

Politics continues to dominate markets

Just for once, it would be nice to have a week where economics dominated politics - if nothing else, it is easier to draw charts for



Tsai Ing-wen

Source: Shutterstock

Where to start?

I suppose that as I am sitting in Asia, the main starting point today should be the Presidential (and legislative) elections in Taiwan, which saw incumbent Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) President, Tsai Ing-wen win a convincing victory at the weekend.

In a forthcoming note by our Greater China Economist, Iris Pang, Iris notes that the troubles in Hong Kong have probably galvanised nationalist spirit in Taiwan, and she goes on to note that so far, economic policies such as those aimed at bringing high-tech production back to Taiwan from Mainland China have not yielded much substance yet, though they have pushed up inventories and boosted land sales.

Bloomberg News reports in a story today that in their view, the result pushes Mainland China's one country, two systems solution for Taiwan further out of reach. In any case, we don't see the outcome having much bearing on the domestic Taiwanese economy, not that such matters seem to be that important for markets in this age of money printing.

Trouble in Tehran

Meanwhile, the downing of a passenger airliner in Tehran last week has taken a new twist with the Iranian authorities admitting that this was the result of a missile fired in human error. It's not clear if this should be read as a positive shift from political lies to honesty, or as some other newswires are reporting, to outrage at the killings. Anti-government protests in Tehran are underway, but the threat to global oil supplies from any of this is small, given existing US sanctions, and would only really spell trouble in the event that a messy regime-change and a power-vacuum led to internal conflict spilling over into the region. We are way off this yet, and energy benchmark indices seem fairly relaxed for now.

Get out the ceremonial pens

This Wednesday, China and the US are due to sign the phase-one trade deal, which should make for a nice photo-shoot. But besides the prospect that the deal will contain far more substance than we are crediting it at this stage, the likely impact of the signing will be very limited, if any.

What pundits are wondering, is not when or if a phase 2 deal will be struck. I think most analysts, including myself, don't expect to see any further trade deal either side of the US Presidential election, but certainly not this side.

The thornier problem is whether China will actually deliver on what sound at this stage to be fairly "wishy-washy" commitments on things like intellectual property protection. The US maintains that the provisions China will sign up to are enforceable, but this remains to be seen. A plausible scenario in my view is that cracks in this deal begin to spread mid-year ahead of the US elections and that tough trade talk could return ahead of the November election raising tensions once more.

That makes USDCNY a two-way bet over the coming 12 months, though the current trend for CNY strength remains intact and should continue for the time being.

Payrolls, schmayrolls

In the good old days, when my job was a lot simpler, a bad US payrolls report would, at the least, have put a hefty dent into US Treasury yields. The ten-year note now yields 1.8196% (as of writing), not even 4bp lower than the pre-payrolls figure. OK, the headline payrolls number of 160,000 is not actually bad, but about what you would expect from an economy with a labour market as tight as it is in the US. But even with a slight tick up in the average workweek, the standout part of this release was the sub-3% average hourly earnings number (2.9% from 3.1% in November).

For more, [here is a link to James Knightley's note on the Labour data.](#)

India is in the limelight today

It's a quiet day in Asia today, and unless we get some of the Chinese Aggregate Financing data which is due by Wednesday, the main data release today will be that of Indian CPI.

Prakash Sakpal writes "India's December CPI report will show inflation overshooting the RBI's 2-6% policy target for the first time since mid-2016. Besides rising food prices on the back of a disruptive monsoon season, excessive policy loosening last year, which failed to stimulate growth but has helped the INR to weaken, has been pressuring inflation higher. The RBI is coming to terms with

inflation risk as Governor Shaktikanta Das recently highlighted. A shift in the policy stance to neutral from accommodative seems to be a reasonable starting point for the central bank's next policy meeting in early February. We no longer expect the RBI to cut rates this year. Nor do we see any policy tightening on the horizon, at least not until GDP growth recovers to more than 7%. That isn't going to happen anytime soon, we both agree.

Prakash also notes: "In Thailand, Parliament finally passed a THB 3.2 trillion budget for the current fiscal year (a process started in October 2019). The budget passage is seen as a vote of confidence in the ruling pro-military coalition, which holds a slim majority under Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha. However, a slew of anti-government protests over the weekend suggests that political risk is brewing in the background. From an economic perspective, all this means a slow and tepid economic recovery from the slump last year". It may be worth keeping an eye on the THB, from last year's regional outperforming currency, it is looking rather fragile in the first two weeks of this year.

Author

Amrita Naik Nimbalkar

Junior Economist, Global Macro

amrita.naik.nimbalkar@ing.com

Mateusz Sutowicz

Senior Economist, Poland

mateusz.sutowicz@ing.pl

Alissa Lefebvre

Economist

alissa.lefebvre@ing.com

Deepali Bhargava

Regional Head of Research, Asia-Pacific

Deepali.Bhargava@ing.com

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

jesse.norcross@ing.com

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

frantisek.taborsky@ing.com

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

Franziska.Marie.Biehl@ing.de

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@ing.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

laura.Straeter@ing.com

Valentin Tataru

Chief Economist, Romania

valentin.tataru@ing.com

James Smith

Developed Markets Economist, UK

james.smith@ing.com

Suvi Platerink Kosonen

Senior Sector Strategist, Financials

suvi.platerink-kosonen@ing.com

Thijs Geijer

Senior Sector Economist, Food & Agri

thijs.geijer@ing.com

Maurice van Sante

Senior Economist Construction & Team Lead Sectors

maurice.van.sante@ing.com

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

Maureen.Schuller@ing.com

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

james.knightley@ing.com

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@ing.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.schroeder@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