

28 April 2023

Weekly Focus

All eyes on big central banks

The markets are tuning in for a very exciting central bank week. Both the Fed and the ECB continue their tightrope walking, weighing stubborn inflation against rising financial stability risks. This week provided a sharp reminder of the latter, as the share price for First Republic bank plunged to record lows after their Q1 earnings report showed depositors had withdrawn more than USD 100bn. Maintaining the balance of central bank concerns, though, German public sector reached a wage agreement where the average increase is estimated at a whopping 11.5% over the next two years.

In the context of persistent core price pressures and in the absence of a systemic crisis, we keep our central bank calls unchanged and expect the Fed to deliver their final 25bp hike, see *Fed preview: One more hike – cuts still far away*, 27 April. Powell is unlikely to close the door for further hikes, but even with nominal rates on hold, we expect the monetary policy stance to continue tightening towards H2 as lower inflation expectations drive higher real rates. The JOLTS jobs openings will be released just ahead of the FOMC and it will be interesting to see whether labour demand has continued to ease. As we have highlighted before, recent job gains have been more driven by a recovery in labour supply, not by a further uptick in demand. We get a fresh snapshot on Friday when the US jobs report for April is released. Our call is for a slightly moderating but still solid jobs growth of 200k.

The ECB on Thursday is likely to deliver a 50bp hike unless bank lending survey and loan growth data due on Tuesday change the picture dramatically, see ECB Preview — The art of compromise, 27 April. We believe it will be a compromise deal with no specific forward guidance (nor guidance on balance sheet normalisation in H2 yet), but repeating a data-dependent approach to future policy decisions.

Not that big central banks would take their cues from the little ones, but this week, **Riksbank opted for a cautious approach, and while hiking by 50bp as expected, signalled a softer rate path going forward**. The dovish surprise sent the krona sharply weaker and has left EUR/SEK hovering around 11.40 level (our 12M forecast). For now, we keep our call for another 50bp hike in June but recognise that risks are tilted towards a smaller hike, including the possibility of extending the hiking cycle into September, see *Flash comment Riksbank – Dovish hike*, 26 April. The Bank of Japan, in turn, kept its yield curve control policy unchanged as expected. We continue to expect BoJ to loosen the grip on the yield curve at the June or July meeting.

Next week, we expect the Chinese PMIs for April to paint a mixed picture with a recovery in Caixin manufacturing after the big drop in March, while the official PMI is likely to correct lower after reaching a very high level in March. The convergence in the two is in line with our view of a recovery in the Chinese economy. Note that as a result from a very strong Q1 performance, we have raised our growth forecast and now expect the Chinese GDP to expand by 6.2% in 2023 (prev. 5.5%). Our estimate for 2024 is lowered to 5.0% from 5.2%. Read more on *China Macro Monitor* – 2023 growth revised up to 6.2%, 24 April.

Key global views

- Stagnation and periodic contraction in the US and Europe during 2023
- US and euro area inflation set to decline further but core inflation likely to stay elevated
- Rising emphasis on financial stability risks but more hikes in store as long as systemic crisis can be avoided

Key market movers

- Mon: US ISM manufacturing
- Tue: EA bank lending survey, HICP and loan growth, RBA meeting
- Wed: US ISM Services, FOMC meeting
- Thu: ECB meeting
- · Fri: US jobs report

Selected reading from Danske Bank

- ECB preview The art of compromise, 27 April
- Flash comment Riksbank Dovish hike, 26 April
- China Macro Monitor 2023 growth revised up to 6.2%, 24 Apri

Editor

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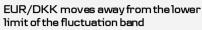


Scandi market movers

• In **Denmark**, we expect Danmarks Nationalbank to hike interest rates on Thursday by the same amount as the ECB after its rate meeting. Hence, we look for the Danish central bank to raise the current account, certificates of deposit, lending and discount rates by 0.50 percentage points (pp) on Thursday. Denmark can now match the ECB after the Danish krone (DKK) – following a period of trading to the strong side – recently hit its weakest level against the euro (EUR) since the end of 2020. The weakening was prompted by Danmarks Nationalbank widening the rate spread to the eurozone by 0.15pp in February. Since the move, there has been a decent margin between the DKK exchange rate and the lower limit of the fluctuation band.

Tuesday is scheduled to bring <u>FX reserve figures</u> for April. Given the weaker DKK, we do not expect the central bank intervened in FX markets in April, just as it did not intervene in the preceding two months.

- New month next week which means PMI's will be out also in Sweden. Flash PMI's for the Euro Area pointed to an improved sentiment among the services sector while the sentiment among manufactures continue to be in the contraction territory. The Swedish NIER business survey, out this week gave a mixed picture. With somewhat improved order inflow but despite that, somewhat lower sentiment among the business sector. Although the manufacturing industry continue to be above normal levels. For the PMI's reading, it will be very interesting to see if they follow the Euro Area or the NIER survey as in our view, they points in different directions. What we have seen in hard data so far is that both the consumption and the production side is holding up better than expected.
- We expect **Norges** Bank (NB) will hike rates by an additional 25bp to 3.25% at its policy meeting on Thursday. In March, NB was relatively clear about its intention to hike rates again in May, and developments since then have been largely as the central bank expected. Core inflation, GDP growth and unemployment have been in line with expectations. Globally, interest rates have moved higher than anticipated, and NOK has weakened further. All of these developments indicate a need for higher rates in the Norwegian economy. We also expect NB to announce a further rate hike in June. Higher import prices triggered by the NOK weakening since the start of the year will put upward pressure on inflation. Unless this trend starts to reverse, we will likely see growth slowing sharply over the course of the summer months if the June rate hike proves to be the last.





Source: Danmarks Nationalbank, Danske Bank, Macrobond



Norges Bank signaling rate hikes in May and June



Source: Macrobond, Danske Bank



Scandi update

Denmark - 2023 budget passed

The 2023 Finance Act (budget) was passed by Parliament this week. Most years, the Act is passed at the end of the previous year, but due to parliamentary elections no Act could be passed for 2023 at the end of 2022. The Finance Act addresses the high rate of inflation and capacity pressures in the Danish economy, having a fiscal impact of -0.9%. Hence, the estimated fiscal impact for 2023 is unchanged relative to the economic survey published by the government in March 2023 prior to the budget being passed. Measures likely to have an effect on Danish household finances include a higher limit on so-called equity savings accounts (aktiesparekonto) with their lower tax rates, which will grow from DKK106,600 this year to DKK135,00 in 2026 (in 2023 DKK terms). The Finance Act was passed by a very broad majority that included the Socialist People's Party, the Liberal Alliance, the Danish Social Liberal Party and the Danish People's Party as well as the government.

In 2022, Denmark had the EU's largest government surplus for the fourth year in a row, according to the so-called EMU debt and EMU balance (EMU = Economic and Monetary Union) figures, which are the figures used to compare finances within the EU system. The surplus ran to DKK93bn, or 3.3% of GDP and, as mentioned, was the largest in the EU for the fourth consecutive year. Denmark's debt was calculated as DKK841.7bn, or 30.1% of GDP. Denmark's government finances are among the absolute strongest in Europe, not least because Denmark has a plan to address its longer-term needs when an ageing population will generate additional expenses, and also because government finances continue to perform better than expected. At the start of 2022, for example, the Ministry of Finance expected a surplus of just DKK25bn, and this has been the pattern year after year.

Retail sales fell 1.5% between February and March after making price and seasonal adjustments. In pure DKK terms, we could note a decline in retail sales of 1.1%. Food prices have continued to increase, as illustrated by the volume of food sold falling 6.7% in March while 0.17% more was spent on buying food. That we despite the rise in food prices do not see any noticeable increase in the amount of money spent on food indicates that while Danes are not quite as thrifty when they shop as they were to just a few months ago, they have not abandoned their new habits of buying more discount goods and fewer brand names.

The number of jobless fell by 100 from February to March. The decline is so small that in practice it equates to no change. On a positive note, however, we could say there has been a very modest turnaround from a minimal increase of 400 in connection with the unemployment indicator that arrives earlier in the month to a tiny decline in unemployment now. Hence, this is the first time in three months where no increase was recorded in the unemployment numbers.



Source: Danske Bank, Statistics Denmark,
Macrobond Financial



Sweden - Improving growth, declining price expectations

The Riksbank hiked 50bp as expected to 3.50%, but the signals for future policy was dovish, signalling for less than another 25bp hike in either June or September, clearly lower than market pricing heading into the release. Anna Breman and Martin Flodén dissented against the decision, opting for a 25bp hike instead and a rate path signalling for additional 25bp hikes in June and/or September. For now, we keep our 50bp call for June, but given today's release there is downside risk to our call. Given the signals, we would not rule out a scenario with 25bp in June followed by 25bp in Sep. Note that ECB will hold two more meetings ahead of the next RB meeting in June, where our forecast is for a total of 75bp

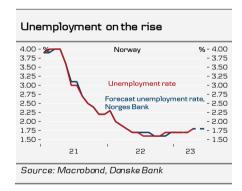
The Q1 GDP indicator showed a 0.2 % qoq seasonally adjusted increase, much better than we have anticipated in our Nordic Outlook forecasts. If we take this figure for granted it would change the 2023 growth outlook entirely from negative to slightly positive as we have previously pencilled in a consecutively growing economy from Q2 and onwards. That said, there are of course reasons to be cautious with such a drastic change as we can indeed see a continued pressure on the consumer, retail trade and residential construction sectors in coming quarters. But for now, it seems manufacturing, foreign goods trade, services and the labour market is performing exceptionally well relative to our expectations.

NIER's (Konjunkturinstitutet, KI) April confidence survey was a very positive reading from an inflation point of view. Manufacturing home market price expectations for consumption goods dropped back to just shy of the unchanged price expectations threshold. This is very positive as it suggests retail trade will soon come to a standstill too. It should be noted the latter actually dropped significantly in April too, but remain at an elevated level. Perhaps even more cheerful readings come from food producers: their price expectations fell into negative territory actually implying domestic food prices are being outright reduced. This is of course a very welcome development for many households, not to say Riksbank.

Sweden: food price plans turning negative 100 100 75 75 50 25 Ω Vet -25 -50 -50 -75 - 75 Retail Sale of Non-Durable Goods -100 -100 2015 อดอก 2005 2010 Source: NIER (Konjunkturinstitutet)

Norway - unemployment edging higher

The unemployment rate rose to 1.8% (seasonally adjusted) in April, and close to 1,700 new people joined the dole queue in April. While remaining tight, the labour market is starting to show signs of weakening. For some months, we have seen a declining trend in the number of new, vacant positions, which would indicate weaker demand for labour, and at the same time the number of bankruptcies has risen, causing temporary lay-offs and redundancies. In addition, we have seen a tendency of higher unemployment in AKU unemployment figures since before Christmas, which would also indicate that finding a job has become more difficult. Unemployment numbers were fully consistent with Norges Bank's projection in its monetary policy report from March, and other things being equal, this ought to be neutral for coming interest rate decisions.





Calendar - 1-5 May 2023

	e week			Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
Sun 30	CNY	PMI manufacturing	Index	Apr	Danske Darik	51.4	51.9
Sun 30	CNY	PMI non-manufacturing	Index	Apr		57.0	58.2
Monday, N	May 1,	2023		Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
2:30	JPY	Nikkei Manufacturing PMI, final	Index	Apr			49.5
7:00	JPY	Consumer confidence	Index	Apr		34.8	33.9
15:30 15:45	CAD USD	RBC manufacturing PMI Markit PMI manufacturing, final	Index Index	Apr Apr		50.4	48.6 50.4
16:00	USD	Construction spending	m/m	Mar		0.2%	-0.1%
16:00	USD	ISM manufacturing	Index	Apr		46.8	46.3
Tuesday, l	May 2,	2023		Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
	USD	Total vechicle sales	m	Apr		14.75	14.82
6:30	AUD	Reserve Bank of Australia rate decision	%		3.6%	3.6%	3.6%
8:00	DEM	Retail sales	m/m y/y	Mar		0.4% -7.2%	-0.4% -5.9%
8:30 9:15	SEK ESP	PMI manufacturing PMI manufacturing	Index Index	Apr Apr		49.9	45.7 51.3
9:45	ITL	PMI manufacturing	Index	Apr		49.7	51.1
9:50	FRF	PMI manufacturing, final	Index	Apr		45.5	45.5
9:55	DEM	PMI manufacturing, final	Index	Apr		44.0	44.0
10:00	EUR	PMI manufacturing, final	Index	Apr		45.5	45.5
10:00	EUR	Money supply (M3)	у/у	Mar		2.3%	2.9%
10:00 10:00	EUR EUR	Loans to households (adj. for sales and sec.)	% %	Mar		2.3% 2.3%	2.9% 2.9%
10:00	NOK	Loans to NFCs (adj. for sales and sec.) PMI manufacturing	⁷⁶ Index	Mar Apr		2.5%	48.3
10:30	GBP	PMI manufacturing, final	Index	Apr		46.6	46.6
11:00	EUR	HICP inflation, preliminary	y/y	Apr	7.0%	7.0%	6.9%
11:00	EUR	HICP inflation, preliminary	m/m y/y	Apr		0.8%	0.9%
11:00	EUR	HICP - core inflation, preliminary	у/у	Apr	5.8%	5.7%	5.7%
11:00	ITL	HICP, preliminary	m/m y/y	Apr		8.1%	0.8% 8.1%
16:00 17:00	USD DKK	Core capital goods orders, final Currency reserves	% DKK bn	Mar Apr			-0.4% 599.2
		y 3, 2023	BICICUIT	Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
11:00	EUR	Unemployment	%	Mar		6.6%	6.6%
14:15	USD	ADP employment	1000	Apr		143	145
15:45	USD	Markit PMI service, final	Index	Apr			53.7
16:00	USD	ISM non-manufacturing	Index	Apr		52.0	51.2
16:30	USD	DOE U.S. crude oil inventories	K		5.05%	5.05%	-5054
20:00 Thursday,		FOMC meeting	%	Period	5.25% Danske Bank	5.25% Consensus	5.00% Previous
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Source: Danske Bank

Macroeconomicforecast

			ndinavia 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	3.8	-2.4	-3.5	8.6	8.6	4.2	7.7	3.6	2.6	3.3	29.8	13.1
	2023	0.5	0.0	-0.4	-5.0	1.3	-2.0	5.1	4.7	3.1	2.0	27.1	11.5
	2024	1.3	1.8	1.6	-1.7	1.3	0.6	3.6	5.0	3.6	1.1	25.1	11.3
Sweden	2022	2.7	2.1	0.0	5.2	6.6	8.7	8.4	2.5	7.5	0.7	33.0	4.6
	2023	-1.0	-2.3	1.1	-2.8	2.0	-0.1	9.6	4.1	8.0	-0.9	29.0	5.7
	2024	1.7	1.8	1.2	2.3	2.8	2.6	2.3	3.3	7.9	-0.9	29.0	5.8
Norway	2022	3.8	6.8	0.1	4.4	5.9	9.3	5.8	4.3	1.8	-	-	-
	2023	1.0	-1.0	1.2	0.5	4.0	3.0	4.8	5.0	2.1	-	-	-
	2024	1.5	0.9	1.7	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.5	4.0	2.4	-	-	-
Macrof	oreca	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 acc.4
Euro area	2022	3.5	4.3	1.4	3.8	7.1	8.0	8.4	4.5	6.7	-3.6	93.7	1.5
	2023	0.4	-0.1	1.2	-0.8	3.4	3.4	6.3	4.9	6.9	-3.2	92.5	1.9
	2024	0.6	1.2	1.0	0.2	3.6	4.6	3.5	3.6	7.0	-3.0	91.6	2.4
Finland	2022	2.1	2.1	2.9	5.0	1.7	7.5	7.1	2.4	6.8	-0.9	73.0	-3.9
	2023	-0.2	-0.2	1.2	-2.0	-0.5	-1.0	5.5	4.1	7.0	-2.5	72.1	-1.4
	2024	0.9	1.0	0.5	2.0	1.5	2.0	2.1	3.7	6.8	-1.7	72.4	-1.0
Macrof	oreca	st. Glol	bal										
	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	2.7	-0.6	-0.2	7.1	8.1	8.0	5.3	3.6	-5.5	123.3	-3.9
	2023	0.8	0.7	1.7	-5.5	-0.3	-5.5	4.0	4.1	3.7	-5.4	123.6	-3.1
	2024	0.3	0.4	1.3	-1.5	-1.9	-1.9	1.9	3.2	4.2	-5.8	125.4	-2.8
China	2022	3.0	2.8	-	4.0	-	-	2.0	-	-	-7.5	77.1	2.3
	2023	6.2	7.0	-	6.0	-	-	2.2	-	-	-6.9	82.4	1.4
	2024	5.0	5.2	-	4.8	-	-	2.5	-	-	-6.4	87.2	1.1
uĸ	2022 2023 2024	4.2 -0.7 0.8	- - -	- -	-	-	-	8.9 6.2 2.6	- -	3.8 4.4 5.0	- -	-	- - -

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

Financial forecast

Bonda	and mone	y markets	5							
		Keyinterest		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	28-Apr	5.00	5.27	4.34	3.49	110.1	-	677.3	1066.6	1028.9
	+3m	5.25	5.40	4.70	3.65	109.0	-	683.0	1055.0	1018.3
	+6m	5.25	5.40	4.60	3.55	106.0	-	702.4	1066.0	1056.6
	+12m	5.00	4.88	4.20	3.35	103.0	-	723.3	1048.5	1106.8
EUR	28-Apr	3.00	3.25	3.54	3.07	-	110.1	745.3	1173.9	1132.4
	+3m	3.75	4.14	3.55	3.10	-	109.0	744.5	1150.0	1110.0
	+6m	4.00	4.16	3.20	3.00	-	106.0	744.5	1130.0	1120.0
	+12m	4.00	4.03	2.80	2.60	-	103.0	745.0	1080.0	1140.0
JPY	28-Apr	-0.10	-0.03	-	-	120.5	135.7	6.18	9.74	9.40
	+3m	-0.10	-	-	-	138.4	127.0	5.38	8.31	8.02
	+6m	0.10	-	-	-	134.6	127.0	5.53	8.39	8.32
	+12m	0.10	-	-	-	130.8	127.0	5.70	8.26	8.71
GBP*	28-Apr	4.25	-	4.54	3.70	88.2	124.8	845.1	1331.1	1284.1
	+3m	4.50		4.10	3.70	0.88	123.9	846.0	1306.8	1261.4
	+6m	4.50		4.10	3.60	88.0	120.5	846.0	1284.1	1272.7
	+12m	4.25		3.90	3.50	88.0	117.0	846.6	1227.3	1295.5
CHF*	28-Apr	1.50	-	1.88	1.99	98.5	89.5	756.7	1191.9	1149.8
	+3m	2.00	-	-	-	98.0	89.9	759.7	1173.5	1132.7
	+6m	2.00	-	-	-	97.0	91.5	767.5	1164.9	1154.6
	+12m	2.00	-	-	-	97.0	94.2	768.0	1113.4	1175.3
DKK	28-Apr	2.60	3.35	3.66	3.20	745.34	677.26	-	157.50	151.93
	+3m	3.35	3.83	3.70	3.25	744.50	683.03	-	154.47	149.09
	+6m	3.60	3.85	3.35	3.15	744.50	702.36	-	151.78	150.44
	+12m	3.60	3.74	2.95	2.75	745.00	723.30	-	144.97	153.02
SEK	28-Apr	3.00	3.55	3.52	2.91	1132.4	1028.9	65.8	103.7	100.0
	+3m	4.00	4.10	3.65	2.90	1110.0	1018.3	67.1	103.6	-
	+6m	4.00	4.15	3.30	2.80	1120.0	1056.6	66.5	100.9	-
	+12m	3.75	3.70	3.00	2.75	1140.0	1106.8	65.4	94.7	-
NOK	28-Apr	3.00	3.73	3.87	3.32	1173.9	1066.6	63.5	100.0	96.5
	+3m	3.50	3.45	3.45	3.15	1150.0	1055.0	64.7	-	96.5
	+6m	3.50	3.31	3.20	2.95	1130.0	1066.0	65.9	-	99.1
	+12m	3.25	3.20	3.10	2.60	1080.0	1048.5	69.0	-	105.6

^{*}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												
		2023			2024			Average				
	28-Apr	Q1	02	Ω3	Ω4	Q1	02	Ω3	Ω4	202	23	2024
ICE Brent	79	87	90	85	80	80	80	80	80	86	3	80

Source Danske Bank



Disclosures

This research report has been prepared by Danske Bank A/S ('Danske Bank'). The author of this research report is Minna Kuusisto, Chief Analyst.

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Each research analyst responsible for the content of this research report certifies that the views expressed in the research report accurately reflect the research analyst's personal view about the financial instruments and issuers covered by the research report. Each responsible research analyst further certifies that no part of the compensation of the research analyst was, is or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations expressed in the research report.

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