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# Weekly Outlook

05 – 09 May 2025

## SINGAPORE

**3 May is Polling Day**

- 1) Polling Day for Singapore's **2025 General Election** will be on Sat (3 May). This election is Singapore's 14<sup>th</sup> since independence in 1965.
- 2) Data of note this week will be the Mar retail sales (5 May), the S&P Global Singapore PMI survey (6 May), a mid-week COE auction (7 May) and official foreign reserves for Apr (7 May).

## KEY ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIES

**Holidays in Asia-Pacific, Australia Federal election, BNM decision, 1Q GDP from Indonesia and Philippines, Apr trade & CPI from China & the region**

- 1) **Several holidays in Asia-Pacific:** China markets will resume trading on Tue (6 May) after its extended Labour Day holidays that ends on Mon (5 May). South Korea & Hong Kong will celebrate Buddha's birthday on Mon (5 May) while South Korean market will remain close on Tue (6 May) in observance of Children's Day holiday.
- 2) **Australia's federal election** will take place on Sat (3 May)
- 3) The **Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM)** will have its monetary policy decision on Thu (8 May 3pm SGT). According to the Bloomberg poll (as of 2 May), of the 5 economists surveyed, four expect no change to the overnight policy rate (OPR) at 3.0% but one economist expects a 25-bps cut to 2.75%. Our economists, Julia Goh and Jasrine Loke, also expect BNM to leave the overnight policy rate (OPR) unchanged at 3.00% while continuing to assess the fallout from global trade pressures on the local economy and how the trade negotiation plays out. Meanwhile, domestic growth remains positive albeit moderately, inflation pressure stays contained, while financial market conditions remain orderly, providing BNM room to extend its rate pause.
- 4) **The key Asia-Pacific data** will include;
  - a. **Indonesia's 1Q25 GDP** (5 May, Bloomberg est -0.93% q/q, 4.8% y/y, UOB est 5.1% y/y from 0.53% q/q, 5.02% y/y in 4Q24)
  - b. **Philippines' 1Q25 GDP** (8 May, Bloomberg est 1.6% q/q, 5.7% y/y, UOB est 5.6% y/y, from 1.8% q/q, 5.3% y/y in 4Q24)
  - c. **China's Caixin services PMI for Apr** (6 May, Bloomberg est 51.8 from 51.9 in Mar)
  - d. **Apr CPI from Philippines** (6 May, Bloomberg est 1.7% y/y, UOB est 2.1% y/y from 1.8% in Mar), **Vietnam** (6 May, Bloomberg est 3.0% from 3.13% in Mar), **Thailand** (6 May, Bloomberg est -0.10% y/y from 0.84% in Mar), **Taiwan** (7 May, Bloomberg est 2.1% y/y from 2.29% in Mar), and **China** (Sat, 10 May).
  - e. **Apr trade data from Vietnam** (6 May, Bloomberg est exports at 8.2-13.7% y/y from 14.5% in Mar, imports at 6.0-18.4% y/y from 19.0% in Mar, trade surplus at US\$0.2-2.0 bn from US\$1.635bn in Mar), **Taiwan** (8 May, Bloomberg est exports at 15.8% y/y from 18.6% in Mar, imports at 18.9% y/y from 28.8% in Mar, trade surplus at US\$6.22 bn from US\$6.95bn in Mar) and **China** (9 May, Bloomberg est exports at -2.2% y/y from 12.4% in Mar, imports at -5.9% y/y from -4.3% in Mar, trade surplus at US\$88.8 bn from US\$102.64 bn in Mar)
  - f. **Australian Apr household spending** (6 May, Bloomberg est 0.3% m/m, 3.9% y/y from 0.2% m/m, 3.3% y/y in Mar)
  - g. **New Zealand 1Q labour market report** (7 May, Bloomberg est unemployment rate at 5.3% from 5.1% in 4Q, employment change at -0.5% y/y from -1.1% y/y in 4Q).

## US AND DEVELOPED ECONOMIES

**FOMC & BOE decisions, US services ISM, G7 central bank speakers, Vatican conclave**

- 1) **Holidays in Japan & UK** – Japan will celebrate a series of holidays including Constitution Memorial Day (3 May), Greenery Day (4 May), Children's Day (5 May) as well as a National holiday on Tue (6 May) while the UK market will also close on Mon (5 May) for their May Day holiday. Tuesday (6 May) will also be the 2nd anniversary of the coronation of King Charles III of England.
- 2) For the **US corporate earnings season**, there are 2043 US firms reporting during 5-9 May, of which 94 are listed in the S&P 500.
- 3) There are monetary policy decisions from the US & UK central banks as well as the Norwegian and Swedish central banks this week:
  - a. **The US Federal Reserve (Fed)**, 06/07 May FOMC (Decision on 8 May, 2am SGT). There is near universal agreement that the Fed will stay on pause again at this meeting (except for the Trump administration). The Mar FOMC minutes and Fed commentary ahead of the Blackout period affirmed the Fed's wait-and-see approach against the risk of persistent inflation

triggered by US trade tariff policies. That forms the bedrock to expect another Fed pause at this upcoming May FOMC. But going forward, we keep our Fed rate cut expectations at three 25 bps cuts (one cut in each quarter, 2Q (Jun), 3Q, and 4Q) bringing the Fed Funds Target rate (FFTR) to 3.75% by end-2025.

- b. **The Bank of England (BOE)** rate decision is on Thu (8 May 7pm SGT). According to Bloomberg survey (as of 2 May), all the 7 economists polled expect the BOE to cut its Official Bank Rate by 25-bps to 4.25% at this meeting. Our economist, Lee Sue Ann, also shares this view. Her base case is that the MPC will stick to a quarterly pace of cuts, reducing rates three more times this year, with the assumption that services inflation continues to cool this year even as annual headline CPI rises. That said, the latest vote outcome and the cautious tone in the statement as well as the meeting minutes have certainly lowered the changes of the BOE opting for a rate cut at the next monetary policy meeting on 8 May. That said, a cut at the May meeting is still very much in the cards, considering the sluggishness of the UK economy.
  - c. **The Riksbank Bank** (8 May 4pm SGT). According to the Bloomberg polls (as of 2 May), all three economists surveyed expect the Swedish central bank to keep its policy rate unchanged at 2.25%.
  - d. **The Norges Bank** (2 May 4pm SGT). According to the Bloomberg polls (as of 2 May), two economists expect the Norges Bank to hold its policy Deposit Rate unchanged at 4.5%.
- 4) Ahead of the FOMC, we have **Fed Governor Fed Cook** (permanent FOMC voter) giving the commencement address at Michigan State University. As this is during the Blackout period, Cook is unlikely to speak about monetary policy. After the FOMC, there are two conferences (The Reykjavik Economic Conference in Iceland and Hoover Monetary Policy Conference) this week with several FOMC voters speaking including **New Fed President Williams, Chicago Fed President Goolsbee, St Louis Fed president Musalem, Fed Governors Barr, Kugler, Cook and Waller** but nothing scheduled for FOMC Chair Powell yet after his FOMC press conference.
  - 5) **BOE Governor Bailey** will also speak at the Reykjavik Economic Conference (9 May) while **BOE Chief Economist Huw Pill** will give the national Monetary Policy Committee agency a briefing on the same day (9 May). **European Central Bank governing council members Panetta** (6 May), **Rehn** (9 May), **Simkus** (9 May) and **Schnabel** (9 May) will be speaking at separate events.
  - 6) The US data docket is relatively lighter this week compared to the preceding two weeks
    - o **Apr Labor Market Report by BLS** (2 May, Bloomberg est: NFP +138,000 from 228,000 in Mar, unemployment rate est: 4.2% same as Mar, wage growth UOB est 0.3% m/m, 3.9% y/y from 0.3% m/m, 3.8% y/y in Mar)
    - o **ISM service for Apr** (5 May, Bloomberg est 50.2, from 50.8 in Mar)
    - o **Trade balance for Mar** (6 May, Bloomberg est deficit of US\$ 122.0 bn from -US\$122.7 bn in Feb)
    - o **US consumer credit for Mar** (7 May, Bloomberg est US\$10bn from -US\$ 0.810bn in Feb)
    - o **Initial jobless claims** (1 May, we expect it to exceed 250,000 from 241,000 last week)
    - o **1Q 2025 nonfarm productivity** (8 May, est -0.5% from +1.5% in 4Q) and **1Q 2025 unit labor costs** (8 May, est 5.4% from 2.2% in 4Q)
  - 7) **European data** watch will focus on the Eurozone's Sentix investor confidence survey for May (5 May, Bloomberg est -15.0 from -19.5 in Apr), Mar PPI data (6 May, Bloomberg est -1.1% m/m, 2.6% y/y from 0.2% m/m, 3.0% y/y in Feb) and retail sales (7 May Bloomberg est -0.1% m/m, 1.5% y/y from 0.3% m/m, 2.3% y/y in Feb) from Eurozone. We will also have Mar industrial production data from France (6 May) while Germany will release Mar factory orders (7 May), industrial production (8 May) and trade (8 May).
  - 8) Data focus in **Japan** will be:
    - a. The **Mar Labor cash earning** (9 May, est 2.8% y/y from 2.7% in Feb), **real earnings** (9 May, est -1.6% y/y from -1.5% in Feb),
    - b. The **prelim Mar leading index** (9 May, est 107.5 from 107.9 in Feb),
    - c. The **Mar household spending** (9 May, est 0.2% y/y from -0.5% in Feb)
  - 9) The German parliament is expected to confirm **Friedrich Merz** as the next Chancellor of Germany on Tue (6 May).
  - 10) The Vatican conclave to elect the new Pope will begin on Wed (7 May).

## KEY DATA/EVENTS: ASIA & OCEANIA

Date		Data/Event	Mth	Prior
02 May	VN	An additional holiday declared for Vietnam		
	SK	CPI YoY (MoM=0.2%, core inflation= 1.9%)	Apr	2.10%
		S&P Global PMI Mfg for Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam	Apr	52.4
	AU	PPI YoY (QoQ= 0.8%)	1Q	3.70%
	AU	Retail Sales MoM	Mar	0.20%
	ID	CPI NSA MoM (YoY=1.03%, core = 2.48%)	Apr	1.65%
	IN	HSBC India PMI Mfg	Apr F	--
	HK	Retail Sales Value YoY (Vol=-15%)	Mar	-13.00%
	HK	GDP YoY (SA QoQ= 0.8%)	1Q A	2.40%
	SI	Purchasing Managers Index	Apr	50.6
	SI	Electronics Sector Index	Apr	50.9
	AU	Australian 2025 federal election		
	SI	Polling day in Singapore		
	TH	Thailand celebrates Coronation Day		
03 May				
04 May				
05 May	HK /SK	South Korea & Hong Kong celebrate Buddha's birthday		
	CH	Last day of of China's labour Day holiday		
	TH	Thai markets are closed in observance of Coronation Day		
	AU	S&P Global Australia PMI Services	Apr F	51.4
	VN	S&P Global Vietnam PMI Mfg	Apr	50.5
	AU	Melbourne Inst Inflation MoM (YoY=2.8%)	Apr	0.70%
	AU	ANZ-Indeed Job Advertisements MoM	Apr	0.40%
	ID	GDP YoY (QoQ= 0.53%)	1Q	5.02%
	SI	Retail Sales Ex Auto YoY	Mar	-6.70%
	SI	Retail Sales YoY (Sa MoM= 3.0%)	Mar	-3.60%
	SK	South Korean markets closed in observance of Children's Day holiday		
	SI	S&P Global Singapore PMI	Apr	52.7
	NZ	ANZ Commodity Price MoM	Apr	-0.40%
	PH	CPI YoY 2018=100	Apr	1.80%
06 May	PH	CPI NSA MoM 2018=100	Apr	-0.20%
	AU	Building Approvals MoM	Mar	-0.30%
	AU	Private Sector Houses MoM	Mar	1.00%
	AU	Household Spending MoM (YoY= 3.0%)	Mar	0.20%
	CH	Caixin China PMI Composite	Apr	51.8
	CH	Caixin China PMI Services	Apr	51.9
	VN	CPI YoY	Apr	3.13%
	VN	Trade Balance	Apr	\$1635m
	VN	Exports YoY	Apr	14.50%
	VN	Imports YoY	Apr	19.00%
	VN	Industrial Production YoY	Apr	8.60%
	IN	HSBC India PMI Services	Apr F	59.1
	TA	Foreign Reserves	Apr	\$578.02b

Date		Data/Event	Mth	Prior
07 May	NZ	RBNZ Publishes Financial Stability Report		
	NZ	Unemployment Rate	1Q	5.10%
	NZ	Employment Change QoQ	1Q	-0.10%
	NZ	Employment Change YoY	1Q	-1.10%
	NZ	Participation Rate	1Q	71.00%
	HK	S&P Global Hong Kong PMI	Apr	48.3
	NZ	RBNZ News Conference on FinStab Report		
	PH	Unemployment Rate	Mar	3.80%
	PH	Agriculture Output YoY	1Q	-2.20%
	AU	Foreign Reserves	Apr	A\$105.2b
	SI	Automobile COE Open Bid Cat Auction	7-May	
	TA	CPI YoY (core CPI= 1.63%)	Apr	2.29%
	TA	CPI Core YoY	Apr	1.63%
	SI	Foreign Reserves	Apr	\$381.08b
08 May	CH	Foreign Reserves	Apr	\$3240.67b
	PH	Foreign Reserves	Apr	\$106.7b
	TH	CPI YoY (NSA MoM= -0.2%)	Apr	0.84%
	TH	CPI Core YoY	Apr	0.86%
	SK	Foreign Reserves	Apr	\$409.66b
	NZ	N.Z. Government 9-Month Financial Statements		
	PH	GDP YoY (QoQ= 1.80%)	1Q	5.30%
	ID	Foreign Reserves	Apr	\$157.1b
	MA	Industrial Production YoY	Mar	1.50%
	MA	Manufacturing Sales Value YoY	Mar	4.70%
	MA	BNM Overnight Policy Rate	8-May	3.00%
	MA	Foreign Reserves	30-Apr	\$118.4b
	TA	Imports YoY	Apr	28.80%
	TA	Exports YoY	Apr	18.60%
	TA	Trade Balance	Apr	\$6.95b
09 May	HK	Foreign Reserves	Apr	\$413.1b
	PH	Bank Lending YoY	Mar	10.20%
	SK	BoP Current Account Balance	Mar	\$7177.7m
	SK	BoP Goods Balance	Mar	\$8175.2m
	ID	Consumer Confidence Index	Apr	12110.00%
	TH	Gross International Reserves	45779	--
	TH	Forward Contracts	45779	--
	IN	Foreign Exchange Reserves	45779	--
	CH	BoP Current Account Balance	1Q P	\$163.8b
	CH	Exports YoY	Apr	12.40%
	CH	Imports YoY	Apr	-4.30%
	CH	Trade Balance	Apr	\$102.64b
	CH	Exports YoY CNY	Apr	13.50%
	CH	Imports YoY CNY	Apr	-3.50%
	CH	Trade Balance CNY	Apr	736.72b
10 May	CH	PPI YoY	Apr	-2.50%
	CH	CPI YoY	Apr	-0.10%

## KEY DATA/EVENTS: US AND DEVELOPED ECONOMIES

Date		Data/Event	Mth	Prior	Date		Data/Event	Mth	Prior
02 May	JN	Jobless Rate (job-to-applicants=1.24)	Mar	2.40%	08 May	SW	Riksbank Policy Rate	8-May	2.25%
	EC	CPI Estimate YoY (MoM= 0.6%, core YoY=2.4%)	Apr P	2.20%		NO	Deposit Rates	8-May	4.50%
	EC	Unemployment Rate	Mar	6.10%		UK	Bank of England Bank Rate	8-May	4.50%
	US	Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	Apr	228k		US	Nonfarm Productivity	1Q P	1.50%
	US	Unemployment Rate	Apr	4.20%		US	Unit Labor Costs	1Q P	2.20%
	US	Avg Hourly Earnings MoM (YoY= 3.8%)	Apr	0.30%		US	Initial Jobless Claims	3-May	241k
	US	Factory Orders (ex tpt= 0.4%)	Mar	0.60%		US	Initial Claims 4-Wk Moving Avg	3-May	226.00k
03 May	JN	Japan celebrates Constitution Memorial Day				US	Continuing Claims	26-Apr	1916k
	US	Fed's Cook Gives Commencement Address (not expected to speak on monetary policy)				UK	DMP 3M Output Price Expectations (1Y= 3.9%)	Apr	3.90%
04 May	JN	Japan celebrates Greenery Day				CA	Bank of Canada Releases Financial Stability Report		
05 May	JN	Japan celebrates Children's Day				US	Wholesale Inventories MoM	Mar F	0.50%
	UK	UK markets closed for May Day holiday				US	NY Fed 1-Yr Inflation Expectations	Apr	3.58%
06 May	EC	Sentix Investor Confidence	May	-19.5		UK	S&P Global, KPMG and REC UK Report on Jobs		
	CA	S&P Global Canada Services PMI	Apr F	41.2		UK	RICS House Price Balance	Apr	2.00%
	US	S&P Global US Services PMI	Apr F	51.4		JN	BOJ Minutes of March Meeting		
	US	ISM Services Index	Apr	50.8		GE	Ind Production SA MoM (YoY-4.0%)	Mar	-1.30%
	US	ISM Services Prices Paid	Apr	60.9		GE	Trade Balance SA	Mar	17.7b
	EC	ECB's Panetta in Milan for Asian Development Bank Event				GE	Exports SA MoM (Imports SA MoM=0.8%)	Mar	1.90%
	JN	A public holiday in Japan			09 May	JN	Labor Cash Earnings YoY (Real= -1.5%)	Mar	2.70%
	FR	Ind Production MoM (YoY= -0.4%)	Mar	0.70%		JN	Household Spending YoY	Mar	-0.50%
	EC	ECB's Panetta, BOK's Rhee, Cambodia's Chea in Milan				JN	Leading Index (coincident=117.3)	Mar P	107.9
	IT	HCOB Italy Services PMI	Apr	52		FI	ECB's Rehn, EU's Virkkunen Speak at Bruegel Event in Helsinki		
	FR	HCOB France Services PMI	Apr F	46.8		IT	Ind Production MoM (YoY-2.7%)	Mar	-0.90%
	GE	HCOB Germany Services PMI	Apr F	48.8		UK	BOE's Bailey Speaks in Reykjavik economic conference		
	EC	HCOB Eurozone Services PMI	Apr F	49.7		US	NY Fed Williams and Fed Gov Kugler to speak in Reykjavik economic conference		
	EC	HCOB Eurozone Composite PMI	Apr F	50.1		UK	BOE Chief Economist Huw Pill gives the national Monetary Policy Committee agency briefing		
	UK	S&P Global UK Services PMI	Apr F	48.9		CA	Net Change in Employment	Apr	-32.6k
	UK	Official Reserves Changes	Apr	\$4390m		CA	Unemployment Rate	Apr	6.70%
07 May	EC	PPI MoM (YoY= 3.0%)	Mar	0.20%		EC	ECB's Simkus Speaks in Reykjavik		
	US	Trade Balance	Mar	-\$122.7b		US	Fed's Goolsbee Gives Remarks at Fed Listens Event		
	US	FOMC Rate Decision (Upper Bound)	7-May	4.50%		US	Fed's Barr Gives Keynote Address in Reykjavik		
	US	FOMC Rate Decision (Lower Bound)	7-May	4.25%		US	Fed's Williams, Waller on Panel at Hoover		
	US	Fed Interest on Reserve Balances Rate	8-May	4.40%		US	Fed's Musalem, Hammack, Cook on Panel at Hoover		
	US	Consumer Credit	Mar	-\$0.810b		EC	ECB's Schnabel Speaks on Panel at Hoover		
	JN	Jibun Bank Japan PMI Services	Apr F	52.2					
	JN	BOJ Outright Bond Purchase ~1, 1-3, 3-5, 25 Year							
	GE	Factory Orders MoM (YoY= -0.2%)	Mar	0.00%					
	FR	Trade Balance	Mar	-7874m					
	FR	Current Account Balance	Mar	-1.9b					
	FR	Private Sector Payrolls QoQ	1Q P	-0.30%					
	GE	HCOB Germany Construction PMI	Apr	40.3					
	IT	Retail Sales YoY (MoM= 0.1%)	Mar	-1.50%					
	UK	S&P Global UK Construction PMI	Apr	46.4					
	EC	Retail Sales MoM (YoY=2.3%)	Mar	0.30%					
	US	MBA Mortgage Applications	2-May	-4.20%					
		Vatican conclave to elect the next Pope begins							

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