



1 May 2025

MORNING REPORT

Today's economic developments and market movements.

Key themes

The US economy contracted at the start of the year, by annualised 0.3%qtr. Financial markets took comfort from the fact that the details on consumer spending were not all negative.

News reports that the US is proactively trying to reach out to China supported expectations of more constructive trade negotiations ahead.

In a volatile session, the US equity market bounced back up from heavy losses at the start of the session ending the day with a small gain. US Treasury yields continued to ease.

Higher than expected Q1 CPI in Australia benefited AUD, which gained 0.3%.

Data snapshot

FX Last 24 hrs	Current	Change
TWI	59.9	0.0%
AUD/USD	0.6405	0.3%
AUD/JPY	91.60	0.8%
AUD/GBP	0.4806	0.9%
AUD/NZD	1.0788	0.2%
AUD/EUR	0.5653	0.8%
AUD/CNH	4.6558	0.3%
AUD/SGD	0.8367	0.2%
AUD/HKD	4.9670	0.2%
AUD/CAD	0.8836	0.0%
EUR/USD	1.1329	-0.5%
USD/JPY	143.01	0.5%
USD Index	99.63	0.4%

Equities	Close	Change
S&P/ASX 200	8,126	0.7%
S&P 500	5,569	0.1%
Japan Nikkei	36,045	0.6%
Hang Seng	22,119	0.5%
Euro Stoxx 50	5,160	0.0%
UK FTSE100	8,495	0.4%
VIX Index	24.7	2.2%

Commodities	Current	Change
CRB Index	288.77	-1.9%
Gold	3288.62	-0.9%
Copper	9125.00	-3.3%
Oil (WTI futures)	58.21	-3.7%
Coal (coking)	187.00	2.2%
Coal (thermal)	101.00	0.5%
Iron Ore	96.50	-1.1%
ACCU	34.38	-2.8%

AUS Interest Rate Swaps	Last	Change
30 day BBSY	4.01	-0.01
90 day BBSY	3.92	-0.02
180 day BBSY	3.94	-0.01
1 year swap	3.36	0.00
2 year swap	3.19	-0.02
3 year swap	3.21	-0.01
4 year swap	3.29	-0.02
5 year swap	3.40	-0.03
6 year swap	3.52	-0.04
7 year swap	3.63	-0.05
8 year swap	3.73	-0.05
9 year swap	3.81	-0.06
10 year swap	4.03	-0.06

Government Bond Yields	Close	Change
Australia		
3 year bond	3.32	0.00
10 year bond	4.16	-0.02
United States		
3-month T Bill	4.18	0.00
2 year bond	3.60	-0.05
10 year bond	4.16	-0.01
Other (10 year yields)		
Germany	2.44	-0.05
Japan	1.32	0.00
UK	4.44	-0.04

Sydney Futures Exchange	Current	Change
10 yr bond	4.15	-0.01
3 yr bond	3.29	-0.01
3 mth bill rate	3.88	-0.02
SPI 200	8,114	-0.3%

Data as at 8:00am AEST. Change is from the previous trading day (excluding the SFE, which is the change during the night session). Source: Bloomberg.



Mantas Vanagas
Senior Economist, Westpac Group
P: +61 422 030 326
E: mantas.vanagas@westpac.com.au

Financial Markets:

Financial markets' focus shifted back to the economic data releases as the US and euro area published their Q1 GDP estimates. The US economy contracted at the start of the year, by annualised 0.3%qtr. However, markets took some comfort from the fact that the details on consumer spending were not all negative, with monthly personal income and consumption expenditures suggesting a relatively robust picture in March. Meanwhile, euro area growth was stronger than expected at 0.4%qtr. And on the US trade policy front, news reports that the US is proactively trying to reach out to China supported expectations of more constructive trade negotiations ahead.

- It was very volatile session in the US equity market, with the S&P500 index plummeting more than 2% in the early trading hours following the GDP release. However, it bounced back up finishing the day with a small 0.1% gain. Asian and domestic equity benchmark indices were also up, while Euro Stoxx 50 was flat despite stronger than expected euro area GDP growth.
- US Treasury yields continued to fall. The 10Y yield was down only 1bp, but gains were bigger at the short end of the curve as markets increased their bets on the Fed interest rate cuts this year. Other major government bonds also gained, with the 10Y Australian yield down 2bp to 4.16%.
- In FX markets, the USD index rose 0.4% climbing to 99.60. Over the course of April, it depreciated almost 4.5%, which followed a 3.2% decline in March. Other major currencies depreciated in the day, with EUR and Yen down 0.5%, and GBP losing 0.6%. Australia's higher than expected Q1 CPI print benefited AUD, which gained 0.3%.
- Crude tumbled again as Reuters reported that Saudi Arabia was unwilling to prop up the oil market with further supply cuts and that it could handle a prolonged period of low prices. The June WTI contract was down 3.7% to \$58.2. Metals slumped ahead of the holiday in China with the contraction in the US economy adding to the gloom. Iron ore also declined to a 3-week low at \$96.50.

Overnight Data:

US Q1 GDP disappointed at the margin, declining 0.3%qtr on an annualised basis from 2.4%qtr at the end of 2024. A key contributor to this decline was household consumption which slowed from a 4.0% annualised pace in Q4 to 1.8% in Q1 2025. The pull-forward of imports to get ahead of tariffs was clear in the GDP data too, with imports growing at a 41%qtr annualised pace against exports' increase of 1.8%qtr. Excluding the effect of trade, domestic demand was only 0.5ppts lower in Q1 at 2.4%qtr annualised. Among other details, government spending declined, and dwelling investment stalled, but business investment surged.

Today's key data and events

For	Data/Event	Exp	Prev
-	JP BoJ Policy Decision	0.5%	0.5%
11:30am	AU Import Price Index Q1 qtr	-	0.2%
11:30am	AU Export Price Index Q1 yr	-	3.6%
11:30am	AU Trade Balance Mar	\$3200m	\$2968m
6:30pm	GB Net Mortgage Lending Mar	£3.2b	£3.3b
6:30pm	GB S&P Manufacturing PMI Apr Final	44pts	44pts
10:30pm	US Initial Jobless Claims	224k	222k
11:45pm	US S&P Manufacturing PMI Apr Final	50.5pts	50.7pts
12:00am	US ISM Manufacturing Apr	48pts	49pts
12:00am	US Construction Spending Mar	0.2%	0.7%

Times are AEST. All data forecasts are m/m or q/q and seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified. Forecasts for Australian data are our forecasts and for other countries they are consensus forecasts.

US household consumption growth declined at the start of the year despite continued robust gains in employment and wage growth. While the latest read for **ADP employment** pointed to downside risks for employment going forward, with the monthly gain decelerating from 147k to 62k in April, wage growth as measured by the **employment cost index** remained healthy in Q1, printing another 0.9% gain. And the **monthly personal income and expenditure** detail for March suggested that growth at the end of Q1 was solid, with income gaining 0.5%^{mth} and spending up 0.7%^{mth}, both rates broadly in line with average rates historically.

PCE inflation on a headline and core basis was meanwhile benign in March before April's tariff escalation, with prices unchanged in the month and up 2.3%^{yr} and 2.6%^{yr}.

Euro area Q1 GDP beat expectations of a 0.2%qtr gain by a solid margin according to the advance release, rising 0.4%qtr. Annual growth was unchanged at 1.2%, broadly consistent with trend growth historically. Robust growth in Spain, at 0.6%qtr, and a distorted 3.2%qtr print from Ireland provided major support, but GDP growth readings in Germany and France, at 0.2%qtr and 0.1%qtr, were more positive too after decreases in Q4.

Yesterday's Data:

Australia's CPI gained 0.9% in the March quarter, stronger than market consensus (0.8%) and Westpac's expectation (0.7%) (please [see here](#) here more for details).

Private sector credit in Australia continued to track a stable trend, rising 0.5%^{mth} in March, in line with our forecast and consensus expectations (please [see here](#) for more details).

China's official NBS PMI was reported to have deteriorated in April amid extreme uncertainty over US/China trade relations. The headline manufacturing reading fell from 50.5 to 49.0. Meanwhile, the non-manufacturing PMI was little changed in the month at 50.4. While these outcomes imply a loss of economic momentum in April, throughout the past decade, outcomes such as these have occurred co-incident to GDP growth near authorities current 5.0% annual target.



Corporate Directory

Westpac Economics / Australia

Sydney

Level 19, 275 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

E: economics@westpac.com.au

Luci Ellis

Chief Economist Westpac Group
E: luci.ellis@westpac.com.au

Matthew Hassan

Head of Australian Macro-Forecasting
E: mhassan@westpac.com.au

Elliot Clarke

Head of International Economics
E: eclarke@westpac.com.au

Sian Fenner

Head of Business and Industry Economics
E: sian.fenner@westpac.com.au

Justin Smirk

Senior Economist
E: jsmirk@westpac.com.au

Pat Bustamante

Senior Economist
E: pat.bustamante@westpac.com.au

Mantas Vanagas

Senior Economist
E: mantas.vanagas@westpac.com.au

Ryan Wells

Economist
E: ryan.wells@westpac.com.au

Illiana Jain

Economist
E: illiana.jain@westpac.com.au

Jameson Coombs

Economist
E: jameson.coombs@westpac.com.au

Neha Sharma

Economist
E: neha.sharma1@westpac.com.au

Westpac Economics / New Zealand

Auckland

Takutai on the Square
Level 8, 16 Takutai Square
Auckland, New Zealand

E: economics@westpac.co.nz

Kelly Eckhold

Chief Economist NZ
E: kelly.eckhold@westpac.co.nz

Michael Gordon

Senior Economist
E: michael.gordon@westpac.co.nz

Darren Gibbs

Senior Economist
E: darren.gibbs@westpac.co.nz

Satish Ranchhod

Senior Economist
E: satish.ranchhod@westpac.co.nz

Paul Clark

Industry Economist
E: paul.clarke@westpac.co.nz

Westpac Economics / Fiji

Suva

1 Thomson Street
Suva, Fiji

Shamal Chand

Senior Economist
E: shamal.chand@westpac.com.au



 westpaciq.com.au

©2025 Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141 (including where acting under any of its Westpac, St George, Bank of Melbourne or BankSA brands, collectively, “Westpac”). References to the “Westpac Group” are to Westpac and its subsidiaries and includes the directors, employees and representatives of Westpac and its subsidiaries.

Things you should know

We respect your privacy: You can view our [privacy statement at Westpac.com.au](#). Each time someone visits our site, data is captured so that we can accurately evaluate the quality of our content and make improvements for you. We may at times use technology to capture data about you to help us to better understand you and your needs, including potentially for the purposes of assessing your individual reading habits and interests to allow us to provide suggestions regarding other reading material which may be suitable for you.

This information, unless specifically indicated otherwise, is under copyright of the Westpac Group. None of the material, nor its contents, nor any copy of it, may be altered in any way, transmitted to, copied or distributed to any other party without the prior written permission of the Westpac Group.

Disclaimer

This information has been prepared by Westpac and is intended for information purposes only. It is not intended to reflect any recommendation or financial advice and investment decisions should not be based on it. This information does not constitute an offer, a solicitation of an offer, or an inducement to subscribe for, purchase or sell any financial instrument or to enter into a legally binding contract. To the extent that this information contains any general advice, it has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs and before acting on it you should consider the appropriateness of the advice. Certain types of transactions, including those involving futures, options and high yield securities give rise to substantial risk and are not suitable for all investors. We recommend that you seek your own independent legal or financial advice before proceeding with any investment decision.

This information may contain material provided by third parties. While such material is published with the necessary permission none of Westpac or its related entities accepts any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of any such material. Although we have made every effort to ensure this information is free from error, none of Westpac or its related entities warrants the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of this information, or otherwise endorses it in any way. Except where contrary to law, Westpac Group intend by this notice to exclude liability for this information. This information is subject to change without notice and none of Westpac or its related entities is under any obligation to update this information or correct any inaccuracy which may become apparent at a later date. This information may contain or incorporate by reference forward-looking statements. The words “believe”, “anticipate”, “expect”, “intend”, “plan”, “predict”, “continue”, “assume”, “positioned”, “may”, “will”, “should”, “shall”, “risk” and other similar expressions that are predictions of or indicate future events and future trends identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements include all matters that are not historical facts. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance, nor are forecasts of future performance. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure that the assumptions on which any forecasts are based are reasonable, the forecasts may be affected by incorrect assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. The ultimate outcomes may differ substantially from any forecasts.

Conflicts of Interest: In the normal course of offering banking products and services to its clients, the Westpac Group may act in several capacities (including issuer, market maker, underwriter, distributor, swap counterparty and calculation agent) simultaneously with respect

to a financial instrument, giving rise to potential conflicts of interest which may impact the performance of a financial instrument. The Westpac Group may at any time transact or hold a position (including hedging and trading positions) for its own account or the account of a client in any financial instrument which may impact the performance of that financial instrument.

Author(s) disclaimer and declaration: The author(s) confirms that (a) no part of his/her compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to any views or (if applicable) recommendations expressed in this material; (b) this material accurately reflects his/her personal views about the financial products, companies or issuers (if applicable) and is based on sources reasonably believed to be reliable and accurate; (c) to the best of the author’s knowledge, they are not in receipt of inside information and this material does not contain inside information; and (d) no other part of the Westpac Group has made any attempt to influence this material.

Further important information regarding sustainability-related content:

This material may contain statements relating to environmental, social and governance (ESG) topics. These are subject to known and unknown risks, and there are significant uncertainties, limitations, risks and assumptions in the metrics, modelling, data, scenarios, reporting and analysis on which the statements rely. In particular, these areas are rapidly evolving and maturing, and there are variations in approaches and common standards and practice, as well as uncertainty around future related policy and legislation. Some material may include information derived from publicly available sources that have not been independently verified. No representation or warranty is made as to the accuracy, completeness or reliability of the information. There is a risk that the analysis, estimates, judgements, assumptions, views, models, scenarios or projections used may turn out to be incorrect. These risks may cause actual outcomes to differ materially from those expressed or implied. The ESG-related statements in this material do not constitute advice, nor are they guarantees or predictions of future performance, and Westpac gives no representation, warranty or assurance (including as to the quality, accuracy or completeness of the statements). You should seek your own independent advice.

Additional country disclosures:

Australia: Westpac holds an Australian Financial Services Licence (No. 233714). You can access [Westpac's Financial Services Guide](#) [here](#) or request a copy from your Westpac point of contact. To the extent that this information contains any general advice, it has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs and before acting on it you should consider the appropriateness of the advice.

Note: Luci Ellis, Westpac Chief Economist is a member of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) which is a key advisory body to the Minister and the Australian Bureau of Statistics on statistical services. Luci does not have access to sensitive data/reports in her capacity as a member of ASAC.

New Zealand: In New Zealand, Westpac Institutional Bank refers to the brand under which products and services are provided by either Westpac (NZ division) or Westpac New Zealand Limited (company number 1763882), the New Zealand incorporated subsidiary of Westpac (“WNZL”). Any product or service made available by WNZL does not represent an offer from Westpac or any of its subsidiaries (other than WNZL). Neither Westpac nor its other subsidiaries guarantee or otherwise support the performance of WNZL in respect of any such product. WNZL is not an authorised deposit-taking institution for the purposes of Australian prudential standards. The current disclosure statements for the New Zealand branch of Westpac and WNZL can be obtained at the internet address www.westpac.co.nz.

Disclaimer continues overleaf ►

Singapore: This material has been prepared and issued for distribution in Singapore to institutional investors, accredited investors and expert investors (as defined in the applicable Singapore laws and regulations) only. Recipients of this material in Singapore should contact Westpac Singapore Branch in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, this material. Westpac Singapore Branch holds a wholesale banking licence and is subject to supervision by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

U.S: Westpac operates in the United States of America as a federally licensed branch, regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Westpac is also registered with the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") as a Swap Dealer, but is neither registered as, or affiliated with, a Futures Commission Merchant registered with the US CFTC. The services and products referenced above are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"). Westpac Capital Markets, LLC ("WCM"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Westpac, is a broker-dealer registered under the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ('the Exchange Act') and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ('FINRA'). In accordance with APRA's Prudential Standard 222 'Association with Related Entities', Westpac does not stand behind WCM other than as provided for in certain legal agreements between Westpac and WCM and obligations of WCM do not represent liabilities of Westpac.

This communication is provided for distribution to U.S. institutional investors in reliance on the exemption from registration provided by Rule 15a-6 under the Exchange Act and is not subject to all of the independence and disclosure standards applicable to debt research reports prepared for retail investors in the United States. WCM is the U.S. distributor of this communication and accepts responsibility for the contents of this communication. Transactions by U.S. customers of any securities referenced herein should be effected through WCM. All disclaimers set out with respect to Westpac apply equally to WCM. If you would like to speak to someone regarding any security mentioned herein, please contact WCM on +1 212 389 1269. Investing in any non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments mentioned in this communication may present certain risks. The securities of non-U.S. issuers may not be registered with, or be subject to the regulations of, the SEC in the United States. Information on such non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments may be limited. Non-U.S. companies may not be subject to audit and reporting standards and regulatory requirements comparable to those in effect in the United States. The value of any investment or income from any securities or related derivative instruments denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars is subject to exchange rate fluctuations that may have a positive or adverse effect on the value of or income from such securities or related derivative instruments.

The author of this communication is employed by Westpac and is not registered or qualified as a research analyst, representative, or associated person of WCM or any other U.S. broker-dealer under the rules of FINRA, any other U.S. self-regulatory organisation, or the laws, rules or regulations of any State. Unless otherwise specifically stated, the views expressed herein are solely those of the author and may differ from the information, views or analysis expressed by Westpac and/or its affiliates.

UK and EU: The London branch of Westpac is authorised in the United Kingdom by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and is subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and limited regulation by the PRA (Financial Services Register number: 124586). The London branch of Westpac is registered at Companies House as a branch established in the United Kingdom (Branch No. BR000106). Details about the extent of the regulation of Westpac's London branch by the PRA are available from us on request.

Westpac Europe GmbH ("WEG") is authorised in Germany by the Federal Financial Supervision Authority ('BaFin') and subject to its regulation. WEG's supervisory authorities are BaFin and the German

Federal Bank ('Deutsche Bundesbank'). WEG is registered with the commercial register ('Handelsregister') of the local court of Frankfurt am Main under registration number HRB 118483. In accordance with APRA's Prudential Standard 222 'Association with Related Entities', Westpac does not stand behind WEG other than as provided for in certain legal agreements (a risk transfer, sub-participation and collateral agreement) between Westpac and WEG and obligations of WEG do not represent liabilities of Westpac.

This communication is not intended for distribution to, or use by any person or entity in any jurisdiction or country where such distribution or use would be contrary to local law or regulation. This communication is not being made to or distributed to, and must not be passed on to, the general public in the United Kingdom. Rather, this communication is being made only to and is directed at (a) those persons falling within the definition of Investment Professionals (set out in Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the "Order")); (b) those persons falling within the definition of high net worth companies, unincorporated associations etc. (set out in Article 49(2) of the Order); (c) other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated in accordance with the Order or (d) any persons to whom it may otherwise lawfully be made (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this communication or any of its contents. In the same way, the information contained in this communication is intended for "eligible counterparties" and "professional clients" as defined by the rules of the Financial Conduct Authority and is not intended for "retail clients". Westpac expressly prohibits you from passing on the information in this communication to any third party.

This communication contains general commentary, research, and market colour. The communication does not constitute investment advice. The material may contain an 'investment recommendation' and/or 'information recommending or suggesting an investment', both as defined in Regulation (EU) No 596/2014 (including as applicable in the United Kingdom) ("MAR"). In accordance with the relevant provisions of MAR, reasonable care has been taken to ensure that the material has been objectively presented and that interests or conflicts of interest of the sender concerning the financial instruments to which that information relates have been disclosed.

Investment recommendations must be read alongside the specific disclosure which accompanies them and the general disclosure which can be found [here](#). Such disclosure fulfils certain additional information requirements of MAR and associated delegated legislation and by accepting this communication you acknowledge that you are aware of the existence of such additional disclosure and its contents.

To the extent this communication comprises an investment recommendation it is classified as non-independent research. It has not been prepared in accordance with legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research and therefore constitutes a marketing communication. Further, this communication is not subject to any prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of investment research.