ECOWEEK

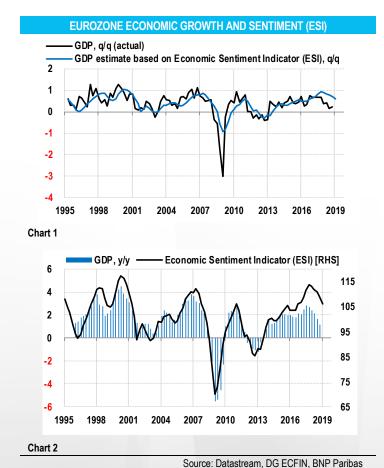
No.19-06, 8 February 2019

Eurozone: what does weakening sentiment tell us about growth?

■ The European Commission now expects 1.3% growth for the eurozone this year, down from 1.9% in its previous forecast ■ This downward adjustment doesn't come as a surprise, considering the declining trend of several survey indicators ■ The recent performance of these indicators in tracking GDP growth is mixed, which makes the assessment of the current growth momentum challenging

The European Commission has joined the IMF and private sector forecasters in revising downwards the growth outlook for the eurozone this year. GDP is now expected to grow 1.3% versus a previous forecast of 1.9%. The revision is significant and reflects, amongst other factors, trade tensions, slower foreign growth, in particular in China, Brexit uncertainty. By coincidence, on the very same day that the Commission published its Winter Forecast, the Bank of England cut its forecast for UK growth this year from 1.7% to 1.2%, which corresponds to the weakest level since 2009. The cost of Brexit uncertainty becomes increasingly visible. These forecast revisions don't come as a surprise: after all, survey indicators had been declining for several months in a row. This is illustrated in the charts which show three important indicators for the eurozone: the European Commission economic sentiment index (ESI), the Markit purchasing managers index for the manufacturing sector (PMI) and the IFO economic climate, which reflects the sentiment of economic experts. Part of the disappointment of the downward adjustments may come from expectations which simply had risen too high: at the end of 2017, there was increasing concern about a possible gap between soft data (survey indicators) and hard data (GDP). In order to assess this, a GDP estimate has been constructed based on the historical relationship between survey indicators and realised GDP. In this respect, chart 1 shows that the European Commission's ESI overestimated growth in 2017 and 2018.







ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT





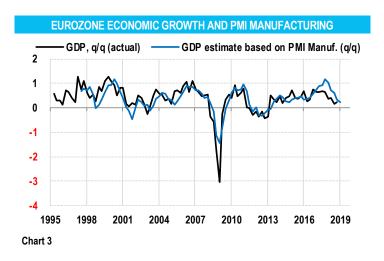
A similar conclusion applies when using the PMI (chart 3) although the gap has now closed. The IFO indicator tracked growth pretty well in 2018 (chart 5)

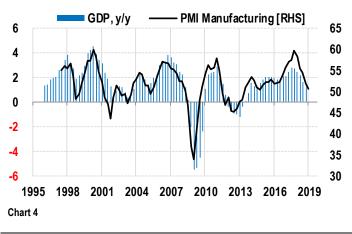
These relationships help to put the recent survey indicators into perspective. Despite its decline since the end of 2017, the ESI is still at a rather high level but its recent tendency to overestimate growth implies that we shouldn't be too upbeat about the still high level of the index. Following its big drop last year, the IFO index has now reached a particularly low level, which would not bode well for growth at the start of this year. On the other hand, the current level corresponds to the one last seen during the eurozone sovereign crisis. Clearly, the determinants of final demand and the financial and monetary conditions were then far worse compared with today. This provides hope that sentiment would start to stabilise although this essentially

depends on whether the external headwinds (Brexit, trade, China) will start to lose power. Finally, it is worth referring to recent research by the Bank of England which suggests "that during periods of high uncertainty the relationship between survey responses and GDP growth weakens". This would imply that in the current environment, which is characterised by a high level of uncertainty, greater caution is needed when interpreting the signal coming from survey data.

William De Vijlder

¹ Bank of England, Inflation Report February 2019, p. 11





Source: Datastream, Markit, BNP Paribas

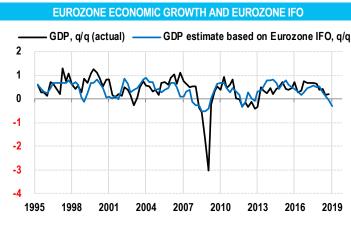
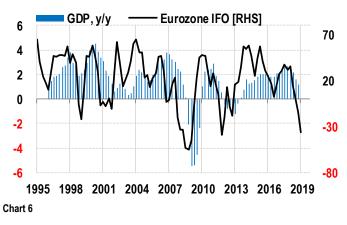


Chart 5



Source: Datastream, IFO Institute World Economic Survey, BNP Paribas

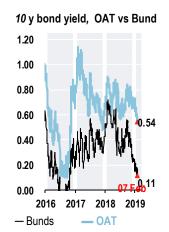




Markets overview

The essentials

Week $1-2 \ 19 > 7-2$	-19				
△ CAC 40	5 019	•	4 986	-0.7	%
S&P 500	2 707	•	2 706	-0.0	%
→ Volatility (VIX)	16.1	•	16.4	+0.2	pb
> Euribor 3M (%)	-0.31	•	-0.31	+0.0	bp
↗ Libor \$ 3M (%)	2.73	١	2.74	+0.5	bp
■ OAT 10y (%)	0.57	•	0.54	-2.2	bp
■ Bund 10y (%)	0.17	•	0.11	-5.2	bp
■ US Tr. 10y (%)	2.69	•	2.65	-4.0	bp
Euro vs dollar	1.15	•	1.14	-1.0	%
Sold (ounce, \$)	1 318	•	1 310	-0.6	%
Oil (Brent, \$)	62.2	•	61.4	-1.3	%

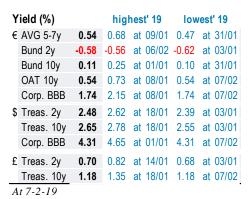


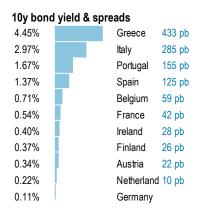




Money & Bond Markets

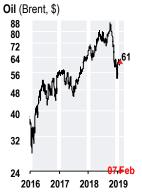
Interest Rates	3	higl	nest' 19	lowest' 19		
€ ECB	0.00	0.00	at 01/01	0.00	at 01/01	
Eonia	-0.36	-0.36	at 01/01	-0.37	at 18/01	
Euribor 3M	-0.31	-0.31	at 24/01	-0.31	at 02/01	
Euribor 12M	-0.11	-0.11	at 06/02	-0.12	at 02/01	
\$ FED	2.50	2.50	at 01/01	2.50	at 01/01	
Libor 3M	2.74	2.81	at 01/01	2.73	at 01/02	
Libor 12M	2.96	3.04	at 21/01	2.96	at 01/02	
£ BoE	0.75	0.75	at 01/01	0.75	at 01/01	
Libor 3M	0.90	0.93	at 29/01	0.90	at 07/01	
Libor 12M	1.17	1.19	at 11/01	1.16	at 22/01	
At 7-2-19	_				-	



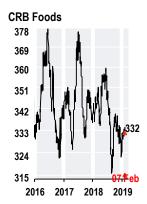


Commodities

Spot price in o	dollars	low	est	19	2019(€)
Oil, Brent	61.4	53.1	at	01/01	+16.3%
Gold (ounce)	1 310	1 281	at	21/01	+3.0%
Metals, LMEX	2 976	2 730	at	03/01	+6.9%
Copper (ton)	6 228	5 714	at	03/01	+5.4%
CRB Foods	332	324	at	01/01	+3.0%
w heat (ton)	201	197	at	01/01	+2.7%
Corn (ton)	139	136	at	01/01	+2.4%
At 7-2-19			•	Va	riations







Exchange Rates

1€ =		high	est' 19	low	est'	19	2019
USD	1.14	1.15	at 10/01	1.14	at	24/01	-0.7%
GBP	0.88	0.90	at 03/01	0.87	at	25/01	-2.5%
CHF	1.14	1.14	at 05/02	1.12	at	02/01	+0.9%
JPY	124.64	125.77	at 04/02	122.54	at	03/01	-0.6%
AUD	1.60	1.63	at 03/01	1.57	at	31/01	-1.6%
CNY	7.65	7.87	at 09/01	7.65	at	07/02	-2.5%
BRL	4.23	4.43	at 01/01	4.18	at	31/01	-4.5%
RUB	74.85	79.30	at 01/01	74.65	at	24/01	-5.6%
INR	81.07	82.00	at 04/02	79.57	at	04/01	+1.6%
At 7-2	2-19					Var	iations

Equity indices

	Index	high	nest	' 19	low	est'	19	2019	2019(€)
CAC 40	4 986	5 083	at	05/02	4 611	at	03/01	+5.4%	+5.4%
S&P500	2 706	2 738	at	05/02	2 448	at	03/01	+7.9%	+8.7%
DAX	11 022	11 368	at	05/02	10 417	at	03/01	+4.4%	+4.4%
Nikkei	20 751	20 884	at	04/02	19 562	at	04/01	+3.7%	+4.3%
China*	78	79	at	05/02	68	at	03/01	+11.3%	+11.9%
India*	559	559	at	01/01	538	at	30/01	+2.4%	+0.8%
Brazil*	2 169	2 304	at	04/02	1 944	at	01/01	+7.2%	+12.3%
Russia*	641	654	at	05/02	572	at	01/01	+7.2%	+12.7%
At 7-2-19	-							Va	riations



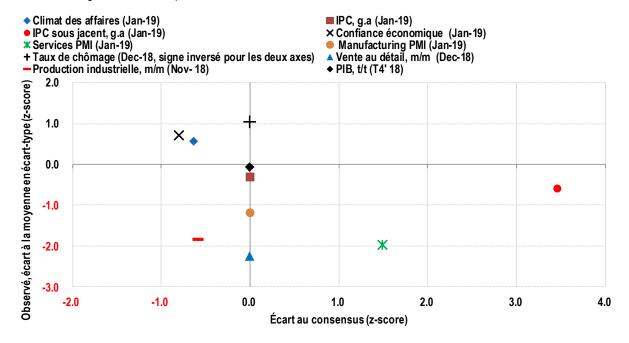
* MSCI index



Pulse

Eurozone: Resistant but still slow growth

Most economic data remain low regarding their long-term average. Following three months of decline, the PMI services stabilized in January (51.2) and surprised on the upside. Economic growth in the Eurozone remained stable at 0.2% q/q in Q4 2018, reflecting divergent developments. In particular, Italy slipped into recession in late 2018 while French growth was resilient. Core inflation, still well below ECB's medium-term inflation target, was above expectations.



Indicators preview

Next week will see important releases in France (Banque de France industrial sentiment, unemployment rate), Germany (GDP) and the eurozone (GDP). Following the significant downward revision of the growth outlook by the Bank of England, data for the UK will be monitored with great interest: industrial production, GDP, inflation, retail sales. In the US we will have small business sentiment, retail sales, consumer prices, producer prices, industrial production, capacity utilisation, University of Michigan sentiment. Japan publishes its GDP growth.

Date	Country/Region	Event	Period	Prior
02/11/19	France	Bank of France Ind. Sentiment	Jan	103
02/11/19	United Kingdom	GDP QoQ	4Q	0.6%
02/11/19	United Kingdom	Industrial Production MoM	Dec	-0.4%
02/12/19	United States	NFIB Small Business Optimism	Jan	104.4
02/13/19	United Kingdom	CPI MoM	Jan	0.2%
02/13/19	Eurozone	Industrial Production SA MoM	Dec	-1.7%
02/13/19	United States	CPI MoM	Jan	-0.1%
02/14/19	Japan	GDP SA QoQ	4Q	-0.6%
02/14/19	France	ILO Unemployment Rate	4Q	9.1%
02/14/19	Germany	GDP SA QoQ	4Q	-0.2%
02/14/19	Eurozone	Employment QoQ	4Q	0.2%
02/14/19	Eurozone	GDP SA QoQ	4Q	
02/14/19	United States	PPI Final Demand MoM	Jan	-0.2%
02/15/19	United Kingdom	Retail Sales Ex Auto Fuel MoM	Jan	-1.3%
02/15/19	United States	Retail Sales Advance MoM	Jan	
02/15/19	United States	Industrial Production MoM	Jan	0.3%
02/15/19	United States	Capacity Utilization	Jan	78.7%
02/15/19	United States	University of Michigan Sentiment	Feb	

Source: Bloomberg, BNP Paribas



Economic scenario

UNITED STATES

- Growth is expected to slow to 2.1% this year. Trade war uncertainty acts as a drag, the housing market is softening, corporate investment should slow, as well as exports in reaction to the past strengthening of the dollar against a broad range of currencies.
- Core inflation remains well under control and has eased a bit.
- Following the dovish message from the January FOMC meeting, markets are pricing in a policy easing in the course of 2020.

CHINA

- Economic growth is slowing due to both structural and cyclical reasons. The export outlook is significantly darkened by US tariff hikes. Private domestic demand should be affected by the knock-on effect of the worsening performance of the export manufacturing sector, the slowdown of retail sales and the continued moderation in the property market.
- In order to contain the slowdown, the central bank is easing liquidity and credit conditions. At the same time, the reduction in financial instability risks via regulatory tightening should remain a top policy priority. Fiscal policy is also turning expansionary (tax cuts, increased infrastructure spending).

EUROZONE

- The slowdown is becoming increasingly evident, especially in the German economy, which has suffered from one-off factors but also from a slowdown of exports to China. Capacity constraints also play a role. Business expectations continue to decline. Italy has now entered a technical recession with quarterly growth negative in the third and fourth quarter of 2018.
- Inflation is now expected to decelerate following the past drop in the oil price, while core CPI is hardly moving. The growth slowdown also implies that the pick-up in core inflation should be slower than expected until recently. We do not expect the ECB to move rates this year (see below).
- We have revised growth for this year downward from 1.4% to 1.0% and for 2020 from 1.2% to 1.1%. Headline inflation has been revised downward as well: from 1.8% to 1.4% this year and from 1.5% to 1.4% next year.

FRANCE

Growth is slowing although the economy should show some resilience. Households' consumption should get a boost from the tax cuts and the jobs recovery but inflation reduces purchasing power gains. Business investment dynamics remain favourable. The global backdrop is less supportive. A slight rise in core inflation is appearing but remains to be confirmed.

INTEREST RATES AND FX RATES

- In the US, the Fed has announced to be patient before deciding on any change in its policy. We expect one rate increase this year, in June. We have changed the forecast for 10 year treasury yields and now expect a yield of 3.00% by mid-year and 2.80% at the end of the year.
- We no longer expect changes in the ECB policy rates this year. We have changed the forecast for 10 year Bund yields and now expect a yield of 0.30% by mid-year and 0.40% at the end of the year.
- No change expected in Japan.
- The prospect of a narrowing bond yield differential between the US and the eurozone should cause a strengthening of the euro, all the more so considering it is still below its long-term fair value (around 1.34).

SUMMARY

	GDP Growth			Inflation			
%	2018 e	2019 e	2020 e	2018 e	2019 e	2020 e	
Advanced	2.2	1.5	1.2	2.0	1.5	1.7	
United-States	2.9	2.1	1.5	2.4	1.8	2.0	
Japan	0.9	0.7	0.3	1.0	0.6	1.4	
United-Kingdom	1.3	1.8	1.6	2.5	2.0	2.0	
Euro Area*	1.8	1.0	1.1	1.7	1.4	1.4	
Germany*	1.5	0.9	1.1	1.9	1.6	1.6	
France*	1.5	1.2	1.2	2.1	1.3	1.6	
Italy*	0.8	0.1	0.5	1.2	1.0	1.0	
Spain*	2.5	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.0	1.3	
Emerging	5.9	5.9	5.7	2.7	2.7	3.1	
China	6.6	6.2	6.0	2.1	1.9	2.5	
India	7.4	7.6	7.8	3.8	4.0	4.1	
Brazil	1.3	3.0	2.5	3.7	3.8	3.6	
Russia	1.8	1.7	1.6	2.8	3.6	4.2	

* Updated at 01/02/2019

Source: BNP Paribas Group Economic Research (e: Estimates & forecasts)

Interes	st rates, %	2019		
End of pe	eriod	Spot	Q2e	Q4e
US *	IOER rate	2.40	2.65	2.65
	T-Notes 10y	2.67	3.00	2.80
Ezone *	ECB Deposit Rate	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40
	Bund 10y	0.17	0.30	0.40
	OAT 10y	0.58	0.65	0.70
	BTP 10y	2.79	3.00	2.60
	BONO 10y	1.37	1.60	1.30
UK	Base rate	0.75	1.00	1.25
	Gilts 10y	1.70	1.85	2.10
Japan *	IOER rate	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10
	JGB 10y	0.01	0.00	-0.05

Spot rates as at 31 January, * Updated at 01/02/2019

Source: BNP Paribas GlobalMarkets (e: Forecasts), IOER rate: Interest rate On Excess Reserves

Exch	ange Rates	2019						
End of	period	Q1e	Q2e	Q3e	Q4e	2018	2019e	2020e
USD	EUR/USD	1.15	1.17	1.21	1.25	1.14	1.25	1.34
	USD/JPY	110	108	105	100	110	100	90
	GBP / USD	1.32	1.36	1.41	1.47	1.27	1.47	1.58
	USD / CHF	1.01	1.00	0.98	0.96	0.99	0.96	0.93
EUR	EUR/GBP	0.87	0.86	0.86	0.85	0.90	0.85	0.85
	EUR / CHF	1.16	1.17	1.18	1.20	1.13	1.20	1.25
	EUR/JPY	127	126	127	125	125	125	121

Source: BNP Paribas GlobalMarkets (e: Forecasts)



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ECOTY WEEK

What is the main event this week? The answer is in your two minutes of economy

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