrial production is likely to increase after having contracted for the past two months amid better external demand conditions coupled with a modest pickup in retail sales.

Lastly, Korea reports a slew of reports covering both soft and hard data. Soft data, including consumer and business sentiment, is expected to remain soft. The Bank of Korea's recent 50bp rate hike is believed to have dampened consumer sentiment due to the burden of household debt and has raised concern about future investment.

Meanwhile, Korea's hard activity data should improve. Industrial production is expected to bounce, led by the normalisation of production activity in the automobile sector while services are expected to continue to improve thanks to the reopening of the economy.

Asia Economic Calendar

Country	Time Data/event	ING Survey	Prev.
Monday 25 July			
Singapore	0600 Jun Core CPI (YoY%)	4.4	3.6
	0600 Jun CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	-15.9	1.0/5.6
Taiwan	0900 Jun Industrial Output (YoY%)	4.6	4.5
	0920 Jun Money Supply - M2 (YoY%)	7.5	7.9
Tuesday 26 July			
Singapore	0600 Jun Manufacturing Output (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-	10.9/13.8
South Korea	0000 Q2 GDP Growth (QoQ%/YoY%)	0.3/2.5	0.6/3.0
	2200 Jul BoK Consumer Sentiment Index	95.0	96.4
Wednesday 27 July			
Australia	0230 Q2 CPI (QoQ%/YoY%)	1.2/5.5	2.1/5.1
China	0230 Jun Industrial Profit (YoY%)	-3.0	-6.5
South Korea	2200 Aug BOK Manufacturing BSI	80	82
Thursday 28 July			
Singapore	0330 Q2 Unemployment Rate Prelim SA	-	2.2
Friday 29 July			
Japan	0030 Jun Unemployment Rate	2.6	2.6
	0030 Jul Tokyo CPI (YoY %)	2.2	2.3
	0050 Jun Industrial O/P Prelim (MoM%/YoY%)	5.1/-6.0	-7.5/-4.7
	0050 Jun Retail Sales (YoY%)	3.4	3.7
South Korea	0000 Jun Industrial Output (MoM%/YoY%)	3.0/7.0	0.1/7.3
Taiwan	0900 Q2 GDP (YoY%) Prelim	3.00	3.14
India	1100 Fiscal Deficit (INR bn)	2356.71	1290.75

Source: Refinitiv, ING

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