Investment Research - General Market Conditions

10 March 2023

Weekly Focus

Hawkish Powell opens for possibility of a 50bp hike

The biggest market mover this week was Fed Governor Jerome Powell's hawkish testimony in the Senate. Powell pointed to an "extremely tight labour market" and stated that the Fed was prepared to speed up rate rises if warranted by data, thus opening the door for a possible 50bp hike at the upcoming meeting on 22 March. No doubt next week's CPI report for February and the non-farm payrolls released today (after deadline) are key for the Fed's decision on the size of the hike. US job openings released this week were again stronger than expected, although declining slightly from the January level. When Powell described the labour market he referred specifically to the ratio of job openings to unemployed, which stood at 1.9 in January, a very high number historically. The market prices more than 100bp of further rate increases by the Fed over the next 2-3 quarters.

ECB members increasingly disagree on what to signal to the market, which led to an open spat when Bank of Italy governor Ignazio Visco took a swipe at colleagues saying that "Uncertainty is so high that the Governing Council of the ECB has agreed to decide 'meeting by meeting', without 'forward guidance...I therefore don't appreciate statements by my colleagues about future and prolonged interest rate hikes." It followed comments by Austrian central bank Governor Holzmann that he expected the ECB to hike 50bp at the next four meetings. Holzmann is probably the most hawkish member of the ECB. The market currently prices a further 160bp of hikes broadly in line with our own forecast.

Updated fiscal *policy guidance* **from the European Commission urged EU countries to start phasing out government support programmes** after the pandemic and energy crisis, as Brussels prepares to reinstate Stability and Growth Pact rules in 2024. However, the planned reinstatement coincides with ongoing discussions to overhaul the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) rules, where consensus remains yet elusive.

In China the National People's Congress opened on Sunday and revealed a growth target for 2023 of 'around 5%', which was at the low end of expectations. It is a signal that China will hold back from major stimulus and prioritizes long-term stability goals. We expect China to beat the target and growth 5.5% this year as data so far points to a strong rebound of the economy after the 'reopening' and we see scope for pent-up demand in consumption and housing to be unleashed this year. This weekend China will present new people on key positions in the government and Li Qiang will officially become China's new number two as Premier, taking over from Li Keqiang.

In financial markets long bond yields have moved sideways despite higher short-end yields following the hawkish signals from Powell. The USD gained on more rate hikes being priced while equities and commodity prices are broadly flat on the week.

The key data release the coming week will be the US CPI for February. We broadly agree with consensus of another print on the high side of 0.4% m/m for core CPI. It is also time for the ECB meeting on Thursday which will be the highlight. A 50bp hike is a done deal, but markets will pay attention to the communication for the May meeting, given the continued strong underlying inflation pressure. See also our *ECB preview: Higher for longer – now seen at 4%*, 2 March.

Key global views

- Stagnation and periodic contraction in the US and in Europe during 2023.
- US and euro area headline inflation set to decline further, but core inflation likely to stay elevated.
- More rate hikes in store

Key market movers

- Tuesday: US CPI, US NFIB small business index,
- Wednesday: China retail sales and industrial production, US retail sales, US Empire, US NAHB housing index
- Thursday: ECB meeting, US Philly Fed survey
- Friday: Euro CPI (final), Euro labour cost, OECD economic outlook

Selected reading from Danske Bank

- Euro Area Macro Monitor Services comeback, 7 March
- Research China NPC sets modest growth target at 'around 5%', 6 March
- Executive Briefing Recession risks ease, but inflation fears resurface, 3 March

Editor

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Scandi market movers

• In Denmark, the latest <u>current account</u> figures are due on Monday. Denmark's current account surplus rose significantly from November to December after falling sharply in November following the inclusion of a patent import in the figures. If we momentarily disregard the extraordinary situation in November and instead compare with October, then December was a continuation of the downward trend that started in spring 2022. Denmark's current account surplus rose enormously in 2022 due to very high prices for shipping, which is a major export service in Denmark. As shipping prices have normalised, so the current account surplus has shrunk. We expect the surplus to continue to decline in the time ahead, but to remain well clear of becoming a deficit.

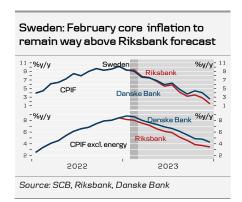
Property website Boligsiden is set to release February's <u>home sales</u> figures on Thursday. Since peaking in March 2021, housing market activity has slowed to around 2014 levels. In our view, there are two main drivers for the lower level of activity: first, rising interest rates throughout 2022 made financing a home purchase very much more expensive; second, the jump in sales activity during the Covid-19 pandemic means that many prospective buyers have already bought and so are no longer considering buying anytime soon. We see sales activity rising marginally but remaining low as the most realistic outcome for February. This year kicked off with a measurable decline in long-term interest rates and renewed vigour in the Danish economy according to a series of strong data prints. This prompted a slight improvement of sentiment among potential buyers, which has a knock-on effect on the housing market. That being said, interest rates have risen again lately as improved economic data in Denmark and not least globally caused investors to fret that interest rates will have to remain high for longer if inflation is to be tamed. We therefore do not expect sales activity to be trending up when looking a couple of months ahead.

• In **Sweden**, for obvious reasons, the February <u>inflation</u> outcome is not only in the limelight for markets the coming week, it is the star of economic indicators. We expect both CPIF and CPIF excl. energy to decline marginally compared to January: CPIF and CPIF excl. Energy are forecast to print 9.0% y/y and 8.6% y/y respectively. This is 0.4 percentage points below and 0.6 percentage points above Riksbank's respective forecasts. We strongly believe that the Riksbank is currently focused on the latter of the two. Needless to say, risks remain tilted to the upside. That said, even a "black swan" print closer to Riksbank's forecast would hardly shake money markets current pricing for a 50 bp hike in April. The main drivers this month in order of importance are food, clothing and rents (incl. tenant-owned flats fees).

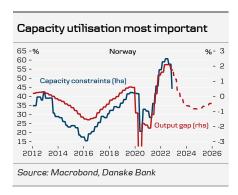
Prospera also releases the "big" quarterly inflation expectations survey. It seems reasonable to expect inflation expectations to come down at least on the 2y and 5y horizons as markets are pricing in more and more Riksbank rate hikes and 2023 GDP forecasts have gradually been reduced among most forecasters.

The Riksbank is in focus on several events: 1) Riksdag's finance committee has an open hearing with the Riksbank's entire Executive Board about the 2022 annual report and current monetary policy. We expect questions about how to handle the huge loss on the bond portfolio and the resulting negative equity, 2) Flodén speaks about monetary policy at an event in Stockholm, 3) the Riksbank releases its semi-annual business survey.





In Norway, the previous round of Norges Bank's regional network survey pointed to a clear slowdown in the economy. Capacity utilisation was on the way down, expected profitability was clearly negative, and expectations for employment and investment were around neutral. This was an important factor in our belief that interest rates had peaked. Actual developments in the Norwegian economy, however, have been stronger than the survey predicted. Together with a still tight labour market, strong inflation, higher global interest rates and a weak krone, this has pushed up interest rate expectations. Just how aggressive Norges Bank will now need to be depends on signals from the regional network. The growth outlook will probably be somewhat brighter than in the previous round, but still point to deterioration. The most important information this time around, however, will be for capacity utilisation, because this is the most important driver of domestic inflation in the medium term in the central bank's models. If capacity utilisation falls further, the upside risk to inflation will be smaller, and it will be easier for Norges Bank to look through today's high inflation, especially with inflation expectations being well anchored and prevailing interest rates being considered contractionary. In this case, Norges Bank will be better able to stick to its strategy of gradual rate increases. If, on the other hand, capacity utilisation rises again, this would be a clear signal that current interest rates are not having a sufficiently restrictive effect. The risk to inflation would then be very much to the upside in both the short and the medium term, opening the door to more aggressive policy from the central bank in the form of a double hike in March and/or an extra hike at the interim meeting in May.





Scandi update

Denmark - Inflation declines, but food prices rise

Inflation fell to 7.6% in February from 7.7% in January – the fourth monthly decline in a row after peaking at a multi-decade high of 10.1% in October. While inflation declining further is certainly good news, the fall was once again more modest than we had expected. Decreasing gas prices at the start of the year were a particular downward force on inflation, while electricity prices also fell. Pulling in the opposite direction was another increase in food prices. Seasonally adjusted, food prices increased by some 1.4% between January and February alone, and are now 14.8% higher than at the same point last year.

Industrial production in Denmark fell by 7.6% in January. The decline came largely on the back of a pronounced dip in pharmaceutical production, though that has to be seen against production in the pharmaceutical industry soaring some 45.1% in December. All in all, industrial production was 6.2% higher in January 2023 than in November 2022. Pharmaceutical production being maintained at current levels would be sufficient to lift Danish GDP for 2023. While the pharmaceutical industry may be responsible for much of the volatility in the figures, the rest of the industrial sector also took quite a marked step backwards in January, when production ex. pharmaceuticals fell 3.5%, so clearly pointing to an economic slowdown.

February saw 264 bankruptcies among active companies (seasonally adjusted), a somewhat modest decline compared to January. However, as the figures tend to fluctuate significantly from month to month, the overall picture is still of a relatively large number of companies having to shut up shop at the moment. Bankruptcies are running above the norm right now, driven by the expiration of Covid-19 relief schemes, which had effectively postponed a good many companies going under. We expect the number of bankruptcies to remain high, though this will very much depend on the depth of the slump this year.

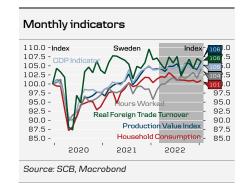
The number of jobless rose by 1,000 in February (seasonally adjusted), according to the unemployment indicator from Statistics Denmark, thus lifting the unemployment rate to 2.8% from 2.7% in January.

Labour market players in the construction sector this week signed a new two-year collective agreement, meaning agreements have now been reached for the three largest private sector areas, which span industry and transport in addition to construction. Agreements being settled in the three largest areas reduces the risk of a major labour dispute in the private sector. However, deals have yet to be struck in other areas, including the cleaning services and food industries, so a majority of members still have to vote yes to an agreement before everything is settled.

Sweden - Strong monthly economic data

We got a set of very positive reading for January economic indicators: GDP $\pm 2.0\%$ m/m, but should be interpreted with some caution. That said, manufacturing, services and construction production all rose printing $\pm 2.2\%$ m/m for the total private production sector. This was already seen in the $\pm 25\%$ m/m in orders last month however, which now is plunging with 20% m/m (so expect a set back next month). Consumption is holding up well rising 0.5% mm. It is being bolstered by recreation on mom basis, but components except transport and housing was higher on the month. I think this composition mainly sends the



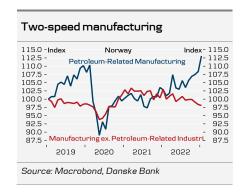




message that the business side of the economy is doing alright while consumers still suffer from a bunch of negative factors.

Norway - Manufacturing moving sideways

Industrial production climbed 0.9% m/m in January but the underlying trend is still sideways to falling gently (-0.3% 3m/3m). This is in line with signals from the PMI at the beginning of the year and may mean that the tailwinds for oil-related industries are still being cancelled out by headwinds for exporters and manufacturers for the domestic market, not least construction.





Calendar - 13-17 March 2023

Monday, I	March :	13,2023		Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
8:00	DKK	Current account (nsa sa)	DKK bn	Jan			32.8
8:00	DKK	Trade balance ex ships	DKK bn	Jan			10.2
8:00	DKK	Exports	m/m	Jan			1020.0%
Tuesday,	March	14,2023		Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
8:00	GBP	Unemployment rate (3M)	%	Jan		3.8%	3.7%
8:00	GBP	Average weekly earnings ex bonuses (3M)	y/y	Jan		6.6%	6.7%
9:00	ESP	HICP	m/m y/y	Feb		1.0% 6.1%	1.0% 6.1%
11:00	USD	NFIB small business optimism	Index	Feb			90.3
13:30	USD	CPI headline	m/m y/y	Feb	0.4%	0.4% 6.0%	0.5% 6.4%
13:30	USD	CPI core	m/m y/y	Feb	0.4%	0.4% 5.5%	0.4% 5.6%
22:20	USD	Fed's Bowman speaks					
		rch 15, 2023		Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
3:00	CNY	Fixed assets investments	y/y	Feb		4.5%	5.1%
8:00	SEK	Underlying inflation CPIF	m/m y/y	Feb	0.6% 9.0%	0.7% 9.2%	-1.3% 9.3%
8:00	NOK	Trade balance	NOK bn	Feb			102.8
8:00	SEK	CPI	m/m y/y	Feb		0.9% 11.7%	-1.1% 11.7%
8:45	FRF	HICP	m/m y/y	Feb		1.0% 7.2%	1.0% 7.2%
11:00	EUR	Industrial production	m/m y/y	Jan		0.5% 0.4%	-1.1% -1.7%
13:30	USD	Empire Manufacturing PMI	Index	Mar		- <i>7.7</i>	-5.8
13:30	USD	PPI	m/m y/y	Feb		0.3% 5.4%	0.7% 6.0%
13:30	USD	PPI core	m/m y/y	Feb		0.4% 5.2%	0.5% 5.4%
13:30	USD	Retail sales control group	m/m	Feb		-0.3%	1.7%
15:00	USD	NAHB Housing Market Index	Index	Mar		41.0	42.0
15:30	USD	DOE U.S. crude oil inventories	К				-1694
21:00	USD	TICS international capital flow, Net inflow	USD bn	Jan			28.6
22:45	NZD	GDP	q/qly/y	4th quarter	Daniel - Barrie	-0.2% 3.3%	2.0% 6.4%
Thursday		16,2023		Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
0:50	JPY	Exports	y/y (%)	Feb		0.1	0.0
0:50	JPY	Import	y/y (%)	Feb		0.1	0.2
0:50	JPY	Trade balance, s.a.	JPY bn	Feb		-1459.2	-1821.3
1:30	AUD	Employment change	1000	Feb		50	-11.5
5:30	JPY	Industrial production, final	m/m y/y	Jan	0.007	0.10/	-4.6% -2.3%
8:00	NOK	GDP (mainland)	m/m	Jan	-0.2%	-0.1%	0.4%
8:00	SEK	Prospera inflation expectations	In Item	E.I.			0.0
10:00	NOK	Norges Bank Regional Network Report: Output next 6M	Index	Feb		10.0%	-0.6
10:00 13:30	ITL USD	HICP	m/m y/y	Feb		9.9% -14.8	9.9% -24.3
13:30	USD	Philly Fed index	Index 1000 (m/m)	Mar Feb			
13:30	USD	Building permits Housing starts	1000 (m/m)	Feb		1350 1310	1339.0 (0.1%) 1309.0 (-4.5%)
13:30	USD	-		Feb			
13:30	USD	Import prices Initial jobless claims	m/m y/y 1000	1 60		-0.2%	-0.2% 0.8% 211
14:15	EUR	ECB's Lagarde speaks at press conference	1000			0.035	0.03
14:15	EUR	ECB announces refi rate	%		3.50%	3.50%	3.00%
14:15	EUR	ECB announces deposit rate	%		3.00%	3.00%	2.50%
riday, M			, , ,	Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
	EUR	Spain's debt rating (S&P)					
	EUR	Belgium's debt rating (S&P)					
-	EUR	tilf					
	EUR	HICP inflation	m/m y/y	Feb	0.8% 8.6%	0.8% 8.5%	0.8% 8.6%
11:00	EUR	HICP - core inflation	у/у	Feb	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%
11:00 11:00		Labour costs	y/y y/y	4th quarter			2.9%
11:00			9/ 9	4551.001			
11:00 11:00	EUR		%			7.5%	/.:J7n
11:00 11:00 11:30	EUR RUB	Central Bank of Russia rate decision	% %	Feb		7.5% 78.5%	7.5% 78.3%
11:00 11:00 11:30 14:15	EUR RUB USD	Central Bank of Russia rate decision Capacity utilization	%	Feb Feb		78.5%	78.3%
11:00 11:00 11:30 14:15 14:15	EUR RUB USD	Central Bank of Russia rate decision Capacity utilization Industrial production	% m/m	Feb			78.3% 0.0%
11:00 11:00 11:30 14:15	EUR RUB USD	Central Bank of Russia rate decision Capacity utilization	%			78.5%	78.3%

Macroeconomic forecast

Macro f			Private	Public	Fixed	Ex-	lm-	Infla-	Wage	Unem-	Public	Public	Current
	Year	GDP 1	cons.1	cons. ¹	inv. ¹	ports ¹	ports ¹	tion ¹	growth ¹	ploym ³	budget ⁴	debt ⁴	acc.4
Denmark	2022	3.6	-2.6	-2.8	8.4	7.9	3.8	7.7	3.5	2.6	1.2	29.7	11.8
	2023	-1.0	-2.3	0.0	-3.3	1.3	-0.7	4.3	4.1	3.1	1.0	28.1	9.5
	2024	1.0	1.8	0.9	-2.1	1.2	0.4	2.0	4.2	3.4	0.8	27.0	9.5
Sweden	2022	2.6	2.6	-0.2	5.6	4.6	7.9	8.4	2.5	7.5	0.7	31.0	3.9
	2023	-1.2	-1.3	1.1	-3.0	1.3	0.2	8.5	3.2	8.2	-0.9	29.0	4.4
	2024	1.2	2.0	1.2	1.8	2.8	2.6	1.3	2.7	8.1	-0.4	29.0	4.5
Norway	2022	3.8	6.8	0.1	4.4	5.9	9.3	5.8	3.9	1.8	-	-	-
	2023	0.6	-0.5	1.3	0.5	3.5	2.5	4.8	4.3	2.2	-	-	-
	2024	1.5	0.9	1.5	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	3.8	2.4	-	-	-
Macro f	foreca	st. Eur	oland										
	Year	GDP 1	Private cons. ¹	Public cons. ¹	Fixed inv.1	Ex- ports ¹	lm- ports ¹	Infla- tion ¹	Wage growth ¹	Unem- ploym ³	Public budget ⁴	Public debt ⁴	Current
Euro area	2022	3.5	4.3	1.1	3.8	7.2	8.0	8.4	4.2	6.7	-3.9	93.7	1.5
	2023	0.1	-0.3	0.8	1.7	3.5	5.2	6.1	4.9	6.9	-4.0	92.5	1.9
	2024	0.3	0.9	1.0	0.0	3.6	4.6	2.6	3.6	7.0	-3.5	91.6	2.4
Germany	2022	1.9	4.4	1.2	0.6	3.0	6.1	8.7	4.1	3.1	-2.3	67.4	3.7
	2023	-0.4	-0.6	0.9	-0.7	3.3	4.4	6.6	5.4	3.3	-2.7	65.5	4.6
	2024	0.1	0.8	1.2	0.0	3.2	4.6	2.6	4.3	3.5	-1.9	66.2	4.9
Finland	2022	1.8	2.3	2.5	4.5	1.5	7.0	7.1	2.6	6.8	-1.8	70.7	-3.3
	2023	-0.7	-0.3	1.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	4.8	4.0	7.3	-2.5	71.0	-2.7
	2024	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.5	1.5	1.0	2.2	3.5	7.2	-2.0	71.7	-2.1
Macro f	oreca	st. Glob	oal										
	Year	GDP 1	Private cons. ¹	Public cons. ¹	Fixed inv.1	Ex- ports ¹	lm- ports ¹	Infla- tion ¹	Wage growth ¹	Unem- ploym ³	Public budget ⁴	Public debt ⁴	Current acc. ⁴
USA	2022	2.1	2.8	-0.6	-0.2	7.2	8.2	8.0	5.2	3.6	-4.2	124.0	-3.9
	2023	0.3	0.3	1.5	-5.2	1.0	-5.7	3.8	4.0	4.0	-3.8	121.0	-3.1
	2024	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.7	1.6	2.1	5.6	-3.9	120.5	-2.8
China	2022 2023 2024	3 5.5 5.2	2.8 5.1 5.5	-	4.5 5.2 5.5	- - -	-	2.0 2.2 2.5	3.0 5.0 5.5	-	-8.9 -7.2 -7.5	76.9 84.1 89.8	1.6 1.0 0.8
UK	2022	4.2	-	-	-	-	-	8.9	-	3.8	-	-	-
	2023	-0.7	-	-	-	-	-	6.2	-	4.4	-	-	-
	2024	0.8	-	-	-	-	-	2.6	-	5.0	-	-	-
Japan	2022	1.4 0.7	3.0 0.9	1.6 0.6	-0.8 1.3	4.7 2.5	8.0 3.2	2.2 2.4	-	2.6 2.8	-	-	<u>-</u>

0.5 $Source: OECD \ and \ Danske \ Bank. \ 1] \ \% \ y/y. \ 2] \ \% \ contribution \ to \ GDP \ growth. \ 3] \ \% \ of \ labour \ force. \ 4] \ \% \ of \ GDP.$

0.6

2024

0.9

8.0

2.8

Financial forecast

Bond	and mone	y markets								
		Key interest	3m interest	2-yr swap	10-yr swap	Currency	Currency	Currency	Currency	Currency
		rate	rate	yield	yield	vs EUR	vs USD	vs DKK	vs NOK	vs SEK
USD	10-Mar	4.75	5.12	5.17	3.86	105.9	-	702.9	1068.5	1074.4
	+3m	5.25	5.40	5.10	3.85	104.0	-	715.6	1019.2	1057.7
	+6m	5.25	5.40	4.90	3.65	102.0	-	729.9	1019.6	1098.0
	+12m	5.25	5.06	4.70	3.45	102.0	-	730.4	1000.0	1098.0
EUR	10-Mar	2.50	2.98	3.81	3.13	-	105.9	744.3	1131.4	1137.6
	+3m	3.50	4.04	3.35	3.00	-	104.0	744.3	1060.0	1100.0
	+6m	4.00	4.16	3.20	2.85	-	102.0	744.5	1040.0	1120.0
	+12m	4.00	4.14	2.90	2.55	-	102.0	745.0	1020.0	1120.0
JPY	10-Mar	-0.10	-0.03	-	-	120.5	137.0	6.18	9.39	9.44
	+3m	-0.10	-	-	-	130.0	125.0	5.73	8.15	8.46
	+6m	-0.10	-	-	-	127.5	125.0	5.84	8.16	8.78
	+12m	-0.10	-	-	-	127.5	125.0	5.84	8.00	8.78
GBP*	10-Mar	4.00	-	4.57	3.68	88.4	119.8	841.7	1279.5	1286.6
	+3m	4.25	-	4.10	3.40	87.0	119.5	855.5	1218.4	1264.4
	+6m	4.25	-	4.10	3.40	85.0	120.0	875.9	1223.5	1317.6
	+12m	4.00	-	3.90	3.30	85.0	120.0	876.5	1200.0	1317.6
CHF*	10-Mar	1.00	-	2.09	1.93	98.4	92.9	756.4	1149.8	1156.1
	+3m	1.25	-	-	-	98.0	94.2	759.4	1081.6	1122.4
	+6m	1.25	-	-	-	97.0	95.1	767.5	1072.2	1154.6
	+12m	1.25	-	-	-	97.0	95.1	768.0	1051.5	1154.6
DKK	10-Mar	2.10	3.09	3.94	3.25	744.31	702.92	-	152.01	152.84
	+3m	3.10	3.73	3.50	3.15	744.25	715.63	-	142.43	147.80
	+6m	3.60	3.85	3.35	3.00	744.50	729.90	-	139.69	150.44
	+12m	3.60	3.85	3.05	2.70	745.00	730.39	-	136.91	150.34
SEK	10-Mar	3.00	3.34	3.86	3.09	1137.6	1074.4	65.4	99.5	100.0
	+3m	3.50	3.70	3.35	2.85	1100.0	1057.7	67.7	96.4	-
	+6m	3.75	3.85	3.15	2.80	1120.0	1098.0	66.5	92.9	-
	+12m	3.50	3.60	2.80	2.75	1120.0	1098.0	66.5	91.1	-
NOK	10-Mar	2.75	3.46	3.86	3.33	1131.4	1068.5	65.8	100.0	100.5
	+3m	3.00	3.40	3.35	3.15	1060.0	1019.2	70.2	-	103.8
	+6m	3.25	3.42	3.20	2.85	1040.0	1019.6	71.6	-	107.7
	+12m	3.00	3.20	3.05	2.70	1020.0	1000.0	73.0	-	109.8

^{*}Notes: GBP swaps are SONIA and CHF swaps are SHARON.

We have updated our Norges Bank forecasts after yesterday's Norges Bank meeting but not yet our Norwegian yield outlook

Commodities												
			20	23			20	24		Αv	/era	ge
	10-Mar	Q1	02	Ω3	Ω4	Q1	02	Ω3	04	2023		2024
ICE Brent	81	90	90	85	80	80	80	80	80	86	7	80

Source Danske Bank



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Report completed: 10 March 2023, 13:00 CET

Report first disseminated: 10 March 2023, 13:25 CET