

Asia week ahead: Thailand likely to join the easing buzz

Yet another busy week ahead with a couple more central bank meetings lined up and a host of the usual month-end economic releases from across Asia. Investor anxiety about trade may grow ahead of the Trump-Xi meeting, which takes place alongside the G20 leaders' gathering



Source: Shutterstock

 **RBNZ to stay on hold**

While it is unlikely the RBNZ will drop its easing bias anytime soon, it's in no rush to deliver a second rate cut. Besides, the broadly tight labour market may imply a low probability of inflation falling further away from the 2% target. – ING Asia Chief Economist, Rob Carnell

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) will review its monetary policy and announce a decision on Wednesday, 26 June. The RBNZ just eased policy at the previous meeting in May, cutting the cash rate by 25 basis points to 1.50%, the first cut after a long hiatus in the easing cycle, which started four years ago. We don't anticipate a back-to-back cut, with RBNZ's Assistant Governor Christian Hawkesby ruling out another cut just yet. However, with the balance of risks skewed towards economic weakness, our house view remains one more 25bp cut in 3Q19.

➔ BoT to join easing buzz

Thailand's central bank, the Bank of Thailand (BoT), also announces its policy decision on 26 June.

A month ago, Thailand's dismal 1Q GDP report, which showed growth falling to a four-year low of 2.8%, forced us to revise our BoT policy view from no change this year to a 25 basis point rate cut within the current quarter. This puts us outside the consensus, which is still solidly behind a stable policy path this year.

However, earlier this week BoT policymaker Somchai Jitsuchon signalled that policy would be data-dependent, with fallout from the US-China trade war on the local economy leaving the bank "open to all possibilities". This being the case, it's hard to imagine the BoT ignoring the 1Q GDP data, while activity data for the second quarter doesn't offer much hope that the worst is over. The time is coming for a BoT rate cut, if only to reverse the 25bp rate hike from late-2018.

➔ Disappointing data elsewhere in Asia

A raft of activity data is expected to reinforce the downside growth risk for Asian economies.

China's industrial profit figures for May are expected to show a steeper contraction, by over 10% year-on-year, according to our Greater China economist Iris Pang (-3.7% in April). This follows the slowest industrial production growth of 5% YoY in May since the global financial crisis.

May manufacturing releases from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and Thailand will provide a good sense of 2Q19 GDP growth of these economies. As with the BoT, most other Asian central banks are gauging the impact of the trade war in determining their policy course. Indonesia's trade and the Philippines' government budget data are important from the same perspective.

➔ And, the climax of the week will be...

The global market angst about trade may increase in the run-up to the Xi-Trump meeting taking place alongside the G20 leaders gathering in Osaka at the end of the week (28-29 June). That's something we would rather save for this space in the next week. But we have already

thought about the title. How about 'Make or Break'?

Asia Economic Calendar

Country	Time*	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 24 June					
Indonesia	0500	May Exports (YoY%)	-	-14.1	-13.1
	0500	May Imports (YoY%)	-	-14.5	-6.6
	0500	May Trade balance (US\$mn)	-	-1379	-2501.9
Singapore	0600	May CPI (YoY%)	0.6	0.8	0.8
	0600	May CPI core (YoY%)	1.3	1.4	1.3
Taiwan	0900	May Industrial production (YoY%)	-5.0	-	1.0
South Korea	2200	Jun BOK Consumer Sentiment Index	99.1	-	97.9
Tuesday 25 June					
Hong Kong	0915	May Exports (YoY%)	-10.1	-	-2.6
	0915	May Imports (YoY%)	-11.8	-	-5.5
	0915	May Trade balance (HK\$bn)	-32.0	-	-35.1
Philippines	-	May Budget balance (PHP bn)	-81.0	-	86.9
Wednesday 26 June					
Malaysia	0500	May CPI (YoY%)	0.3	-	0.2
Singapore	0600	May Industrial production (MoM/YoY%)	2.0/0.0	-/-	2.4/0.1
Thailand	0805	Benchmark Interest Rate	1.50	-	1.75
South Korea	2200	Jul BOK Business Survey Index, mfg	77	-	75.0
	2200	Jul BOK Business Survey Index, non-mfg	74	-	72.0
Thursday 27 June					
China	0230	May Industrial profits (YTD, YoY%)	-10.2	-	-3.7
Thailand	-	May Manufacturing index (YoY%)	-1.5	-	2.0
Friday 28 June					
India	-	May Fiscal deficit (INR core)	-	-	-206132
South Korea	0000	May Industrial production (MoM)	0.9/0.7	-	-0.1/1.7
Thailand	0830	May Current account (US\$bn)	1.00	-	1.8

Source: ING, Bloomberg, *GMT

Author

Amrita Naik Nimbalkar

Junior Economist, Global Macro

amrita.naik.nimbalkar@ing.com

Mateusz Sutowicz

Senior Economist, Poland

mateusz.sutowicz@ing.pl

Alissa Lefebvre

Economist

alissa.lefebvre@ing.com

Deepali Bhargava

Regional Head of Research, Asia-Pacific

Deepali.Bhargava@ing.com

Ruben Dewitte

Economist

+32495364780

ruben.dewitte@ing.com

Kinga Havasi

Economic research trainee

kinga.havasi@ing.com

Marten van Garderen

Consumer Economist, Netherlands

marten.van.garderen@ing.com

David Havrlant

Chief Economist, Czech Republic

420 770 321 486

david.havrlant@ing.com

Sander Burgers

Senior Economist, Dutch Housing

sander.burgers@ing.com

Lynn Song

Chief Economist, Greater China

lynn.song@asia.ing.com

Michiel Tukker

Senior European Rates Strategist

michiel.tukker@ing.com

Michal Rubaszek

Senior Economist, Poland

michal.rubaszek@ing.pl

This is a test author

Stefan Posea

Economist, Romania

tiberiu-stefan.posea@ing.com

Marine Leleux

Sector Strategist, Financials

marine.leleux2@ing.com

Jesse Norcross

Senior Sector Strategist, Real Estate

jesse.norcross@ing.com

Teise Stellema

Research Assistant, Energy Transition

teise.stellema@ing.com

Diederik Stadig

Sector Economist, TMT & Healthcare

diederik.stadig@ing.com

Diogo Gouveia

Sector Economist

diogo.duarte.vieira.de.gouveia@ing.com

Marine Leleux

Sector Strategist, Financials

marine.leleux2@ing.com

Ewa Manthey

Commodities Strategist

ewa.manthey@ing.com

ING Analysts

James Wilson

EM Sovereign Strategist

James.wilson@ing.com

Sophie Smith

Digital Editor

sophie.smith@ing.com

Frantisek Taborsky

EMEA FX & FI Strategist

frantisek.taborsky@ing.com

Adam Antoniak

Senior Economist, Poland

adam.antoniak@ing.pl

Min Joo Kang

Senior Economist, South Korea and Japan

min.joo.kang@asia.ing.com

Coco Zhang

ESG Research

coco.zhang@ing.com

Jan Frederik Slijkerman

Senior Sector Strategist, TMT

jan.frederik.slijkerman@ing.com

Katinka Jongkind

Senior Economist, Services and Leisure

Katinka.Jongkind@ing.com

Marina Le Blanc

Sector Strategist, Financials

Marina.Le.Blanc@ing.com

Samuel Abettan

Junior Economist

samuel.abettan@ing.com

Franziska Biehl

Senior Economist, Germany

Franziska.Marie.Biehl@ing.de

Rebecca Byrne

Senior Editor and Supervisory Analyst

rebecca.byrne@ing.com

Mirjam Bani

Sector Economist, Commercial Real Estate & Public Sector (Netherlands)

mirjam.bani@ing.com

Timothy Rahill

Credit Strategist

timothy.rahill@ing.com

Leszek Kasek

Senior Economist, Poland

leszek.kasek@ing.pl

Oleksiy Soroka, CFA

Senior High Yield Credit Strategist

oleksiy.soroka@ing.com

Antoine Bouvet

Head of European Rates Strategy

antoine.bouvet@ing.com

Jeroen van den Broek

Global Head of Sector Research

jeroen.van.den.broek@ing.com

Edse Dantuma

Senior Sector Economist, Industry and Healthcare

edse.dantuma@ing.com

Francesco Pesole

FX Strategist

francesco.pesole@ing.com

Rico Luman

Senior Sector Economist, Transport and Logistics

Rico.Luman@ing.com

Jurjen Witteveen

Sector Economist

jurjen.witteveen@ing.com

Dmitry Dolgin

Chief Economist, CIS

dmitry.dolgin@ing.de

Nicholas Mapa

Senior Economist, Philippines

nicholas.antonio.mapa@asia.ing.com

Egor Fedorov

Senior Credit Analyst

egor.fedorov@ing.com

Sebastian Franke

Consumer Economist

sebastian.franke@ing.de

Gerben Hieminga

Senior Sector Economist, Energy

gerben.hieminga@ing.com

Nadège Tillier

Head of Corporates Sector Strategy

nadege.tillier@ing.com

Charlotte de Montpellier

Senior Economist, France and Switzerland

charlotte.de.montpellier@ing.com

Laura Straeter

Behavioural Scientist

+31(0)611172684

laura.Straeter@ing.com

Valentin Tataru

Chief Economist, Romania

valentin.tataru@ing.com

James Smith

Developed Markets Economist, UK

james.smith@ing.com

Suvi Platerink Kosonen

Senior Sector Strategist, Financials

suvi.platerink-kosonen@ing.com

Thijs Geijer

Senior Sector Economist, Food & Agri

thijs.geijer@ing.com

Maurice van Sante

Senior Economist Construction & Team Lead Sectors

maurice.van.sante@ing.com

Marcel Klok

Senior Economist, Netherlands

marcel.klok@ing.com

Piotr Poplawski

Senior Economist, Poland

piotr.poplawski@ing.pl

Paolo Pizzoli

Senior Economist, Italy, Greece

paolo.pizzoli@ing.com

Marieke Blom

Chief Economist and Global Head of Research

marieke.blom@ing.com

Raoul Leering

Senior Macro Economist

raoul.leering@ing.com

Maarten Leen

Head of Global IFRS9 ME Scenarios

maarten.leen@ing.com

Maureen Schuller

Head of Financials Sector Strategy

Maureen.Schuller@ing.com

Warren Patterson

Head of Commodities Strategy

Warren.Patterson@asia.ing.com

Rafal Benecki

Chief Economist, Poland

rafal.benecki@ing.pl

Philippe Ledent

Senior Economist, Belgium, Luxembourg

philippe.ledent@ing.com

Peter Virovacz

Senior Economist, Hungary

peter.virovacz@ing.com

Inga Fechner

Senior Economist, Germany, Global Trade

inga.fechner@ing.de

Dimitry Fleming

Senior Data Analyst, Netherlands

Dimitry.Fleming@ing.com

Ciprian Dascalu

Chief Economist, Romania

+40 31 406 8990

ciprian.dascalu@ing.com

Muhammet Mercan

Chief Economist, Turkey

muhammet.mercan@ingbank.com.tr

Iris Pang

Chief Economist, Greater China

iris.pang@asia.ing.com

Sophie Freeman

Writer, Group Research

+44 20 7767 6209

Sophie.Freeman@uk.ing.com

Padhraic Garvey, CFA

Regional Head of Research, Americas

padhraic.garvey@ing.com

James Knightley

Chief International Economist, US

james.knightley@ing.com

Tim Condon

Asia Chief Economist

+65 6232-6020

Martin van Vliet

Senior Interest Rate Strategist

+31 20 563 8801

martin.van.vliet@ing.com

Karol Pogorzelski

Senior Economist, Poland

Karol.Pogorzelski@ing.pl

Carsten Brzeski

Global Head of Macro

carsten.brzeski@ing.de

Viraj Patel

Foreign Exchange Strategist

+44 20 7767 6405

viraj.patel@ing.com

Owen Thomas

Global Head of Editorial Content

+44 (0) 207 767 5331

owen.thomas@ing.com

Bert Colijn

Chief Economist, Netherlands

bert.colijn@ing.com

Peter Vanden Houte

Chief Economist, Belgium, Luxembourg, Eurozone

peter.vandenhoute@ing.com

Benjamin Schroeder

Senior Rates Strategist

benjamin.schroeder@ing.com

Chris Turner

Global Head of Markets and Regional Head of Research for UK & CEE

chris.turner@ing.com

Gustavo Rangel

Chief Economist, LATAM

+1 646 424 6464

gustavo.rangel@ing.com

Carlo Cocuzzo

Economist, Digital Finance

+44 20 7767 5306

carlo.cocuzzo@ing.com