

# MONDAY MARKETS MAIL

Key topics at a glance.

## Inflation in euro zone climbs to record 7.5 percent

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Luxembourg (APA/dpa-AFX) - In the euro zone, consumer prices have continued to soar, pushing inflation to a record high. The strongest driver of inflation remains high costs for energy. In March, consumer prices rose by 7.5 percent year-on-year, as the statistics office Eurostat announced on Friday in Luxembourg after a first estimate.

Analysts were surprised by the strength of the price jump. On average, they had

only expected the inflation rate to rise from 5.9 percent in February to 6.7 percent.

Inflation in the euro area has never been this high since the introduction of the single currency in 1999, and inflation has been steadily strengthening since last summer, with record levels already reached recently. Month-on-month, consumer prices rose by 2.5 percent in March. Here, too, the jump in prices was much stronger than expected.

Once again, inflation was driven by an extremely sharp increase in the price of energy, which rose by 44.7 percent year-on-year. Food and beverages were 5.0 percent more expensive than a year ago.

Excluding energy, food, and beverages, the core consumer price rate rose to 3.0 percent in March from 2.7 percent the previous month. Core inflation is less susceptible to fluctuation and is therefore regarded by many economists as a reliable measure of the inflation trend.



### **Business of the Spanish bank Santander flourishes**

Santander (APA/dpa-AFX) - At Spanish bank Santander, the recovery from the Corona crisis continues. Business remained strong in the first quarter, the institution reported at its annual general meeting in Madrid on Friday. The bank's revenues were in line with those of the previous quarter, it added, and lending returned to pre-pandemic levels, with an expected 8 percent year-on-year increase.

It also said that the adjusted return on



### **Tesla reports record deliveries**

Palo Alto (California) (APA/Reuters) - The electric car manufacturer Tesla has achieved a delivery record in the past quarter.

A total of 310,048 vehicles were delivered in the first three months of the year, the US company announced on Saturday evening. Production stalled amid global supply chain issues and a temporary halt to manufacturing at its Shanghai plant. The quarter was exceptionally difficult, Tesla CEO Elon Musk wrote on Twitter.

tangible equity was above the annual target of 13 percent.

Last year, things were already going well again for the Spanish company. After a loss of billions in the first Corona year, Santander had achieved more surplus in 2021 with 8.1 billion euros than before the outbreak of the crisis in 2019.

The bank plans to announce the exact figures for the first quarter on 26. April to announce. Bank CEO Ana Botin, meanwhile, reiterated full-year targets. "We expect to maintain high profitability in the Americas with improved profitability in Europe," the manager said.

Shareholders are expected to vote on the final dividend for 2021 at the annual general meeting before the weekend. The proposed payment is 5.15 cents per share. If approved, Santander said it will distribute a total of 3.4 billion euros to its investors, including share buybacks.

Tesla had delivered 308,600 cars in the final quarter of 2021. That had been the sixth consecutive delivery record. For 2021 as a whole, Tesla had thus increased its deliveries by 87 percent to around 936,000.

However, production was slightly down on the previous quarter at 305,407 vehicles. Basically, Tesla has navigated its way through the pandemic and supply chain issues better than many rivals.

Its new factory in Shanghai has also contributed. However, the recent Corona lockdown in Shanghai caused Tesla to close the plant for a few days in March.

A few days ago, Tesla opened its new factory in Grünheide near Berlin in the presence of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and handed over the first "made in Germany" models to customers. At some point in the future, 500,000 vehicles per year are to roll off the production line there.



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