Investor Signposts

CommSec

August 14, 2026

Investor Signposts: Week beginning August 17, 2026

Upcoming economic and financial market events

Australia

Tuesday August 18	◆	Westpac consumer sentiment survey (August)	*4.1% in July*
Wednesday August 19	◆	Wage Price Index (June quarter)	*+3.2% YoY tipped*
Wednesday August 19	◆	RBA Deputy Governor Andrew Hauser speaks	*At a summit in Brisbane*
Thursday August 20	◆	Melbourne Institute inflation expectations (August)	*+4.7% in July*
Thursday August 20	◆	Unemployment rate (July)	*4.4% in June*
Friday August 21	◆	S&P Global Australia PMI Composite (August)	*53.6 in July*

Overseas

Monday August 17	◆	China industrial prodn/retail sales/jobs (July)	*Data to assess Chinese economy*
Monday August 17	◆	US Empire State Manufacturing Index (August)	*10.0 forecast*
Tuesday August 18	◆	US housing starts (July)	*1367k expected*
Tuesday August 18	◆	US industrial production (July)	*0.3% MoM predicted*
Wednesday August 19	◆	US Federal Reserve meeting minutes	*Insights into July decision to keep rates steady*
Thursday August 20	◆	China interest rates decision	*Expected to keep 1-year prime rate at 3.0%*
Thursday August 20	◆	US weekly jobless claims	*199k in previous week*
Thursday August 20	◆	US Philly Fed Manufacturing Index (August)	*25.0 tipped*
Friday August 21	◆	US Leading index (July)	*-0.2% in prior month*
Friday August 21	◆	US S&P Global Composite PMI (August)	*54.5 in July*

Aussie earnings take centre stage

- It is all about the Australian earnings season this week. The big ones – BHP, CSL, Pro Medicus and Cochlear, all reporting on Tuesday. BHP's share price is hovering near a record and expectations are high for its results, with copper - now accounting for more of its earnings than iron ore – increasingly seen as a way to play the artificial intelligence boom. Meanwhile, CSL has rebounded from recent lows, up around 50% since early June, as investors bet that the company can turn around after a challenging few years. Cochlear has also bounced back following its shock earnings result in April, and markets will focus on whether the recent slowdown in hearing implant sales continues.
- Here is the full list of companies reporting this week: JB Hi-Fi, a2 Milk company, Aurizon, BlueScope Steel, GPT, Lendlease, IRESS, Growthpoint Properties **(Monday);** Region Group, CSL, Pro Medicus, Cochlear, HealthCo, BHP, Challenger, Reliance, Sims, HUB24 (**Tuesday**); Iluka Resources, Evolution Mining, Temple & Webster, Breville, BWP Trust, Mirvac, Fletcher Building, Santos, The Lottery Corporation, Whitehaven Coal, Healius **(Wednesday);** SkyCity, Emeco, Northern Star Resources, Dexus, Spark New Zealand, Vicinity Centres, Bega Cheese, APA Group, Downer EDI, Goodman Group, IPH, Auckland International Airport, Brambles, Sonic Healthcare, Zip, Medibank, Megaport, Qube, Cleanaway Waste, Ridley Corp, Super Retail, IDP Education **(Thursday);** Coast Entertainment, Lifestyle Communities, Charter Hall, Inghams, Latitude, and TPG Telecom **(Friday)**.
- In economic data, the key print will be labour force figures for July on Thursday.
- In the US, large retailers such as Home Depot **(Tuesday)** and Walmart **(Thursday)** will be reporting their earnings. Other results include Keysight Technology, Jack Henry **(Tuesday)**; Analog Devices, TJX, Lowe's, Target, Estee Lauder **(Wednesday)**; Deere, and Ross Stores **(Thursday)**.

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