

April 18, 2024

Investor Signposts: Week beginning April 21, 2024

Upcoming economic and financial market events

Australia

Sunday April 21	◆ CommSec State of the States	<i>Economic performance report</i>
Monday April 22	◆ 'Flash' purchasing managers' indexes (PMI, April)	<i>Timely measure of economic activity</i>
Wednesday April 24	◆ Consumer price index (CPI, March quarter)	<i>A 0.7% rise is tipped; underlying +0.8%</i>
Thursday April 25	◆ Financial markets closed	<i>In observance of Anzac Day public holiday</i>
Friday April 26	◆ Producer price index (PPI, March quarter)	<i>Business inflation measure</i>
Friday April 26	◆ Export & import prices (March quarter)	<i>Prices of goods across the docks</i>

Overseas

Monday April 22	◆ China 1-year and 5-year loan prime rates	<i>No change in short-term rates is expected</i>
Monday April 22	◆ US Chicago Federal Reserve index (March)	<i>National activity index</i>
Tuesday April 23	◆ 'Flash' purchasing managers index (April)	<i>Timely measure of economic activity</i>
Tuesday April 23	◆ US Richmond Federal Reserve index (April)	<i>Manufacturing and service sector measures</i>
Tuesday April 23	◆ US new home sales (March)	<i>Sales could lift 1.6%</i>
Wednesday April 24	◆ US durable goods orders (March)	<i>Business investment expected to lift 2.8%</i>
Thursday April 25	◆ US economic growth (March quarter)	<i>Annualised GDP growth rate of 2% is tipped</i>
Thursday April 25	◆ US Kansas City Fed manufacturing index (April)	<i>Factory activity is contracting</i>
Thursday April 25	◆ US pending home sales (March)	<i>A 2.5% fall in annual sales is expected</i>
Friday April 26	◆ US personal income/spending (March)	<i>Annual core prices may slow to 2.7%</i>
Friday April 26	◆ 'Final' US consumer sentiment index (April)	<i>Includes inflation expectations</i>
Saturday April 27	◆ China industrial profits (March)	<i>Profits were up 10.2%-year-to-date in February</i>

Aussie inflation data ahead of Anzac Day; US measures of economic activity and prices

- **In Australia**, the week is dominated by price measures. **On Wednesday** the March quarter consumer price index is released with the March monthly consumer price indicator. A big 1.4 per cent increase in prices for the March quarter 2023 'drops' out, to be replaced (we expect) by a 0.7 per cent rise, pushing the annual rate down from 4.1 per cent to 3.4 per cent. And **on Friday** the producer price index is released with the export & import price indexes.
- The CommSec State of the States report is released on **Sunday April 21** and the 'flash' purchasing managers' surveys for April are due **on Monday**. Financial markets are closed **on Thursday** for the Anzac Day public holiday.
- **In the US**, the highlights are the 'flash' or advance measure of economic (GDP) growth and the inflation measure derived from consumer spending. The US economy is motoring, reducing the urgency to cut interest rates. The economy grew at a 3.9% annual pace in the December quarter, but GDP could slow to 2% in the March quarter.
- In terms of prices, the US Federal Reserve's preferred measure (core PCE price deflator) is issued **on Friday**. Early forecasts suggest that the annual growth rate in March may have eased slightly from 2.8% to 2.7%.

Sharemarket

- **In the US** in the coming week earnings are expected from Verizon (**Monday**). Alphabet, General Motors, Lockheed Martin, Kimberley Clark, UPS, Visa and Tesla (**Tuesday**). Amazon, AT&T, Boeing, Hilton, Ford Motor, IBM, Meta Platforms (**Wednesday**). Caterpillar, Dow, Merck, Atlassian, Microsoft, ResMed (**Thursday**). Chevron, Colgate-Palmolive, Exxon Mobil (**Friday**).

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