

Week Ahead Economic Overview

- **Flash PMI™ data for the US, China and the Eurozone**
- **Launch of the Markit/JMMA Flash Manufacturing PMI™**
- **GDP update and inflation numbers for the UK**

Thursday's Flash PMI™ data from Markit will provide early insights into the economic performance of the world's largest economies in May. Other standouts in a relatively quiet week of data releases are first quarter GDP updates for Germany and the UK, with the latter also seeing inflation numbers.

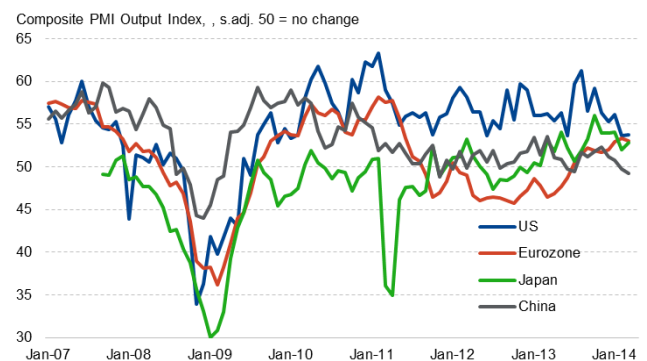
The publication of the flash PMI surveys will show how economic trends are faring in May. Last month, [survey data](#) pointed to the strongest spell of growth in the **eurozone** for three years, with expansions reported across the big-four nations. The [German](#) and [Spanish](#) economies both started the second quarter on a solid footing, and boosted growth in the currency union. Other important releases in the region include current account data and flash consumer sentiment figures, with Germany also seeing a more detailed breakdown of first quarter GDP data and the Ifo releases.

Markit launch the [Flash Japan Manufacturing PMI™](#), which will give early insights into manufacturing trends in **Japan**. In April, [survey data](#) pointed to the first deterioration in manufacturing operating conditions in 14 months, as the sales tax hike had brought forward purchases in March to avoid paying additional costs in the following month. Other data releases in Japan include updates on the All Industry Index from METI and the latest monetary policy decision from the Bank of Japan.

The **US** also has a number of releases over the week, most prominent among which are Flash PMI data for the manufacturing sector. [April's survey data](#) represented a good start into the second quarter, suggesting that the economy should rebound from the [disappointing 0.1% annualised GDP growth rate in the first quarter](#). Also out in the US are minutes from April's Federal Open Market Committee meeting, initial claims, leading indicators and home sales data.

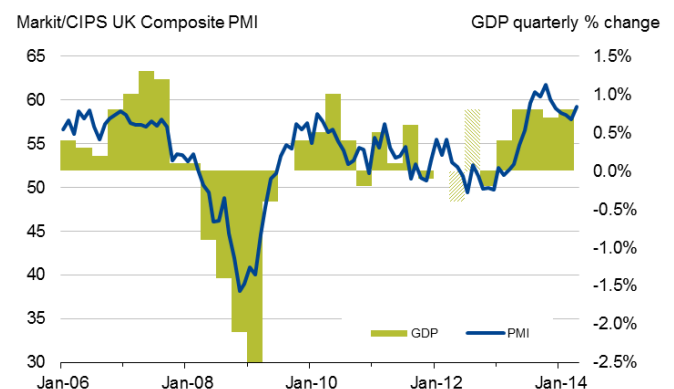
Inflation numbers are meanwhile released in the **UK** and will give further clues as to whether the Bank of England is moving closer to a rate increase. The [Inflation Report](#) suggested that a rise in the first quarter of next year may be on the cards instead of the second quarter. However, the Bank continues to believe that rates will most likely rise only gradually and remain 'low compared to historic rates'. The Office for National Statistics will meanwhile update their estimate for first quarter GDP, [which was initially estimated to have increased by 0.8%](#).

Composite PMI Output Indices



Source: Markit.

UK GDP and the PMI



Sources: Ecwin, Markit.

Monday 19 May

The latest Bank of Scotland Report on Jobs is published.

Key machinery orders figures are issued in Japan.

Meanwhile, Rightmove release their latest House Price Index.

Tuesday 20 May

In Japan, the all industry activity index and the leading indicator are published.

Producer prices data are issued in Germany.

Italy sees the release of industrial orders numbers and an update on its current account.

In the UK, inflation numbers are issued.

Wholesale sales figures are published in Canada.

Wednesday 21 May

The Bank of Japan announces their latest monetary policy decision.

The latest UK Household Finance Index is published by Markit.

In the Eurozone, an update on current account figures is released alongside flash consumer sentiment data.

Minutes of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee Meeting are published in the UK alongside retail sales numbers.

Producer prices figures are released in Russia.

The Federal Open Market Committee published minutes from its April meeting.

Thursday 22 May

Flash PMIs are released for China, the Eurozone, the US, and the new Markit/JMMA Flash Japan Manufacturing PMI™ is launched.

INSEE releases an update on business confidence data in France.

The second estimate for first quarter GDP is published in the UK.

Retail sales numbers are meanwhile issued in Canada.

In Russia, real wages figures, retail sales numbers and unemployment data are released.

Initial claims, existing home sales data and the leading indicator are out in the US.

Friday 23 May

The Knight Frank/Markit UK House Price Sentiment Index is released.

In Germany, a detailed breakdown of first quarter GDP is published, followed by the latest data from Ifo.

Retail sales figures and wages data are issued in Italy.

Canada sees the release of inflation numbers.

New home sales data are meanwhile published in the US.

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