

31 January 2025

# Weekly Focus

### Uneventful cut, uneventful keep

Neither the Fed nor ECB provided much new information to investors and thus also caused little stir in markets. Soft US and euro area data weighed slightly on rates, which largely did not move much through the week, at least until German inflation unexpectedly declined significantly in several of the big Bundesländer, which drove 2Y Bund yields 10bpslower. This puts the spotlight on the euro area total released Monday. January is always a special month setting the stage for the year, because many prices are adjusted only at new year.

After a long period of some serious zigzagging the dollar has been steadier this week. The fallout of US tariff plans will continue to be a key driver of volatility in FX markets, though. European equities outperformed US in a week when the Chinese AI start-up DeepSeek took the spotlight as it poses a challenge to US AI developers to compete without relying on the most advanced chips.

The ECB cut its key interest rates by 25bp in a unanimous decision as widely expected. Despite several attempts from journalists, we did not get much colour on the final destination for this cutting cycle.

The decision followed data showing that the euro area stalled in Q4 with shrinking French and German economies still weighing down. The new year has started off a bit stronger as the current situation index from the IFO data supported the better-than-expected German PMI data for January. Expectations declined further to the lowest level in a year though, and we continue to expect the economy to stagnate in the first half of this year.

The FOMC meeting was as uneventful as the one in Frankfurt. The Fed kept rates unchanged, and Powell delivered a balanced message to markets while steering clear of toxic political questions. He noted that the committee is in no hurry to adjust the policy stance. Data out of the US ticked in a bit weaker than expected, with q/q Q4 GDP growth of 0.6%, slightly below expectations and softer vibes from the labour market with the "jobs plentiful"-index declining to the lowest level since September.

The calendar is packed with interesting highlights next week. Besides inflation data, on Monday French lawmakers will discuss the 2025 budget, and likely adopt it without a majority. Later in the week, we will see if PM Bayrou survives a no-confidence vote. On Friday, the ECB publishes a new paper on the neutral rate of interest, which might give us some further insight into where we should expect the cutting cycle to end up.

In the US, the first tariffs should take effect over the weekend. On the data front, we have a packed schedule with ISM data, JOLTs and jobs report as the key highlights. After a long period of solid job market data, it will be interesting to see if it continues. We expect nonfarm payrolls growth to slow down to +150k. We expect the Bank of England to cut the policy rate by 25bp to 4.50% on Thursday. We expect a cautious message, focusing on a gradual cutting cycle.

### Key global views

- Outlook for slightly higher growth in Europe and China, slightly lower in the US
- Political uncertainty has limited short-term effect
- The Fed and the ECB to cut further but at different paces

### Key market movers

- Saturday: US tariff on CAN/Mex/ maybe CHN should take effect
- Monday: Euro area inflation, French budget
- Tuesday: US JOLTs report
- · Wed: US ISM service index
- Thu: BoE meeting, US Q4 productivity data
- Fri: US jobs report, ECB paper on r\*

### Selected reading from Danske Bank

- Flash: ECB Review A 25bp rate cut looking towards the spring, 30
   January
- Research US Fed review: As balanced as it gets, 29 January
- Research China Al's Sputnik moment? A short Q&A on DeepSeek,
   28 January

### Editor

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### Scandi market movers

In Denmark, on Tuesday we will receive statistics about <u>Nationalbanken's currency</u> interventions in January. Since the EUR/DKK is still close to the central rate, we expect that Nationalbanken did not intervene in January. If this is the case, it will mark the 24th consecutive month, or two full years, without interventions from Nationalbanken.

On Thursday, we get the <u>unemployment indicator</u> for January from the Danish Agency for Labour Market and Recruitment. Unemployment was nearly unchanged in December, so we are yet to see any noticeable signs of softening of the Danish labour market. It is worth noting that last month the indicator came in much higher than the revised figure, which was released two weeks later, implying that next week's data should be interpreted with caution.

On Friday, <u>bankruptcy</u> statistics for January is due for release. We have seen fewer bankruptcies in the past year, but the level remains relatively high. We expect that bankruptcies will continue to trend downwards as the Danish economy improves further.

After the December final release, we lowered our core CPIF excl. Energy inflation
forecast in Sweden to basically mirror that in 2024. In effect, this means a near-term
inflation path substantially lower than Riksbank's (see chart).

Looking at the monthly details we expect to see a normal pattern of price reductions on clothing, furniture, transportation and recreation. At the same time, we expect mainly significantly higher rents. In energy space we see higher electricity prices (partially new electricity effect tax, very uncertain but positive impact) as well as higher fuel prices. Riksbank's rate cuts continues to lower mortgage costs.

Statistics Sweden has decided to go back to the normal 2-year lag for annual weights which should mean that 2023 weights are reused again. This may limit the usual negative "basket effect".

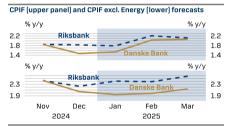
No major news in Norway next week, but it shall be interesting to see if the weak trend
in manufacturing activity in October and November continued in December, after the
sharp uptick in Q3.

### Bankruptcies continue to trend downwards



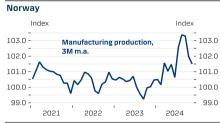
Source: Statistics Denmark, Macrobond, Danske Bank

### Sweden: Preliminary January inflation set to undershoot Riksbank



Source: Statistics Sweden, Riksbank, Danske Bank

## Stronger headwinds for manufacturing



Source: Macrobond, Danske Bank

### Scandi Update

### Denmark - Retail trade increased 2.3% in 2024

Retail trade fell by 0.2% in December compared to November. However, when adjusted for inflation, there was a slight increase of 0.1%. This figure concluded 2024, indicating that retail trade increased by 2.3% nominally in 2024 compared to 2023. This aligns with our own payment card transaction data, which showed that retail spending increased by 2.4% nominally in 2024. According to Statistics Denmark retail trade increased by 2.4% in real terms. However, we believe this underestimates price developments, and therefore presents a too optimistic view of retail trade in 2024. Our overall assessment is that private consumption gained momentum in Q4, after muted growth in Q2 and Q3. However, service spending appears to be the main driver behind the increased spending. We expect consumption growth to pick up in 2025 and 2026, driven by rising real incomes and by the headwinds from interest rates gradually turning to tailwinds. However, this will not have a 1:1 impact on consumption, as cautious households will continue to focus on rebuilding their shrunken savings.

Danmark's Nationalbank followed the rate decision by the ECB and lowered key interest rates by 25 basis points. This means that Nationalbanken's deposit rate is now at 2.35%. We expect the Nationalbanken to continue lowering rates at the same pace as the ECB, as the EUR/DKK remains close to the central rate.

### Sweden - Data suggest growth acceleration

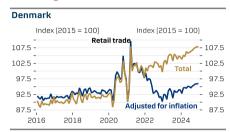
Even though the Q4 GDP indicator (n.b. this is NOT an advance National Account GDP print but a separate unofficial experimental data set) printed slightly below expectations (outcome 0.2 % q/q sa|1.1 % y/y), several monthly indicators suggest economic growth did accelerate during Q4. For instance, the real goods trade balance appears to have added 0.7 percentage points to GDP. Moreover, real retail sales rose 2.2% q/q and hours worked rose 0.9% q/q. All these of course in seasonally adjusted terms.

On top of that, the January confidence survey showed a slightly mixed picture, but retail trade and services selling price expectations declined slightly while sector wide hiring expectation rose further.

### Norway - No signs of a turnaround in private consumption

Retail sales dropped 0.1% m/m in December, so the signal of very moderate Christmas shopping was verified. As the underlying growth remained muted at 0.4 % 3M/3M, retail sales is improving but still a bit disappointing as real wage growth is around 2% and the headwinds from higher rates have faded. So, no signs of an immediate turnaround in ratesensitive sectors supports the signal of a rate cut in March. In addition, we are a bit puzzled over the weak trend in corporate lending towards the end of last year. At 1.3% y/y, credit growth to corporates is at its lowest level since 2010, and well below the nominal growth in mainland-GDP at roughly 4%.

### Danish retail trade was more or less unchanged in December



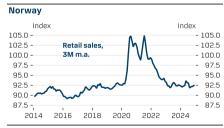
Source: Danske Bank, Statistics Denmark, Macrobond Financial

### Signs of growth acceleration in Q4

#### Sweden: Rolling 3m growth %-points contribution 3.0 -3.0 2.0 -Retail Sales, lhs 2.0 Real Goods NX, rhs 1.0 -1.0 0.0 0.0 -1.0 Oct Nov Aug 2024

Source: SCB, Danske Bank calculations

## Retail sales has moved sideways for more than a year



Source: Macrobond, Danske Bank

# Calendar – 3-7 February 2025

	week			Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
Mon 03	USD	Total vechicle sales	m	Jan		16.2	16.8
londay, F	ebruar	y 3, 2025		Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
-	USD	Total vechicle sales	m	Jan		16.2	16.8
1:30	JPY	Nikkei Manufacturing PMI, final	Index	Jan			48.8
2:45	CNY	Caixin PMI manufacturing	Index	Jan		50.6	50.5
7:00	EUR	S&P may publish Netherlands's debt rating		Jan			48.6
8:30	SEK	PMI manufacturing	Index	Jan			52.4
9:15	ESP	PMI manufacturing	Index	Jan		53.6	53.3
9:45	ITL	PMI manufacturing	Index	Jan		47.0	46.2
9:50	FRF	PMI manufacturing, final	Index	Jan		45.3	45.3
9:55	DEM	PMI manufacturing, final	Index	Jan		44.1	44.1
10:00	NOK	PMI manufacturing	Index	Jan			50.3
10:00	EUR	S&P may publish Greece's debt rating, final		Jan			53.2
10:00	EUR	PMI manufacturing, final	Index	Jan		46.1	46.1
10:30	GBP	PMI manufacturing, final	Index	Jan		48.2	48.2
11:00	EUR	HICP inflation, preliminary	m/m y/y	Jan	-0.5% 2.3%	-0.4%	0.4%
11:00	EUR	HICP - core inflation, preliminary	у/у	Jan	2.5%	2.6%	2.7%
11:00	EUR	HICP inflation, preliminary, preliminary	у/у	Jan	2.3%	2.4%	2.4%
11:00	ITL	HICP, preliminary	m/m y/y	Jan		-1.1% 1.4%	0.1% 1.4%
15:30	CAD	RBC manufacturing PMI	Index	Jan			52.2
15:45	USD	Markit PMI manufacturing, final	Index	Jan		50.1	50.1
16:00	USD	Construction spending	m/m	Dec		0.2%	0.0%
16:00	USD	ISM manufacturing	Index	Jan		49.3	49.2
18:30	USD	Fed's Bostic speaks					
uesday, F	ebruar	y 4, 2025		Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
16:00	USD	Core capital goods orders, final	%	Dec			0.5%
16:00	USD	JOLTS Job openings	K	Dec			8098 8098
17:00	DKK	Currency reserves	DKK bn	Jan			634
17:00	USD	Fed's Bostic speaks					
20:00	USD	Fed's Daly speaks					
Vednesda	ay, Feb	ruary 5, 2025		Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
	PLN	Polish central bank rate decision	%		5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
0:30	JPY	Labour cash earnings	y/y	Dec		3.8%	3.9%
1:30	JPY	Markit PMI services, final	Index	Jan			52.7
2:45	CNY	Caixin PMI service	Index	Jan		52.4	52.2
8:30	SEK	PMI services	Index	Jan			51.4
8:45	FRF	Industrial production	m/m y/y	Dec		-0.1% -1.1%	0.2% -1.1%
	FRF ESP	Industrial production PMI services		Dec Jan		-0.1% -1.1% 57.0	0.2% -1.1% 57.3
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8:45 9:15 9:45 9:50 9:50 9:50 10:00 10:30 11:00 14:15 14:30 15:45 16:00 16:30 21:00 hursday, 7:45 8:00 8:00 8:00 8:00 10:30 11:00	ESP ITL FRF DEM EUR GBP EUR USD	PMI services PMI services, final PMI services, final PMI composite, final PMI composite, final PMI services, final PPI ADP employment Trade balance Trade balance Trade balance Fed's Barkin speaks Markit PMI service, final ISM non-manufacturing DOE U.S. crude oil inventories Fed's Bowman speaks  Ty 6, 2025 Unemployment Underlying inflation CPIF, preliminary Underlying inflation CPIF excl energy, preliminary Factory orders CPI, preliminary PMI construction Retail sales BoE minutes	m/mly/y Index Inde	Jan Jan Jan Jan Jan Jan Jan Dec Jan Dec Dec Jan	0.3% 1.5% 0.3% 2.0% 0.0% 0.8%	57.0 51.1 48.9 52.5 50.2 51.4 51.2 -0.2% 0.6% 153 -80.4 -80.4 -80.4  54.5  Consensus 2.7% -0.2% 1.5% -0.2% 1.5% -0.4% 0.5% 53.8 0.0% 1.9% 0.045	57.3 50.7 48.9 52.5 50.2 51.4 51.2 -1.2% 1.6% 122 -78.2 -78.2 52.8 54.0 3463  Previous 2.6% 0.3% 1.5% 0.3% 1.5% -5.4% -1.79 0.0% 0.8% 53.3 0.1% 1.2% 0.0475

Source: Danske Bank



# Calendar – 3-7 February 2025

Friday, Fe	bruary	7,2025		Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
6:00	SEK	Maklarstatistik Swedish housing price data					
6:00	JPY	Leading economic index, preliminary	Index	Dec		108.2	107.5
8:00	NOK	Manufacturing production	m/m y/y	Dec			1.1% 1.4%
8:00	NOK	Industrial production	m/m y/y	Dec			0.2% 0.5%
8:00	DEM	Industrial production	m/m y/y	Dec		-0.7% -2.1%	1.5% -2.8%
8:00	DKK	Industrial production	m/m	Dec			-3.6%
8:00	SEK	Budget balance	SEK bn	Jan			-127.2
9:00	CHF	Foreign Currency Reserves	CHF bn	Jan			731
14:30	USD	Unemployment	%	Jan	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%
14:30	USD	Average hourly earnings, non-farm	m/m y/y	Jan	0.3%	0.3% 3.8%	0.3% 3.9%
14:30	USD	Non farm payrolls	1000	Jan	150	150	256
21:00	USD	Consumer credit	USD bn	Dec		12.5	-7.5

Source: Danske Bank

# Macroeconomic forecast

Macro f	orecas	st. Scar	ndinavia										
	Year	GDP 1	Private cons. <sup>1</sup>	Public cons. <sup>1</sup>	Fixed inv.1	Ex- ports <sup>1</sup>	lm- ports <sup>1</sup>	Infla- tion <sup>1</sup>	Wage growth <sup>1</sup>	Unem- ploym <sup>2</sup>	Public budget <sup>3</sup>	Public debt <sup>3</sup>	Current acc. <sup>3</sup>
Denmark	2024 2025 2026	3.0 2.5 2.3	0.2 1.9 2.3	1.4 2.6 2.0	-1.2 3.0 3.6	6.3 2.7 3.1	1.2 2.4 3.7	1.4 1.8 1.7	5.2 3.6 3.2	2.9 3.1 3.1	2.7 1.5 0.9	31.8 29.7 28.0	12.5 12.8 12.8
Sweden	2024 2025 2026	0.7 2.5 2.2	0.3 2.5 2.8	1.1 2.1 1.1	-1.4 2.1 2.8	2.3 3.8 3.2	2.2 3.8 3.6	3.0 1.7 1.2	3.5 3.5 3.2	8.4 8.2 7.7	-1.2 -0.8 -0.2	33.0 33.0 32.0	4.9 4.9 4.7
Norway	2024 2025 2026	0.9 1.9 1.7	1.3 3.0 2.5	2.2 2.0 2.0	4.0 1.4 1.5	5.0 2.0 1.0	1.8 2.0 1.8	3.1 2.3 2.0	5.1 3.8 3.3	2.0 2.4 2.4	- - -	- - -	
Macro f	orecas	st. Euro	land										
	Year	GDP 1	Private cons.1	Public cons. <sup>1</sup>	Fixed inv.1	Ex- ports <sup>1</sup>	lm- ports <sup>1</sup>	Infla- tion <sup>1</sup>	Wage growth <sup>1</sup>	Unem- ploym <sup>2</sup>	Public budget <sup>3</sup>	Public debt <sup>3</sup>	Current acc. <sup>3</sup>
Euro area	2024 2025 2026	0.7 0.9 1.4	0.7 1.1 1.5	1.9 1.0 0.8	-2.2 0.7 1.8	1.8 1.8 2.5	-0.2 2.1 2.6	2.4 2.0 2.0	4.5 3.4 3.1	6.4 6.7 6.6	-3.0 -3.1 -2.8	89.1 89.9 90.0	3.0 3.0 2.8
Finland	2024 2025 2026	-0.3 1.8 1.6	-0.2 1.5 1.5	1.0 0.2 0.5	-5.5 4.5 5.5	1.0 3.5 3.0	-0.8 4.0 4.5	1.6 1.2 1.8	2.9 3.1 3.0	8.4 8.1 7.3	-3.9 -3.6 -2.6	80.5 82.2 82.6	0.2 -0.2 -0.2
Macro f	orecas	st. Glob	al										
	Year	GDP <sup>1</sup>	Private cons. <sup>1</sup>	Public cons. <sup>1</sup>	Fixed inv.1	Ex- ports <sup>1</sup>	lm- ports <sup>1</sup>	Infla- tion <sup>1</sup>	Wage growth <sup>1</sup>	Unem- ploym <sup>2</sup>	Public budget <sup>3</sup>	Public debt <sup>3</sup>	Current acc. <sup>3</sup>
USA	2024 2025 2026	2.8 1.9 2.1	2.7 2.2 1.8	3.4 3.0 1.8	3.9 1.8 4.3	3.4 2.5 3.5	5.8 5.3 4.4	3.0 2.8 2.4	3.9 3.5 3.5	4.0 4.4 4.3	-6.7 -6.5 7.0	123.1 125.1 128.0	-3.3 -3.1 -3.0
China	2024 2025 2026	4.7 4.7 4.8	4.5 5.6 5.8	-	5.0 5.5 5.5	- - -	-	0.2 1.5 1.5	- - -	5.1 5.2 5.2	-7.4 -8.1 -8.2	90.1 94.3 98.2	1.4 1.4 1.3
UK	2024 2025	0.9 1.3	-	-	-	-	-	2.5 2.5	-	4.3 4.7	-	-	-

Source: OECD and Danske Bank. 1) % y/y. 2) % of labour force. 3) % of GDP.

# Financial forecast

Bonda	and money	markets								
	Í	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*	30-Jan	4.50	-	4.05	4.04	0.96	-	7.16	11.28	11.00
	+3m	4.25	-	3.93	4.09	0.96	-	7.17	11.54	10.96
	+6m	4.00	-	3.73	3.93	0.98	-	7.31	11.96	11.37
	+12m	3.50	-	3.50	3.70	1.00	-	7.46	12.40	11.70
EUR	30-Jan	2.75	2.61	2.35	2.47	-	1.04	7.4619	11.76	11.48
	+3m	2.25	2.01	2.23	2.44	-	1.04	7.4575	12.00	11.40
	+6m	1.75	1.62	1.92	2.29	-	1.02	7.4550	12.20	11.60
	+12m	1.50	1.55	1.65	2.15	-	1.00	7.4550	12.40	11.70
JPY	30-Jan	0.50	-	-	-	0.006	0.006	4.64	7.32	7.14
	+3m	0.50	-	-	-	0.006	0.007	4.85	7.80	7.41
	+6m	0.75	-	-	-	0.007	0.007	5.11	8.36	7.95
	+12m	1.00	-	-	-	0.007	0.007	5.33	8.86	8.36
GBP*	30-Jan	4.75	-	4.12	4.02	1.20	1.15	8.92	14.06	13.72
	+3m	4.50	-	4.24	4.19	1.20	1.25	8.98	14.46	13.73
	+6m	4.25	-	4.03	3.98	1.22	1.24	9.09	14.88	14.15
	+12m	3.75	-	3.65	3.80	1.22	1.22	9.09	15.12	14.27
CHF	30-Jan	0.50	-	-	-	1.06	1.10	7.89	12.43	12.13
	+3m	0.25	-	-	-	1.09	1.13	8.11	13.04	12.39
	+6m	0.00	-	-	-	1.10	1.12	8.19	13.41	12.75
	+12m	0.00	-	-	-	1.11	1.11	8.28	13.78	13.00
DKK	30-Jan	2.35	2.56	2.42	2.61	0.134	0.140	-	1.58	1.54
	+3m	1.85	1.91	2.28	2.54	0.134	0.139	-	1.61	1.53
	+6m	1.35	1.52	1.97	2.39	0.134	0.137	-	1.64	1.56
	+12m	1.10	1.45	1.70	2.25	0.134	0.134	-	1.66	1.57
SEK	30-Jan	2.25	2.38	2.22	2.55	0.087	0.091	0.65	1.02	-
	+3m	2.25	2.26	2.18	2.63	0.088	0.091	0.65	1.05	-
	+6m	2.00	2.07	2.15	2.66	0.086	0.088	0.64	1.05	-
	+12m	2.00	2.10	2.15	2.75	0.085	0.085	0.64	1.06	-
NOK	30-Jan	4.50	4.50	4.12	3.85	0.085	0.089	0.63	-	0.98
	+3m	4.25	4.43	4.18	3.94	0.083	0.087	0.62	-	0.95
	+6m	4.00	4.12	3.92	3.84	0.082	0.084	0.61	-	0.95
	+12m	3.50	3.70	3.55	3.65	0.081	0.081	0.60	-	0.94

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

Commodities											
			20	24			20	25		Ave	rage
	30-Jan	Q1	02	03	04	Q1	02	Ω3	Q4	2024	2025
ICE Brent	76	82	85	79	80	80	80	85	85	81	83

Source Danske Bank

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