

March 27, 2025

Investor Signposts: Week beginning March 30, 2025

Upcoming economic and financial market events

Australia

Monday March 31	◆ Melbourne Institute inflation gauge (March)	<i>Headline gauge is tipped to lift 0.3%</i>
Monday March 31	◆ Private sector credit (February)	<i>Credit growth of 0.5% is expected</i>
Tuesday April 1	◆ Reserve Bank (RBA) Board interest rate decision	<i>No change in the cash rate target is expected</i>
Tuesday April 1	◆ CoreLogic home value index (March)	<i>Home prices are expected to increase 0.3%</i>
Tuesday April 1	◆ Retail trade (February)	<i>Retail spending could lift 0.2%</i>
Wednesday April 2	◆ Building approvals (February)	<i>Tipped to fall 2%</i>
Wednesday April 2	◆ RBA official Christopher Kent speech	<i>At the KangaNews Debt Capital Market Summit</i>
Thursday April 3	◆ Reserve Bank (RBA) Financial Stability Review	<i>Assessment of financial stability risks</i>
Thursday April 3	◆ Job vacancies (February)	<i>Vacancies were up 4.2% in the November quarter</i>
Thursday April 3	◆ International goods trade balance (February)	<i>A surplus of around \$4.4bn is expected</i>
Friday April 4	◆ Household spending (February)	<i>Spending could lift 0.2%</i>

Overseas

Monday March 31	◆ China purchasing managers' indexes (PMIs, March)	<i>The services PMI could lift from 50.4 to 50.6</i>
Monday March 31	◆ US Dallas Fed manufacturing activity index (March)	<i>Tipped to ease from -8.3 to -12</i>
Tuesday April 1	◆ China Caixin manufacturing PMI (March)	<i>Expected to slip from 50.8 to 50.6</i>
Tuesday April 1	◆ US construction spending (February)	<i>Tipped to increase 0.2%</i>
Tuesday April 1	◆ US JOLTS job openings (February)	<i>Vacancies could dip to 7.5m from 7.74m</i>
Tuesday April 1	◆ US ISM manufacturing index (March)	<i>Expected to ease from 50.3 to 49.8</i>
Wednesday April 2	◆ US ADP employment change (March)	<i>Private payrolls could increase by 118,000</i>
Wednesday April 2	◆ US factory orders (February)	<i>Orders may increase 0.5%</i>
Thursday April 3	◆ China Caixin services index (March)	<i>Tipped to edge higher from 51.4 to 51.6</i>
Thursday April 3	◆ US ISM services index (March)	<i>Expected to decrease from 53.5 to 53.2</i>
Thursday April 3	◆ US Challenger job cuts (March)	<i>Job cuts of 190,000 are expected</i>
Thursday April 3	◆ US trade balance (February)	<i>A deficit of US\$110bn is estimated</i>
Friday April 4	◆ US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell speech	<i>At the SABEW conference in Arlington, Virginia</i>
Friday April 4	◆ US nonfarm payroll jobs (March)	<i>The US economy could add 120,000 new jobs</i>

Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) meeting and US jobs data dominate in the coming week

- In **Australia**, Commonwealth Bank (CBA) Group economists expect the RBA Board to hold the cash rate target steady at 4.10% **on Tuesday**. Aussie employment surprisingly dropped in February, with traders boosting bets on further interest rate cuts later this year. For the RBA, the February print suggested some downside risk to its mid-2025 annual job growth estimate of 2.8% but unemployment is still tighter than the 4.2% previously forecast, and showing limited signs of loosening. We expect a more pronounced reduction in consumer price pressures in the March month and March quarter inflation reports, which will probably be enough to trigger another rate cut in May.
- The **US** economy is expected to add around 120,000 nonfarm payroll jobs in March, with the unemployment rate edging up to 4.2% from February's 4.1%, when released **on Friday**.
- CommSec estimates about \$4.8 billion worth of ASX dividends will be paid to Aussie investors over the week.

Ryan Felsman, Chief CommSec Economist

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