Opinion | 26 September 2019

Asian central Banks this week 0 for 2

But the Philippine Central Bank (BSP) look set to wake up the scoreboard today, and Singapore's industrial production data could show further signs of normalizing.

Philippine Central bank stamp



BSP expected to cut 25bp today

After two "No-change" decisions yesterday (Reserve Bank of New Zealand, and the <u>Bank of Thailand</u>), today could see some more activity from central banks in the APAC region.

You could call today's expected cut from BSP "opportunistic easing". BSP Governor Dlokno has sounded an uninterrupted dovish note since he took office in March. But in practice, he has been a little more cautious, with rates down only 50bp this year, though bolstered by other easing policies, including Reserve Rate Requirement (RRR) cuts.

Today though, with recent inflation figures coming in at only 1.7%YoY, even a cautious governor ought to be able to find room for some more easing, given that further policy easing has been described as "data dependent". We think the overnight borrowing rate will be reduced 25bp to 4.0%.

The PHP is no real impediment to easing today either, standing at 52.25, only slightly weaker than the 200-day moving average. Bloomberg consensus is not quite unanimous, but an overwhelming majority of those surveyed are also looking for a cut today.

In other Central Bank news

Meanwhile, over at the European Central Bank - not everyone is happy. German board member, Sabine Lautenschläger has resigned two years earlier than her scheduled departure. Carsten Brzeski discusses whether this could have been a protest over additional ECB bond purchases. No reasons have been given as yet (but come on, it was the bond purchases, wasn't it?) But Lautenshläger's resignation does point to serious rifts in the ECB - something incoming Christine Lagarde will have to deal with.

Signs of stabilisation in Singapore?

Today's August Industrial production figures from Singapore are expected to edge down from -0.4%YoY in July. Commentators tend to get hugely bogged down by tiny changes in annual figures from month to month. But to do this for this month's data, and draw downbeat conclusions would be to miss the much bigger and more positive point. Just like the export data which drive Singapore's production figures, the prevailing trend seems to have stopped deteriorating.

Sure we can pointlessly whinge about the odd tenth of a percent here or there. But the bigger and more important story is that the month on month incremental changes in production have turned slightly positive (3, 4 and 5 month moving averages) and though they may remain weak, the direction is now positive for the first time since last October 2018. We should be cheering that - albeit very quietly.

...and in the G-7

Aside from all the political noise on both sides of the Atlantic, there is not too much on the macro calendar. We will probably give US pending Home sales a quick look tomorrow morning to see how it performed. US housing popped higher at the end of last year, helped by declining bond yields, falling mortgage yields and a spell of refinancing.

This has undoubtedly helped to buoy the consumer sector too in the US, and offset weakness in manufacturing and corporate investment. The key question is - "does this have legs?" - especially going into 2020 and the Presidential election race, where the state of the economy could play a crucial role.

At the moment, the data looks good though, calls of an imminent US recession look wildly out of place.

Author

Alissa Lefebre

Economist

alissa.lefebre@ing.com

Deepali Bharqava

Regional Head of Research, Asia-Pacific <u>Deepali.Bharqava@inq.com</u>

Ruben Dewitte

Economist

+32495364780

ruben.dewitte@ing.com

Kinga Havasi

Economic research trainee kinga.havasi@ing.com

Marten van Garderen

Consumer Economist, Netherlands marten.van.garderen@ing.com

David Havrlant

Chief Economist, Czech Republic 420 770 321 486 david.havrlant@ing.com

Sander Burgers

Senior Economist, Dutch Housing sander.burgers@ing.com

Lynn Song

Chief Economist, Greater China lynn.song@asia.ing.com

Michiel Tukker

Senior European Rates Strategist michiel.tukker@ing.com

Michal Rubaszek

Senior Economist, Poland michal.rubaszek@ing.pl

This is a test author

Stefan Posea

Economist, Romania tiberiu-stefan.posea@ing.com

Marine Leleux

Sector Strategist, Financials marine.leleux2@ing.com

Jesse Norcross

Senior Sector Strategist, Real Estate <u>jesse.norcross@ing.com</u>

Teise Stellema

Research Assistant, Energy Transition teise.stellema@ing.com

Diederik Stadig

Sector Economist, TMT & Healthcare diederik.stadig@ing.com

Diogo Gouveia

Sector Economist diogo.duarte.vieira.de.gouveia@ing.com

Marine Leleux

Sector Strategist, Financials marine.leleux2@ing.com

Ewa Manthey

Commodities Strategist ewa.manthey@ing.com

ING Analysts

James Wilson

EM Sovereign Strategist James.wilson@ing.com

Sophie Smith

Digital Editor sophie.smith@ing.com

Frantisek Taborsky

EMEA FX & FI Strategist <u>frantisek.taborsky@ing.com</u>

Adam Antoniak

Senior Economist, Poland adam.antoniak@ing.pl

Min Joo Kang

Senior Economist, South Korea and Japan min.joo.kang@asia.ing.com

Coco Zhang

ESG Research coco.zhang@ing.com

Jan Frederik Slijkerman

Senior Sector Strategist, TMT

jan.frederik.slijkerman@ing.com

Katinka Jongkind

Senior Economist, Services and Leisure Katinka.Jongkind@ing.com

Marina Le Blanc

Sector Strategist, Financials Marina.Le.Blanc@ing.com

Samuel Abettan

Junior Economist samuel.abettan@ing.com

Franziska Biehl

Senior Economist, Germany <u>Franziska.Marie.Biehl@ing.de</u>

Rebecca Byrne

Senior Editor and Supervisory Analyst rebecca.byrne@ing.com

Mirjam Bani

Sector Economist, Commercial Real Estate & Public Sector (Netherlands) mirjam.bani@ing.com

Timothy Rahill

Credit Strategist timothy.rahill@ing.com

Leszek Kasek

Senior Economist, Poland leszek.kasek@ing.pl

Oleksiy Soroka, CFA

Senior High Yield Credit Strategist oleksiy.soroka@ing.com

Antoine Bouvet

Head of European Rates Strategy antoine.bouvet@ing.com

Jeroen van den Broek

Global Head of Sector Research jeroen.van.den.broek@ing.com

Edse Dantuma

Senior Sector Economist, Industry and Healthcare

edse.dantuma@ing.com

Francesco Pesole

FX Strategist

francesco.pesole@ing.com

Rico Luman

Senior Sector Economist, Transport and Logistics Rico.Luman@ing.com

Jurjen Witteveen

Sector Economist

jurjen.witteveen@ing.com

Dmitry Dolgin

Chief Economist, CIS

dmitry.dolgin@ing.de

Nicholas Mapa

Senior Economist, Philippines

nicholas.antonio.mapa@asia.ing.com

Egor Fedorov

Senior Credit Analyst

egor.fedorov@ing.com

Sebastian Franke

Consumer Economist

sebastian.franke@inq.de

Gerben Hieminga

Senior Sector Economist, Energy

gerben.hieminga@ing.com

Nadège Tillier

Head of Corporates Sector Strategy

nadege.tillier@ing.com

Charlotte de Montpellier

Senior Economist, France and Switzerland

charlotte.de.montpellier@ing.com

Laura Straeter

Behavioural Scientist

+31(0)611172684

<u>laura.Straeter@ing.com</u>

Valentin Tataru

Chief Economist, Romania valentin.tataru@ing.com

James Smith

Developed Markets Economist, UK <u>james.smith@ing.com</u>

Suvi Platerink Kosonen

Senior Sector Strategist, Financials <u>suvi.platerink-kosonen@inq.com</u>

Thijs Geijer

Senior Sector Economist, Food & Agri thijs.geijer@ing.com

Maurice van Sante

Senior Economist Construction & Team Lead Sectors <u>maurice.van.sante@ing.com</u>

Marcel Klok

Senior Economist, Netherlands marcel.klok@ing.com

Piotr Poplawski

Senior Economist, Poland piotr.poplawski@ing.pl

Paolo Pizzoli

Senior Economist, Italy, Greece paolo.pizzoli@ing.com

Marieke Blom

Chief Economist and Global Head of Research marieke.blom@ing.com

Raoul Leering

Senior Macro Economist raoul.leering@ing.com

Maarten Leen

Head of Global IFRS9 ME Scenarios maarten.leen@ing.com

Maureen Schuller

Head of Financials Sector Strategy <u>Maureen.Schuller@ing.com</u>

Warren Patterson

Head of Commodities Strategy Warren.Patterson@asia.ing.com

Rafal Benecki

Chief Economist, Poland rafal.benecki@ing.pl

Philippe Ledent

Senior Economist, Belgium, Luxembourg philippe.ledent@ing.com

Peter Virovacz

Senior Economist, Hungary peter.virovacz@ing.com

Inga Fechner

Senior Economist, Germany, Global Trade inga.fechner@ing.de

Dimitry Fleming

Senior Data Analyst, Netherlands
Dimitry.Fleming@ing.com

Ciprian Dascalu

Chief Economist, Romania +40 31 406 8990 ciprian.dascalu@ing.com

Muhammet Mercan

Chief Economist, Turkey muhammet.mercan@ingbank.com.tr

Iris Pang

Chief Economist, Greater China iris.pang@asia.ing.com

Sophie Freeman

Writer, Group Research +44 20 7767 6209 Sophie.Freeman@uk.ing.com

Padhraic Garvey, CFA

Regional Head of Research, Americas padhraic.garvey@ing.com

James Knightley

Chief International Economist, US <u>james.knightley@ing.com</u>

Tim Condon

Asia Chief Economist +65 6232-6020

Martin van Vliet

Senior Interest Rate Strategist +31 20 563 8801 martin.van.vliet@ing.com

Karol Pogorzelski

Senior Economist, Poland Karol.Pogorzelski@ing.pl

Carsten Brzeski

Global Head of Macro carsten.brzeski@inq.de

Viraj Patel

Foreign Exchange Strategist +44 20 7767 6405 viraj.patel@ing.com

Owen Thomas

Global Head of Editorial Content +44 (0) 207 767 5331 owen.thomas@ing.com

Bert Colijn

Chief Economist, Netherlands bert.colijn@ing.com

Peter Vanden Houte

Chief Economist, Belgium, Luxembourg, Eurozone peter.vandenhoute@ing.com

Benjamin Schroeder

Senior Rates Strategist benjamin.schroder@ing.com

Chris Turner

Global Head of Markets and Regional Head of Research for UK & CEE chris.turner@ing.com

Gustavo Rangel

Chief Economist, LATAM +1 646 424 6464 gustavo.rangel@ing.com Carlo Cocuzzo

Economist, Digital Finance +44 20 7767 5306

carlo.cocuzzo@ing.com