

Key events in EMEA and LATAM next week

Will the National Bank of Serbia cut rates? What is happening with inflation in the Czech Republic?

Hungary: activity indicators to accelerate

In Hungary, we expect the activity indicators to resonate with the quite impressive soft indicators, thus both retail sales turnover and industrial production might accelerate. Headline inflation will remain subdued, showing a slight drop on the back of base effects of fuel prices and targeted VAT cuts are expected to take more of an effect. As regards to the Fitch decision on 9 March, it might be too early to see any change despite the positive outlook, especially since we are close to the general election.

Czech Republic: inflation to decelerate

The Czech Statistical Office revised its CPI basket weights in 2018 using the new classification ECOICO. These changes were slightly proinflationary (almost 0.1ppt) mainly due to increasing weights of imputed rents, i.e. a higher contribution of rapidly growing residential properties in Czech inflation. However, due to base effects and stronger CZK, inflation should further decelerate meaning it might hit the 2% target, though estimates are now slightly less robust due to the CPI basket changes. This should be inflation's bottom value as we expect further acceleration from March.

Average wages for fourth quarter 2017 should be affected by a November increase in wages of state employees and will approach 8% year-on-year in nominal terms (5.5% in real terms). The same figures are expected by the CNB and Ministry of Finance.

Poland: MPC meeting to trim interest rate expectations

Wednesday's MPC meeting should trim interest rate expectations for 2019 – we expect the National Bank of Poland (NBP) to lower inflation projections for 2018, as forecasted in November, a core inflation pick up is not materializing. Secondly recent comments and minutes from the February meeting present a limited propensity for policy tightening even amongst hawkish members.

Serbia: will the National Bank of Serbia cut rates?

In Serbia, we expect the central bank to cut the key rate by 25bp to 3.25% given the new National Bank of Serbia (NBS) inflation outlook. The move was somewhat telegraphed by the governor Tabakovic at the presentation of the Inflation Report with the new inflation forecast, being quoted

by Bloomberg saying that “inflationary pressures point to the need to cut the benchmark rate” as inflation is expected to stay near the lower end of the target band. Recent Dinar strength which prompted NBS FX interventions to curb it should ease NBS concerns of exchange rate depreciation with subsequent pass-through into inflation. We believe that any RSD weakness should be short lived as the monetary policy outlook is supportive for inflows into local currency sovereign debt.

Turkey: recovery in the inflation outlook

Easing base effects that have been in play since December will continue to contribute to the recovery in the inflation outlook. Accordingly, we expect the annual figure to decline further in February to 10.1% year-on-year (0.6% month-on-month) from 10.35% a month ago. Also, given the lack of major improvements in core inflation so far and the Central Bank of Turkey’s (CBT) signal to not alter the policy line until a sustainable single-digit inflation is achieved, we think that the CBT is likely to maintain their current stance in the near term as long as TRY remains stable. We expect the CBT to keep all rates unchanged again in March. Already at the limit of the liquidity policy with the effective cost of funding aligned with the late liquidity window, we do not see the bank changing the liquidity conditions this month either.

EMEA and LATAM Economic Calendar

Country	Time	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Friday 2 March					
Czech Rep	0800	4Q P GDP (QoQ/YoY%)	0.6/5.2	0.5/5.1	0.5/5.1
Hungary	0800	Dec F Trade Balance (€mn)	502	-	502
Romania	0700	Jan PPI (MoM/YoY%)	-/-	-/-	0.2/3.7
-	-	Romania Sovereign Debt to be rated by S&P and Moody's			
Monday 5 March					
Turkey	0700	Feb CPI (MoM/YoY%)	0.6/10.1	-/-	1.02/10.4
	0700	Feb Domestic PPI (MoM/YoY%)	-/-	-/-	0.99/12.1
	0700	Feb Core CPI (YoY%)	-	-	12.18
Hungary	0800	Jan Retail Sales (YoY%)	6.1	-	6.1
	0700	Hungary's C. Bank Publishes February Mortgage Note Purchases			
Romania	0700	Jan Retail Sales (MoM/YoY%)	-/-	-/-	1.3/13.4
Croatia	-	Jan P Retail Sales (YoY%)	-	-	1.4
South Africa	0715	Feb HSBC PMI SA	-	-	49
Tuesday 6 March					
Russia	-	Feb CPI (YoY%)	-	-	0.3/2.2
	-	Feb Core CPI (MoM/YoY%)	-/-	-/-	0.2/1.9
Poland	-	Monetary Policy Council Rate Meeting (until 07/03)			
Hungary	0800	4Q F GDP (SWDA, QoQ/YoY%)	1.3/4.4	-/-	1.3/4.4
South Africa	0930	4Q GDP (SAAR-QoQ/YoY%)	-/-	-/-	2/0.8
Brazil	1200	Jan Industrial Production (YoY%)	3.6	-	4.3
Wednesday 7 March					
Turkey	1100	Benchmark Repurchase Rate	8	-	8
	1100	Overnight Lending Rate	9.25	-	9.25
	1100	Overnight Borrowing Rate	7.25	-	7.25
	1100	Late Liquidity Window Rate	12.75	-	12.75
Poland	1300	Feb Official Reserves Total	-	-	117540
	-	Base Rate (%)	1.5	1.5	1.5
Czech Rep	0900	Feb International Reserves (US\$bn)	-	-	151.7
Hungary	0800	Jan Industrial Production (MoM/YoY%)	1.5/5.8	-/-	1.2/4.5
	1000	Feb Budget Balance (YTD)	-220	-	-192.8
Ukraine	-	Feb CPI (MoM/YoY%)	-/-	-/14	1.5/14.1
Romania	0700	4Q P GDP (SA, QoQ/YoY%)	-/-	-/-	0.6/-
Bulgaria	0900	4Q F GDP (QoQ/YoY%)	-/-	-/-	0.8/3.6
Serbia	1100	Feb HPPI (MoM/YoY%)	-/-	-/-	-0.3/-0.2
South Africa	0600	Feb Gross Reserves (US\$bn)	-	-	50.5
	0600	Feb Net Open Foreign Currency Position (US\$bn)	-	-	43.59
	0930	Feb SACCI Business Confidence	-	-	99.7
Israel	-	Feb Foreign Currency Balance (US\$bn)	-	-	117.6
Thursday 8 March					
Czech Rep	0800	Feb Unemployment Rate (%)	3.7	3.7	3.9
Hungary	0800	Feb CPI (MoM/YoY%)	0.3/2.0	-/-	0.3/2.1
Serbia	1100	Repo rate (%)	3.25	-	3.5
Croatia	1000	Dec Trade Balance (HRK m)	-	-	-3439.4
Mexico	1400	Feb CPI (MoM/YoY%)	0.47/5.4	-/-	0.5/5.55
Friday 9 March					
Czech Rep	0800	Jan Trade Balance (CZKmn)	21	-	-2.203
	0800	Feb CPI (MoM/YoY%)	0.2/2.0	0.1/1.9	0.6/2.2
	0800	4Q average wages	5.5	5.3	4.2
Hungary	-	Hungary Sovereign Debt to be rated by Fitch			
Kazakhstan	-	Kazakhstan Sovereign Debt to be rated by S&P			
Bulgaria	0900	Jan Industrial Production (MoM/YoY%)	-/-	-/-	0.7/1.97
	0900	Jan Retail Sales (MoM/YoY%)	-/-	-/-	0.5/4.9
Serbia	-	Serbia Sovereign Debt to Be Rated by Moody's			
Croatia	1000	Jan Industrial Production (SA, YoY%)	-	-	-2.5
Brazil	1200	Feb Inflation (IPCA) (MoM/YoY%)	0.36/2.9	-/-	0.29/2.8

Source: ING, Bloomberg

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