

Key events in EMEA next week

Next week's EMEA calendar features the Romanian National Bank's policy rate decision, and we expect the key rate to remain unchanged at 7%. In Hungary, we see only minor easing for April inflation, with core inflation remaining elevated on a monthly basis



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Hungary: April inflation prints to show only minor easing

We are hopeful that the upcoming week will bring some positive news for Hungary. First of all, we expect the trade balance to remain in surplus territory thanks to depleting import activity on dropping domestic demand and energy consumption. In parallel, we see further positive impacts on non-energy exports due to the car and electric vehicle battery manufacturing sectors.

With rather weak economic activity still, the budget balance will have a hard time showing a material improvement in April. However, as the March deficit was partly a result of one-off items, excluding those will improve the picture slightly.

The star of the week will be the April inflation print. We see the month-on-month headline inflation showing only minor easing. Slightly lower fuel and energy prices accompanied by some easing price pressure in food prices will be almost entirely wiped out by seasonal factors and additional price increases in services, mainly in telecommunication and leisure activities. The latter will be the

main reason why core inflation remains elevated as well on a monthly basis. However, base effects will help to improve the big picture, thus we see both the headline and the core year-on-year readings showing convincing drops. However, the still 24-25% YoY inflationary environment gives little cause for celebration.

✓ Romania: NBR set to keep rates unchanged

The National Bank of Romania (NBR) will announce its latest policy rate decision on 10 May. We expect the key rate to stay at 7.00% with no forward guidance. We think that a clear consolidation of the current disinflationary trend will be needed before the central bank makes its next decision; we're expecting a cut in the first quarter of next year. Real positive rates (i.e. inflation below the key rate) might be the trigger for action. Our inflation estimates indicate that this could be the case in February-March 2024 when inflation should dip below 7.00%.

✓ Czech Republic: Scope for a rate increase remains limited

In the Czech Republic, we think headline inflation decreased further in April from 15% to 13.5% and core inflation also softened. The recent Czech National Bank meeting sent a clear hawkish message in the sense that three board members voted for a 25bp rate hike. In our view, the scope for a rate increase is limited until we see the overall economic wage growth exceeding 10% YoY.

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Country	Time	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Tuesday 9 May					
Czech Rep	0800	Mar Industrial Output (YoY%)	-		2
	0800	Mar Trade Balance	-		14.3
Hungary	0730	Mar P Trade Balance	400		581
	1000	Apr Budget Balance	-180		-564.6
Mexico	1300	Apr Headline Inflation	-		0.27
	1300	Apr Core inflation	-		0.52
Wednesday 10 May					
Turkey	0700	Mar Unemployment Rate	-		10.7
Turkey	0700	Mar Industrial Production (MoM/YoY%)	-		-6.00/-8.24
Poland	1300	May NBP Base Rate	-	6.75	6.75
Czech Rep	0800	Apr Unemployment Rate	-		3.7
Hungary	0730	Apr Core CPI (YoY%)	25.2		25.7
	0730	Apr CPI (MoM%/YoY%) NSA	0.7/24.0		0.8/25.2
Ukraine	1430	Apr CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-		1.5/21.3
Romania	1300	Mon Policy Rate	7		7
Kazakhstan	1300	Apr Industrial Production (YoY%)	-		2.8
Brazil	1300	Mar Industrial Output (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-		-0.2/-2.4
Thursday 11 May					
Turkey	0800	Mar Current Account Balance	-5.4		-8.783
Czech Rep	0800	Apr CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	0.5/13.5		0.1/15
Serbia	1100	May Benchmark Interest rate	6		6
Friday 12 May					
Russia	1700	Apr CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-		0.4/3.5
Czech Rep	0900	Mar Current Account Balance	-		13.31
Romania	0700	Apr CPI (YoY%)	11.5		14.53
Serbia	1100	Apr CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	0.7/15.2		0.9/16.2
Brazil	1300	Apr IPCA Inflation Index (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-		0.71/4.65
Mexico	1300	Mar Industrial Output (MoM%/YoY%)	-		0.7/3.5

Source: Refinitiv, ING

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