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Asia week ahead: Data calendar busy with manufacturing, inflation and GDP reports

Quite a busy week for Asia with PMI, inflation, an important central bank meeting, and GDP reports lined up



We are forecasting 7.7% GDP growth for India the calendar year 2022

PMI manufacturing likely to see mixed trends

China's manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) should show a slight contraction as the Chinese New Year in February means a short month for factories. But the non-manufacturing PMI is likely to show some mild growth from consumption activity during the holiday. Likewise, Korea's manufacturing PMI is expected to edge down marginally. Local surveys suggest a better outlook, but we think it is likely to take a breather after a four-month string of expansions. Indonesia's PMI report should show activity slowed as the country dealt with a fresh wave of Covid.

On the other hand, India and the Philippines could see some improvements in manufacturing activity following the decline in Covid cases in their respective countries. The latest Covid outbreak led to the reimplementing of some movement restrictions that are subsequently in the process of being wound back. Less stringent curbs should translate to more mobility and improved PMI numbers for both India and the Philippines.

Inflation from Indonesia, the Philippines and Korea

Inflation readings out in the coming days all point to a pickup in price pressures. Inflation in both Indonesia and the Philippines should tick higher given elevated energy prices and improving domestic demand. Likewise, Korea's inflation will also likely rise further on the back of higher commodity prices and a weak Korean won. In the coming months, price pressures are likely to fan inflation to levels that could prod Bank Indonesia, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Bank of Korea to consider tightening.

GDP from Australia and India

Australia's 4Q21 gross domestic product (GDP) should show some continued improvement in economic activity as movement restrictions have been further reduced. This should provide a boost to economic activity – especially to the service sector.

Meanwhile, India's 4Q21 GDP could come in a bit below the 6.1% year-on-year consensus forecast, and isn't helped by an unfavourable base comparison with 4Q20. The underlying quarter-on-quarter rate of growth is, however, showing strong momentum which should help deliver decent growth in 2022. We are forecasting 7.7% GDP growth for the calendar year 2022.

RBA meeting

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) will hold its policy cash rate target at 0.1% at its March meeting. Wages growth, which is the only missing criterion standing in the way of a rate hike, came in at 2.3% year-on-year in 4Q21. This is lower than the 3% rate which would be consistent with sustained inflation in the RBA's 2-3% target range. Despite the tightness of the labour market, this has not yet trickled through substantially to wages growth. The RBA's 3% threshold for wages may not be met until the 2Q22 wage figures are released in the second half of the year.

Rest of the field

China's Two Sessions starts on 4 March, while the government work report should be released on 5 March. We expect a GDP target of 6% or above to be set for 2022. The main theme should be stability, which implies more pro-growth policies to offset the damage from the continuing deleveraging reform on the real estate sector.

Next week's calendar also features Korean exports which are expected to accelerate in February as signalled by the 20-day trade figures and positive business surveys. The trade balance is likely to return to a surplus. Lastly, we will also be getting Japan's industrial production, retail sales and unemployment reports which could show some impact from the recent spike in Covid cases.

Asia Economic Calendar

Country	Time	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 28 February					
Australia	0030	Q4 Business Inventories	-		-1.9
	0030	Jan Broad Money	-		2658.88
India	1200	Q3 GDP Quarterly (YoY%)	5.5		8.4
Indonesia	0400	Jan M2 Money Supply (YoY%)	-		13.9
Philippines	-	Dec Budget Balance	-101		-128.7
Tuesday 1 March					
Japan	0030	Feb Jibun Bank Mfg PMI	52.9		52.9
Australia	0030	Q4 Current Account Balance SA (A\$bn)	17.5		23.9
	0330	Mar RBA Cash Rate	0.1		0.1
China	0130	Feb NBS Manufacturing PMI	49.7		50.1
	0130	Feb NBS Non-Mfg PMI	50.5		51.1
	0145	Feb Caixin Mfg PMI Final	48.5		49.1
India	-	Feb Fiscal Deficit - INR10mn	69490		63752
	-	Feb Imports - USD Prelim	-		51.93
	-	Feb Exports - USD Prelim	-		34.5
Indonesia	0030	Feb IHS Markit PMI	53		53.7
	0400	Feb Inflation (YoY%)	2.3		2.18
	0400	Feb Inflation (MoM%/YoY%)	-/2.4		0.56/1.84
Philippines	0030	Feb Manufacturing PMI SA	52.1		50
Taiwan	0030	Feb IHS Markit Mfg PMI	55		55.1
South Korea	0000	Feb Export Growth Prelim	20.0		15.2
	0000	Feb Import Growth Prelim	25.0		35.3
	0000	Feb Trade Balance Prelim	0.5		-4.83
	2300	Jan Industrial Output (YoY%)	8.2		6.2
	2300	Jan Service Sector Output Gr	0.5		-0.4
	2300	Jan Industrial Output Growth	0.6		4.3
Wednesday 2 March					
Australia	0030	Q4 Real GDP (QoQ%/YoY%)	1.9/2.5		-1.9/3.9
India	0500	Feb IHS Markit Mfg PMI	56.3		54
Singapore	1300	Feb Manufacturing PMI	-		50.6
South Korea	0030	Feb IHS Markit Mfg PMI	52.0		52.8
	2300	Q4 GDP Growth (QoQ%/YoY%)	1.1/4.1		1.1/4.1
Thursday 3 March					
Japan	0030	Feb Services PMI	42.7		42.7
	2330	Jan Unemployment Rate	2.8		2.7
Australia	0030	Jan Trade Balance (A\$bn)	8122		8356
	0030	Jan Imports (MoM%)	2		5
	0030	Jan Exports (MoM%)	1.1		1
China	0145	Feb Caixin Services PMI	50.1		51.4
South Korea	2300	Feb CPI Growth (MoM%/YoY%)	0.6/3.7		0.6/3.6
Friday 4 March					
India	0500	Feb IHS Markit Svcs PMI	56.1		51.5
Philippines	0100	Feb CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	0.2/3.2		3.0
Singapore	0500	Jan Retail Sales (MoM%/YoY%)	-/8.7		2.3/6.7
Taiwan	0820	Feb Foreign Exchange Reserve	548.5		548.874

Source: Refinitiv, ING, *GMT

Authors

Min Joo Kang

Senior Economist, South Korea and Japan

min.joo.kang@asia.ing.com

Robert Carnell

Regional Head of Research, Asia-Pacific

robert.carnell@asia.ing.com

Key events in developed markets next week

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US job growth was strong and wages rose in November

US Federal Reserve on track for a 25bp hike in March

Market attention will obviously continue to focus on the Russian military assault on Ukraine and the geopolitical fallout. Sanctions are being ramped up and tensions, along with market volatility, will likely remain high. This is going to be reflected in the commentary from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell when he appears before both the House and Senate banking panels next week. His hawkish commentary following the January Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting resulted in market interest rate hike expectations jumping higher with a strong chance of a 50bp interest rate increase priced in by financial markets. We suspect he will be more cautious next week given the financial market nervousness and this will likely cement expectations for a 25bp rate increase on 16 March.

Nonetheless, Powell will continue to suggest we should be braced for a series of interest rate increases given the economy is performing well, is creating jobs in significant numbers, and is experiencing broad-based inflation pressures. Indeed, the spike in commodity prices makes it even more likely that we will see headline US inflation touch 8% in the next couple of months.

Datavise, the February jobs report is set to show another decent increase in employment with the unemployment rate expected to fall back to 3.9% with average hourly earnings rising at a 5.7% annual rate. Business surveys are also likely to rebound following the depressing effect of the Omicron wave in January and early February.

✔ Eurozone inflation key for the March ECB decision

For the eurozone, next week's data will still not have incorporated the recent escalation of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, meaning that final Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data will still provide limited information about current events. The February inflation release will nevertheless be key for the European Central Bank (ECB). It will be the last inflation reading before the important March ECB meeting and we could move even higher than January. Petrol prices have been rising steeply in February, resulting in plenty of potential for energy inflation to have increased further.

✔ Will Bank of England speakers offer more pushback against rate hike expectations?

By the end of Wednesday, we will have heard from all nine Bank of England committee members in the space of a little over a week. That's interesting in itself, having had virtually no commentary from Bank officials in the December-February intermeeting period.

What we've heard so far, including from Governor Andrew Bailey, suggests officials are likely to continue hiking rates at the March and probably May meetings amid concern about higher domestically-generated inflation. But it's also clear that there is growing wariness about the amount of tightening markets are pricing for this year, which amounts to at least five more hikes. So far the pushback from policymakers has been fairly subtle, and we doubt that will change with the speeches we get over the coming days. After all, market expectations, while steep, are effectively providing policymakers with a hedge against persistently high inflation.

However, the pressure on household incomes from energy prices is likely to result in slower, perhaps negative growth, later this year. We also expect some of the recent pressure on wages to abate now that the post-reopening movement in the jobs market slows. We therefore think the Bank will deliver fewer hikes than markets expect this year.

✔ Bank of Canada to hike rates with several more to come

Concern about the Omicron wave led the Bank of Canada (BoC) to delay hiking rates in January. These worries appear to have been misplaced with the domestic economy firing on all cylinders and inflation at 30-year highs. [A 25bp rate hike is our call](#) for next week's meeting despite geopolitical nervousness. We continue to look for six interest rate increases in total from the BoC this year, with a further three in 2023. This would leave the policy rate at 2.5% by the end of next year, a level it was last at all the way back in October 2008.

Developed Markets Economic Calendar

Country	Time	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 28 February					
US	1445	Feb Chicago PMI	61.5	62.5	65.2
Spain	0800	Feb CPI Flash (MoM%/YoY%)	-		-0.4/6.1
Sweden	0700	Q4 GDP Final (QoQ%/YoY%)	1.4/6.2		1.4/6.2
	0800	Q4 GDP (QoQ%/YoY%)	-/-		1.7/4.1
	1100	Q4 GDP (QoQ%/YoY%)	-/-		1.6/5.8
Tuesday 1 March					
US	1500	Feb ISM Manufacturing PMI	58.4	58.1	57.6
	1500	Feb ISM Manufacturing Prices Paid	78.0		76.1
Germany	0700	Jan Retail Sales (MoM%/YoY%)	2		-5.5/0
	0855	Feb Markit/BME Manufacturing PMI	58.5		58.5
	1300	Feb CPI Prelim (MoM%/YoY%)	0.6/5.1		0.4/4.9
UK	0930	Feb Markit/CIPS Manufacturing PMI Final	57.3		57.3
Italy	0845	Feb Markit/IHS Manufacturing PMI	-		58.3
	1000	Feb CPI Prelim (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-		0/5.1
Canada	1330	Q4 GDP (YoY%)	-		3.97
Eurozone	0901	Feb Markit Manufacturing Final PMI	58.4		58.4
Wednesday 2 March					
US	1000	Fed Chair Powell testifies before House panel			-
	1315	Feb ADP National Employment	500	323	-301
Germany	0855	Feb Unemployment Rate	5.1		5.1
Canada	1500	BoC Rate Decision	0.5		0.25
Eurozone	1000	Feb CPI Flash (YoY%)	5.2		-
	1000	Feb Core CPI Flash (YoY%)	2.3		-
Thursday 3 March					
US	1000	Fed Chair Powell testifies before Senate panel			
	1330	Initial Jobless Claims	225		232
	1330	Cont Jobless Claims	1420		1476
	1500	Jan Factory Orders (MoM%)	0.6	0.5	-0.4
	1500	Feb ISM Non-Manufacturing PMI	61.8	61	59.9
	1500	Fed Beige Book			-
Germany	0855	Feb Markit Services PMI	56.6		56.6
	0855	Feb Markit Comp Final PMI	56.2		56.2
UK	0930	Feb Markit/CIPS Services PMI Final	60.8		60.8
	0930	Feb Composite PMI Final	60.2		60.2
Switzerland	0730	Feb CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	-/-		0.2/1.6
Eurozone	900	Feb Markit Services Final PMI	55.8		55.8
	900	Feb Markit Composite Final PMI	55.8		55.8
	1000	Jan Unemployment Rate	7		7
Friday 4 March					
US	1330	Feb Non-Farm Payrolls	450	400	467
	1330	Feb Private Payrolls	425	370	444
	1330	Feb Unemployment Rate	3.9	3.9	4.0
Germany	0700	Jan Exports	1.0		0.9
	0700	Jan Imports	0.0		4.7
	0700	Jan Trade Balance	8.0		6.8
France	0745	Jan Industrial Output (MoM%)	-		-0.2
UK	0930	Feb All-Sector PMI	-		54.4
	0930	Feb Markit/CIPS Cons PMI	-		56.3
Italy	0900	Q4 GDP Final (QoQ%/YoY%)	-/-		0.6/6.4
Austria	0800	Q4 GDP Final(QoQ%)	-		-2.2
Eurozone	1000	Jan Retail Sales (MoM%/YoY%)	1.5/9.7		-1.5

Source: Refinitiv, ING, *GMT

Authors

James Knightley

Chief International Economist, US

james.knightley@ing.com

James Smith

Developed Markets Economist, UK

james.smith@ing.com

Bert Colijn

Chief Economist, Netherlands

bert.colijn@ing.com

Key events in EMEA next week

Growth and inflation data dominate the economic calendar across the EMEA region next week



Inflation in Turkey may fall further in the near term

✓ Hungary: Hints of widespread growth to signal further price pressure for 2022

Next week's data should give us a sense of how the Hungarian economy started the year. We expect a strong performance within industry, based on soft indicators like the PMI. A deceleration in retail is possible, given people were waiting for the price caps to kick in. Consumers probably also held back spending while waiting for February's big government transfers.

We'll also get more detail on what drove the surprisingly strong fourth-quarter performance. We suspect it will confirm that this wasn't a one-off and represents widespread growth, and this could mean that there's further demand-driven price pressure in the pipeline for this year.

✓ Turkey: Inflation set to rise further while GDP points to further strong activity

Annual inflation likely maintained its upward trend, hitting 51% in February from 48.7% in January. This is linked to the ongoing impact of FX pass-through, higher energy prices and deteriorating expectations.

In terms of fourth-quarter GDP data, other indicators hint at continued strong activity for the following reasons:

1. The capacity utilization rate reached the highest level since 2017 on a seasonally-adjusted basis
2. The PMI remained in expansionary territory, despite a moderation in comparison to the third quarter
3. Economic confidence was still strong, even though we saw a decline in the final quarter of 2021 given the financial volatility
4. Continuing growth in retail sales.

Accordingly, 4Q21 growth will likely be in the 9.0-9.5% range, pulling 2021 growth to 11%.

EMEA Economic Calendar

Country	Time	Data/event	ING	Survey	Prev.
Monday 28 February					
Russia	-	Jan GDP (YoY%) Monthly	-		4.3
Turkey	700	Q4 GDP Quarterly (YoY%)	9.3	9.0	7.4
	0700	Jan Trade Balance	-		-6.8
Poland	0900	Q4 GDP (QoQ%/YoY%)	-/-		1.7/7.3
South Africa	0600	Jan M3 Money Supply (YoY%)	-		5.7
	0600	Jan Private Sector Credit Ext.	-	2.8	2.6
	1200	Jan Trade Bal (Incl. Region)	-		30.1
Mexico	1200	Jan Jobless Rate	-		3.5
Tuesday 1 March					
Russia	0600	Feb Markit Manufacturing PMI	-		51.8
Turkey	700	Feb Manufacturing PMI	-		50.5
	1100	Jan Bank NPL Ratio	-		3.2
Poland	0800	Feb Markit Manufacturing PMI	-		54.5
Czech Rep	0800	Q4 Final GDP (QoQ%/YoY%)	-		0.9/3.6
	0830	Feb Markit PMI	-		59.0
	1300	Feb Budget Balance	-		3.9
Hungary	0800	Feb Manufacturing PMI	56.1		50.7
Mexico	1530	Feb Markit Manufacturing PMI	-		46.1
Wednesday 2 March					
Russia	1600	Jan Retail Sales (YoY%)	-		5.4
	1600	Jan Unemployment Rate	-		4.3
Hungary	0800	Q4 GDP Final (YoY%)	7.2		7.2
Thursday 3 March					
Russia	0600	Feb Markit Services PMI	-		49.8
Turkey	700	Feb CPI (MoM%/YoY%)	2.5/51.0		11.1/48.7
Hungary	0800	Jan Retail Sales (YoY%)	4.5		6.2
	0800	Dec Trade Balance Final	187.0		187.0
Ukraine	1200	Central bank interest rate	-		10.00
South Africa	0900	Q4 Current Account	-		226.4
Brazil	1300	Feb Markit Mfg PMI	-		47.8
Friday 4 March					
Hungary	0800	Jan Industrial Output (YoY%)	7.5		5.8
Brazil	0800	Feb IPC-Fipe Inflation Index	-		0.74
	1200	Q4 GDP (QoQ%/YoY%)	-/-		-0.1/4

Source: Refinitiv, ING, *GMT

Authors

Peter Virovacz

Senior Economist, Hungary

peter.virovacz@ing.com

Muhammet Mercan

Chief Economist, Turkey

muhammet.mercan@ingbank.com.tr

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