February 27, 2026

Investor Signposts: Week beginning March 2, 2026

Upcoming economic and financial market events

Australia			
Monday March 2	◆	Melbourne Institute inflation (February)	*Tipped to rise 0.7% MoM*
Tuesday March 3	◆	Building approvals (January)	*Dec was -14.9% MoM*
Wednesday March 4	◆	GDP (4th quarter)	*CBA predicts 0.7% increase QoQ*
Thursday March 5	◆	Trade balance (January)	*Goods trade surplus of $4.2bn expected*
Thursday March 5	◆	Household spending (January)	*December was -0.4% MoM and +5% YoY*
Overseas	◆		
Monday March 2	◆	S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI (February)	*Tipped to fall to 51.8 from 52.4*
Monday March 2	◆	US ISM Manufacturing (February)	*Forecast decline from 52.6 to 52.3*
Wednesday March 4	◆	US ADP employment change (February)	*Forecast gain of 43k vs 22k for prior month*
Wednesday March 4	◆	US ISM Services Index (February)	*It could rise to 53.9 from 53.8*
Thursday March 5	◆	US initial jobless claims (February 28)	*215k expected*
Friday March 6	◆	US retail sales (January)	*2% YoY gain forecast*
Friday March 6	◆	Change in US nonfarm payrolls (February)	*Increase of 60k expected*
Friday March 6	◆	US unemployment rate (February)	*4.4% tipped vs 4.3% prior month*

Investors to digest reporting reason results ahead of key Australian GDP data

- In **Australia**, investors will be digesting key themes from the February reporting season. Overall, the results were reasonably positive with some of our largest companies like BHP and the major banks delivering earnings above expectations. The consumer sector had several misses though, including JB-HiFi and Nick Scali, highlighting still soft household spending.
- As at 26 February, CommSec's Steve Daghlian tracked 148 companies on the CommSec reporting season calendar – which can be found on our website – and 73 had share prices that went up on the day of their results, 73 went down, while two were flat. Five stocks went down by more than 20% after reporting – Zip, Nick Scali, Pro Medicus, AMP and Treasury Wines – while there were no companies that went up 20% or more. It seems earnings misses were punished far more than earnings beats were rewarded.
- Though reporting season is officially over, there are a few companies that will release results this week, including Life360 on Tuesday and Endeavour on Wednesday.
- Focus will turn to economic data. The big datapoint in Australia is fourth quarter GDP on Wednesday. CBA economists say last week's private sector capital expenditure figures and construction survey imply that real business investment growth was weak in the fourth quarter of 2025 and barely contributed to GDP growth. That follows a very strong contribution in the previous quarter, partly driven by temporary factors. The unwind of these temporary factors was the primary driver of the weak data. The economists say the lead-up data suggest GDP growth will print at 0.7% in Q425.
- In the US, fourth quarter earnings season is winding down. Results this week include AST SpaceMobile and MongoDB **(Monday)**; CrowdStrike Holdings **(Tuesday)**; Broadcom **(Wednesday)**; JD Sports Fashion and Costco **(Thursday)**.
- There are also important economic releases in the US including the manufacturing PMI on Monday, ISM manufacturing and services on Monday and Wednesday, the ADP employment change on Wednesday and non-farm payrolls on Friday. ***James Gruber, CommSec Equity Market Strategist***