

April 24, 2026

Investor Signposts: Week beginning April 27, 2026

Upcoming economic and financial market events

Australia

Wednesday April 29	◆ Consumer Price Index (March)	<i>CBA forecasts +4.6% YoY</i>
Wednesday April 29	◆ Consumer Price Index (March quarter)	<i>CBA tips trimmed mean CPI +3.5% YoY</i>
Thursday April 30	◆ Private sector credit (March)	<i>+7.8% YoY in Feb</i>
Friday May 1	◆ Producer Price Index (March quarter)	<i>+3.5% in prior quarter</i>

Overseas

Tuesday April 28	◆ Bank of Japan interest rate decision	<i>Predicted to keep rates at 0.75%</i>
Tuesday April 28	◆ US Conference Board consumer confidence (April)	<i>89.8 forecast</i>
Wednesday April 29	◆ US Federal Reserve interest rate decision	<i>Expected to keep rates at 3.5–3.75%</i>
Wednesday April 29	◆ US housing starts (March)	<i>1400k tipped</i>
Thursday April 30	◆ US GDP 1Q26 (Advance)	<i>+1.2% QoQ expected</i>
Thursday April 30	◆ Core PCE price index (March)	<i>+3.5% YoY forecast</i>
Thursday April 30	◆ US initial jobless claims (weekly)	<i>207k in prior week</i>
Thursday April 30	◆ European Central Bank interest rate decision	<i>Tipped to keep rates at 2.15%</i>
Friday May 1	◆ ISM manufacturing PMI (April)	<i>52.2 predicted</i>

Iran conflict, Big Tech earnings and Aussie inflation to set the tone for markets

- Action in the Middle East will again capture market headlines after US President Donald Trump announced an indefinite ceasefire last week. But attention will also turn to a big week of corporate earnings in the US, including reports from members of the so-called Magnificent Seven stocks – Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, Microsoft and Apple.
- The standout feature from the US profit season is that earnings do not seem to have been impacted by the Iran war. Consensus estimates for S&P 500 earnings for the first quarter are +13% year-on-year (YoY), and +18% YoY for the 2026 calendar year. This possibly reflects the US now being a large net exporter of oil, rather than being an importer as it was during previous oil crises.
- Major US companies reporting earnings this week include: Visa, Coca-Cola, S&P Global, UPS, Hilton, General Motors, Spotify, Starbucks, Robinhood (**Tuesday**); Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, Microsoft, General Dynamics, ADP, Ford, AbbVie (**Wednesday**); Apple, Eli Lilly, Mastercard, Caterpillar, Merck, Amgen, ConocoPhillips, SanDisk, Bristol-Myer, Altria (**Thursday**); Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Aon, Colgate-Palmolive, Cboe, Moderna and Estee Lauder (**Friday**).
- There is also plenty of economic data being released in the US, including the Federal Reserve's interest rate decision. Rates are expected to remain at a target range of 3.5–3.75%.
- Unlike in America, Australia has seen a host of earnings downgrades because of the Iran war, with Cochlear the most notable last week. Locally, the consumer price index for March will be out on Wednesday, with CBA economists forecasting a jump of 1.1% month-on-month and 4.6% YoY. They expect the more policy-relevant quarterly trimmed mean CPI to increase 0.9% in the quarter, with its annual rate rising to 3.5%. The data will be keenly watched given the RBA is due to hand down its decision on interest rates on May 5, with money markets suggesting a 72% chance of a 25bps rate hike
- Earnings updates from ASX companies this week include Woodside (**Wednesday**); Woolworths, Mineral Resources, Origin Energy (**Thursday**); ResMed and ANZ (**Friday**). *James Gruber, CommSec Equity Market Strategist*

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