

Key events in EMEA next week

Next week is set to be a busy one in the EMEA region. In Poland, the MPC is expected to keep NBP rates unchanged in April. Over in Hungary, we see the trade balance remaining in a surplus and expect to see a significant improvement in retail sales for February. Meanwhile, annual inflation in Turkey is forecast to come in at 70.1% YoY



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✓ Poland: NBP expected to keep rates unchanged in April

Poland's MPC is broadly expected to keep the National Bank of Poland's rates unchanged in April. CPI inflation is likely to hit a local low below the central bank target of 2.5% (+/- one percentage point) in March. This isn't expected to be sustainable, however, as headline inflation is projected to start mounting in the following months as a result of retail energy price normalisation with prices of electricity in the first half of this year remaining frozen at 2022 levels.

At the same time, core inflation remains elevated and momentum is still high. Given the uncertainty regarding the inflationary outlook, the MPC is likely to stick to its cautious approach and may refrain from monetary easing this year. The NBP governor's press conference on Friday may be dominated by the topic of the State Tribunal for politically-driven policymaking by Adam

Glapiński. The formal motion was put forward to the parliamentary commission in late March. Still, we expect Glapiński to continue stressing upside risks to inflation as the main rationale behind keeping rates at relatively high level.

✓ Hungary: Significant improvement in retails sales in February

Next week will be a busy one in Hungary. On the external balance side, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office will release not only the final trade balance figure for January, but also the preliminary print for February. We expect the trade balance to remain in surplus, but with some narrowing. The main reason for such a move is that we see lower import needs (especially for energy), but also weaker export activity, as reflected in the latest manufacturing surveys and data. Speaking of which, we expect industrial production to be roughly flat on a monthly basis in February, as key sectors (automobiles and electrical equipment) suffer and global manufacturing still digests the inventory overhang. While the industrial sector won't be strong, we see a significant improvement in retail sales in February, mainly due to rising demand as consumer confidence recovers.

✓ Turkey: Annual inflation to be at 70.1%

We expect Turkey's annual figure to be at 70.1% in March (with a 4.1% month-on-month reading) vs 67.1% a month ago. Deteriorating expectations on the back of inflation in the previous two months and an acceleration in the exchange rate in March were likely to be a key reason for another significant increase in prices last month, in our view. Going forward, the question remains as to whether or not the Central Bank of Turkey's sharp response of an unexpected and significant rate hike, a large set of macro-prudential measures and liquidity tightening are enough to return the inflation path to the CBT's forecast range, and this will be closely followed by the market.

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Country	Time (BST)	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 1 April					
Russia	0700	Mar S&P Global Manufacturing PMI	-		54.7
Turkey	0800	Mar Manufacturing PMI	-		50.2
Tuesday 2 April					
Poland	0800	Mar S&P Global Manufacturing PMI	47.5		47.9
Czech Rep	0830	Mar S&P Global PMI	-		44.3
	1300	Mar Budget Balance	-		-102.5
Hungary	0830	Jan Trade Balance Final	497		497
	0900	Mar Manufacturing PMI	52.7		52.2
Wednesday 3 April					
Russia	0700	Mar S&P Global Services PMI	-		51.1
	1700	Feb Retail Sales (YoY%)	12.0	11.0	9.1
	1700	Feb Unemployment Rate	2.9	2.9	2.9
Turkey	0800	Mar CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	4.1/70.1		4.53/67.07
Croatia	1000	Mar CPI Flash (MoM%/YoY%)	0.7/3.9		0.2/4.1
Thursday 4 April					
Poland	1300	Apr NBP Base Rate	5.75		5.75
Romania	1400	Mon Policy Rate (%)	7.00		7.00
Hungary	0830	Feb Trade Balance Prel	400		497
South Africa	0815	Mar Std Bank Whole Econ PMI	-		50.8
Friday 5 April					
Russia	-	Q4 GDP (YoY% quarterly revised)	-		
Czech Rep	0800	Feb Retail Sales (YoY%)	-		2.5
Hungary	0830	Feb Industrial Output (YoY%)	-2.1		-3.6
	0830	Feb Retail Sales (YoY%)	2.6		0.6

Source: Refinitiv, ING

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