

Weekly Focus

Stagflation concerns continue to dominate markets

Stagflation concerns continued to dominate financial markets this week. Stock market implied volatility remained elevated despite main indices recovering on Tuesday and Wednesday. The US CPI release on Wednesday provided no relief for Fed as core prices increased by 0.6% m/m in April, higher than we expected (0.5% vs. cons. 0.4%). The annual increase in core prices, however, moderated to 6.2% from 6.5% in March as base effects start kicking in. Overall, the high inflation continues to add pressure on Fed to hike sooner and faster. We still expect 50bp hike in June and July, followed by 25bp hikes in September, November and December. Larger hikes are not our base case but cannot be excluded particularly if inflation pressures prove larger or more persistent than expected.

On Tuesday, German ZEW index confirmed the economy is going through a rough patch while future outlook was less gloomy than expected. The current conditions component continued to tumble to -36.5 in May from -30.8 in April, vs. consensus expectations of -35.0. The forward-looking component recovered to -34.3 from -41.0 in April against analyst expectations (-43.5). Recovery in sentiment was broad-based across industries with exceptions in retail, construction and IT sectors.

The Russian Victory Day celebration ended up a non-event for markets. While there were speculations Putin could declare a war and announce mass mobilisation of troops, none of these fears came true. While Putin's speech was filled with propaganda, there was not much new to it, and some analysts even drew conclusions it might create room for de-escalation. We think it is premature to expect such as Russia continues its attacks on multiple cities in Ukraine and seems quite determined to achieve control over the Eastern and Southern regions of Ukraine. That being said, we are relieved Putin's speech signalled no escalation and maintain our base case of a protracted conflict in Ukraine.

In Research Global – Low metals supply could support prices despite the manufacturing downturn, 12 May, we highlight that the recent downturn in metal prices reflects rising recession risks, which weigh on the demand outlook. Still, tight supply still points towards metal prices remaining at elevated levels, while Chinese infrastructure stimulus provides backdrop for demand. Russia is not the only factor weighing on supply: Combination of Covid-disruptions, strikes and social unrest due to rising costs of living in EM producer countries all contribute toward metal supply remaining below pre-Covid trend.

Next week, we look for signals on how the global consumer is holding up in the context of rising prices, as we get retail sales data from the US on Tuesday and the EA consumer confidence data on Friday. Central banks remain in the spotlight with some Fed speakers on the wires and ECB minutes out on Thursday. For Fed, there seems to be a broad consensus on front-loading rate hikes by hiking 50bp the next two meetings. For ECB, markets will focus on any discussion about the timing and pace of upcoming rate hikes and the Governing Council's concerns about de-anchoring inflation expectations. Final EA HICP print is due on Wednesday. The week kicks off with a batch of data releases from China: retail sales, industrial production and property sales, but the main focus remains in the Covid outbreak after this week brought some relief as new cases fell in Shanghai.

Key market movers

- Monday: China industrial production, retail sales and property sales
- Tuesday: US industrial production, retail sales, UK jobs report
- Wednesday: EA final HICP, UK CPI
- Thursday: ECB minutes
- Friday: EA consumer confidence

Key global views

- Rising 'stagflation' risk from war in Ukraine – especially in Europe
- Weaker growth in coming quarters but not a global recession
- Higher commodity prices to keep inflation elevated for longer
- Fed to hike by another 175bp this year, ECB to hike in July, September and December

Selected readings from Danske Bank

- *US Labour Market Monitor – Record-high job demand supports the case for a more aggressive Fed tightening*, 9 May
- *Euro Area Macro Monitor – Conflicting signals*, 5 May

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Scandi market movers

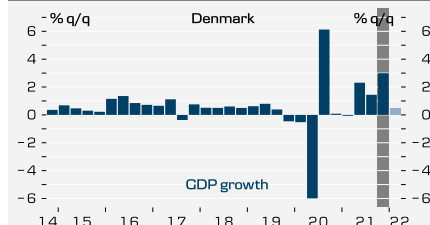
- In **Denmark**, we are set to receive the GDP indicator for Q1 22 on Monday. The range of potential outcomes is greater than normal here. On the one hand, consumption has looked rather weak, but on the other hand exports and especially industrial production have looked strong. GDP is initially calculated from the production side, so we surmise the economy came through in reasonable shape. We expect growth of 0.5%.

Friday is scheduled to bring wage-earner employment for March, which has risen for 13 months in a row. The economy is facing growing headwinds from price increases, which are squeezing consumers and dampening demand. However, much would be needed for employment to decline in the short term, as labour shortages continue to be significant and unemployment low. Looking a little further ahead, there is clearly some risk of a slowdown, as this will be necessary to clip inflation in the West.

May's consumer confidence is also due on Friday. Consumers' views on both household finances and the Danish economy have deteriorated considerably in recent months. We expect rising prices are still being felt by consumers, who will therefore have a negative opinion of their own finances. In contrast, we expect consumers' views on the Danish economy to improve, as the economy is still in fine fettle and the war in Ukraine has not escalated further. We therefore expect consumer confidence to rise to -17.0 in May.

- No data market movers in **Sweden** next week but two interesting speeches from the Riksbank to look out for. First speaker is Ohlsson (Tuesday 13:15 CET) with the title "Monetary policy in times of war" and later in the week Flodén (Thursday 17.00 CET) "Monetary policy and reference rates".
- In **Norway**, Friday brings Norges Bank's expectations survey for Q2. Both wage and price expectations have risen steadily since the start of last year, so the big question is whether they will now turn or keep on climbing. We will also be keeping a close eye on business leaders' profitability expectations. A tight labour market could bring stronger wage growth than expected, but overall costs (raw materials, energy, freight, wages, interest) for many firms are now rising so quickly that margins have to be coming under pressure. This could mean that firms' earnings deteriorate to the point where they put a damper on wages.

We expect growth of 0.5%



Source: Danske Bank, Macrobond Financial

Will inflation expectations rise further?



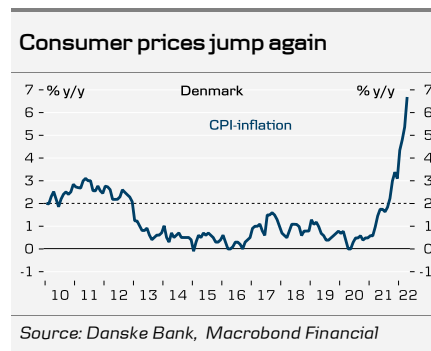
Source: Macrobond, Danske Bank

Scandi update

Denmark – Consumer prices jump again

Total exports of goods and services rose by a strong 6.7% in March, while imports rose 2.5%. Both exports and imports were boosted by an increase in prices, while the volumes traded actually appear to have declined. Nevertheless, Q1 22 looks strong overall. The current account is generally benefiting from rising export prices – particularly the high freight rates enjoyed by shippers. We continue to assess labour and materials shortages as the main hindrance to Danish exports rather than a lack of demand.

Consumer prices rose 6.7% in April compared to the same month last year. The increase continues to be very much driven by energy prices, though food and cigarette prices also made a significant contribution in April. Electricity prices pulled inflation higher by half a percentage point, as prices are almost 70% up on last year. We are also seeing price increases spread to other goods and services. Core inflation is now running at 3.6%, which is higher than in 2008, when the economy was massively overheating. However, we reckon that April will mark a peak for Danish inflation for now, as, not least, electricity prices have begun to decline again. Nevertheless, much will depend on energy prices going forward, and we also expect the still tight labour market and solid demand from export markets to result in increasing price pressures for companies in addition to energy and materials.

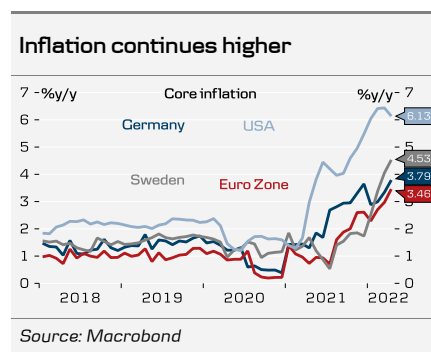


Sweden – Core inflation in line with market consensus but above Riksbank forecast

Prospera money market inflation expectations increased on all horizons on back of the surprisingly high inflation seen lately. Especially a large jump in 1Y to 4.1% (3.2). 5Y is the most important one, increase 0.2 p.p to 2.4% which is a large increase for the 5Y. Now close to uncomfortable levels for the Riksbank.

Swedish inflation was slightly higher than markets consensus (CPIF 0.6 % mom/6.4 % yoy vs market 0.5 % mom/ 6.2 % yoy). CPIF excl. Energy was in line with market though printing 0.9 % mom / 4.5 % yoy vs market 0.8 % mom/4.5 % yoy). This is a tad higher than Riksbank's base forecast 4.1 % but in line with its alternative scenario 4.445% yoy (with all decimals). Hence, energy was the main reason for the deviation today.

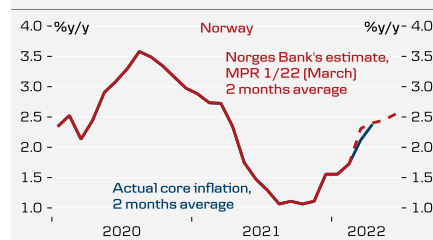
If looking into details, food (again) and recreation was both lower than expected while electricity was considerably higher (quite unusual miss) together with miscellaneous goods and services. So what does this mean for the Riksbank? This for sure puts pressure together with high inflation expectations. The largest deviation in inflation forecast and the alternative scenario comes in coming months. Regarding 25bp or 50bp hike in June depends a lot about inflation outcome for May.



Norway – Inflation on the up

Core inflation surprised to the upside in April at 2.6% y/y, beating both our prediction of 2.4% and Norges Bank's 2.3%. The underlying data show that imported inflation was actually slightly lower than expected, and it was domestic inflation that came out higher. This was driven partly by higher prices for domestically produced foods, but chiefly by a 40% m/m jump in airfares which explains the whole of our underestimate. There is no question that inflation is headed up in Norway – prices were also higher for domestically produced goods and for hotels and restaurants, among others, so the increase is in no way transitory. That said, it would appear that the surprise to the upside in April was driven mainly by Easter-related effects (food, airfares) which will probably turn out to be mainly temporary. All in all, therefore, we believe that the numbers confirm that inflation is on the up, but only at around the speed Norges Bank anticipated in March (averaged across March and April, core inflation was 2.38%, very close to the central bank's projection of 2.4%). This would suggest that the bank will continue its gradual normalisation of monetary policy and that there is not (as yet) any reason for it to move more quickly.

Inflation trend roughly as Norges Bank expected



Source: Macrobond, Danske Bank

Calendar

Monday, May 16, 2022					Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
4:00	CNY	Industrial production	y/y		Apr		0.5%	5.0%
4:00	CNY	Retail sales	y/y		Apr		-6.2%	-3.5%
4:00	CNY	Fixed assets investments	y/y		Apr		7.0%	9.3%
8:00	DKK	GDP indicator	q/q	1st quarter		0.5%		1.1%
8:00	NOK	Trade balance	NOK bn		Apr			138.4
11:00	EUR	Trade balance	EUR bn		Mar			-9.4
11:47	USD	Fed's George speaks						
14:30	USD	Empire Manufacturing PMI	Index		May		15.0	24.6
14:55	USD	Fed's Williams speaks						
22:00	USD	TICS international capital flow, Net inflow	USD bn		Mar			162.6
Tuesday, May 17, 2022					Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
7:30	FRF	ILO unemployment	%		1st quarter			7.4%
8:00	GBP	Average weekly earnings ex bonuses (3M)	y/y		Mar			4.0%
8:00	GBP	Unemployment rate (3M)	%		Mar			3.8%
11:00	EUR	GDP, preliminary	q/q/y/y	1st quarter		0.2%		0.2% 5.0%
11:00	EUR	Employment, preliminary	q/q/y/y	1st quarter				0.5% 2.2%
11:00	ITL	HICP, final	m/m/y/y		Apr			- 6.6%
11:47	USD	Fed's George speaks						
14:00	USD	Fed's Bullard speaks						
14:30	USD	Retail sales control group	m/m		Apr			0.7%
15:15	USD	Fed's Harker speaks						
15:15	USD	Capacity utilization	%		Apr		78.5%	78.3%
15:15	USD	Industrial production	m/m		Apr		0.4%	0.9%
15:15	USD	Manufacturing production	m/m		Apr		0.3%	0.9%
16:00	USD	NAHB Housing Market Index	Index		May		75.0	77.0
20:30	USD	Fed's Mester speaks						
Wednesday, May 18, 2022					Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
0:45	USD	Fed's Evans speaks						
1:00	USD	Fed's George speaks						
1:50	JPY	GDP deflator, preliminary	y/y	1st quarter			-1.1%	-1.3%
1:50	JPY	GDP, preliminary	q/q/ann.	1st quarter			-0.5% -1.8%	1.1% 4.6%
6:30	JPY	Industrial production, final	m/m/y/y		Mar			0.3% -1.7%
8:00	GBP	CPI	m/m/y/y		Apr			1.1% 7.0%
8:00	GBP	CPI core	y/y		Apr			5.7%
11:00	EUR	HICP inflation, final	m/m/y/y		Apr	7.4%		0.6% 7.4%
11:00	EUR	HICP - core inflation, final	y/y		Apr			3.5%
11:47	USD	Fed's George speaks						
14:30	USD	Building permits	1000 (m/m)		Apr		1810	1870.0 (0.3%)
14:30	USD	Housing starts	1000 (m/m)		Apr		1763	1793.0 (0.3%)
14:30	CAD	CPI	m/m/y/y		Apr			- 6.7%
16:30	USD	DOE U.S. crude oil inventories	K					8487
22:00	USD	Fed's Harker speaks						
Thursday, May 19, 2022					Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
1:50	JPY	Exports	y/y (%)		Apr		0.1	0.1
1:50	JPY	Import	y/y (%)		Apr		0.3	0.3
1:50	JPY	Trade balance, s.a.	JPY bn		Apr		-1459.8	-899.8
3:30	AUD	Employment change	1000		Apr		30	17.9
8:00	SEK	Capacity utilization, industry	%	1st quarter				90.8%
10:00	EUR	Current account	EUR bn		Mar			20.8
11:47	USD	Fed's George speaks						
14:30	USD	Philly Fed index	Index		May		17.6	17.6
16:00	USD	Existing home sales	m (m/m)		Apr		5.65	5.77 -0.027
Friday, May 20, 2022					Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous
1:01	GBP	GfK consumer confidence	Index		May			-38.0
1:30	JPY	CPI - national ex. fresh food	y/y		Apr		2.1%	0.8%
1:30	JPY	CPI - national	y/y		Apr		2.5%	1.2%
8:00	GBP	Retail sales ex fuels	m/m/y/y		Apr			-1.1% -0.6%
8:00	DKK	Consumer confidence	Net. bal.		May			-20.9
11:47	USD	Fed's George speaks						
16:00	EUR	Consumer confidence, preliminary	Net. bal.		May			-22.0

Source: Danske Bank

Macroeconomic forecast

Macro forecast. Scandinavia

	Year	GDP ¹	Private cons. ¹	Public cons. ¹	Fixed inv. ¹	Ex-ports ¹	Im-ports ¹	Infla-tion ¹	Wage growth ¹	Unem-ploym ³	Public budget ⁴	Public debt ⁴	Current acc. ⁴
Denmark	2021	4.7	4.3	3.7	5.6	7.8	8.2	1.9	3.0	3.7	2.4	36.7	8.3
	2022	3.5	2.2	0.6	2.0	6.0	4.0	5.5	3.7	2.4	1.7	32.6	7.5
	2023	1.3	2.5	0.5	1.1	3.1	4.1	1.7	4.0	2.5	1.8	30.3	7.7
Sweden	2021	4.5	5.7	2.5	5.9	7.2	9.1	2.2	2.7	8.8	-0.2	37.7	1.4
	2022	2.5	3.3	1.3	2.8	5.1	5.6	4.0	2.0	7.0	0.8	33.0	4.8
	2023	2.0	1.9	1.2	2.2	3.9	3.4	1.3	2.1	6.8	0.8	30.0	5.1
Norway	2021	4.2	5.0	3.9	-0.3	4.8	2.0	3.5	3.5	3.2	-	-	-
	2022	3.8	6.5	1.3	3.1	6.0	7.5	3.3	3.7	2.0	-	-	-
	2023	2.0	2.5	1.3	2.0	4.0	4.0	1.8	3.7	1.9	-	-	-

Macro forecast. Euroland

	Year	GDP ¹	Private cons. ¹	Public cons. ¹	Fixed inv. ¹	Ex-ports ¹	Im-ports ¹	Infla-tion ¹	Wage growth ¹	Unem-ploym ³	Public budget ⁴	Public debt ⁴	Current acc. ⁴
Euro area	2021	2.5	2.8	3.9	3.7	7.3	9.4	7.0	2.5	6.7	-3.6	97.6	3.2
	2022	2.8	1.2	3.7	4.5	5.3	4.9	2.0	3.4	6.5	-2.1	96.7	3.4
	2023	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Germany	2021	2.9	0.1	3.1	1.3	9.8	9.1	3.2	3.4	3.6	-3.7	69.3	7.5
	2022	1.0	2.8	2.6	0.2	6.2	8.8	7.4	3.2	3.1	-2.1	69.2	6.6
	2023	3.6	1.6	4.1	4.0	6.4	4.9	2.7	3.8	2.9	-0.5	68.1	6.8
Finland	2021	3.5	3.1	3.2	1.2	4.7	5.3	2.2	2.3	7.7	-2.6	65.8	0.7
	2022	1.7	2.3	1.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.4	2.8	7.0	-3.0	66.1	0.2
	2023	2.0	2.5	1.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	2.0	2.6	6.6	-1.8	65.5	0.4

Macro forecast. Global

	Year	GDP ¹	Private cons. ¹	Public cons. ¹	Fixed inv. ¹	Ex-ports ¹	Im-ports ¹	Infla-tion ¹	Wage growth ¹	Unem-ploym ³	Public budget ⁴	Public debt ⁴	Current acc. ⁴
USA	2021	5.7	7.9	0.5	7.8	4.5	14.0	4.7	4.0	5.4	-13.4	129.7	-3.5
	2022	2.8	2.5	0.1	2.9	4.9	5.5	7.5	5.0	4.0	-4.7	125.6	-3.5
	2023	2.0	1.9	1.0	3.5	1.5	1.8	3.3	4.6	3.8	-3.1	124.0	-3.3
China	2021	8.0	10.2	-	5.2	-	-	0.7	5.0	-	-5.6	68.9	3.0
	2022	4.7	6.0	-	3.0	-	-	3.0	5.5	-	-7.0	72.0	1.0
	2023	5.3	6.0	-	4.5	-	-	2.5	5.5	-	-6.8	74.5	0.7
UK	2021	7.4	6.2	14.3	5.9	-1.3	3.8	2.6	4.9	4.5	-8.1	95.6	-3.0
	2022	5.1	6.1	3.3	6.5	3.3	4.8	5.2	3.2	4.0	-3.9	95.5	-4.6
	2023	2.4	2.5	0.8	4.8	3.4	3.7	2.9	3.9	3.7	-1.9	94.1	-4.2
Japan	2021	1.7	1.1	2.1	-1.3	11.8	5.2	-0.2	-	2.8	-	-	-
	2022	2.1	3.3	1.5	-2.2	4.6	1.4	1.6	-	2.6	-	-	-
	2023	1.0	1.4	0.7	-0.6	3.2	2.0	1.1	-	2.5	-	-	-

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

Financial forecast

Bond and money 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	12-May	1.00	1.40	2.86	2.91	104.1	-	715.1	987.2	1015.1
	+3m	2.00	2.30	3.10	3.20	107.0	-	695.6	915.9	953.3
	+6m	2.25	2.76	3.40	3.25	106.0	-	702.4	943.4	952.8
	+12m	3.25	3.30	3.50	3.25	105.0	-	709.5	933.3	971.4
EUR	12-May	-0.50	-0.41	0.78	1.68	-	104.1	744.1	1027.2	1056.3
	+3m	-0.25	-0.11	0.95	1.75	-	107.0	744.3	980.0	1020.0
	+6m	0.00	0.16	1.15	1.80	-	106.0	744.5	1000.0	1010.0
	+12m	0.50	0.57	1.35	1.85	-	105.0	745.0	980.0	1020.0
JPY	12-May	-0.10	-0.02	0.10	0.43	120.5	128.6	6.17	8.52	8.76
	+3m	-0.10	-	-	-	133.8	125.0	5.56	7.33	7.63
	+6m	-0.10	-	-	-	130.4	123.0	5.71	7.67	7.75
	+12m	-0.10	-	-	-	125.0	119.0	5.96	7.84	8.16
GBP*	12-May	1.00	-	2.00	1.76	85.3	121.9	871.9	1203.7	1237.7
	+3m	1.25	-	2.25	2.10	84.0	127.4	886.0	1166.7	1214.3
	+6m	1.50	-	2.35	2.10	84.0	126.2	886.3	1190.5	1202.4
	+12m	1.75	-	2.40	2.20	84.0	125.0	886.9	1166.7	1214.3
CHF*	12-May	-0.75	-	0.13	1.21	103.7	99.7	717.2	990.1	1018.1
	+3m	-0.75	-	-	-	101.0	94.4	736.9	970.3	1009.9
	+6m	-0.50	-	-	-	100.0	94.3	744.5	1000.0	1010.0
	+12m	0.00	-	-	-	99.0	94.3	752.5	989.9	1030.3
DKK	12-May	-0.60	-0.16	1.07	1.95	744.11	715.09	-	138.05	141.95
	+3m	-0.35	0.13	1.20	2.00	744.25	695.56	-	131.68	137.05
	+6m	-0.10	0.39	1.40	2.05	744.50	702.36	-	134.32	135.66
	+12m	0.40	0.80	1.60	2.10	745.00	709.52	-	131.54	136.91
SEK	12-May	0.25	0.46	1.91	2.40	1056.3	1015.1	70.4	97.3	100.0
	+3m	0.50	0.73	1.65	2.20	1020.0	953.3	73.0	96.1	-
	+6m	0.75	1.00	1.65	2.15	1010.0	952.8	73.7	99.0	-
	+12m	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.10	1020.0	971.4	73.0	96.1	-
NOK	12-May	0.75	1.30	2.62	2.96	1027.2	987.2	72.4	100.0	102.8
	+3m	1.00	1.49	2.70	3.10	980.0	915.9	75.9	-	104.1
	+6m	1.25	1.76	2.90	3.15	1000.0	943.4	74.5	-	101.0
	+12m	1.75	2.26	3.05	3.25	980.0	933.3	76.0	-	104.1

*Note: GBP swaps are SONIA and CHF swaps are SHARON

Commodities													
	12-May	2022				2023				Average			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2022	2023		
ICE Brent	106	98	125	115	100	95	95	95	95	110	95		

Source Danske Bank

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