

Week Ahead Economic Preview

Inflation data to reveal war impact on affordability and guide policymakers

8 May 2026

Inflation comes under the spotlight in the coming week, with consumer price gauges updated for the United States, eurozone and mainland China. Europe's growth trajectory will be meanwhile assessed via first quarter GDP releases.

Inflation data for the US will provide important guidance for policymakers. March saw a 0.9% rise, taking the annual rate of inflation to 3.3%, its highest since May 2024. Much of the rise could be attributed to the surge in energy prices following the outbreak of war in the Middle East. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy, rose slightly less than the market had expected, up from 2.5% to 2.6%, though clearly above the Fed's 2% target.

April has meanwhile seen [survey data send mixed signals for prices](#). While PMI survey data showed manufacturing input cost inflation accelerating, services input cost inflation edged slightly lower amid price competition in the face of weak customer demand. However, overall rates of increase remained elevated by history standards, and supplier delivery times have lengthened again, which could feed through to more price pressures as it signals a growing shift to a sellers' market for a wide variety of goods. These developing price pressures will also be eyed via the updated official US producer price data due in the week.

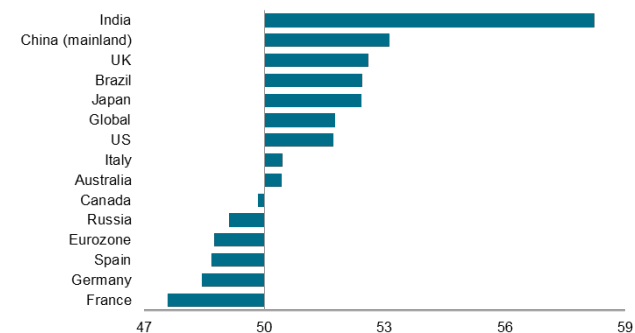
Industrial production data could meanwhile prove to be robust after [strong US PMI survey data](#), though the latter came with the caveat that some of the gains in the past two months have been linked to precautionary stock building, and could hence prove temporary.

In Europe, UK GDP data are released for March, giving a full picture of first quarter growth. Comparable quarterly GDP data are also issued for the eurozone. While both economies took a hit from the war in March, first quarter GDP looks to have grown by 0.2-0.3% in both cases. However, whereas the UK PMI bounced back in April, the eurozone slipped into decline. The latter is a complication for ECB policymakers, who have grown further hawkish. The ECB will therefore be eager to see updated inflation numbers, strong readings for which could cement market expectations of a June rate hike.

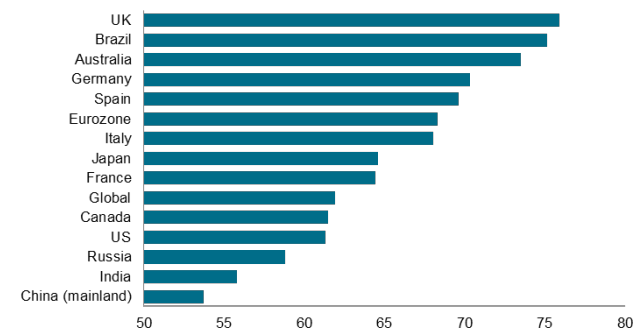
In APAC, inflation numbers will also come under the spotlight for mainland China. Survey data have pointed to a relatively modest impact on prices from the war in the Middle East so far, though April nonetheless saw average prices charged for goods and services rise at a rate not beaten for four years.

Chart of the week: Worldwide PMI surveys show Europe hit hardest by war impact in April

Composite PMI output index, April 2026



Composite PMI input price index, April 2026



Data compiled May 2026.
PMI index 50 = no change on prior month, covers goods and services.
Sources: S&P Global PMI, J.P. Morgan, HSBC, RatingDog.
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Of the world's largest economies, S&P Global's PMI surveys showed the eurozone nations of France, Germany and Spain to have been hardest hit by the war in the Middle East in terms of economic growth, each reporting lower output in April. The UK meanwhile suffered the steepest rise in input costs, widely linked to the war's impact on energy and shipping prices

Read more about [recent worldwide PMI trends here](#).

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Selected key diary events

Monday 11 May	Tuesday 12 May	Wednesday 13 May	Thursday 14 May	Friday 15 May
<p>Americas</p> <p>US Existing Home Sales (Mar)</p> <p>EMEA</p> <p>Norway Inflation (Apr)</p> <p>APAC</p> <p>Mainland China Inflation (Apr)</p>	<p>GEP Global Supply Chain Volatility Index*</p> <p>Americas</p> <p>US Inflation (Apr)</p> <p>US Monthly Budget Statement (Apr)</p> <p>Brazil Inflation (Apr)</p> <p>Mexico Industrial Production (Mar)</p> <p>US S&P Global Investment Manager Index (May)*</p> <p>EMEA</p> <p>Germany ZEW Sentiment (May)</p> <p>Germany Inflation (Apr)</p> <p>Italy Industrial Production (Mar)</p> <p>Ireland Services PMI (Apr)</p> <p>APAC</p> <p>India Inflation</p> <p>Australia NAB Business Confidence, Westpac Consumer Confidence (Apr, May)</p> <p>Japan Household Spending (Mar)</p>	<p>Americas</p> <p>US Producer Prices (Apr)</p> <p>Brazil Retail Sales (Mar)</p> <p>EMEA</p> <p>Eurozone GDP (Q1)</p> <p>Eurozone Employment (Q1)</p> <p>Eurozone Industrial Production (Apr)</p> <p>France Unemployment Q1)</p> <p>France Inflation (Apr)</p> <p>Netherlands Inflation (Apr)</p> <p>Sweden Inflation (Apr)</p> <p>APAC</p> <p>South Korea Unemployment (Apr)</p> <p>Japan Current Account (Mar)</p>	<p>Americas</p> <p>US Retail Sales (Apr)</p> <p>US Import & Export Prices (Apr)</p> <p>US Business Inventories (Mar)</p> <p>EMEA</p> <p>UK GDP incl. Industrial Production, Construction and Services Output (Mar, Q1)</p> <p>UK Trade Balance (Mar)</p> <p>UK RICS Housing Market Survey</p> <p>Spain Inflation (Apr)</p> <p>APAC</p> <p>Mainland China Yuan Loans</p> <p>Japan Money Supply (Apr)</p> <p>India Wholesale Prices (Apr)</p>	<p>Americas</p> <p>US Industrial Production (Apr)</p> <p>US New York Empire State Survey</p> <p>Canada Housing Starts (Apr)</p> <p>EMEA</p> <p>Switzerland Industrial Production (Apr)</p> <p>Germany Wholesale Prices (Apr)</p> <p>Italy Inflation (Apr)</p> <p>Eurozone Reserve Assets (Apr)</p> <p>APAC</p> <p>Mainland China Current Account</p> <p>Japan Corporate Goods Prices (Apr)</p> <p>Hong Kong SAR GDP (Q1)</p> <p>India Unemployment (Apr)</p>

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- Apr 23, 2026 | [US flash PMI signals inflation spike as supply concerns fuel stockpiling, but help boost growth](#)
- Apr 21, 2026 | [Global export orders fall amid outbreak of war in the Middle East](#)
- Apr 13, 2026 | [UK recruitment survey hints at stabilising labour market, but cost concerns dampen pay growth](#)
- Apr 10, 2026 | [Global PMI: tracking the sectors hit hardest by the Middle East war](#)
- Apr 09, 2026 | [Global PMI highlights stagflation risks as output growth slumps amid surge in prices](#)

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