5 July 2021

Euro Area Macro Monitor

We have lift-off

- The euro area recovery picked up pace at the end of Q2 according to June PMIs, helped by ongoing strong manufacturing activity and a service sector that is increasingly taking over as a more important growth driver again with the gradual reopening of economies. Business activity grew at the fastest rate in 15 years and thanks to pent-up demand we expect this strong momentum to carry over into Q3. That said, after a 'hot' summer we believe the global manufacturing cycle is set to peak during Q3 as some of the strong tailwinds behind the boom are about to fade (see also Research Global Manufacturing cycle to peak in Q3, 21 June). We see scope for Europe's manufacturing boom to extend into H2 21, with the turn of the cycle slightly lagging China and the US, but we do not think that Europe's manufacturing cycle can escape abating global momentum for long, as waning external demand from key exports markets will eventually leave their mark on order books and production levels (see Research Euro Area Tide is slowly turning for European manufacturing, 22 June).
- Supply shortages remain widespread and inflationary cost pressures continued to build in both manufacturing and services, with both input costs and output prices rising at faster rates. First signs of rising inflationary pressures for goods were also visible in the June HICP figures, with non-energy industrial goods (NEIG) inflation taking a leap from 0.7% in May to 1.2% in June. That said, overall core inflation declined back to 0.9%, as service price inflation eased and with ample slack still in the labour market and a muted outlook for wage growth, we remain sceptic that core inflation is about to return to the highs preceding the Global Financial Crisis on a sustained basis (read more in *Research Euro Area Mind the inflation gap*, 8 June).
- Despite significant upgrades to its growth and inflation outlook, ECB continued to maintain its accommodative policy stance at the June meeting, with PEPP purchases still to be conducted at a 'significantly higher pace' in Q3 compared to the first months of the year (see Flash: ECB Research ECB turning risk manager, 10 June). Discussions on the strategic review are also gathering pace in the ECB Governing Council. While policymakers remain somewhat divided on a new inflation strategy (especially on how to deal with inflation overshoots), it seems consensus is building to include climate and owner-occupied housing in monetary policy decisions. The hope is for a deal to be reached before September, when a decision on the future of the PEPP programme is on the agenda. As we argued in ECB Research Strategy Review: 'leaving no stone unturned', 18 June, we expect a rather muted market reaction to the strategic review outcomes.
- French regional elections brought a first setback in Marine Le Pen's bid for the French presidency next year. Her far-right RN party performed worse than expected, and failed to secure its first regional government. Instead, it was a strong showing by incumbent candidates from the centre-right Republicans. However, with voter turnout at a record low 32% and still some 10 months until the presidential election, one should be cautious to completely write-off the risk of a Le Pen presidency. Successfully kick-starting the French economy after the pandemic will be crucial for President Macron's re-election chances.

Key points

- Business activity grows at fastest rate in 15 years
- ECB errs on the side of caution and keeps accommodative stance
- Setback for Marine Le Pen's bid for the French presidency

More room for pent-up demand to boost goods consumption in Europe



Source: Eurostat, U.S. Census Bureau, Macrobond Financial, Danske Bank

Euro core inflation not to return to pre-Global Financial Crisis highs



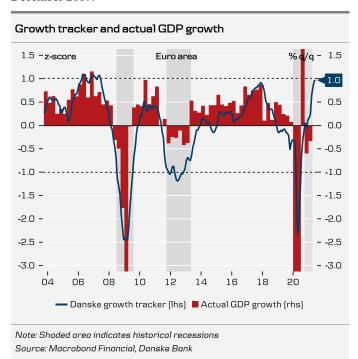
Source: Eurostat, Macrobond Financial, Danske Bank

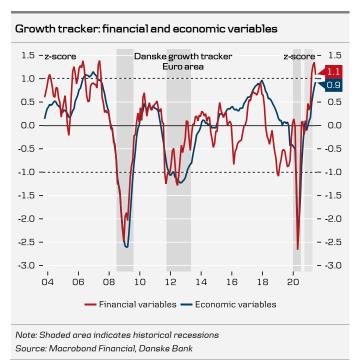
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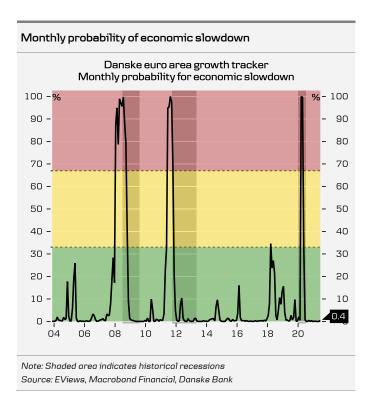


The Danske euro area growth tracker

Our growth tracker rose further in June to a value of 1.0 (from 0.8 in May), supporting the narrative of an accelerating euro area recovery. Financial variables showed a small setback driven by falling surprise indices and abating equities momentum. However, economic variables continued their rise and further improvements in consumer confidence, services activity and employment helped economic variables back to their highest level since December 2017.



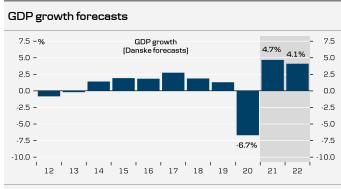




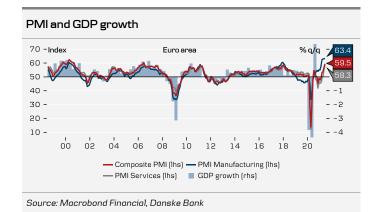
| Danske growth tracker decomposition | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| | June 2021 |
| Economic variables | 0.9 |
| PMI order-inventory balance | 2.3 |
| Real M1 growth | 2.0 |
| European sentiment inidcator | 1.9 |
| Consumer confidence | 1.7 |
| Composite PMI | 1.4 |
| EuroCOIN | 1.3 |
| Profit growth | 0.8 |
| Capacity utilisation | 0.6 |
| OECD CLI | 0.1 |
| ZEW | 0.0 |
| Credit growth | -0.5 |
| Unemployment | -0.5 |
| Financial variables | 1.1 |
| Euro surprise index | 1.4 |
| Sentix | 1.4 |
| Eurostoxx50 | 1.3 |
| Corporate vs. gov. bond yield | 0.3 |
| Source: Danske Bank | |

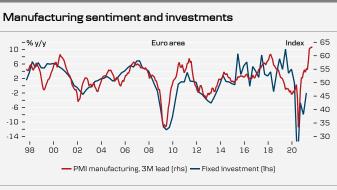


Euro area



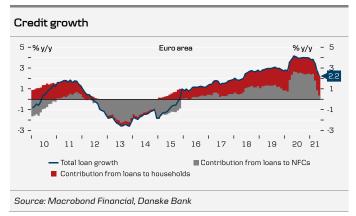


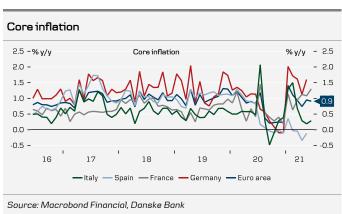


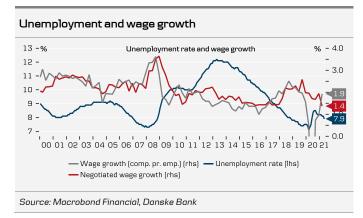


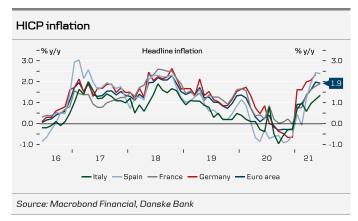
Source: Macrobond Financial, Danske Bank





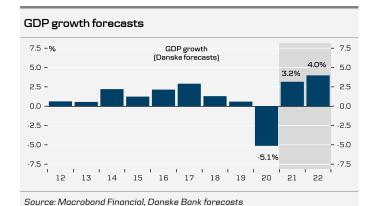




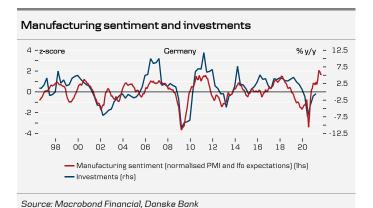


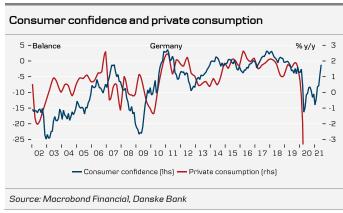


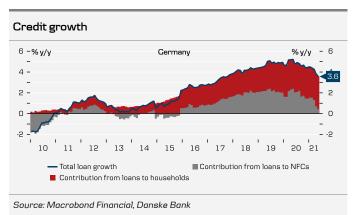
Germany



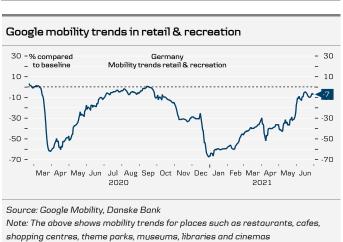


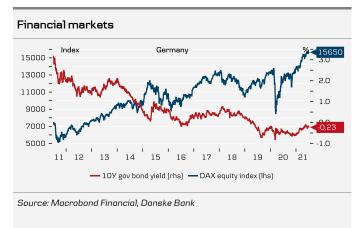






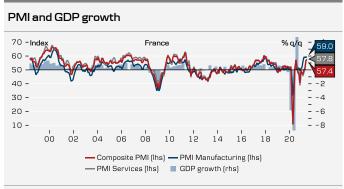




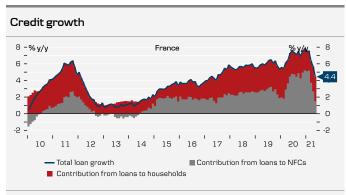




France



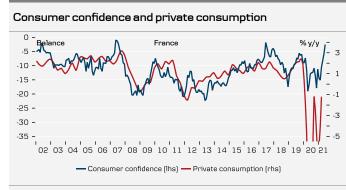
Source: Macrobond Financial, Danske Bank



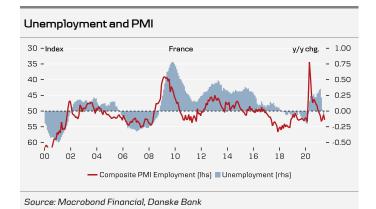
Source: Macrobond Financial, Danske Bank



Source: Macrobond Financial, Danske Bank



Source: Macrobond Financial, Danske Bank



Google mobility trends in retail & recreation France Mobility trends retail & recreation 30 -% compared - 30 10 10 -10 --30 --30 -50 -50 -70 - -70 - -90 -90 Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun 2020 2021 Source: Google Mobility, Danske Bank Note: The above shows mobility trends for places such as restaurants, cafes,

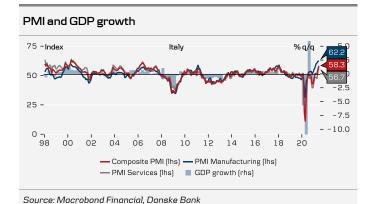
shopping centres, theme parks, museums, libraries and cinemas

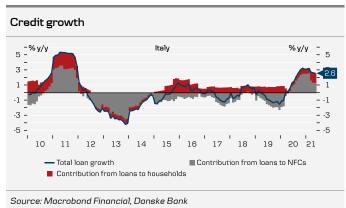


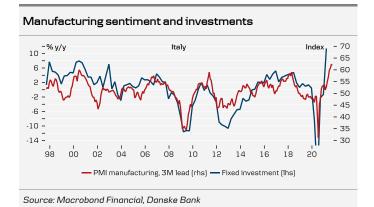
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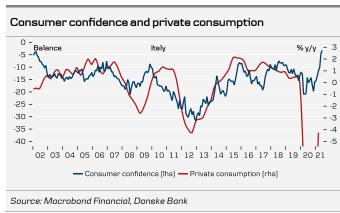


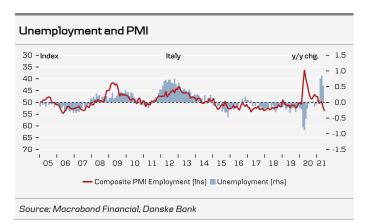
Italy

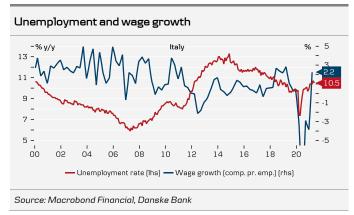


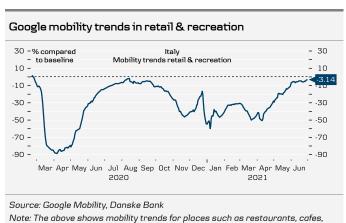




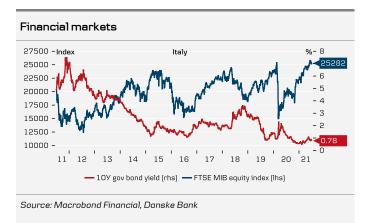






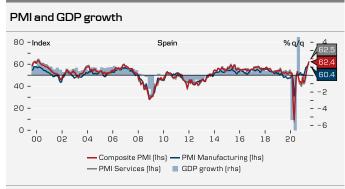


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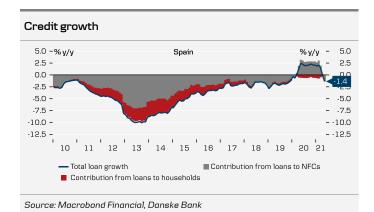




Spain





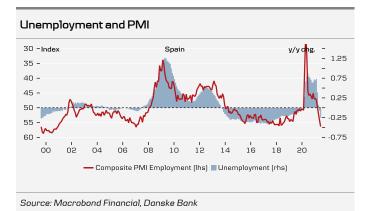


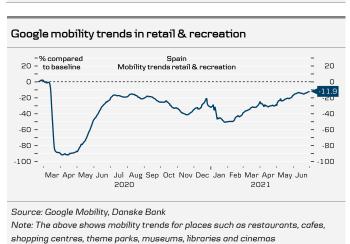


Source: Macrobond Financial, Danske Bank

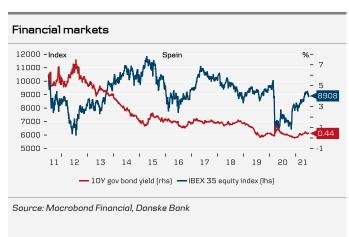














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This research report has been prepared by Danske Bank A/S ('Danske Bank'). The author of this research report is Aila Mihr, Senior Analyst.

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