Investor Signposts

CommSec

August 28, 2026

Investor Signposts: Week beginning August 31, 2026

Upcoming economic and financial market events

Australia

Monday August 31	◆	Melbourne Institute inflation gauge (August)	*4.0% YoY in July*
Monday August 31	◆	Private sector credit (July)	*+8.5% YoY in June*
Tuesday September 1	◆	Building approvals (July)	*+7.2% MoM in June*
Wednesday September 2	◆	2Q GDP	*2.5% QoQ in first quarter*
Thursday September 3	◆	Assistant RBA Governor Brad Jones speaks	*At a conference in Melbourne*
Thursday September 3	◆	Goods trade balance (July)	*$1.93bn in June*

Overseas

Tuesday September 1	◆	US ISM Manufacturing PMI (August)	*55.4 expected*
Tuesday September 1	◆	US JOLTS job openings	*7300k forecast*
Tuesday September 1	◆	US construction spending (July)	*-0.1% MoM tipped*
Wednesday September 2	◆	US ADP employment change (August)	*39k predicted*
Wednesday September 2	◆	US factory orders (July)	*0.1% MoM expected*
Thursday September 3	◆	US ISM Services PMI (August)	*54.3 predicted*
Thursday September 3	◆	US trade balance (July)	*-$71.6bn forecast*
Thursday September 3	◆	US weekly jobless claims	*206k in prior week*
Friday September 4	◆	US non-farm employment (August)	*55k tipped*

Investors turn to earnings season's final stretch and a busy ex-dividend calendar

- The August reporting season wraps up on Monday, with results from Monash IVF and Michael Hill.
- This earnings season has delivered a mixed bag of results. Healthcare has been August's best-performing sector, as investors bought into potential turnaround stories at CSL and Cochlear following their results. Materials ranked second, driven largely by BHP and Rio Tinto, whose results highlighted the benefits of their push into copper as spot prices surged. At the other end of the market, financials were the worst-performing sector, with banks hit hard following revelations of double-digit declines in mortgage volumes since the federal government announced capital gains tax changes in May. Property also came under pressure as the residential market slowed, while consumer discretionary underperformed after JB Hi-Fi flagged softer trading this financial year amid slowing consumer spending. Overall, the August results painted a picture of a weaker consumer and softening economy, with commodities providing the major bright spot.
- A large number of ASX companies trade ex-dividend this week including Ansell, Iluka, Carlton Investments, Australian Finance Group, Wagners, Aurizon, Pinnacle, GR Engineering **(Monday);** Codan, L1 Group, Stealth, Fortescue, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, Endeavour Group **(Tuesday);** Newmont, Downer, Origin, Sonic Healthcare, SEEK, Australian Clinical Labs, Medibank Private, Whitehaven Coal, PLS **(Wednesday);** NIB, Peter Warren, BHP, Amcor, Coles, Woodside **(Thursday);** Ampol, Viva Energy, Whitefield Industrial, and Aussie Broadband **(Friday).**
- On the economic front, second-quarter GDP figures are released on Wednesday.
- In the US, earnings season continues, with results from Palo Alto Networks, Medtronic **(Tuesday);** Dell, Broadcom, Hewlett Packard, Brown Forman, NetApp **(Wednesday);** Lululemon, Campbell's **(Thursday).**
- There are also labour force figures out on Friday, with the unemployment rate tipped at 4.2%.

  James Gruber, CommSec Equity Market Strategist