Asia week ahead: Who's next to fall into a recession?

Korea's 2Q GDP figure will be the highlight of next week in Asia alongside all the inflation, manufacturing and trade releases in a jammed-pack week ahead

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Will Korea be next to fall into a recession?

China might have technically averted a recession, despite falling retail sales and fixed-asset investment but Singapore wasn't as lucky as it plunged into its worst-ever recession this week.

Korea seems to be next in line as it reports 2Q GDP next week. Exports, imports, manufacturing and services output - everything was falling in the last quarter, while the second wave of Covid-19 outbreak kept confidence close to a record low.

Our house view of a 2.5% quarter-on-quarter (seasonally adjusted) GDP contraction follows a 1.3% fall in 1Q which should confirm a technical recession, marking the first recession since the SARS pandemic in 2003, and it's likely to be worse. Hopefully, it will also mark the bottom of the current downturn.

Heavy data calendar elsewhere

Inflation, manufacturing, and trade releases for June dominate the data flow – all reflecting weak demand and falling GDP in the region.

CPI inflation has been nil to negative in Japan, Malaysia, and Singapore, as has Korea's PPI inflation. The export contraction is running in double digits in Japan and Thailand. And, weak exports and domestic demand are weighing on manufacturing in Singapore and Taiwan, although both countries have thus far been relatively unscathed by weaknesses so far this year, with Singapore supported by pharmaceuticals and Taiwan by electronics exports.

Their June manufacturing data will help to fine-tune GDP forecast for 2Q. I in the case of Singapore, it will show the extent of a likely revision in the -12.6% YoY advance estimate of 2Q GDP growth released this week.

A slow central bank week

Nothing much is going on next week in terms of macro policymaking aside from the monthly adjustment by the People's Bank of China to its prime lending rates.

Both 1-year and 5-year PLRs have been steady at 3.85% and 4.65% respectively since 10-20 basis point cuts in April.

We expect these levels to hold next week.

Asia Economic Calendar

Country	Time	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
		Monday 20 July			
China	0230	1-year Loan Prime Rate (%)	3.85		3.85
	0230	5-year Loan Prime Rate (%)	4.65		4.65
Taiwan	0900	Jun Export orders (YoY%)	1.1	0.8	0.44
South Korea	2200	Jun PPI (YoY%)	-	-	-1.7
		Tuesday 21 July			
Korea	0000	Jun PPI (YoY%)	-1.4	-	-1.7
Hong Kong	0915	Jun CPI (YoY%)	1.0	-	1.5
		Wednesday 22 July			
Malaysia	0500	Jun CPI (YoY%)	-2.4	-	-2.9
	0800	Jul 15 Forex reserves- Month end (US$bn)	-	-	103.4
Philippines	-	Jun Budget balance (PHP bn)	-82.4	-	-202.1
Taiwan	0900	Jun Unemployment rate (%)	4.2	-	4.2
Thailand	0430	Jun Exports (Cust est, YoY%)	-	-	-22.5
	0430	Jun Imports (Cust est, YoY%)	-	-	-34.4
	0430	Jun Trade balance (Cust est, US$m)	3536	-	2695
		Thursday 23 July			
Singapore	0600	Jun CPI (YoY%)	-0.6	-	-0.8
	0600	Jun CPI core (YoY%)	-0.3	-	-0.2
Taiwan	0900	Jun Industrial production (YoY%)	3.4	-	1.51
South Korea	0000	2Q P GDP (YoY%)	-2.1	-	1.4
	0000	2Q P GDP (QoQ%)	-2.5	-	-1.3
		Friday 24 July			
Singapore	0600	Jun Industrial production (MoM/YoY%)	4.4/-4.6	-/-	-16.5/-7.4
Taiwan	0920	Jun Money supply (M2) (YoY%)	4.2	-	4.18

Source: ING, Bloomberg, *GMT

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