

January 30, 2026

Investor Signposts: Week beginning February 1, 2026

Upcoming economic and financial market events

Australia

Monday February 2	◆ Cotality home value index (January)	<i>National home prices could increase 0.7%</i>
Monday February 2	◆ Melbourne Institute monthly inflation gauge (January)	<i>Rose at the fastest pace in 2 years in December</i>
Monday February 2	◆ ANZ-Indeed job advertisements (January)	<i>Ads are tipped to dip 0.1%</i>
Tuesday February 3	◆ Reserve Bank (RBA) interest rate decision	<i>A 25-basis point rate hike to 3.85% is expected</i>
Tuesday February 3	◆ RBA Statement on Monetary Policy (SMP)	<i>Focus on updated RBA economic forecasts</i>
Tuesday February 3	◆ Building approvals (December)	<i>Council consents could be flat</i>
Wednesday February 4	◆ RBA official Brad Jones speaks	<i>At the Investment Magazine 2026 Chair Forum</i>
Thursday February 5	◆ International goods trade (December)	<i>A surplus of \$3.7 billion is expected</i>
Friday February 6	◆ RBA Governor Michele Bullock speaks	<i>Testimony before Federal Parliament, Canberra</i>

Overseas

Monday February 2	◆ China RatingDog manufacturing index (January)	<i>The PMI could edge lower to 50.0 from 50.1</i>
Monday February 2	◆ US ISM manufacturing index (January)	<i>Expected to lift to 49 from 47.9</i>
Tuesday February 3	◆ US JOLTS job openings (December)	<i>Vacancies could dip to 7.1m from 7.146m</i>
Wednesday February 4	◆ China RatingDog services index (January)	<i>The services gauge may fall to 51.5 from 52.0</i>
Wednesday February 4	◆ US ADP employment change (January)	<i>Around 48,000 private payrolls may be added</i>
Wednesday February 4	◆ US ISM services index (January)	<i>Tipped to edge lower to 53.5 from 53.8</i>
Thursday February 5	◆ European Central Bank (ECB) policy announcement	<i>The deposit rate is expected to remain steady</i>
Thursday February 5	◆ Bank of England (BOE) interest rate decision	<i>No change in interest rates is expected</i>
Thursday February 5	◆ US Challenger job cuts (January)	<i>Employers could shed 43,000 jobs</i>
Friday February 6	◆ US nonfarm payroll jobs (January)	<i>Around 50,000 jobs could be created</i>
Friday February 6	◆ US Uni. of Michigan consumer sentiment index (Feb.)	<i>Sentiment may ease to 55.5 from 56.4</i>

Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) interest rate decision and local corporate earnings season in focus

- Commonwealth Bank (CBA) Group economists expect the RBA to tighten monetary policy in 2026, with the most likely timing for the first cash rate hike being **Tuesday February 3**, amid persistent underlying inflationary pressures in the **Australian** economy. We expect the cash rate target to be hiked by 25 basis points to 3.85%.
- **On Thursday**, the Bank of England (BOE) is expected to hold its benchmark interest rate at 3.75%, with British inflation still the highest among Group of Seven (G7) industrialised peers.
- The European Central Bank (ECB) is also likely to hold its benchmark deposit facility rate at 2% **on Thursday** with the most recent meeting minutes highlighting internal divisions among policymakers about the inflation outlook.
- **On Friday**, the US economy is expected to add 50,000 jobs in January with the unemployment rate steady at 4.4%.
- The Australian corporate reporting season begins this week with results scheduled for Generation Development Group (**Monday**); Credit Corp (**Tuesday**); Amcor, Centuria Office REIT, Boss Energy and Pinnacle Investment Management (**Wednesday**); Beach Energy (**Thursday**); and Garda Property, News Corp and REA Group (**Friday**).
- On Wall Street, the fourth quarter earnings season continues: Walt Disney and Palantir Technologies (**Monday**); AMD, Amgen, Merck, Mondelez, PayPal, PepsiCo, Pfizer and Take-Two Interactive Software (**Tuesday**); Alphabet, Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, Uber Technologies, ARM Holdings, Ford, Qualcomm and Snap (**Wednesday**); Amazon.com, Barrick Mining, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Estee Lauder and Strategy (**Thursday**). **CommSec Media & Markets team**

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