

May 15, 2026

## Investor Signposts: Week beginning May 18, 2026

### Upcoming economic and financial market events

#### Australia

Tuesday May 19	◆ Westpac consumer sentiment survey (May)	<i>April was -12.5% MoM</i>
Tuesday May 19	◆ Assistant RBA Governor Sarah Hunt speech	<i>Potential views on economic outlook</i>
Tuesday May 19	◆ RBA minutes of May policy meeting	<i>Possible insights into rate hike decision</i>
Wednesday May 20	◆ Westpac Leading Index (April)	<i>-0.09% in March</i>
Thursday May 21	◆ Unemployment rate (April)	<i>4.3% in March</i>

#### Overseas

Monday May 18	◆ China industrial prodn/retail sales/unemployment	<i>Data for month of April</i>
Tuesday May 19	◆ US pending home sales (April)	<i>+1.6 MoM tipped</i>
Wednesday May 20	◆ US Federal Reserve meeting minutes	<i>Potential insights into keeping rates steady</i>
Wednesday May 20	◆ Europe Consumer Price Index (April)	<i>+3% YoY in March</i>
Thursday May 21	◆ Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index (May)	<i>12.0 predicted</i>
Thursday May 21	◆ US initial jobless claims (weekly)	<i>200k in week prior</i>
Thursday May 21	◆ US housing starts (April)	<i>1420k forecast</i>
Thursday May 21	◆ S&P Global US Composite PMI (April)	<i>51.7 in March</i>
Friday May 22	◆ University of Michigan consumer sentiment (May)	<i>48.2 in prior month</i>

### Investors brace for NVIDIA earnings amid uncertainty over Iran talks

- Results from the world's largest company, NVIDIA, on Wednesday will headline a big week in markets. Can NVIDIA and its fellow semiconductor stocks continue to drive indexes higher? The semiconductor names have had an extraordinary run of late as investors pile into these key suppliers to the artificial intelligence boom. The Philadelphia Semiconductor Sector Index has risen 34% over the past month, 71% year-to-date, and 153% over the past year, at the time of writing. Ironically, NVIDIA has comparatively underperformed the semiconductor sector this year, up just 17%. The index's biggest gainers in 2026 include Intel (+251%), Micron (+179%) and Advanced Micro Devices (+114%).
- Other earnings reports from the US this week include Home Depot, Keysight Technologies (**Tuesday**); Analog Devices, TJX, Lowe's, Intuit, Target, Copart, Hasbro (**Wednesday**); Walmart, Deere, Workday, Ralph Lauren, and Deckers Outdoor (**Thursday**).
- There is also a large batch of economic data scheduled in America – housing starts, PMIs, and jobless claims among them.
- Investors will also be watching earnings updates from ASX companies this week, including ALS, New Hope, Elders (**Monday**); Catapult, TechnologyOne (**Tuesday**); James Hardie (**Wednesday**); Goodman Group, Webjet (**Thursday**); and Bendigo and Adelaide Bank (**Friday**).
- There are several ASX companies trading ex-dividend this week, including Macquarie Bank, Alcoa (**Monday**); and Orica (**Thursday**).
- On the economic front, the key release will be unemployment figures for April on Thursday. Investors will also eye a speech from RBA Assistant Governor Sarah Hunt to see what she may have to say about the outlook for the Australian economy, as well as minutes from the recent RBA meeting, where it decided to hike interest rates a further 25bps to 4.35%.

*James Gruber, CommSec Equity Market Strategist*

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