

## MNI National Bank of Poland Preview: February 2026

### Details:

Monetary Policy Decision	February 4 <sup>th</sup>	-
Press Conference	February 5 <sup>th</sup>	14:00GMT/15:00CET

### MNI Point of View: Muddy Waters

The National Bank of Poland (NBP) faces a binary decision between a hold and a standard 25bp cut after taking a breather in January. Signals since then have been mixed. High-frequency labour market and economic activity data surprised to the upside, and the structure of the above-consensus 2025 GDP print reflected a greater reliance on domestic consumption. On the other hand, the big picture remains benign, Governor Adam Glapiński explicitly ruled a February cut in, while the NBP's internal analyses may indicate a significant drop in headline inflation at the beginning of the year. This ambiguous backdrop leaves the outcome of the upcoming Monetary Policy Council (MPC) meeting finely balanced.

Consensus is split between a hold and a 25bp cut, with around 17bp worth of easing baked into local money markets, as the unfortunate timing of the upcoming rate decision complicates nowcasting and clouds the near-term outlook. The hiatus since the previous meeting was unusually short, reducing the amount of fresh data that could shed light on the current state of the economy. Furthermore, the statistics office traditionally stops publishing preliminary inflation prints at the beginning of the new year, ahead of the annual re-weighting of the CPI basket in March. The data for January, due in the week after the MPC meeting, will be subject to heightened uncertainty associated with the repricing of various services at the turn of the year. And, regardless of that, it will have a very short expiry data, with Statistics Poland set to release corrected numbers on March 13, when it adjusts its methodology.

In any case, the data that came out since the inaugural MPC meeting of 2026 surprised to the hawkish side. Strong industrial production and construction output figures testified to buoyant economic activity in December, while preliminary GDP data for the full 2025 slightly exceeded expectations and showed a greater emphasis on the domestic consumption component. In aggregate, the key takeaway from these prints was that the Polish economic ended 2025 in high gear, with no signs of slowing down. In a similar vein, closely-watched private-sector wage growth exceeded forecasts in December, accelerating to +8.6% Y/Y and raising questions about the sustainability of the earlier downtrend, which had been expected to continue in coming months.

And yet, despite these short-term signals calling for caution, the medium-term outlook remains benign. Whilst the economy is seen humming along in the period ahead, most analysts agree that investments will take over some of the heavy lifting as the disbursement of EU aid accelerates. Furthermore, while it may trigger some warning lights for MPC members, a singular expectation-busting wage outturn is not decisive for the direction of the trend. Wage growth tends to be more volatile in December, owing to the payout of annual, quarterly and Christmas bonuses as well as traditional bonuses for Miners' Day (*Barbórka*) on December 4. Looking ahead, wage pressures in the whole economy will be constrained by very modest hikes in the minimum wage and public-sector wages (+3%). Meanwhile, the NBP's own survey data suggest that while more firms anticipate wage hikes in the next 12-month period, the magnitude of the average expected increase moderated to +4.5%, the lowest level since 2014.

At the same time, the trajectory of CPI growth undershot the NBP's November projection, with headline inflation sliding to a below-target level of +2.4% Y/Y in December, in a development triumphantly emphasised by Governor Adam Glapiński during his press conference last month. And the process is expected to continue amid a disinflationary external environment and continued fading of earlier shocks, with analysts expecting inflation to fall to or below +2% Y/Y in January. As mentioned earlier, the MPC will not have fresh official CPI data at its disposal during this week's meeting. This is not necessarily a problem, however. Every meeting involves

a discussion of analytical materials prepared by the central bank’s staff and there is no reason why policymakers should not receive internal estimates of January inflation. Indeed, Governor Glapiński once suggested that the NBP has the capacity to track inflation virtually in real time: ‘of course we monitor inflation through our models on a day-to-day basis, but don’t make it public, because it is volatile’ ([September 2023 press conference](#)). One could speculate that if the model provides evidence of a significant drop in inflation, the MPC could opt for a cut.

We do see a fairly plausible counterargument to this view. Any internal projections will not be known to anyone outside of the central bank and justifying a cut with an unpublished interim projection could present a communication challenge. If the MPC decides to wait until the publication of the next Inflation Report in March, the cut will be an easier sell. However, we do not find this argument particularly persuasive. In our [preview of the November decision](#), we warned against attaching too much weight to the NBP’s projections. Although members repeatedly paid lip service to the triannual document, most of their post-pandemic rate adjustments did not coincide with Inflation Reports. In fact, the Governor noted last month that the MPC is not bound by consensus or the official projection release calendar. We would not be particularly surprised if the MPC under his leadership was swayed by an unpublished internal document.

This, obviously, leaves us in an uncomfortable position. The outcome of this meeting may be genuinely decided behind a closed door, which is what makes it such a difficult call. Despite the upbeat run of data prints in the past three weeks or so, we think that the case for lowering interest rates remains strong, especially after the Governor explicitly and rather emphatically ruled it in last month and signalled unambiguous dovish bias, with little concern about inflationary risks. In this context, we would not be surprised if the NBP decided to cut the reference rate to 3.75% already at this meeting. If they choose to err on the side of caution and extend the delay in monetary easing, a cut in March will be almost a done deal. Looking ahead, a terminal rate of 3.50% remains our baseline scenario, with the risks tilting increasingly to the downside. As is always the case with the NBP, we will reassess these views after the Governor’s press conference on Thursday.

## Data Watch

February 03, 2026

MNI NBP Data Watch List											
		Current	3m ago	3m Chg	6m ago	6m Chg	2Y History	Hit / Miss	Vs Trend	Surprise Index	Z-Score
<b>Inflation</b>											
HICP	% y/y	2.4	2.9	↓	4.1	↓					-1.21
Core Inflation	% y/y	2.7	3.2	↓	3.4	↓					-1.47
PPI	% y/y	-2.5	-1.4	↓	-1.5	↓					-1.51
NBP Inflation Expectations	Index	36.3	41.8	↓	41.8	↓					-1.07
<b>Economic Activity</b>											
Poland PMI (Manuf)	Index	48.8	48.8	→	45.9	↑					0.53
Sold Industrial Output	% y/y	7.3	7.6	↓	-0.4	↑					1.30
Exports (Mn)	EUR	29859	25115	↑	28560	↑					0.44
Construction Output	% y/y	4.5	0.2	↑	2.1	↑					1.13
<b>Monetary Analysis</b>											
Money Supply (M3)	% y/y	10.4	11.1	↓	10.5	↓					0.88
Consumer Credit	% y/y	4.1	3.1	↑	2.6	↑					1.91
Credit to Non-Fin Corps	% y/y	9.8	9.1	↑	7.9	↑					0.53
Credit to Households	% y/y	4.1	3.1	↑	2.6	↑					1.87
<b>Consumer / Labour Market</b>											
Retail Sales	% y/y	5.0	6.6	↓	2.1	↑					0.45
Unemployment Rate	%	5.7	5.6	↓	5.1	↑					1.07
Ave Monthly Gross Wages	% y/y	8.6	7.5	↑	9.0	↓					1.02
Employment	% y/y	-0.7	-0.8	↑	-0.8	↑					1.87
<b>Markets</b>											
Equity Market (WIG)	Index	126861	111487	↑	107886	↑					2.22
10-Year Bond Yield	%	5.09	5.34	↓	5.48	↓					-1.39
Yield Curve (10s-2s)	bps	152.7	116.2	↓	110.0	↓					1.91
PLN TWI	Index	119.92	118.81	↑	118.28	↑					1.61

Source: MNI, Bloomberg

## Sell-Side Views

The meeting is shaping up as a tight call, with a narrow majority of analysts (19 out of 32 polled by Bloomberg) calling for a hold rather than a cut. There is firm consensus around the view that if the NBP sits on its hands, it will cut the reference rate in March.

### **Bank Pocztowy: Falling Inflation May Result In 25bp Cut**

- In their view, headline CPI inflation may drop to or slightly below +2.0% Y/Y in January and in the whole 1Q26, which may persuade the MPC to reduce interest rates in February.

### **BNP Paribas: Cuts Pencilled In For March & Summer**

- Writing after the release of 2025 GDP data, they noted that they still expected the NBP to cut rates by a total of 50bp this year, delivered at two meetings. They expected the first cut in March, followed by another one in April-July.
- However, they admitted that the balance of risks to this forecast is skewed toward a lower terminal rate and below-target inflation could encourage MPC members to take more decisive action.

### **BNY Mellon: NBP To Resume Monetary Easing**

- They write that the NBP is expected to resume easing, cutting the policy rate to 3.75% despite concerns over financial conditions and a strong fiscal impulse.
- However, they acknowledge that there is room for cuts with inflation falling to +2.4% Y/Y for December and not registering any sequential growth.
- However, annualized wage growth continues to surge, hitting +8.6% Y/Y in December despite softer employment growth.
- Balancing wage pressures against soft labour market demand remains a challenge for policymakers globally. The NBP appears focused on growth risks, especially given the current exchange rate levels.

### **BGK: Strong Data Reduce Odds Of Cut**

- BGK expect the MPC to keep interest rates unchanged.
- They argue that although inflation at the beginning of the year will be low (+2.0% Y/Y in January), some of the disinflationary factors may have a smaller impact on aggregate CPI than anticipated earlier.
- They note that the recent weeks have seen an increase in the prices of energy commodities. Although its drivers may be temporary (weather in the case of natural gas, geopolitical tensions in the Persian Gulf in the case of oil), Brent sits ~10% above the level seen during the previous MPC meeting.
- Furthermore, December data were string and the GDP report for 2025 showed a larger-than-expected contribution of household demand, while implying a 4Q25 reading of slightly more than +4% Y/Y. This should be a strong argument for the NBP to wait with cutting rates until March.

### **BOŚ Bank: Prospect Of Significant Drop In Inflation May Trigger February Cut**

- They expect the NBP to lower the reference rate by 25bp on the back of expectations that headline inflation will fall below the psychologically significant +2.0% Y/Y threshold in January (BOŚ expect +1.8%).
- They admit that the MPC will not know the January CPI print at this meeting, but the prospect of a significant drop in inflation may encourage the Council to try and pre-empt this decline.
- At the same time, they see the case for a longer pause in monetary easing – recent macroeconomic data outturns were stronger than expected.
- In addition, the MPC could share the view of new member Marcin Zarzecki that it would be better to wait with further cuts until the release of a new macroeconomic projection in March.

### **Citi Handlowy: NBP May Cut Rates In February & March**

- They note that December wage data belied the trend of normalisation of the tense labour market condition, but also point to the above-standard volatility of data for this month caused by irregular bonus payments. Citi's calculations based on seasonally adjusted data suggest that annualised wage growth momentum is around +6%, which represents a strong decline from +10% registered at the end of 2024.

- In their view, the analysis of enterprises' wage policy plans might be more useful for assessing the outlook for the labour market. Citi cite NBP survey data suggesting that around 31% of firms are planning wage hikes this year, which represents a 5pp decline over the past year. In addition, the share of firms pointing to wage pressures has fallen by 3pp over the past 12 months.
- Their estimates suggest that nominal wage growth consistent with meeting the NBP's inflation target would be around +5% Y/Y, which implies that there is still some room for the normalisation of the labour market. Citi expect wage growth to average at +5.7% Y/Y this year.
- In their view, the continued decline in the pace of wage growth will support a drop in core inflation closer to the NBP's target. Against this backdrop, they see reasons for continued monetary easing.
- Citi expect a 25bp rate reduction this week, with some MPC members signalling readiness for quick cuts amid a disinflationary outlook. In Citi's view, the NBP will follow up with another 25bp cut in March, and note that they see a risk of a third cut.

#### **Crédit Agricole: Benign Inflation Outlook Should Result In Rate Cut**

- In the light of their freshly revised (to the downside) inflation projection, CA expect the NBP to resume cutting interest rates as soon as this week, bringing the reference rate to 3.75%.
- Recent comments from MPC members indicated readiness to continue loosening monetary policy. Although January CPI data will not be available this week, CA assume that the Council already has preliminary estimates that are significantly lower than in the November projection.
- If the NBP keeps interest rates on hold, a few days later it will be confronted with dovish inflation data, with the headline rate likely dipping below +2.0% Y/Y.
- At the same time, CA revised their terminal rate forecast lower to 3.50% from 3.75% before and expect this level to be reached after the next 25bp cut in March.
- However, they refuse to rule out a scenario where the absence of new official inflation data since the previous meeting would prompt the MPC to delay cuts until March and April.

#### **Goldman Sachs: Weak Inflation Outlook To Swing Decision In Favour Of Cut**

- In a tight call, Goldman expect the NBP to cut by 25bp to 3.75%. Although they believe that the case for further easing in Poland is clear, they see the decision of cutting in February or waiting until March as relatively close.
- The main reason not to cut at the last meeting (in January) appears to have been a desire not to surprise the market, having guided that a pause was likely at that meeting. This is no longer a factor for February, as NBP Governor Adam Glapiński provided dovish guidance following the January meeting, indicating that there is scope to reduce rates further and that he didn't rule out a cut in February, March or April.
- The main argument in favour of waiting another month until March is that the Council would then benefit from an updated inflation projection. On balance, however, Goldman expect the weak inflation outlook to outweigh the MPC's desire for caution, and to swing the decision in favour of a cut.
- Their medium-term views on Polish rates remain unchanged, and they continue to expect the NBP to cut rates from 4.00% currently to a terminal rate of 3.50%.

#### **HSBC: NBP Could Consider Cutting Rates This Week**

- They expect the NBP to bring the reference rate to 3.50% in early 2026, with the easing pace continuing at 25bps increments. They note that the policy rate is nearing, but still above its neutral level on one hand, while on the other hand, they forecast that inflation will average below NBP's 2.5% target in 2026 – a combination underpinning their forecast of two more rate cuts.
- HSBC expect the NBP to markedly revise its 2026 inflation forecast when it publishes an update in March. They forecast 2026 CPI averaging +2.0% Y/Y, 0.9pp lower than NBP's November forecast largely due to downside surprises through 4Q2025, including core inflation averaging +2.8% Y/Y vs. NBP's +3.1% forecast. And because those downward forecast revisions are largely baked in, MPC could be considering a cut already at its next meeting on 3 February, in HSBC's view.
- That said, there is a risk that the MPC chooses to time its last cuts with early 2026 inflation data due in mid-February (preliminary January reading) and mid-March (January/February headline and core data based on new inflation basket). Geopolitics, weighing on commodity prices (oil gained over 10% from the start of the

year) for example, remains an upside risk to inflation. This continues to highlight how important it is that the disinflation process is underpinned by core inflation to secure its sustainability.

- Meanwhile, strong growth momentum could yet raise doubts about easing core inflationary pressures. For now it merely closes the negative output gap, but together with a big budget deficit, it does put a floor on rate cuts at 3.5%, in their view.

#### **ING: Pause To Last Until March**

- They expect the NBP to extend its pause in monetary easing until March stay on hold for the second consecutive meeting this week.
- They note that there was no new inflation data in the three weeks since the previous meeting, while December industrial output and construction data were significantly better than expected. Wage growth also exceeded expectations.
- However, inflation trends signal potential for a cut. ING's estimates suggest that inflation may have eased below +2% Y/Y at the beginning of the year. Energy carrier prices did not increase too much since December, fuel prices keep falling, while food prices remain low.

#### **JP Morgan: MPC Expected To Wait Until March To Deliver Next Cut**

- The NBP signalled a pause in December, wanting to see the effect of previous rate cuts and waiting for more information before deciding whether to cut further. In January it did indeed pause, but sounded more dovish, not ruling out a cut in February.
- Between the January and February meetings there were no CPI or other significant data releases, so they are inclined to expect the MPC to wait until the March meeting to deliver a cut, but the risks of a February action are elevated.

#### **Millennium Bank: On Hold This Week, Two Cuts Seen In 2026**

- They expect the NBP to keep the reference rate unchanged at 4.00% but concede that analysts are almost evenly divided; in their view, the central bank will cut rates two more times this year.

#### **Pekao: Expecting 25bp Cut**

- They expect the NBP to cut rates by 25bp and note that markets still see a terminal rate of 3.50% as their baseline scenario, even if consensus around this level is not as 'ironclad' as before.

#### **PKO: MPC May Lower Interest Rates**

- PKO think that the MPC may reduce interest rates by 25bp, ending the pause in its easing cycle, in line with Governor Adam Glapiński's suggestion after the previous meeting.
- In their view, the updated forecasts submitted to the MPC will probably show a strong dip in headline inflation in January.

#### **Santander: No Change In Rates**

- They expect the NBP to stand pat on rates in February. Strong GDP and consumption data reaffirmed their conviction that the central bank will keep rates unchanged until March.

#### **Société Générale: 25bp Cuts Pencilled For March & April**

- After the pause in January, Governor Glapiński and other MPC members have remarked that a February rate cut could not be ruled out — a stance that SocGen write came as something of a surprise to them. This is because the Council had previously signalled a clear preference for a "wait-and-see" approach in order to assess the impact of earlier rate cuts and to observe the effect of new-year repricing on inflation.
- Given the short interval between the January meeting and the upcoming one — only three weeks — as well as the lack of January inflation data due to the Polish statistical office's blackout period, they believe the information available is insufficient to justify a rate cut on these grounds. In fact, the data that has emerged over this period argues against easing next week, with an upside surprise in wage growth alongside strong industrial production and retail sales figures.
- In this context, SocGen do not see a compelling reason to change their call for a hold next week. With the policy rate now at 4.00%, monetary policy has entered a fine-tuning phase that does not warrant rushed

decisions. That said, this is a very close call, and a 25bp rate cut next week cannot be definitively ruled out given the optimism about the inflation outlook surrounding the majority of the council.

- Looking ahead, they expect two 25bp rate cuts at the March and April meetings, bringing the policy rate to 3.50%, with risks tilted to the downside. The March meeting offers an ideal window for easing, in their view, as the Council will be able to assess the impact of repricing in the January CPI data, determine whether the December spike in wage growth was a one-off, and evaluate other early-year macro indicators.

#### **UniCredit: Baseline Assumes One 25bp Cut In March**

- They expect Poland's MPC to keep rates unchanged at next week's NBP meeting.
- Inflation should remain within the target range throughout 2026, while the regulated electricity tariffs already approved imply limited additional pressure on CPI.
- With a benign inflation outlook and a noticeable dovish shift in recent communication, a rate cut could come as early as March, provided incoming data confirm this scenario and no new supply side shocks emerge.
- In their baseline, this would still be the only cut of the year, though they see rising risks of additional easing.

#### **VeloBank: NBP To Cut Interest Rates Amid Split Consensus**

- They expect the MPC to cut interest rates by 25bp but admit that consensus is split.
- In their view, if the NBP does trim interest rates, EUR/PLN will stay within the 4.20-4.22 range.