

Key events in developed markets and EMEA next week

Activity data dominates next week's economic calendar, some of which will help determine what happens at the forthcoming round of central bank meetings in late April and early May



US: Watch Fed commentary ahead of pre-meeting quiet period

The market remains split on whether the Federal Reserve will hike interest rates on 3 May. Core inflation continues to run too hot for the Fed's liking, but the minutes of the March FOMC meeting showed that officials acknowledged the risk that lending conditions will tighten in the wake of recent banking stresses and that the likelihood of a recession has increased. Nevertheless, that didn't stop officials from forecasting the fed funds target ceiling ending the year higher than it is today in their March projections.

Next week's data flow is unlikely to have much influence on the market's thinking. Instead, we expect the focus to be on individual Fed officials, who will get their last chance to air their views to the public ahead of the quiet period in the days leading up to the May FOMC meeting. We strongly suspect that if market conditions allow, the Fed will look to raise the policy rate one last time in May.

The data consists of housing numbers and some regional manufacturing surveys. The general view

is that high borrowing costs and a lack of affordability will continue to depress activity here, but the manufacturing numbers may get a bit of a lift from the China re-opening story, which has certainly boosted activity there and should further improve any lingering supply chain issues in the US. We also look for a further increase in initial jobless claims, reflecting the spike in lay-off announcements at the start of the year.

✓ Eurozone: PMIs in focus after conflicting signals on economic direction

It's survey data week again for the eurozone, which will be especially interesting given that it has been providing conflicting signals in recent months. The PMI has been very upbeat, while the European Commission survey on sentiment has shown a more cautious picture of actual growth developments. The April data should provide some more sense of direction for an economy that is still struggling with high inflation, but also experiencing some tailwinds now that supply chain problems have faded and energy prices have moderated. Also, look at the trade balance, as we expect the deficit to shrink in the coming months as gas prices are much lower than before.

✓ UK: Data to make-or-break a May rate hike

A raft of economic data due out over the next week may well decide whether the Bank of England hikes rates by another 25bp in May. So far, Bank officials have largely refused to be drawn either way, and the most recent March meeting kept the range of options wide open. Barring any big surprises next week, we expect the committee to hold rates at 4.25% in May. Here's what we're looking for:

- **Jobs/wages (Tues):** Official wage data has finally started to turn, and regular weekly pay has increased by £1 on average over the past two months of data, compared to a rate of £3-4/month through much of 2022. Something similar next week would take the 3M/3M change (ie the average of the past three months' pay level relative to the three months before that) to roughly 4.5% on an annualised basis, down from close to 8% at the tail end of last year. That would be a clear dovish signal for the Bank, though there's still an open question of how quickly wage growth will ease back even if it has finally peaked.
- **Inflation (Weds):** Headline inflation looks set to dip back into single digits next week for the first time since August, but when it comes to the BoE's focus on "persistence", it's clear that services inflation is the most relevant metric. The data here has been volatile over the past couple of months, but our best guess for next week is that we get a fractional increase in the rate of service sector inflation. The Bank of England has said it thinks it will stay broadly unchanged in the short term – and therefore we think it would take a material upside surprise to nudge the odds in favour of another rate hike in May.
- **Retail sales/PMIs (Fri):** After a stronger run so far in 2023, we're likely to see a modest pullback in retail sales, though with energy prices set to dip from the summer and consumer confidence off the lows, the worst for the retail sector is probably now behind us. Next week's PMIs are also likely to be consistent with the relatively stagnant economic backdrop being displayed in the monthly GDP figures.

Key events in developed markets

Country	Time	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 17 April					
US	1330 Apr	Empire manufacturing survey	-19	-18	-24.6
	1500 Apr	NAHB home builder sentiment	44	45	44
Eurozone	1100 Mar	Reserve Assets Total	-		1096.09
Tuesday 18 April					
US	1330 Mar	housing starts (000s)	1420	1405	1450
UK	0700 Feb	ILO Unemployment Rate	3.7		3.7
	0700 Feb	Employment Change	70		65
	0700 Feb	Average Weekly Earnings (3M/YoY%)	5.0		5.7
	0700 Feb	Earnings ex bonuses (3M/YoY%)	6.2		6.5
Italy	0900 Feb	Global Trade Balance	-		-4.194
Canada	1330 Mar	CPI Inflation (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-		0.4/5.2
	1330 Mar	CPI BoC Core (MoM%/YoY%)	-		0.5/4.7
Eurozone	1000 Feb	Total Trade Balance SA	-		-11.3
Wednesday 19 April					
US	1900	Federal Reserve Beige Book			
UK	0700 Mar	CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	0.3/9.9		1.1/10.4
Eurozone	0900 Feb	Current Account SA, EUR	-		17
	1000 Mar	CPI (YoY%)	-		5.7
Thursday 20 April					
Eurozone	1500 Apr	Consumer Confidence Flash	-19		-19.2
US	1330	Initial Jobless Claim 000s	250		239
	1330	Continue Jobless Claim 000s	1880		1810
Friday 21 April					
US	1445 Apr	S&P Global Manufacturing PMI Flash	-		49.2
	1445 Apr	S&P Global Services PMI Flash	-		52.6
	1445 Apr	S&P Global Composite Flash PMI	-		52.3
Germany	0830 Apr	S&P Global Manufacturing Flash PMI	45.1		44.7
	0830 Apr	S&P Global Service Flash PMI	51		53.7
	0830 Apr	S&P Global Composite Flash PMI	51.6		52.6
France	0815 Apr	S&P Global Composite Flash PMI	-		52.7
UK	0800 Mar	Retail Sales (MoM%/YoY%)	-0.7/-3.1		1.2/-3.5
	0930 Apr	Flash Composite PMI	51.9		52.2
	0930 Apr	Flash Manufacturing PMI	48.5		47.9
	0930 Apr	Flash Services PMI	52.5		52.9
Canada	1330 Feb	Retail Sales (MoM%)	-		1.4
Eurozone	0900 Apr	S&P Global Manufacturing Flash PMI	48		47.3
	0900 Apr	S&P Global Services Flash PMI	54		55
	0900 Apr	S&P Global Composite Flash PMI	53		53.7

Source: Refinitiv, ING

Key events in EMEA/LATAM next week

Country	Time	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 17 April					
Turkey	0900 Mar	Budget Balance	-		-170.56
Poland	1300 Mar	Net Inflation (YoY%)	12.3		12.0
Wednesday 19 April					
Russia	1700 Mar	PPI (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-		0.9/-7.5
South Africa	0900 Mar	CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-		0.7/7
	0900 Mar	Core inflation (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-		0.8/5.2
	1200 Feb	Retail Sales (YoY%)	-		-0.8
Brazil	1300 Feb	Industrial Output (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-		-0.3/0.3
Thursday 20 April					
Mexico	1300 Feb	Retail Sales (MoM%/YoY%)	-		1.6/5.3

Source: Refinitiv, ING

Authors

James Knightley

Chief International Economist

james.knightley@ing.com

Bert Colijn

Senior Economist, Eurozone

bert.colijn@ing.com

James Smith

Developed Markets Economist

james.smith@ing.com

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