

The Week Ahead: US and UK 4Q GDP data in focus; Turkey expected to raise rates

► US: 4Q GDP to moderate, new administration's policies in focus

Key data releases this week will be the first reading of 4Q2016 GDP and December durable goods orders (both due 27 January). Consensus is estimating that real GDP growth moderated to 2.2% q-o-q SAAR in 4Q, from 3.5% in 3Q. Personal spending growth is expected to have softened to around 2.5% q-o-q SAAR in 4Q, after surging in 3Q to 3%. Nevertheless, private consumption likely still underpinned overall economic activity and remained healthy. Another likely factor behind the expected deceleration is likely to be net exports dragging on headline GDP growth, with a wider trade deficit. Domestic investment activity is expected to have gathered pace, supported by stronger residential and structures (including in the oil sector) investment. Headline GDP growth is also forecast to have received a boost from a build-up in inventories. Meanwhile, durable goods sales were likely driven by higher non-defence aircraft orders. Political developments will remain centre stage, focusing on new policy directives by President Donald Trump. His inauguration speech continued to emphasise trade protectionism to support US jobs and industry.

► UK: Article 50 verdict and 4Q GDP to be released

In the UK, consensus estimates 4Q GDP growth slowed marginally to 0.5% q-o-q from 0.6% in 3Q (due 26 January). Services sector activity, particularly in retail, is expected to have remained the engine of growth. However, a contraction in construction output and a slowdown in manufacturing sector growth are likely to have offset some of the services sector strength, compared to 3Q. Looking ahead, we expect GDP growth to steadily decelerate in 2017, as consumption spending wanes on softening wage growth and stronger inflation (see page 6). Meanwhile, the Supreme Court will give its verdict (24 January) on whether the government needs permission from the parliament to invoke Article 50 and begin Brexit negotiations. If the Supreme Court decides that parliamentary permission is required, the Conservative Party should easily secure support given its majority in the House of Commons and solidarity towards Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit plans. Therefore, we do not expect any delay in the government's plan to officially notify the EU of its intention to withdraw by the end of March.

► Turkey: CBRT to raise benchmark policy rate by 50 bps

We expect the CBRT to raise its benchmark repo rate by another 50 bps to 8.5% (raised to 8% in November) at its 24 January meeting. In our view, a 7% depreciation in TRY since its December meeting and a greater than expected jump in both headline and core inflation in December are likely to persuade the CBRT to hike rates to stem capital outflows in the short term. That said, given consumer and business sentiment has deteriorated in recent months, the CBRT has limited room to raise rates without adversely impacting growth. Looking ahead, we expect the pace of rate increases to slow in 1H2017 versus the last three months. Instead, the CBRT will attempt to tighten TRY liquidity through quasi monetary measures such as increasing FX swap operations in interbank markets or decreasing repo borrowing limits for selected banks.

Economics Team

Monica Malik, Ph.D.

Chief Economist

+971 (0)2 696 8458

Monica.Malik@adcb.com

Shailesh Jha

Economist

+971 (0)2 696 2704

Shailesh.Jha@adcb.com

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I. Recent Events and Data Releases

A. MENA Economies

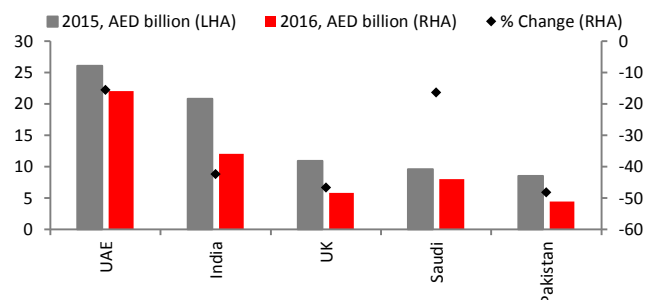
GCC: Dubai and Saudi Arabia's 2017 growth outlooks

Recent official comments indicate that Dubai's GDP growth slowed to 2.7% in 2016, from 4.1% in 2015. We believe that a number of factors were behind this softening, including weaker regional demand following the deeper fiscal retrenchment in 2016 and the ongoing impact of the strong USD. The strong USD continues to be a headwind to a number of key sectors, including tourism, transportation and real estate. Data from the Dubai Land Department showed a marked fall in the value of properties purchased by foreigners in 2016. We believe that factors such as the demonetisation process in India and the sharp weakening in the GBP following the Brexit vote were also factors. The official estimate sees Dubai's real GDP growth strengthening to 3.1% in 2017, which we see as realistic. We see the acceleration being driven by stronger investment in 2017. Dubai's budget showed strong commitment to the investment programme, and we expect project activity to pick up, especially related to Expo 2020.

Dubai's GDP growth slowed to 2.7% in 2016

Fig. 1. Dubai: Property purchases by top five nationalities in Dubai fall in 2016

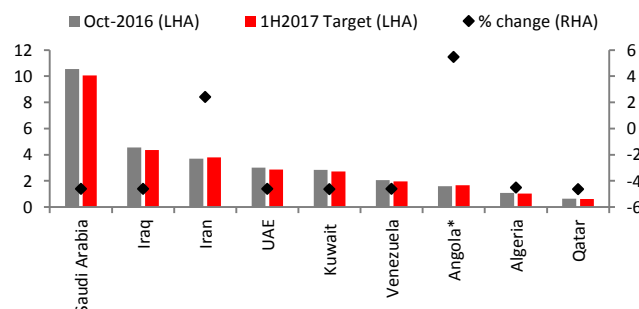
AED billion (LHA); % change y-o-y



Source: Dubai Land Department, ADCB calculations

Fig. 2. GCC: OPEC members from GCC will have to cut oil production by -4.6% in 2017 from October 2016 levels

Million b/d (LHA); % change y-o-y (RHA)



* Production change from September output level

Source: Source: OPEC, MEES, ADCB estimates

Meanwhile, the IMF lowered its real GDP growth forecast for Saudi Arabia to 0.4% for 2017, from 1.4% in 2016. This is in line with our headline GDP growth forecast for 2017 (please see our note **Saudi Arabia 2017 Budget** note, published on 23 December 2016). The lower forecast growth is on the back of a contraction in the oil sector, as Saudi Arabia cuts production in line with the OPEC agreement. However, we expect a moderate increase in real non-oil activity as the government eases the pace of fiscal consolidation in 2017. Meanwhile, the IMF forecasts that global growth will rise to 3.4% in 2017 and 3.6% in 2018, from 3.1% in 2016. Much of the predicted strengthening will be from stronger activity in the US, China, Europe, and Japan.

Saudi's lower forecast growth in 2017 due to contraction in real oil activity

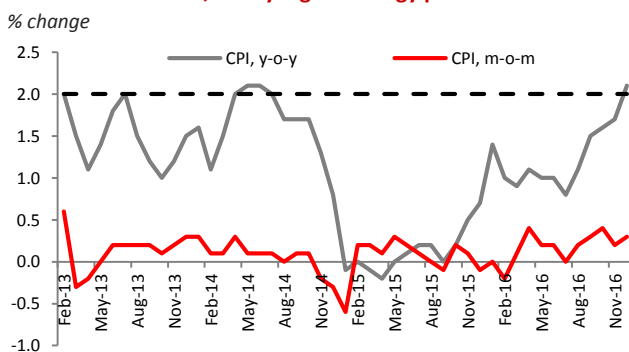
B. G4 Economies

US: December inflation accelerates, whilst Yellen's comments interpreted as hawkish

US inflation accelerated in December, in line with consensus expectations and led by higher energy prices. The headline CPI strengthened to 0.3% m-o-m (2.1% y-o-y), up from 0.2% m-o-m (1.7% y-o-y) in November. Energy contributed 0.4 pp to headline inflation in December, up from 0.1 pp in November. Core inflation ticked up again to 2.2% y-o-y in December (November: 2.1%) driven up by services. Rental inflation continues to be a key driver of service inflation, with both the "rent of primary residence" and "owners' equivalent rent" components increasing by 0.3% m-o-m. Transportation service prices also accelerated, reflecting the higher energy prices. We see headline inflation accelerating in the first two months of 2017 (to around 2.6% y-o-y in February) driven by fuel prices, before starting to slow from March, to around 2% in end-2017. We do not expect the Fed to respond to the spike in energy inflation in 1Q. We believe the Fed's focus will be on the excess slack in the economy, especially on the labour front.

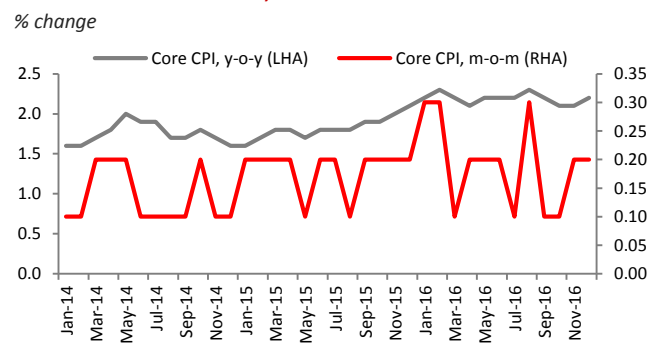
We see a further strengthening in headline inflation in January and February

Fig. 3. US: Headline inflation accelerated to 2.1% y-o-y in December, led by higher energy prices



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Fig. 4. US: Core inflation has steadily risen to 2.2% y-o-y in December 2016, from 1.6% in December 2014



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Market expectations of a rate hike rose moderately last week following comments by Fed Chair Janet Yellen, which were perceived as being hawkish. Solid data out of the US last week, including December industrial production and housing starts, also supported the higher rate expectation. The market is now pricing in 55 bps of tightening in the FFTR in 2017, from 50 bps previously. Yellen highlighted that the US economy is near maximum employment, that inflation is moving towards the Fed's goals, and that she is confident that the trend will continue. She noted that it "makes sense" for the Fed to reduce the level of monetary support as a result.

Yellen: economy close to meeting Fed's twin goals of full employment and price stability

However, Yellen noted that the timing of the next rate hike will depend on how economic activity evolves over the coming months. She highlighted that the central bank will monitor the economic policies of the new administration and how they might change the Fed's outlook. Earlier last week, Fed Governor Lael Brainard said demand supportive fiscal policies would be "relatively more likely to be accompanied by increases in interest rates", especially given that the economy is already around full employment and inflation around 2%. We see two 25 bps rate hikes by the Fed in 2017, one in June and one in December. We believe that fiscal policy will take time to formulate and implement, with the build-up in sentiment from the election being driven by expectations. Meanwhile, a more protectionist policy would dampen any pickup in growth momentum.

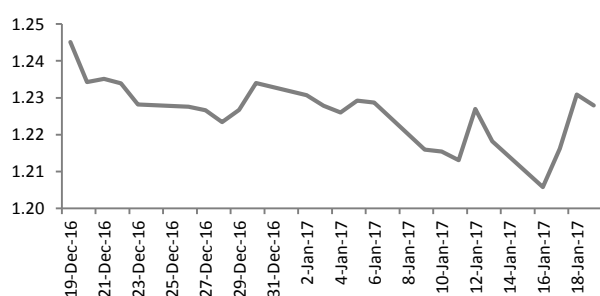
UK: PM May signals UK's intention to leave Single Market

Prime Minister Theresa May firmly expressed her intention for the UK's to leave the EU Single Market as a part of the Brexit deal, in her speech to the nation last week. She emphasised her government's commitment to restricting immigration from the EU was non-negotiable, and the need for the UK to secure a new trade deal with the bloc. However, this announcement of a "hard Brexit" was accompanied by some conciliatory statements from the PM. Specifically, she stated that the UK would seek a "phased implementation" (until 2021) of a Brexit trade deal with the EU, to allow firms on both sides of the border to adjust to the new trade and investment regime. She also proposed a "customs agreement" with the EU under a new trade deal. This arrangement, if accepted, would allow select UK sectors (biotech, aircraft, and autos) with extensive regional supply chains to enjoy the same customs privileges they presently enjoy in the Single Market, even after Brexit. Furthermore, the PM promised that any trade deal with the EU will be presented and debated in the parliament in detail, with MPs exercising strong control over its formulation. We believe the above assurances, along with a clear communication of the "red lines" within which the new EU-UK trade deal will be finalised, were the factors behind the rally in GBP (see Fig. 5) after the speech.

PM May firmly signals hard Brexit; proposes phased implementation and some customs privileges

Fig. 5. UK: GBP:USD rebounded from 1.20 mark, following assurances of orderly Brexit by PM May

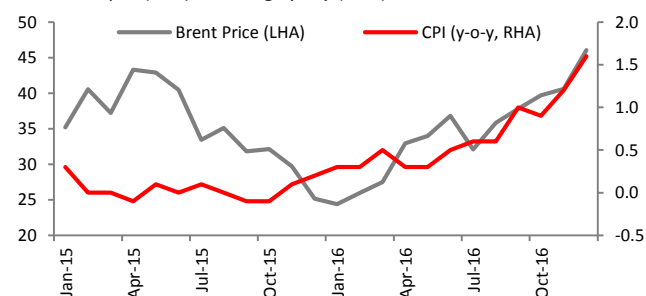
GBP: USD



Source: Bloomberg

Fig. 6. UK: Brent prices have now almost doubled in GBP terms; pass-through could push up inflation further

Brent, GBP p/b (LHA), % change y-o-y (RHA)



Source: Bloomberg, Office for National Statistics

Nevertheless, volatility in the FX markets is likely to persist over the Brexit negotiation period. We see further downside risks to UK sovereign bonds and GBP over this horizon for two reasons. First, European leaders are yet to respond to PM May's wish-list for a new EU-UK trade deal. For now, PM May promised in her speech to selectively retain the attractive features of the Single Market in the Brexit trade deal. However, comments from prominent French and German leaders have suggested that no concessions on customs regulations will be made in the case of a "hard Brexit". That said, the EU may still agree to a phased implementation of Brexit, albeit without any privileges for the UK's financial sector. Second, the EU's Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier has stressed the need to finalise the payments the UK needs to make (estimated EUR40-60 billion) to the EU before it exits the Single Market, as the "prerequisite" for Brexit trade talks. These obligations pertain to the unpaid commitments of the UK to the EU budget. In our view, the UK is unlikely to accede to demands for any major payments, given the limited public support for additional transfers to the EU. Given these differences, the two sides will find it difficult to conclude a final trade deal by 4Q2018, as is currently expected by markets.

Downside risks to FX and rates remain; EU unlikely to fully accept UK's wish list

CPI: Meanwhile, inflation jumped significantly in December to 1.6% y-o-y (consensus: 1.4%; November: 1.2%), reflecting both the impact of higher energy prices and weaker GBP. However, unlike the Eurozone, the UK's inflation was also bolstered by solid consumption demand. Core inflation accelerated to 1.6% y-o-y (1.4% previously), with significant pick-up in demand-sensitive categories (clothing, restaurants, accommodation). Indeed, private consumption is likely to have remained strong as wage growth has accelerated in 4Q2016, taking the impact of a weaker GBP in its stride. Looking ahead, however, we expect inflation to temporarily breach the BoE's 2% inflation target in 1H2017, driven by a surge in crude prices in GBP terms (see Fig. 6). Nevertheless, we expect the BoE to remain on hold through 2017, and look through this transitory shock in inflation. We believe that core inflation is unlikely to show as much momentum as the headline prices this year, as uncertainty around the EU-UK trade deal should temper the steady increase in wages in 2016. That said, with the probability of a deep recession in the near term out of the way, the BoE could begin to taper its QE purchases as early as 1Q2017.

Inflation likely to breach BoE's 2% target in 1H2017; central bank to remain on hold in 2017

Eurozone: No changes to ECB's accommodative monetary stance

The ECB kept monetary policy steady, including its benchmark rates (deposit facility at -0.4%) and the pace and quantity of its QE asset purchases in its meeting last week. This was in line with our and consensus expectations. Asset purchases will remain EUR80 billion per month until March, at which point they will be lowered to EUR60 billion until December 2017. The tone of the meeting remained dovish, though ECB President Mario Draghi did highlight a firming in GDP data.

Tone of the meeting was dovish, though more upbeat on the economy

We do not expect any tapering of the ECB's purchases of sovereign and corporate debt, at least before December 2017. In our view, the pick-up in inflation seen in the Eurozone since 4Q2016 is likely to be transitory, and is expected to weaken from March with a moderation in energy inflation. Moreover, the slow pace of real wage growth, muted lending dynamics and still elevated levels of unemployment are all keeping underlying price pressures muted. Indeed, comments from the ECB press conference support our contention that the central bank will keep policy rates and QE purchases lower-for-longer. President Draghi mentioned three factors that will persuade it to recalibrate its monetary stance: i) inflation that is not driven by transient factors (eg energy, as in 1Q2017); ii) an underlying build-up in self-sustaining inflation that does not require monetary policy support; and iii) a pickup in inflation across the Eurozone. Currently, only Germany is seeing a rise in core inflation, whilst other countries are not experiencing a rise in non-energy related components.

We expect QE programme to run its course (until December 2017)

C. Emerging Market Economies

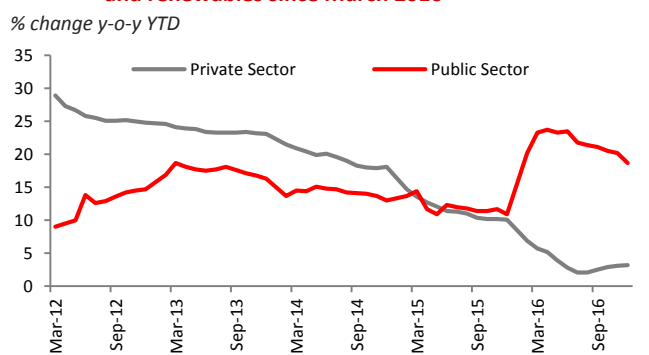
China: 4Q GDP beats market expectations, but medium-term dynamics tricky

China's GDP rose 6.8% y-o-y in 4Q (consensus: 6.7%; 3Q: 6.7%), slightly more than market expectations. We believe that much of the growth was driven by real estate and public infrastructure investment, both of which were supported by generous credit supply. Looking ahead, we expect the economic growth drivers to change slightly in 2017. Specifically, real estate investment should moderate by about 1-1.5 pp from its current level of 6.5% y-o-y. This will reflect the impact of measures taken by the government to curb the property price surges in top-tier cities (Beijing, Shanghai, etc.). On the other hand, we could see a revival in manufacturing sector investment, particularly from the private sector. There are some initial indications that public infrastructure spending on

Growth remained robust in 4Q, aided by public infrastructure investment

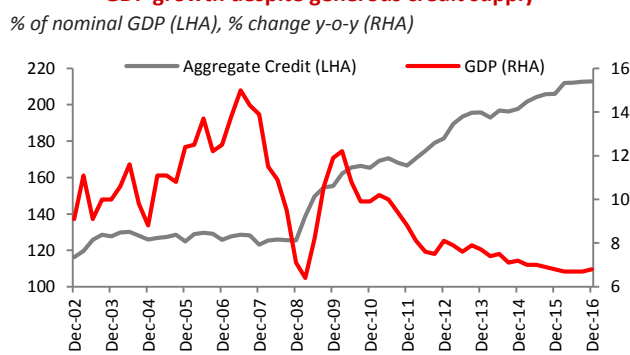
urban infrastructure and renewable energy has stimulated capex by private contractors (see Fig 7). Furthermore, rising producer prices have supported industrial profits, preventing the corporate debt burden in the private sector from becoming an immediate concern. That said, a pick-up in manufacturing investment is unlikely to fully offset the impact on growth from a regulation-driven slowdown, particularly if US President Donald Trump’s administration announces severe trade restrictions against China. In such an event, the PBoC might have to tighten CNY liquidity sharply in order to prevent a disorderly depreciation, which could impact private investment sentiment. Therefore, we see significant downside risks to our China growth forecast of 6.6% y-o-y in 2017.

Fig. 7. China: Private sector investment is bottoming out, boosted by public investment in urban infrastructure and renewables since March 2016



Source: National Bureau of Statistics

Fig. 8. China: Capacity of credit to stimulate growth has steadily declined since 2Q2010, with lower boost to GDP growth despite generous credit supply



Source: National Bureau of Statistics, ADCB calculations

Full-year data for 2016 also showed that the pace of reform in China has not been satisfactory and medium-term risks to a sudden growth slowdown have risen. Supplementary data released with the GDP result last week indicate that a China-driven shock to financial market sentiment remains a real risk this year, especially if deteriorating US-China relations spark capital outflows. Indeed, credit expanded by 16.4% y-o-y in 2016 to maintain the government’s growth target of 6.7% y-o-y. We estimate a sharp decline in the capacity of credit to stimulate growth (see Fig. 8). This credit expansion also aided a build-up in aggregate debt, which now stands at 264% of GDP (247% previously). Furthermore, progress on moving the economy towards consumption-driven growth also appears to have slowed, as data released last week showed a fall in the share of consumption of GDP (64.6% after 66.4%). We will closely watch the Communist Party plenum in March this year for any details on measures to cut financial stability risks. However, we see a low likelihood of breakthrough reforms to address these problems this year. The government is likely to prioritise infrastructure investment and credit expansion over taking measures to address rising SOE sector debt, to maintain its growth target of 6.5-7% y-o-y ahead of the Communist Party elections in November.

We expect little progress on economic reforms in 2017; China risk to global markets remains real this year

II. Economic Calendar

Fig. 9. Upcoming events and data releases

Time*	Country	Event	Period	Prior	Consensus
Expected this week					
	Saudi Arabia	CPI, y-o-y	Dec	2.3%	--
	Saudi Arabia	M2 Money Supply, y-o-y	Dec	1.6%	--
	Saudi Arabia	SAMA Net Foreign Assets SAR	Dec	1989.5B	--
	Saudi Arabia	GDP Constant Prices, q-o-q	3Q	-1.3%	--
	UAE	M2 Money Supply, m-o-m	Dec	0.8%	--
	UAE	Central Bank Foreign Assets	Dec	285.2B	--
	UAE	CPI, y-o-y	Dec	--	--
	Kuwait	CPI, y-o-y	Dec	3.4%	--
	Bahrain	CPI, y-o-y	Dec	1.9%	--
	Bahrain	M2 Money Supply, y-o-y	Nov	2.4%	--
Monday, 23 Jan					
3:00	Eurozone	ECB's Draghi Speaks in Torino, Italy			
8:30	Japan	All Industry Activity Index, m-o-m	Nov	0.2%	0.5%
19:00	Eurozone	Consumer Confidence	Jan A	-5.1	-4.8
Tuesday, 24 Jan					
4:30	Japan	Nikkei Japan PMI Mfg	Jan P	52.4	--
13:00	Eurozone	Markit Eurozone Manufacturing PMI	Jan P	54.9	54.8
13:00	Eurozone	Markit Eurozone Services PMI	Jan P	53.7	53.8
13:30	UK	UK Supreme Court verdict on Article 50			
15:00	Turkey	Benchmark Repo Rate		8%	8.5%
15:00	Turkey	Overnight Lending Rate		8.5%	9.25%
18:45	US	Markit US Manufacturing PMI	Jan P	54.3	54.5
19:00	US	Existing Home Sales	Dec	5.61M	5.5M
Wednesday, 25 Jan					
3:50	Japan	Trade Balance	Dec	¥150.8B	¥270B
3:50	Japan	Trade Balance Adjusted	Dec	¥536.1B	¥222.5B
3:50	Japan	Exports, y-o-y	Dec	-0.4%	1.2%
13:00	Germany	IFO Business Climate	Jan	111	111.3
16:00	US	MBA Mortgage Applications	20-Jan	0.8%	--
Thursday, 26 Jan					
13:30	UK	GDP, q-o-q	4Q A	0.6%	0.5%
13:30	UK	GDP, y-o-y	4Q A	2.2%	2.1%
17:30	US	Wholesale Inventories, m-o-m	Dec P	1%	0.3%
17:30	US	Initial Jobless Claims	21-Jan	234K	247K
18:45	US	Markit US Services PMI	Jan P	53.9	54.6
18:45	US	Markit US Composite PMI	Jan P	54.1	--
19:00	US	New Home Sales	Dec	592K	586K
19:00	US	Leading Index	Dec	0%	0.5%
Friday, 27 Jan					
3:30	Japan	Natl CPI, y-o-y	Dec	0.5%	0.2%
3:30	Japan	Natl CPI ex-Fresh Food, y-o-y	Dec	-0.4%	-0.3%
13:00	Eurozone	M3 Money Supply, y-o-y	Dec	4.8%	4.9%
17:30	US	GDP Annualized, q-o-q	4Q A	3.5%	2.2%
17:30	US	Personal Consumption, q-o-q	4Q A	3.0%	2.5%
17:30	US	GDP Price Index	4Q A	1.4%	2.1%
17:30	US	Durable Goods Orders, q-o-q	Dec P	-4.5%	3%
17:30	US	Durables, ex-Transportation, m-o-m	Dec P	0.6%	0.5%
19:00	US	U. of Mich. Sentiment	Jan F	98.1	98.1

* UAE time

Source: Bloomberg

Fig. 10. Last Week's Data

Time*	Country	Event	Period	Prior	Consensus	Actual
GCC Data						
	Saudi Arabia	Non-Oil Exports, y-o-y	Nov	-2.8%	--	-9.1%
	Kuwait	M2 Money Supply, y-o-y	Nov	5%	--	6.5%
	Oman	CPI, y-o-y	Dec	1.9%	--	1.1%
	Bahrain	GDP Constant Prices, y-o-y	3Q	2.5%	--	3.9%
Monday, 16 Jan						
3:50	Japan	Machine Orders, m-o-m	Nov	4.1%	-1.4%	-5.1%
3:50	Japan	PPI, y-o-y	Dec	-2.2%	-1.4%	-1.2%
8:30	Japan	Tertiary Industry Index, m-o-m	Nov	0%	0.2%	0.2%
Tuesday, 17 Jan						
8:30	Japan	Industrial Production, m-o-m	Nov F	1.5%	--	1.5%
8:30	Japan	Industrial Production, y-o-y	Nov F	4.6%	--	4.6%
13:00	Eurozone	ECB Bank Lending Survey				
13:30	UK	CPI, y-o-y	Dec	1.2%	1.4%	1.6%
13:30	UK	CPI Core, y-o-y	Dec	1.4%	1.4%	1.6%
17:30	US	Empire Manufacturing	Jan	7.6	8.5	6.5%
Wednesday, 18 Jan						
13:30	UK	Jobless Claims Change	Dec	1.3K	5K	-10.1K
13:30	UK	Average Weekly Earnings 3m/y	Nov	2.6%	2.6%	2.8%
13:30	UK	ILO Unemployment Rate 3m	Nov	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%
14:00	Eurozone	CPI, y-o-y	Dec F	0.6%	1.1%	1.1%
14:00	Eurozone	CPI Core, y-o-y	Dec F	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
16:00	US	MBA Mortgage Applications	13-Jan	5.8%	--	0.8%
17:30	US	CPI, y-o-y	Dec	1.7%	2.1%	2.1%
17:30	US	CPI Ex Food and Energy, y-o-y	Dec	2.1%	2.2%	2.2%
18:15	US	Industrial Production, m-o-m	Dec	-0.7%	0.6%	0.8%
Thursday, 19 Jan						
16:45	Eurozone	ECB Main Refinancing Rate	19-Jan	0%	0%	0%
16:45	Eurozone	ECB Marginal Lending Facility	19-Jan	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%
16:45	Eurozone	ECB Deposit Facility Rate	19-Jan	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%
16:45	Eurozone	ECB Asset Purchase Target	Jan	EU80B	EU80B	EU80B
17:30	US	Housing Starts	Dec	1102K	1184K	1226K
17:30	US	Building Permits	Dec	1212K	1225K	1210K
17:30	US	Initial Jobless Claims	14-Jan	249K	247K	234K
17:30	US	Philadelphia Fed Business Outlook	Jan	19.7	15.3	23.6
Friday, 20 Jan						
6:00	China	GDP y-o-y	4Q	6.7%	6.7%	6.8%
6:00	China	Industrial Production y-o-y	Dec	6.2%	6.1%	6%
6:00	China	Retail Sales, y-o-y	Dec	10.8%	10.7%	10.9%
6:00	China	Fixed Assets, ex-Rural, YTD y-o-y	Dec	8.3%	8.3%	8.1%
13:30	UK	Retail Sales, ex-Auto Fuel, m-o-m	Dec	0.2%	-0.4%	-2%
13:30	UK	Retail Sales, ex-Auto Fuel, y-o-y	Dec	6.4%	7.5%	4.9%

* UAE time

Source: Bloomberg

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