

Week Ahead Economic Overview

- Japanese and eurozone GDP data
- China monthly 'data dump'
- US industrial production and retail sales
- UK labour market stats and *Inflation Report*

The week sees a vast amount of data released, including euro area and Japanese GDP, updates on retail and industrial growth in China, inflation for the US, plus the latest UK labour market statistics and the Bank of England's *Inflation Report*.

The week should bring some good news in the form of a return to growth for the Japanese economy in the first quarter, with GDP set to rebound from the stagnation seen at the end of last year. [PMI surveys](#) rose strongly in the first quarter, reaching a joint-record high in March.

The eurozone should also see better GDP performance than the 0.6% decline seen in the final quarter of last year, but only in the sense that the rate of decline is likely to have merely eased. A return to growth in Germany looks to have been offset by ongoing downturns in France, Italy and Spain. The concern is that the [PMIs](#) are already showing the region's recession deepening again in April.

The US issues industrial production and [retail sales](#) data for April. [Markit's manufacturing PMI](#) suggested that the pace of industrial expansion slowed.

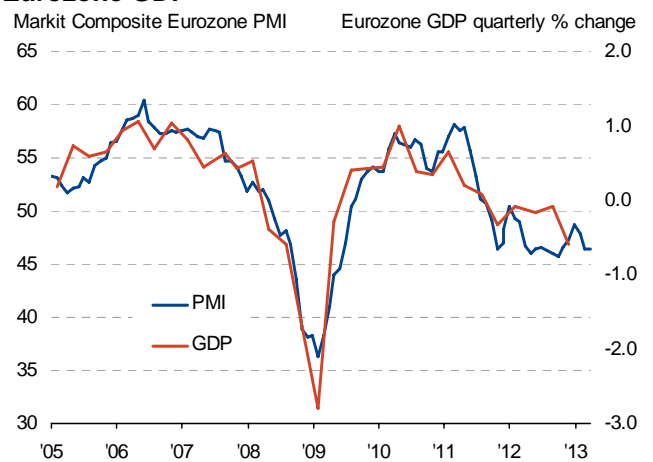
China's monthly data dump includes [industrial production](#), retail sales and investment updates, and will all be eyed closely for further signs of economic slowdown after [GDP disappointed](#) by rising just 7.7% in the first quarter.

[UK unemployment](#) rose sharply in February, and the labour market is likely to have remained lacklustre in terms of hiring in March. Average earnings growth is likely to have remained under pressure, having already sunk to a record low in the three months to February.

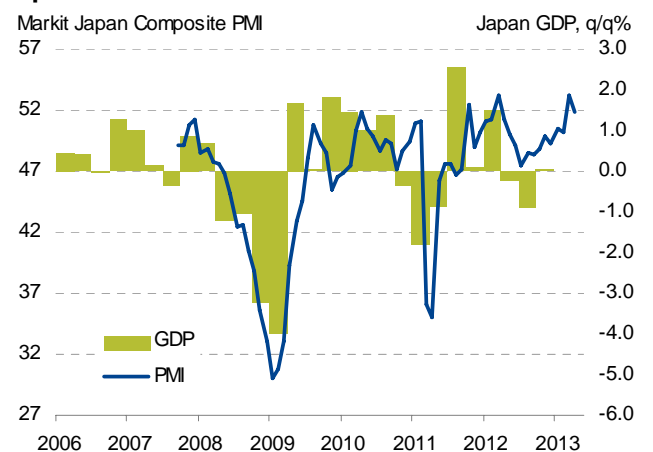
Inflation data are also published for the US, Germany, France, Spain and Italy, which are likely to show an underlying easing of price pressures.

The last Inflation Report under Bank of England chief Sir Mervyn King will be published, and is likely to indicate that the [Bank has become a little more encouraged](#) about the UK economy's outlook given the recent flow of economic data.

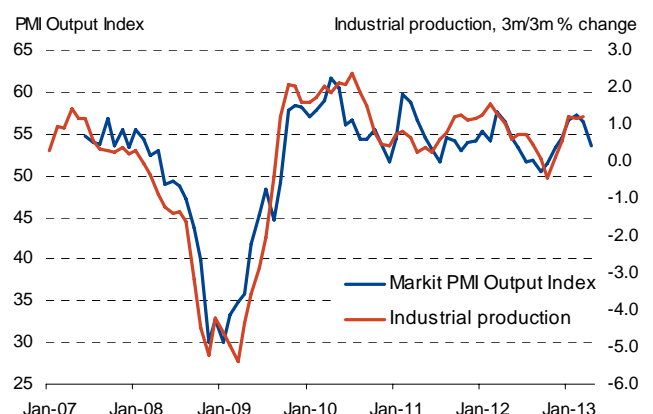
Eurozone GDP



Japanese GDP



US industrial production



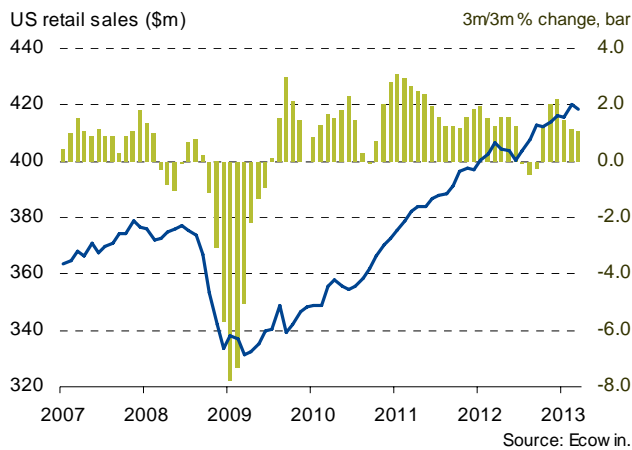
Monday 13 May

China's industrial production, retail sales and urban fixed asset investment data are published on Monday.

The Bank of France meanwhile provides an update on French business sentiment for April.

In the US, retail sales and business inventories figures are released.

US retail sales



Tuesday 14 May

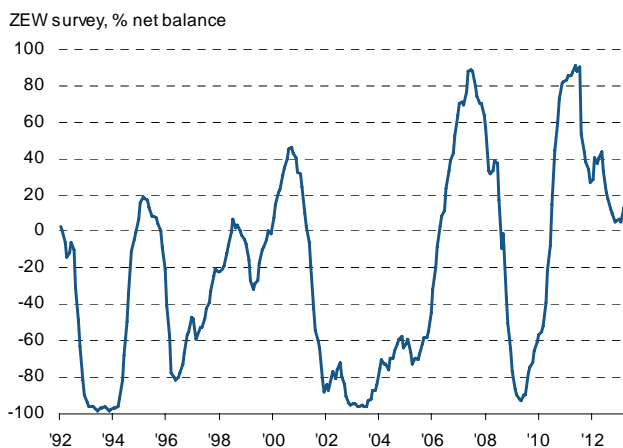
An update on UK house prices is provided by RICS.

Consumer price inflation data are released in Germany, Spain and Italy. Germany also sees latest economic sentiment indicators from ZEW.

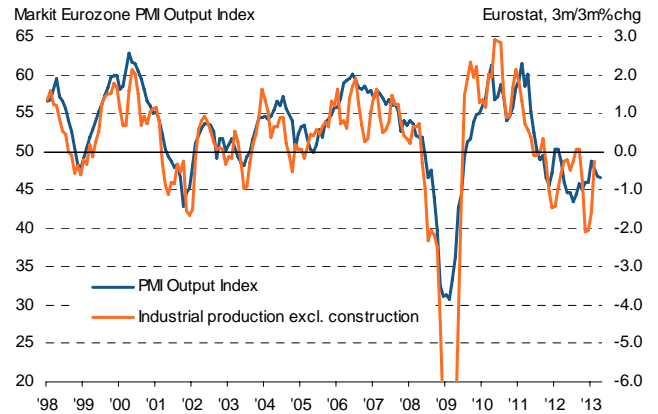
French current account numbers are published in advance of industrial output figures for the eurozone as a whole.

Business sentiment indicators from NFIB and import and export prices data are the main economic releases in the US.

German investor sentiment



Eurozone industrial production



Wednesday 15 May

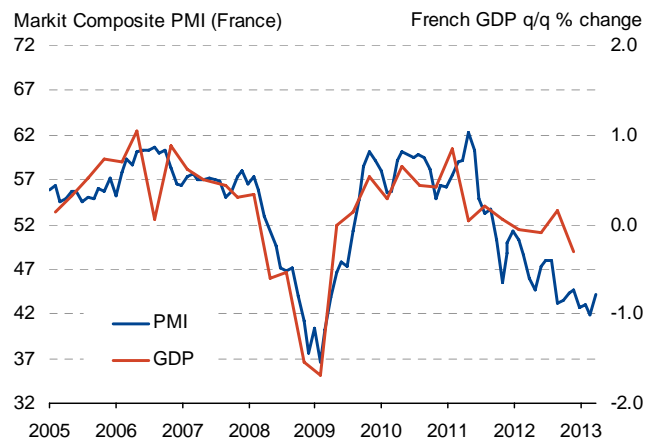
The METI tertiary activity index and consumer confidence indicators from the Cabinet Office are published in Japan.

First quarter GDP data are published in France, Germany, Italy and the euro area as a whole on Wednesday. France also sees latest consumer prices numbers.

German GDP



France GDP

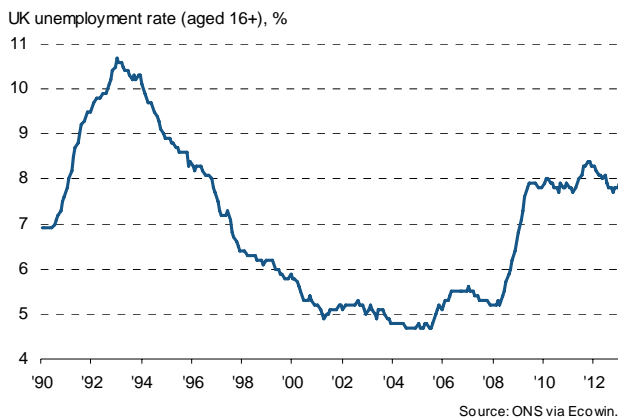


Unemployment and average earnings data are meanwhile released in the UK, as well as the latest inflation report from the Bank of England.

Producer prices numbers, industrial production and capacity utilisation data are published in the US.

The US also sees the latest results from the Fed's Empire State and NAHB's builders surveys, as well as MBA mortgage numbers.

UK unemployment



Thursday 16 May

Japan's preliminary estimate of GDP in the first quarter is issued on Thursday. Industrial production and capacity utilisation for March follow.

International trade data are published in Italy, in advance of similar data for the euro area as a whole. The eurozone also sees final consumer prices figures.

Consumer price inflation data are also released in the US, as well as building permits, housing starts and initial jobless claims figures. An update on regional business trends from the Philadelphia Fed follows.

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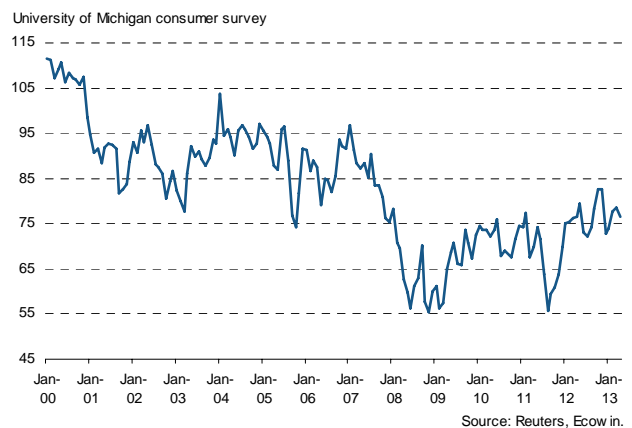
Friday 17 May

Key machinery order numbers are published in Japan.

Consumer prices figures are meanwhile released in Canada, as well as wholesale sales.

The preliminary estimate of consumer confidence from the University of Michigan and the Conference Board's leading indicator are the main economic releases in the US.

US consumer confidence



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