February 20, 2026

Investor Signposts: Week beginning February 23, 2026

Upcoming economic and financial market events

Australia			
Wednesday February 25	◆	Consumer price index (CPI, January)	*Annual headline CPI is tipped to climb 3.7%*
Wednesday February 25	◆	Construction work done (December quarter)	*Tipped to increase 0.8%*
Thursday February 26	◆	Private capital expenditure (December quarter)	*Business investment or "capex" could lift 0.3%*
Friday February 27	◆	Private sector credit (January)	*Total credit could increase 0.6%*
Overseas	◆		
Monday February 23	◆	US factory orders (December)	*Orders could fall 1.5%*
Monday February 23	◆	US Dallas Fed manufacturing activity (February)	*Tipped to dip from -1.2 to -3.5*
Tuesday February 24	◆	China loan prime rates (LPRs)	*No change in short-term rates is expected*
Tuesday February 24	◆	US Conference Board consumer confidence (Feb.)	*Index tipped to lift to 87.8 from 84.5*
Tuesday February 24	◆	US home prices (December)	*From S&P Cotality Case-Shiller and FHFA*
Tuesday February 24	◆	US Richmond Fed manufacturing index (February)	*Was at a four-month high in January*
Thursday February 26	◆	US initial jobless claims (Week ended February 21)	*A leading indicator of the labour market*
Friday February 27	◆	US producer price index (PPI, January)	*The PPI could increase 0.3%*
Friday February 27	◆	US construction spending (December)	*Spending could dip 0.1%*

Key Aussie inflation data in focus as the ASX results season ramps up alongside NVIDIA earnings

- In **Australia**, inflation figures will be released **on Wednesday.** Commonwealth Bank (CBA) economists expect the headline consumer price index (CPI) to increase 0.4% in the month of January with the annual growth rate easing to 3.7% from December's 3.8% pace. The release will be closely watched given its importance to future interest rate decisions. CBA economists also expect the cash rate target to be hiked by 25 basis points to 4.10% in May.
- It's another big week of company earnings **in Australia**. Woodside's result **on Tuesday** will shed light on how it's coped in a tough LNG market. Global logistics and AI player WiseTech is reporting results **on Wednesday**, and we'll see if it can steady the ship after its shares have dropped around 30% this year on concerns over AI's impact. Meanwhile, earnings from grocery giants Woolworths **(Wednesday)** and Coles **(Friday)** will provide insights into whether Woolies has managed to gain market share back from its rival.
- Scheduled results for the week include Nuix, Lendlease, Ampol, Perpetual, Data#3, Chorus, NIB Holdings, Reece, Adairs, McMillan Shakespeare **(Monday)**; Viva Energy, City Chic Collective, ARB, HMC Capital, Monadelphous, Woodside Energy, Kelsian, Nine Entertainment, Scentre, Nanosonics, AUB, **(Tuesday)**; WiseTech, Light & Wonder, IRESS, Growthpoint Properties, Helia, Fortescue, G8 Education, Domino's Pizza, Woolworths, Bapcor, Steadfast, Centuria Capital, Flight Centre **(Wednesday)**; Karoon Energy, Monash IVF, Cleanaway Waste, Ridley Corp, Super Retail, Worley, Atlas Arteria, Cromwell Property, IDP Education, Qantas, Waypoint REIT, Swoop, Ramsay Health Care **(Thursday)**; and Michael Hill International, Coles, Star Entertainment, TPG Telecom, Pexa and Block **(Friday).**
- **In the US**, there is economic data aplenty, including factory orders for December **on Monday** and the producer price index (PPI) **on Friday**. The PPI for final demand is expected to rise 0.3% in January, easing December's 0.5% pace.
- On Wall Street, the fourth quarter earnings season continues too. NVIDIA's fourth quarter earnings report **on Wednesday** will be a bellwether for AI demand and the market more broadly. Other results include Riot Platforms **(Monday)**; Keurig Dr Pepper, Home Depot, AMC Entertainment, HP, Lucid Group **(Tuesday)**; IonQ, MARA Holdings, Salesforce, Snowflake, Synopsys **(Wednesday)**; Baidu, Viatris, Block, Diversified Energy, Intuit, Rocket Lab **(Thursday)**; and Berkshire Hathaway **(Friday)**. ***James Gruber, CommSec Equity Market Strategist***