

# Week Ahead Economic Overview

- **US GDP, consumer confidence and housing market updates to give guidance on Fed policy**
- **Japanese inflation, industrial production, retail sales and PMI to reveal progress of 'Abenomics'**

More guidance on the health of the [global economy](#) in the first quarter will be provided by the publication of gross domestic product data for India, Brazil and Canada, while the US will also publish a second estimate of GDP in the first three months of the year.

The [first estimate of US growth had disappointed](#) after analysts expected growth to come in stronger than the 2.5% annualised pace. Any upward revision will add to worries that the Fed may soon start to taper its asset buying.

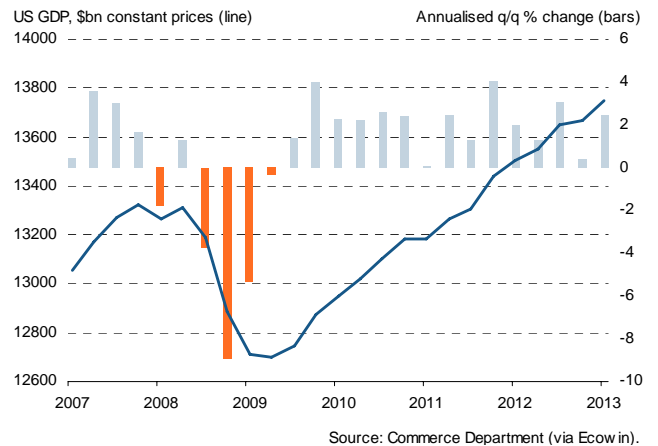
More up to date information on the US economy will be provided by the University of Michigan and Conference Board surveys of consumer confidence in May. The preliminary reading of the former rose sharply to the highest since mid-2007. Case-Shiller house price and pending home sales data will also reveal whether the property market's steady recovery remains on track.

After Japan's economic growth [surprised on the upside](#) in the first quarter, retail sales and industrial production data for April will be eagerly awaited for signs that the upturn has been sustained into the second quarter. While rising exports are likely to have boosted production, policymakers will also want to see retail sales rising on the back of renewed consumer confidence. [Markit's PMI](#) will also be published, showing how manufacturers fared in May. Perhaps most eagerly awaited, however, will be consumer price data for April. The Bank of Japan's target is for inflation to rise to 2.0%, but March's data showed prices falling at an increased rate of 0.9% on a year ago.

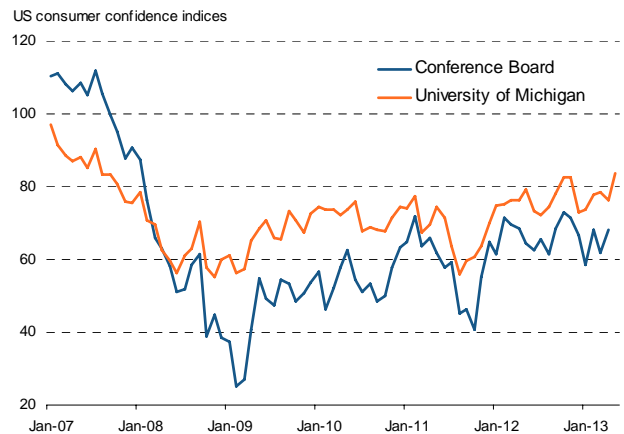
In the eurozone, European Commission consumer and business sentiment indicators are released for key countries, alongside inflation and unemployment data for Germany. The German jobless rate is running at a near all-time low of 6.9%, contrasting with a record 12.1% for the euro area as a whole, highlighting the ongoing wide divergences in economic performance within the single currency zone.

In the UK, the main releases are money supply, consumer credit and mortgage approval numbers. The latter will be watched particularly closely for signs that the housing market continues to recover.

## US GDP



## US consumer confidence



## German unemployment



**Monday 27 May**

The Bank of Japan publishes the minutes from the April monetary policy committee meeting.

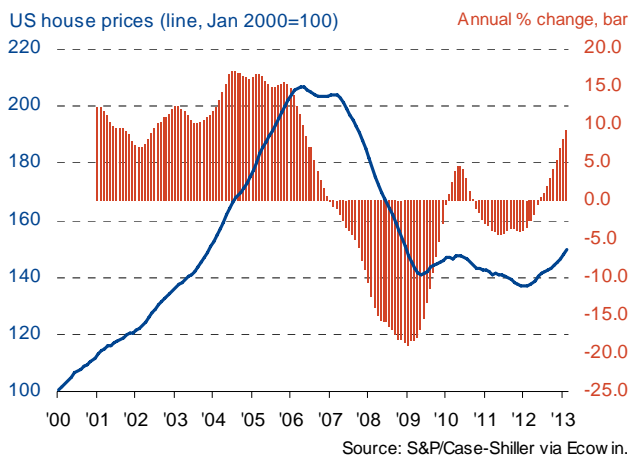
International trade data are meanwhile released in Brazil and Mexico.

**Tuesday 28 May**

French consumer confidence indicators are published by INSEE on Tuesday.

US house prices numbers are meanwhile released by S&P Case-Shiller, as well as consumer confidence figures from the Conference Board. The latest results from the Richmond and Dallas Fed's surveys follow.

**US house prices (Case-Shiller)**



**Wednesday 29 May**

Retail sales numbers are released in Japan and Spain on Wednesday.

Unemployment figures are published in Germany, as well as the preliminary estimate of consumer price inflation during May.

Italy meanwhile sees business sentiment indicators alongside money supply numbers for the euro area as a whole.

In the UK, the latest results from the CBI distributive trades survey are published.

GDP data for the first quarter are published in Brazil. The latest monetary policy decision is also announced, as well as in Canada.

**Thursday 30 May**

The latest estimates of first quarter GDP are published in both the US and Spain on Thursday.

Consumer and producer prices data are meanwhile released in Spain and Italy respectively.

Markit provides an update on retail conditions in Germany, France and Italy with the publication of the May retail PMIs.

Economic sentiment indicators for the eurozone are meanwhile issued by the European Commission.

The US also sees initial jobless claims and pending home sales figures.

**Friday 31 May**

Consumer prices, household spending, unemployment, housing starts, construction orders and industrial production data for April are published in Japan.

Markit also releases Japan PMI data that will provide an update on manufacturing business conditions in May.

GDP data are meanwhile released in India and Canada.

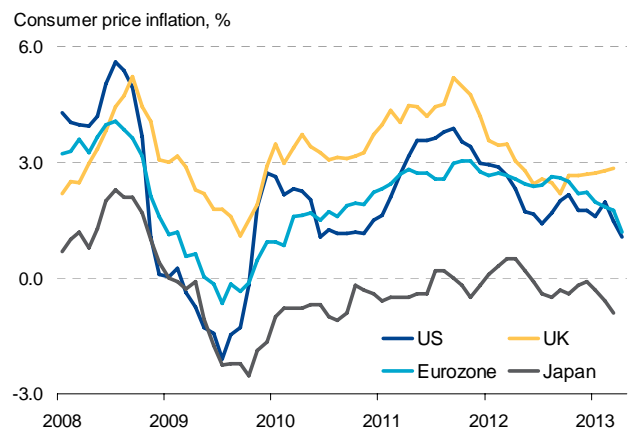
Consumer confidence indicators (GfK) are published in the UK, as well as money supply, consumer credit and mortgage approval numbers from the Bank of England.

French consumer spending and producer prices data are issued in advance of Spanish current account figures and German retail sales numbers.

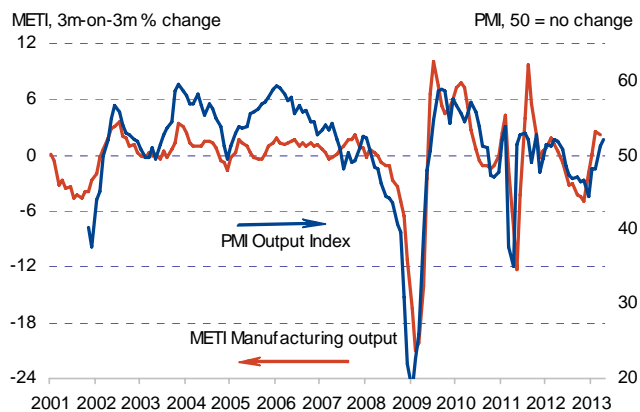
Consumer prices and unemployment data are published in Italy and the wider euro area.

Personal income and spending data, the latest index numbers from the Chicago PMI and the final estimate of consumer confidence from the University of Michigan are released in the US.

**Japan's inflation rate under the spotlight**



### Industrial production in Japan



Markit's [commentary notes](#) and [press releases](#) can be accessed online, as can a diary of [forthcoming Markit release dates](#).

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