

Our view on next week's key events

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By Robert Carnell, Min Joo Kang and Lynn Song

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US GDP for the first quarter and the Federal Reserve's favoured measure of inflation, the core PCE deflator, are the main releases to watch



✔ US: PCE deflator still too high for comfort

Vigorous GDP growth stands in stark contrast to weak business surveys - GDP expanded at a 4.9% annualised rate in 3Q23 and 3.4% in 4Q23 yet the ISM reports and NFIB small business optimism are at levels more consistent with GDP growth in the 0-1% range. We expect to see a moderation in the growth rate down to around 2.6% for 1Q 2024, above the 2.1% consensus forecast yet still broadly in line with trend growth. Consumer spending likely slowed based on the monthly data we have seen while government spending likely remained firm and business spending remained mixed. We expect to see consumer spending come under increasing pressure through the rest of the year given real household disposable income is flatlining, household savings built up during the pandemic have largely been exhausted while 25-year highs for consumer borrowing costs add to the headwinds for spending.

In terms of inflation, the core CPI print came in at 0.4% month-on-month, roughly double the rate we need to see to bring annual inflation down towards 2% over time. The core PCE is a broader measure of inflation though and measures some of the key components, such as medical care and insurance, differently. We expect it to come in at 0.3% MoM or 2.8% year-on-year, which is lower than the CPI, but still too high for comfort, which should confirm market expectations that the earliest opportunity for a Federal Reserve interest rate cut is September.

✓ Poland: Scarcity of labour supply to keep unemployment low

Industrial output (Mar): -2.4% YoY

With the upward revision of January data alongside the February release and continued signs of recovery in global manufacturing, the outlook for Poland's industry has improved somewhat. Still, the global recovery is uneven, with the German industrial sector lagging behind. In such an environment, the improvement in Polish industry is gradual. We forecast that in March, industrial output fell 2.4% YoY, mainly due to unfavourable calendar effects. In MoM seasonally adjusted terms, we should see further expansion.

PPI (Mar): -9.1% YoY

Downward pressure on tradable goods prices continued in March, while energy commodity prices were relatively low. We forecast that prices in manufacturing and mining increased in MoM terms and annual deflation in PPI eased to -9.1% YoY from -10.1% YoY in February.

Wages (Mar): 12.9% YoY

Shortages of labour and a hefty increase in the minimum wage from the beginning of 2024 are keeping wage growth in the enterprise sector at double-digit levels. We believe that the increase in March was broadly in line with the February increase, despite a lower number of working hours. In March and April, teachers and civil servants receive their wage hikes at 30% and 20%, respectively, but this is not directly included in the enterprise sector wage data.

Employment (Mar): -0.2% YoY

Even though news about sizable redundancies has hit headlines more often than before, the overall level of employment in the enterprise sector remains relatively stable and only slightly lower than last year. We project this year to bring a slight decline in employment vs. 2023 despite an economic recovery. Supply-side constraints seem to be playing a more important role in the labour market than any delayed impact from last year's economic slowdown.

Retail sales (Mar): 10.0% YoY

CPI inflation has surprised to the downside recently, while nominal wages continue rising buoyantly. The improvement in real disposable income is unprecedented and we expect it to eventually translate into higher spending. Even though households seem to be increasing precautionary savings, the scope for stronger consumption remains sizable. We expect a strong retail sales reading for March and continued improvement in purchases by the end of the year.

Unemployment (Mar): 5.3%

The preliminary estimate of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy is in line with our 5.3% registered unemployment forecast for March. Despite some signs of softer employment trends, scarcity of labour supply is keeping unemployment low. By mid-2024, the unemployment rate may fall below 5%.

✔ Hungary: Key interest rate may be lowered to 7.75%

The main event of next week is the National Bank of Hungary's rate-setting meeting on Tuesday. The central bank will open a well-telegraphed new era of monetary easing. This implies a further slowdown in the pace of loosening. The recent unfavourable turn in domestic and external developments justifies a more cautious stance than in previous months. As a result, we see a reduction in the size of future interest rate cuts as entirely understandable. We expect the NBH to lower the key interest rate from 8.25% to 7.75% at its April meeting and to continue to adopt a cautious, prudent tone. Aside from the rate-setting meeting, we will see a stable unemployment rate in March and only a slight slowdown in wage growth in February. With regards to the latter, we expect to see a more marked slowdown only in the coming months, as the corporate wage-setting cycle runs from spring to spring. Last year's huge pay rise will eventually be absorbed into the base, and anecdotal evidence suggests that companies will raise wages by less than 10% this year.

✔ Turkey: Policy rate likely to stay unchanged at 50%

Last month, as a response to the increased pressure on inflation and FX, the CBT delivered an unexpectedly strong 500bp rate hike, a large set of macro-prudential measures and significant efforts to mop up excess TRY liquidity. This month, we think the bank would prefer to see the impact of the tightening on the inflation outlook and keep the policy rate unchanged at 50%.

Key events in developed markets next week

Country	Time	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 22 April					
Eurozone	1500	Apr Consumer Confidence Flash	-14.5		-14.9
Tuesday 23 April					
US	1445	Apr S&P Global Manufacturing PMI Flash	-		51.9
	1445	Apr S&P Global Services PMI Flash	-		51.7
	1445	Apr S&P Global Composite PMI Flash	-		52.1
	1500	Mar New Home Sales-Units (mn)	0.67	0.67	0.662
Germany	0830	Apr S&P Global Manufacturing PMI Flash	42.5		41.9
	0830	Apr S&P Global Service PMI Flash	50.5		50.1
	0830	Apr S&P Global Composite PMI Flash	48.3		47.7
France	0815	Apr S&P Global Composite PMI Flash	-		48.3
UK	0930	Apr Flash Composite PMI	53.1		52.8
	0930	Apr Flash Manufacturing PMI	50.0		50.3
	0930	Apr Flash Services PMI	53.5		53.1
Eurozone	0900	Apr S&P Global Manufacturing PMI Flash	46.3		46.1
	0900	Apr S&P Global Services PMI Flash	51.8		51.5
	0900	Apr S&P Global Composite PMI Flash	50.6		50.3
Wednesday 24 April					
US	1330	Mar Durable Goods	3.0	2.8	1.3
	1330	Mar non-def. capital goods orders ex aircraft (MoM%)	0.4		-0.6
Germany	0900	Apr Ifo Business Climate	88.9		87.8
	0900	Apr Ifo Current Conditions	88.3		88.1
	0900	Apr Ifo Expectations	88.9		87.5
Italy	0900	Apr Consumer Confidence	96		96.5
Canada	1330	Feb Retail Sales (MoM%)	0.1	0	-0.3
Sweden	0700	Mar Unemployment Rate	-		8.5
Thursday 25 April					
US	1330	1Q GDP (QoQ% ann)	2.6	2.1	3.4
	1330	Initial Jobless Claims (000)	215	-	212
	1330	Continuing Jobless Claims (000)	1830	-	1.812
Germany	0700	May GfK Consumer Sentiment	-24		-27.4
Friday 26 April					
US	1330	Mar Personal Income (MoM%)	0.5	0.5	0.3
	1330	Mar Personal Consumption Real (MoM%)	0.2	-	0.4
	1330	Mar Consumption, Adjusted (MoM%)	0.6	0.4	0.8
	1330	Mar Core PCE Price Index (MoM%)	0.3	0.3	0.3
	1500	Apr U Mich Sentiment Final	77.9	77.9	77.9
Spain	0800	Mar Retail Sales (YoY%)	-		1.9
Eurozone	0900	Mar Money-M3 Annual Grwth	0.4		0.4
	0900	Mar Broad Money	-		16118106

Source: Refinitiv, ING

Key events in EMEA next week

Country	Time	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 22 April					
Poland	0900 Mar	Industrial Output (YoY%)	-2.4	-1.0	3.3
	0900 Mar	PPI (YoY%)	-9.1	-9.5	-10.1
	0900 Mar	Wages Growth (YoY%)	12.9	12.1	12.9
	0900 Mar	Employment Growth (YoY%)	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2
Tuesday 23 April					
Poland	0900 Mar	Retail Sales (YoY%)	10.0	6.7	6.1
	1300 Mar	M3 Money Supply (YoY%)	7.8	7.8	7.4
Hungary	1300 Apr	Hungary Base Rate	7.75		8.25
Wednesday 24 April					
Russia	1700 Mar	Industrial Output	4.0	4.2	8.5
Poland	0900 Mar	Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.3	5.4
Hungary	0730 Feb	Average Gross Wages (YoY%)	14.4		14.6
Thursday 25 April					
Turkey	1200 Apr	CBT Weekly Repo Rate	50		50
	1200 Apr	O/N Lending Rate	53		53
	1200 Apr	O/N Borrowing Rate	47		47
Ukraine	-	Central bank interest rate	-		14.5
South Africa	1030 Mar	PPI (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-	/	0.5/4.5
Friday 26 April					
Russia	1130 Apr	Central bank key rate	16.00	16.00	16.00
	1700 Mar	Retail Sales (YoY%)	7.9	7.6	12.3
	1700 Mar	Unemployment Rate	2.8	2.9	2.8
	-	Mar GDP (YoY%) Monthly	5.7	4.4	7.7
Hungary	0730 Mar	Unemployment Rate 3M	4.7		4.7

Source: Refinitiv, ING

Authors

Adam Antoniak

Senior Economist, Poland

adam.antoniak@ing.pl

James Knightley

Chief International Economist, US

james.knightley@ing.com

Peter Virovacz

Senior Economist, Hungary

peter.virovacz@ing.com

Muhammet Mercan

Chief Economist, Turkey

muhammet.mercan@ingbank.com.tr

Asia Week Ahead: BoJ meeting and inflation readings from Australia, Japan and Singapore

What to expect from Asia in the week ahead



Source: Shutterstock

Quiet week for greater China

It looks like a relatively quiet week ahead for China after some major releases this week. The People's Bank of China's loan prime rate update will be on Monday. Given the recent stronger-than-expected economic data, ongoing efforts to stabilise the yuan, and the earlier MLF decision, we expect one-year and five-year rates to remain unchanged at 3.45% and 3.95%, respectively.

In Taiwan, export orders and industrial production data will be published on Tuesday. We expect export order growth to recover to positive territory after a sharp drop in February. Separately, Hong

Kong will publish its inflation and trade data on Tuesday and Thursday.

Australia CPI inflation

Australia's April CPI index likely rose by 0.5% month-on-month. This will leave annual inflation at 3.4% for a fourth consecutive month, just above the Reserve Bank of Australia's 2-3% inflation target. Markets have been scaling back their bets on RBA cuts this year, but this could encourage easing expectations at a time when US Federal Reserve rate cut expectations are being scaled back.

Flurry of data from Japan: PMI, Tokyo CPI, and the BoJ meeting

We believe that strong wage negotiations and solid demand for IT and automobiles are likely to push up the upcoming PMI numbers, supporting our view of a cyclical recovery in the near term.

Tokyo CPI should remain choppy. Headline inflation is likely to cool to low 2.0% year-over-year mainly due to last year's high base though we expect it to rebound again in May. Slower CPI inflation could give the Bank room to pause on its decision to raise rates for a few more months.

We expect the BoJ to keep its policy target unchanged, but the market's focus should be on its quarterly outlook report. Given higher inflation in the first quarter, stronger-than-expected wage growth, and a weaker-than-expected yen, we expect the inflation outlook to be revised up, while car-related production disruptions could lead to a slight downward revision to growth. We believe that the BoJ's rate hike expectations will grow as the year progresses.

India's PMI could pullback

India's April manufacturing PMI is due a slight statistical pullback from the current level of 59.1 after three months of gains, but this doesn't merit any concern and should still be consistent with strong growth. We expect the service sector PMI to remain close to the 61.2 level recorded for March.

Korea: CSI, BSI, and GDP

This week, we will have survey data from Korea. These surveys were conducted before the Iran/Israel dispute and the re-acceleration of the Korean won's depreciation, so the results do not reflect recent events. With weak asset markets and fresh food and gasoline prices rising, consumer confidence is likely to slide again but the CSI index may remain above the neutral level.

Meanwhile, we expect manufacturing sentiment to rise on the back of strong global demand for IT, but non-manufacturing sentiment is likely to weaken as domestic demand conditions remain sluggish. This trend will be well echoed in the 1Q24 GDP data. We expect GDP growth to moderate only marginally from 0.6% quarter-on-quarter (seasonally-adjusted) in 4Q23 to 0.5% in 1Q24. Exports should remain a growth driver, but construction and investment may drag down overall growth.

Singapore inflation

Singapore reports March inflation next week. We expect core inflation to stay elevated at 3.5% YoY, although this will be slightly slower than last month's 3.6%. This should keep the central bank on notice and we continue to expect the Bank to extend its pause with any tweaks only likely possible

by the October meeting.

Key events in Asia next week

Country	Time (GMT+8)	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 22 April					
Australia	0000	Apr Manufacturing PMI Flash	-		47.3
	0000	Apr Services PMI Flash	-		54.4
	0000	Apr Composite PMI Flash	-		53.3
Japan	0030	Apr Manufacturing PMI Flash	49		48.2
	0030	Apr Services PMI Flash	54.5		54.1
	0030	Apr Composite PMI Flash	52		51.7
China	0215	Apr Loan Prime Rate 1Y	3.45		3.45
	0215	Apr Loan Prime Rate 5Y	3.95		3.95
Indonesia	0500	Mar Imports Growth (YoY%)	1.9		15.84
	0500	Mar Trade Balance (\$ Bln)	1057		0.87
	0500	Mar Exports Growth (YoY%)	-6.3		-9.45
Taiwan	0900	Mar Unemployment rate (%)	-		3.4
Tuesday 23 April					
Singapore	0600	Mar Core CPI (YoY%)	3.5		3.6
	0600	Mar CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	0.2/3.0		1.1/3.4
Taiwan	0900	Mar Export Orders (YoY%)	2.5		-10.4
Taiwan	0900	Mar Industrial Output (YoY%)	-		-1.1
South Korea	2200	Apr BoK Consumer Sentiment Index	100		100.7
Wednesday 24 April					
Australia	0230	Q1 CPI (QoQ%/YoY%)	-/-	/	0.6/4.1
Indonesia	0800	Apr 7-Day Reverse Repo	6		6
Philippines	-	Mar Budget Balance	-		-164.7
Taiwan	0920	Mar Money Supply - M2 (YoY%)	-		5.59
South Korea	2200	May BOK Manufacturing BSI	76		74
Thursday 25 April					
Japan	0600	Feb Leading Indicator Revised	-		2.3
Indonesia	0500	Mar M2 Money Supply (YoY%)	-		5.3
South Korea	0000	Q1 GDP Growth (QoQ%/YoY%)	0.5/2.4	/	0.6/2.2
Friday 26 April					
Japan	0130	Tokyo CPI (YoY%)	2.2	/	2.6
	0130	Tokyo CPI Ex-Fresh Food (YoY%)	2	/	2.4
Japan		BoJ Target Rate (Upper Bound)	0.1	/	0.1
		BoJ Target Rate (Lower Bound)	0	/	0
Singapore	0600	Mar Manufacturing Output (MoM%/YoY%)	0.9/-10.7	/	14.2/3.8

Source: Refinitiv, ING

Authors

Robert Carnell

Regional Head of Research, Asia-Pacific

robert.carnell@asia.ing.com

Min Joo Kang

Senior Economist, South Korea and Japan

min.joo.kang@asia.ing.com

Lynn Song

Chief Economist, Greater China

lynn.song@asia.ing.com

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