

January 16, 2026

Investor Signposts: Week beginning January 18, 2026

Upcoming economic and financial market events

Australia

Monday January 19	◆ Melbourne Institute inflation gauge (December)	<i>Headline inflation could lift 0.2%</i>
Wednesday January 21	◆ Building activity (September quarter)	<i>Focus on dwelling commencements</i>
Wednesday January 21	◆ Engineering construction activity (September qtr.)	<i>Value of work done is the highest in 7½ years</i>
Thursday January 22	◆ Labour force (December)	<i>Around 35,000 jobs could be created</i>
Friday January 23	◆ S&P Global Australia purchasing managers (Jan.)	<i>Composite PMI could lift from 51.0 to 51.3</i>

Overseas

Monday January 19	◆ China economic (GDP) growth (December quarter)	<i>Annual GDP growth of 4.9% is expected</i>
Monday January 19	◆ China retail sales/production/investment (Dec.)	<i>Retail sales could lift 0.9% on a year ago</i>
Monday January 19	◆ US financial markets are closed	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>
Tuesday January 20	◆ China loan prime rates (LPRs)	<i>No change in the LPRs is expected</i>
Wednesday January 21	◆ US construction spending (October)	<i>Tipped to edge up 0.1%</i>
Wednesday January 21	◆ US pending home sales (December)	<i>Sales could lift 1.4%</i>
Wednesday January 21	◆ US Conference Board leading index (December)	<i>The index dipped 0.3% in November</i>
Thursday January 22	◆ US economic growth (GDP, September quarter)	<i>Annualised GDP growth of 4.3% is expected</i>
Thursday January 22	◆ US personal income & spending (November)	<i>Income could lift 0.4% with spending up 0.5%</i>
Thursday January 22	◆ US core PCE price index (November)	<i>Tipped to increase 2.8% year-on-year</i>
Thursday January 22	◆ US Kansas City Fed manufacturing index (Jan.)	<i>Factory activity could increase to 5 from -3</i>
Friday January 23	◆ New Zealand consumer price index (December qtr.)	<i>Annual CPI rate could lift to 3.1% from 3.0%</i>
Friday January 23	◆ Bank of Japan (BOJ) interest rate decision	<i>Policy rate to be held at 30-year high of 0.75%</i>
Friday January 23	◆ US S&P Global PMIs (January)	<i>Services PMI may increase to 52.8 from 52.5</i>

Aussie employment, US inflation and Chinese economic growth data in the spotlight

- In **Australia**, last month's labour force survey dominates the domestic data docket when released **on Thursday**. Commonwealth Bank (CBA) Group economists are expecting a bounce-back in employment with growth of 35,000 in the month of December. That said, the unemployment rate is expected to remain steady at 4.3% with the participation rate lifting to 66.8% from 66.7%. The Aussie economy unexpectedly shed 21,300 jobs in November.
- The coming week also brings an update on the **US Federal Reserve's** preferred measure of inflation **on Thursday**. The core personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index could increase by 2.8% in November on a year ago.
- In **China on Monday**, the monthly activity update on home prices, employment, retail spending, industrial production and fixed asset investment are all due for December. But investors will largely focus on China's fourth quarter economic growth release, which is expected to show annual gross domestic product (GDP) expanding by 4.9% in calendar year 2025, broadly in-line with the government's full-year target of 'around 5%' growth.
- In **Australian company news**, mining and energy producers BHP Group and Evolution Mining (**Tuesday**); Beach Energy, Lynas Rare Earths, Paladin Energy and Northern Star Resources (**Wednesday**); Sandfire Resources, Santos, South32 and Fortescue (**Thursday**); and Alcoa (**Friday**) all issue quarterly sales and production updates.
- On Wall Street, the following fourth quarter earnings results are scheduled in the coming week: 3M and Netflix (**Tuesday**); Johnson & Johnson (**Wednesday**); Abbott Laboratories, GE Aerospace, Procter & Gamble, Intel and Intuitive Surgical (**Thursday**) and SLB (**Friday**).

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