25 August 2023

Weekly Focus

Slowing down

Financial stress in China and weak US and euro PMIs set the scene for global markets this week. It started out with continued focus on China where the housing crisis and financial risks from shadow banking has resurfaced. Chinese financial stress eased somewhat during the week, though, as there was no new bad news to fuel a further sell-off. It does not mean the problems are no longer there, however. We see increasing downside risks to Chinese growth and have revised down the annual growth estimate to 4.8% from 5.2%, see *Resarch China: downside risks on the rise – scenarios for Chinese growth*, 21 August. We expect Chinese policy makers to step up stimulus to stave off a crisis but there is a risk they continue to be two steps behind and growth slows even more.

PMIs out of the US and the euro area added to the picture of a slowing global economy. In the US Composite PMI dropped to 50.4 in August from 52.0 in July with declines in both manufacturing and services. The European PMI figures also came out much weaker than expected with services showing renewed signs of slowing. The German Services PMI numbers stood out with a massive 5 index points decline, which has only happened three times before with the latest being in March 2020 during the Covid-19 lockdown. The service sector has been the engine that kept activity running at a decent level while the manufacturing sector has been in recession for a while. However, it now seems the service sector is finally losing some steam as well. It will be interesting to see if this finally translates into more weakness in labour markets, which have stayed surprisingly resilient over the past year despite weaker growth.

The BRICS countries this week expanded the cooperation with six new members being Argentina, Ethiopia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Iran. BRICS' stated goal is to be a champion for the Global South working for a multipolar world and with the increase in members they now represent 37% of global GDP (PPP terms) and 46% of global population. We could very well see a further expansion of the group in the years to come.

Bond yields started the week higher but the soft PMI data led markets to rethink the need for further central banks hikes and yields turned lower again. That was until markets started to fret about Jackson Hole and coming speeches by Governors of both the Fed and ECB, Jerome Powell and Christine Lagarde. Then yields came back up. Equities rallied on the softer central bank outlook despite the economic weakness but fell back again when jitters rose going into Jackson Hole.

Looking ahead, it's time for US labour market data again, with main focus naturally on the August non-farm payrolls, where the gradual cooling in employment growth has likely continued. We're looking for +160k. The Fed pays close attention to the development in average hourly earnings and another print at 0.4% m/m or above would likely be a hawkish signal for the markets. JOLTS data for July is also up for release on Tuesday where job openings have been a good leading indicator for wage growth as well. US ISM Manufacturing and July PCE data is also due for release. In China, PMI for August will be in focus while Flash CPI inflation in the euro area will be a key input for the coming ECB meeting in September.

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 to remain sticky
- Fed on hold, ECB to hike once more

Key market movers

- Tuesday: US job openings (JOLTS), consumer confidence (Conf. Board) and house prices
- Wednesday: German CPI
- Thursday: Euro Flash CPI and unemployment, US core PCE inflation, China PMI (NBS)
- Friday: US non-farm payrolls, ISM man., China PMI manufacturing (Caixin), EU Commission forecast

Selected reading from Danske Bank

FX Forecast Update - Scandies beware of the greenback currency Hulk, 23 August

Research US – Could investment boom pave the way for a soft landing?, 22 August

Research China - Downside risks on the rise - scenarios for Chinese growth, 21 August

Yield Outlook - Waiting for September, 18 August

Editor

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Scandi market movers

In Denmark, the <u>retail sales index</u> for July is due on Tuesday next week. Retail sales
grew in June, also when adjusted for inflation. We expect sales were largely unchanged
in July vs. June, which is also what our latest *spending monitor* indicates.

Statistics Denmark's <u>wage index</u> for Q2 23 is set to arrive on Thursday. Comparing with DA's (Confederation of Danish Employers) figures, which showed a rise of 3.4%, could be interesting. However, we have to remember that the recently negotiated collective agreements will not be fully reflected in the figures until Q3 23, when we expect to see a marked increase.

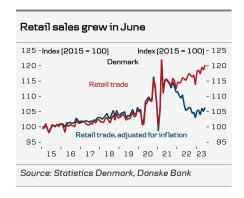
July's <u>unemployment</u> figures are scheduled for release on Thursday. The unemployment indicator pointed to a slight increase of 1,200 but with an unchanged unemployment rate. The new figures should show us which sectors have been hit.

Also on Thursday, we should receive the first <u>national accounts</u> figures for Q2 23. The GDP indicator pointed to weak growth of 0.2%, most likely driven by the pharmaceutical industry – but how has the rest of the economy fared?

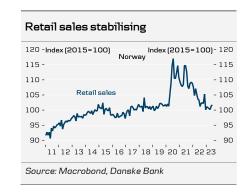
• The highlight in **Sweden** next week will be Q2 GDP. The non-official (experimental) GDP indicator showed a severe -1.5% q/q (SA), which is way below what we have pencilled into our *Nordic Outlook* June forecast. Looking at ingoing indicators, supply side data such as production and hours worked seems to suggest about a 1% decline q/q, while demand in the form of household consumption was unchanged, which does not fully corroborate the bad GDP indicator print. It is worth noting that the GDP indicator is quite uncertain and revisions are volatile. Another aspect is that a sharply negative print would suggest that Sweden's economic growth is deviating significantly from that in neighbouring Nordic countries: Denmark, Norway and Finland posted Q2 growth of +0.2%, 0.0% and 0.7% on a quarterly basis. The same is true looking at Eurozone growth. Hence, in comparison to other countries is it a bit puzzling why Sweden should be the odd one out in terms of growth. As a compromise, we project that Q2 GDP will print -0.5% q/q.

In addition, SCB releases <u>July trade balance and retail sales</u> while NIER (Konjunkturinstitutet) releases the <u>August confidence survey</u> and <u>Manufacturing PMI</u>. NIER will be scrutinized for signs of abating selling price expectations in retail trade and private services which would bolster our forecast for slowing inflation in H2. The question for PMI is if it will revert back down again after the rise seen last month on the back of weak Eurozone PMI's.

In Norway, <u>retail sales</u> stabilised in May and June after almost two years in decline. This was presumably due partly to consumption now being at low levels, spending on services having begun to slow, and prices having come down for some product groups. The erosion of purchasing power by negative real wage growth and higher interest rates indicates that consumption – including spending on goods – will be relatively weak for a period. On the other hand, there were healthy numbers of foreign tourists in July, and the bad weather may have boosted spending on clothing, shoes, sports equipment and so on. We therefore expect retail sales to climb 0.3% m/m in July. The <u>unemployment</u> rate has been stable at 1.8% since Easter, but the total number of people out of work – including those on job creation schemes and the partially unemployed – increased by almost 3,000 in July. Job growth also seems to have levelled off somewhat, so we think the unemployment rate may well rise to a seasonally adjusted 1.9% in August. This would be in line with Norges Bank's projections in June and so support its plans to raise rates again in September.









Scandi update

Denmark – Employment continues to rise as 3,500 find work in June

Wage-earner employment rose by 3,500 in June compared to May. Hence, jobs continue to be created in the Danish labour market, in part due to a growing labour force. The trend has surprised us slightly, as the economy is not growing if you discount the pharmaceutical industry. That being said, we should remember that real wages have fallen, which supports employment. Moreover, sectors that employ many staff compared to revenues, such as restaurants, continue to perform relatively well, and these companies have had many unfilled job vacancies. Nevertheless, we still expect employment to slow somewhat later this year due to the low level of activity.

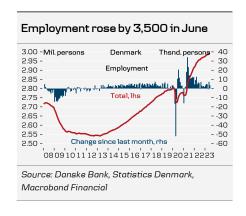
Consumer confidence printed largely unchanged at -10.9 in August. A large majority of consumers continue to have a negative view on their finances compared to last year, while only a slim majority are counting on their situation improving next year. One reason may be the high level of interest rates beginning to eat into household budgets. On the other hand, house prices have ceased falling and purchasing power is increasing on the back of rising wages. Consumer confidence is also markedly better than last year, when it hit an all-time low, and will presumably pick up slightly going forward, as the comparison will soon be with the months last year when energy prices skyrocketed.

We also received August's business confidence figures in the past week. The overall figure saw business confidence decline for the first time this year. Retail sentiment was particularly negative after an upsurge in June. Industry turned more negative, while construction continues to drag. The service sector presents a somewhat different picture, remaining positive on the economy, though confidence dipped a tad. This reflects the marked swing in consumption as consumers switched from buying a multitude of goods during the pandemic to spending their money for quite some time now on travel, restaurants and experiences.

Sweden – Decreasing new constructions, high savings, low borrowing, signs of tight government budget bill and setbacks of the SEK

Preliminary figures for the first half of 2023 show that construction of dwellings in new buildings keeps plummeting and is down 57 % compared to last year and is down to as low as last seen ten years ago. This shows that the effects of the interest rate hikes are becoming ever more apparent. Thus, further decreasing the supply of the housing market. Household liquid asset savings in Q2 increased to 114 billion for Q2, almost 50% higher than last the same period year. It indicated that households are preparing for uncertain times ahead. Also, the loan growth rate has continued to fall for the fifth quarter, giving an annual growth rate of 1.3%.

The Swedish government is gathering this weekend to negotiate the autumn budget. Minister for Finance Elisabeth Svantesson preliminary announced that reforms in the budget will total approximately SEK 40 billion. After putting of the needed funds for the everyday operation for the public sector this means that it will basically result in tightening fiscal policy. Svantesson were even unwilling to call the budget expansive in the sense that would normally be the case in a recession due. The motivation for this is to avoid any fiscal spending that adds further fuel to inflation. She was also very vague in her answer if any of the earlier promised tax cuts would be implemented and if so to what degree.



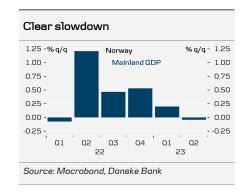




Moreover, this week has been characterized by the continued weakening of the SEK. EUR/SEK reached an all-time high level at 11.96 on Monday, while USD/SEK hovered around 10.95. Bad news from China, affecting growth prospects for Europe and other turmoil, starkly contrasts the good news from the US, which hurts more minor currencies like the SEK. Read more about it *FX Forecast Update - Scandies beware of the greenback currency Hulk*, 23 August.

Norway - Interest rates beginning to bite

The national accounts showed unchanged mainland GDP in Q2 after growth of just 0.2% in Q1, confirming a clear levelling off so far this year. Private consumption is no longer being propped up by spending on services and is now lower than a year ago. Add in the fact that households will probably see mortgage rates climb 75bp in Q3 and another 50bp in Q4, and the risk to growth is clearly to the downside. Housing investment is also struggling badly, as has been clear from housing starts for some time. On the other hand, there is still strong growth in business investment, and mainland exports and government demand are growing at around the normal rate. Oil investment is volatile but likely to make a solid contribution to growth in H2 and 2024. The GDP numbers are in line with Norges Bank's projections in the June monetary policy report and so unlikely to affect its plans to raise the policy rate again in September. At the same time, there is little to suggest there will be a need to raise rates further after that – quite the opposite.





Calendar – 28 August – 1September 2023

During the				Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
		Industrial profits	y/y	Jul			-8.3%
Monday, A			"	Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
7:00	JPY	Leading economic index, final	Index	Jun			108.9
8:00	DKK	Retail sales	m/m y/y	Jul			1.3% 2.0%
8:00	NOK	Retail sales, s.a.	m/m	Jul			0.3%
10:00	EUR	Money supply (M3)	y/y	Jul		0.0%	0.6%
10:00	EUR	Loans to households (adj. for sales and sec.)	%	Jul		0.0%	0.6%
10:00	EUR	Loans to NFCs (adj. for sales and sec.)	%	Jul		0.0%	0.6%
Tuesday,	August	29, 2023		Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
1:30	JPY	Unemployment rate	%	Jul		2.5%	2.5%
1:30	JPY	Job-to-applicant ratio		Jul		1.3	1.3
8:00	SEK	Retail sales s.a.	m/m y/y	Jul			-0.3% -4.4%
8:00	SEK	GDP	q/qly/y	2nd quarter	-0.5% 0.1%	-1.1% -1.0%	0.6% 0.8%
8:00	SEK	Trade balance	SEK bn	Jul -			1.1
8:00	DEM	GfK consumer confidence	Net. Bal.	Sep		-23.8	-24.4
8:45	FRF	Consumer confidence	Index	Aug		86.0	85.0
14:00 15:00	HUF USD	Central Bank of Hungary rate decision FHFA house price index	%	h	13.0%	13.0%	13.0% 0.7%
16:00	USD	Conference Board consumer confidence	m/m Index	Jun Aug		116.6	117.0
		ust 30, 2023	ilidex	Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
7:00	JPY	Consumer confidence	Index	Aug	Barioko Barik	37.4	37.1
8:00	SEK	Wages (blue collars/white collars)	y/y	Jun		37.4	3.1%
9:00	SEK	Consumer confidence	Index	Aug			72.3
9:00	SEK	Economic Tendency Survey	Index	Aug			87.5
9:00	SEK	Manufacturing confidence	Index	Aug			97.1
9:00	ESP	HICP, preliminary	m/m y/y	Aug		0.6% 2.5%	-0.1% 2.1%
9:00	CHF	KOF leading indicator	Index	Aug		91.3	92.2
11:00	EUR	Industrial confidence	Net bal.	Aug		-10.0	-9.4
11:00	EUR	Economic confidence	Index	Aug		93.7	94.5
11:00	EUR	Consumer confidence, final	Net bal.	Aug			-16.0
11:00	EUR	Service confidence	Net bal.	Aug		5.0	5.7
14:00	DEM	HICP, preliminary	m/m y/y	Aug		0.2% 6.2%	0.5% 6.5%
14:15	USD	ADP employment	1000	Aug		200	324
14:30	USD	GDP, release	q/q AR	2nd quarter		0.024	0.024
14:30 14:30	USD	PCE core	q/q AR	2nd quarter		-90.0	0.038 -88.8
16:00	USD	Advance goods trade balance Pending home sales	USD bn	Jul Jul		-90.0	-88.8 0.3% -14.8%
16:30	USD	DOE U.S. crude oil inventories	m/m y/y K	Jui		-0.5%	-6134
Thursday,		t 31, 2023	K	Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
1:50	JPY	Industrial production, preliminary	m/m y/y	Jul		-1.3% -1.4%	2.4% 0.0%
1:50	JPY	Retail trade	m/m y/y	Jul		0.9% 5.5%	-0.6% 5.6%
3:30	CNY	PMI manufacturing	Index	Aug		49.1	49.3
3:30	CNY	PMI non-manufacturing	Index	Aug		51.0	51.5
8:00	DKK	GDP, preliminary	q/qly/y	2nd quarter			0.6%
8:00	DKK	Gross unemployment s.a.	K (%)	Jul			0.028
8:00	DEM	Retail sales	m/m y/y	Jul		0.3% -1.4%	-0.6% 0.4%
8:45	FRF	Household consumption	m/m y/y	Jul		0.3%	0.9% -2.8%
8:45	FRF	HICP, preliminary	m/m y/y	Aug		0.9% 5.5%	0.0% 5.1%
8:45	FRF	GDP, final	q/qly/y	2nd quarter		0.5% 0.9%	0.5% 0.9%
9:15	USD	Fed's Bostic speaks		_			
9:55	DEM	Unemployment	%	Aug		5.7%	5.6%
9:55 10:00	DEM NOK	Unemployment Norges Bank's daily FX purchases	m	Sep			1000
9:55 10:00 11:00	DEM NOK ITL	Unemployment Norges Bank's daily FX purchases HICP, preliminary	m m/m y/y	Sep Aug		0.1% 5.4%	1000 -1.6% 6.3%
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Macroeconomic forecast

	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
Denmark	2022 2023 2024	2.7 1.5 1.0	-1.6 0.6 1.7	-2.8 -0.7 1.8	3.2 -7.2 -2.9	10.8 5.7 1.2	6.5 0.1 0.7	7.7 4.1 3.2	3.6 4.7 5.3	2.6 2.9 3.4	3.5 2.2 1.2	30.1 27.4 25.7	13.1 13.5 13.5
Sweden	2022 2023 2024	2.9 0.5 1.9	1.9 -2.2 1.7	0.1 1.4 1.1	6.1 1.4 2.3	7.0 3.2 2.8	9.4 0.4 2.6	8.4 8.4 1.9	2.5 4.0 3.3	7.5 7.5 7.8	0.7 -0.4 -0.8	32.9 29.0 29.0	3.6 5.0 5.1
Norway	2022 2023 2024	3.8 1.1 1.4	6.9 -2.0 1.2	0.1 1.4 1.5	4.3 0.5 4.0	5.9 4.0 2.0	9.2 3.0 2.0	5.8 5.3 2.5	4.3 5.3 4.2	1.8 1.9 2.3	- - -		- - -
Macro	oreca	st. Euro	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 2023 2024	3.4 0.5 1.0	4.5 0.2 1.2	1.4 1.2 0.8	3.0 -0.2 0.5	7.2 3.0 3.2	8.1 2.9 3.3	8.4 5.3 2.8	2.9 4.3 3.0	6.7 6.9 7.0	-3.6 -3.2 -2.7	93.2 90.9 90.1	0.6 2.2 2.4
Finland	2022 2023 2024	1.6 -0.2 0.8	1.7 -0.2 1.0	0.8 2.0 0.5	3.2 -4.5 2.5	3.5 -0.5 1.5	8.3 -2.0 2.0	7.1 5.9 2.1	2.4 4.1 3.7	6.8 7.0 6.8	-0.9 -2.7 -1.9	72.9 72.1 72.6	-3.6 -1.4 -1.0
Macro	foreca	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
USA	2022 2023 2024	2.1 1.3 0.5	2.7 1.5 0.1	-0.6 2.7 1.3	-0.2 -2.7 1.0	7.1 1.2 -1.9	8.1 -4.3 -1.9	8.0 4.0 2.2	5.3 4.1 3.2	3.6 3.7 4.3	-5.5 -5.4 -5.8	123.3 123.6 125.4	-3.9 -3.1 -2.8
China	2022 2023 2024	3.0 4.8 4.2	2.8 6.5 5.0		4.0 4.5 3.8	- - -	- - -	2.0 0.8 1.2	- - -	5.5 5.2 5.1	-7.5 -7.5 -7.5	77.1 82.8 87.4	2.3 1.4 1.0
UK	2022	4.2 -0.7	-	_ _	-	-	-	8.9 6.2	- -	3.8 4.4	-	-	-

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

Financial forecast

Bond	and mone	y markets								
		Key interest rate	3m interest rate	2-yr swap yield	10-yr swap yield	Currency vs EUR	Currency vs USD	Currency vs DKK	Currency vs NOK	Currency vs SEK
USD*	24-Aug	5.50		4.88	3.96	0.92	-	6.88	10.69	10.99
	+3m	5.50	-	4.55	3.75	0.93	-	6.96	11.03	10.75
	+6m	5.50	-	4.24	3.55	0.94	-	7.02	10.94	10.94
	+12m	5.00	-	3.85	3.35	0.97	-	7.23	10.87	11.36
EUR	24-Aug	3.75	3.75	3.67	3.13	-	1.08	7.4534	11.58	11.90
	+3m	4.00	3.99	3.50	3.10	-	1.07	7.4450	11.80	11.50
	+6m	4.00	4.00	3.29	2.95	-	1.06	7.4450	11.60	11.60
	+12m	3.75	3.56	3.00	2.85	-	1.03	7.4500	11.20	11.70
JPY	24-Aug	-0.10	-	-	-	0.006	0.007	4.73	7.34	7.55
	+3m	-0.10	-	-	-	0.007	0.007	4.90	7.77	7.57
	+6m	0.10	-	-	-	0.007	0.008	5.32	8.29	8.29
	+12m	0.10	-	-	-	0.007	0.008	5.56	8.36	8.74
GBP*	24-Aug	5.25	-	5.62	4.42	1.17	1.08	8.70	13.52	13.89
	+3m	5.50	-	5.35	4.25	1.15	1.23	8.56	13.56	13.22
	+6m	5.50	-	4.99	4.10	1.14	1.20	8.46	13.18	13.18
	+12m	5.00	-	4.60	3.95	1.14	1.17	8.47	12.73	13.30
CHF	24-Aug	1.75	-	-	-	1.05	1.13	7.80	12.12	12.46
	+3m	2.00	-	-	-	1.05	1.13	7.84	12.42	12.11
	+6m	2.00	-	-	-	1.06	1.13	7.92	12.34	12.34
	+12m	2.00	-	-	-	1.06	1.10	7.93	11.91	12.45
DKK	24-Aug	3.35	3.80	3.79	3.27	0.134	0.145	-	1.55	1.60
	+3m	3.60	4.00	3.65	3.25	0.134	0.144	-	1.58	1.54
	+6m	3.60	4.00	3.44	3.10	0.134	0.142	-	1.56	1.56
	+12m	3.35	3.56	3.15	3.00	0.134	0.138	-	1.50	1.57
SEK	24-Aug	3.75	4.06	4.00	3.28	0.084	0.091	0.63	0.97	-
	+3m	4.00	4.12	3.85	3.10	0.087	0.093	0.65	1.03	-
	+6m	4.00	3.84	3.39	2.89	0.086	0.091	0.64	1.00	-
	+12m	3.50	3.24	3.00	2.85	0.085	0.088	0.64	0.96	-
NOK	24-Aug	4.00	4.82	4.94	4.06	0.086	0.094	0.64	-	1.03
	+3m	4.00	4.50	4.29	3.85	0.085	0.091	0.63	-	0.97
	+6m	4.00	4.50	3.99	3.65	0.086	0.091	0.64	-	1.00
	+12m	3.50	3.92	3.70	3.45	0.089	0.092	0.67	-	1.04

*Notes: GBP swaps are SONIA, USD swaps are SOFR

Commodities												
			2023 2024					Ave	rage			
	24-Aug	01	02	Ω3	Q4	01	02	Ω3	04	2023	2024	
ICE Brent	83	82	78	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	

Source Danske Bank



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