



Week beginning 29 September 2025

# AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND WEEKLY

Analysis and forecasts for this week's key releases.

## In this week's edition:

**Economic Insight:** RBA to remain on hold in September.

**The Week That Was:** Managing uncertainty.

**Focus on New Zealand:** New chapter for the RBNZ; fiscal challenges loom.

## For the week ahead:

**Australia:** RBA policy decision, dwelling approvals, private sector credit, household spending, trade.

**New Zealand:** Monthly employment indicator, building permits, ANZ commodity prices.

**China:** PMIs.

**Japan:** Q3 Tankan survey, industrial production, jobless rate.

**Euro Area:** Economic confidence, CPI, unemployment rate.

**United States:** Non-farm payrolls, CB consumer confidence, ISM surveys, factory orders, JOLTS.

**World:** Manufacturing and services PMIs for Japan, Eurozone, UK and US (final estimate).

Information contained in this report current as at 26 September 2025

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The forecasts given above are predictive in character. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure that the assumptions on which the forecasts are based are reasonable, the forecasts may be affected by incorrect assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. The results ultimately achieved may differ substantially from these forecasts.

# RBA to remain on hold in September



**Luci Ellis**  
Chief Economist, Westpac Group

- We already believed that the RBA would remain on hold at its September meeting and keep the cash rate at 3.6%. Anyone who thought there was a lingering chance of a cut next week will have ruled it out following this week's August partial inflation data.
- We nonetheless continue to expect that the RBA will cut the cash rate further over time. While a November timing of the next cut is now less certain, it remains our base case. We do not read either the August result or latest geopolitical developments as implying a renewed inflationary trend.
- Having [made the mistake three months ago](#) of over-weighting the implications of the monthly inflation data for the RBA's decision-making, we think it is prudent to avoid taking too much signal from the August partial inflation data about trends beyond the September quarter. And even if September quarter trimmed mean inflation ends up being even higher than our revised nowcast, the real question for monetary policy is the inflation outlook beyond the quarter now ending.

Some of the components that surprised on the upside in August (e.g. clothing) typically see some payback in the following month/quarter. And while services inflation was a bit higher than expected, this was not consistently true across the detail. In particular, the pick-up in inflation in prices of meals out and takeaway is consistent with the recovery in jobs growth in the hospitality sector over the past couple of quarters, following a significant retrenchment over 2023–2024. Some rebuilding of margins could be expected in these circumstances, but we do not think this necessarily implies ongoing higher inflation in this sector. Likewise, to the extent higher prices of meals out reflected higher food prices, ongoing higher inflation is unlikely given the latter's volatility.

Nor do we see fresh inflationary impetus coming from abroad. China remains a source of global disinflation in tradeable goods. Some upside to global energy prices might emerge from Ukraine's increasingly successful ranged campaign against Russia's oil supply. This may be given further impetus by the change of tone on the war coming out of the US (it turns out President Trump despises 'losers' more than he admires autocrats). But we assess that the sustained price impact of a major decline in Russian oil supply would be small, of the order of a few dollars per barrel.

The main area where the August inflation data might be signalling a stronger ongoing trend is in homebuilding costs.

Some of the surprising strength in this component in August reflected an unwinding of earlier price discounting by builders. This is a levels effect that should not be expected to boost price growth on an ongoing basis. However, we cannot rule out that the underlying trend growth in building costs is higher than the rates seen late last year before the period of discounting.

Beyond the current quarter, our forecasts continue to see trimmed mean inflation comfortably inside the RBA's 2–3% target range and drifting a little below the midpoint next year. Indeed, even allowing for a stronger outcome in the September quarter, our forecast for the second half of 2025 (taking September and December quarters together) is in line with the RBA's August forecasts. Part of this reflects that, if at least some of the August result is noise and there is some payback in the month of September, then all else equal, this flows through to a lower quarterly average for the months of the December quarter relative to the September quarter as well.

We are also mindful that the labour market is softening gradually, consistent with the usual lagged effects of previous tight monetary policy. Employment growth has slowed more than expected, and this week's ABS job vacancies data confirm that the past tightness in the labour market is still unwinding. In addition, our [longer-term view](#) is that the rising trend in labour force participation has further to run in Australia. This contrasts with the RBA's forecast of a steady participation rate from here, and the recent small step down in the participation rate and underemployment as cost-of-living pressures ease, reducing the need to supply additional labour (as we had [previously flagged](#) was likely). If we are right, the RBA could be surprised by the extent of labour market slack a few quarters from now; this is the logic behind our own forecast for unemployment being a little higher than the RBA's. Wages growth and thus inflation would also surprise the RBA on the downside in that scenario.

Inflation is within the target range, and the labour market is broadly fully employed and softening gradually. We do not think this combination warrants tight monetary policy. At a 3.6% cash rate, monetary policy is probably not that tight, but some reduction would still be needed to avoid a needless undershoot of the inflation target. Indeed, the RBA's own August forecasts embed an assumption that further rate cuts will be required to achieve its inflation forecast of trimmed mean inflation broadly around the target midpoint. We concur. The timing of future rate cuts remains uncertain and it is possible the RBA ends up cutting by less than our current base case. Nonetheless, 25bp cuts in November, February and May remain our base case.

# Cliff Notes: managing uncertainty

Elliot Clarke, Head of International Economic  
Illiana Jain, Economist

It was a particularly quiet week for Australian data, with [August's Monthly CPI Indicator](#) the only release of note. At 2.9%yr, August's result landed between the market's expectation and our own. Within the detail, the key surprise was a 0.4% increase in dwelling costs, the ABS noting that project home builders increased prices and reduced discounts in some cities. Insurance costs also rose more than expected. Offsetting this inflation was a 6.3% decline in electricity prices as households in NSW and ACT received their first payment from the extended Commonwealth Energy Bill Relief Fund.

While some in the market hold this result to be a material threat to inflation's anticipated return to the mid-point of the target range, our profile for headline inflation is unchanged and the [trimmed mean forecast for Q3](#) only a touch higher. Moreover, we still anticipate a sustained return to target for both headline and trimmed mean inflation long before the end of the forecast period. As detailed by [Chief Economist Luci Ellis](#), while a November cut is now less certain, it remains our base case. So are follow-up cuts in February and May 2026, taking the cash rate to a 2.85% cycle low.

Over in New Zealand, [the new RBNZ Governor was announced](#). Dr Anna Breman, currently the First Deputy Governor of Sweden's central bank, will begin her 5-year tenure as RBNZ Governor on 1 December 2025. New Zealand's Minister of Finance Nicola Willis noted that she does not intend to change the RBNZ's inflation target, and Dr Breman stated at a press conference that the RBNZ will remain "laser focused on low, stable inflation". Acting RBNZ Governor Christian Hawkesby will remain Governor until December, overseeing the 8 October OCR review and 26 November Monetary policy statement which our New Zealand Economics team expects will deliver respective cuts of 50bps and 25bps. Mr Hawkesby will depart the RBNZ after Dr Breman commences; his role on the MPC will need to be filled early next year. For an outline of some of the policy issues Governor Breman may face in 2026, see [Westpac New Zealand Chief Economist Kelly Eckhold's bulletin](#).

With the data flow restricted to second and third tier releases, Fedspeak was the market's focus in the US this week.

Chair Powell emphasised risk management during his prepared remarks and Q&A, justifying the 25bp cut delivered with the loss of momentum in job creation and growing downside risks to the currently balanced labour market. Chair Powell sees the resulting policy stance as modestly restrictive and therefore still helpful in managing lingering upside inflation risks, which are primarily seen as a consequence of

tariff implementation – a one-off shock. Bostic, Goolsbee, Schmid, Musalem and Hammack all, to varying degrees, expressed lingering concern over inflation this week while also recognising labour market softening. Broadly they are likely to support a slow return towards neutral as the data shows inflation and associated risks abating.

**"Our profile for headline inflation is unchanged and the trimmed mean forecast for Q3 only a touch higher. ...Still anticipate a sustained return to target."**

Vice Chair for Supervision Bowman's remarks were, in contrast, decidedly dovish. Bowman made clear that she believes inflation's persistence near 3.0%yr was broadly due to tariffs, noting that PCE inflation excluding estimated tariff effects was 2.5%yr at August, "within range of our target". Much of the rest of her remarks were focused on the deceleration underway in job creation and the risks of a continued deterioration in the trend to outright job shedding. Concern that the FOMC may be falling behind in their policy actions leads her to believe policy should continue to be eased towards a neutral stance in coming months.

Of the data received, August durable goods orders was most topical. The headline measure exceeded expectations, rising 2.9%mt. Core goods orders (non-defence, ex aircraft) were in contrast up just 0.6%, emphasising the importance of transport and defence equipment to US manufacturing. Investment in the broader economy, outside of AI-related spending, remains soft and fickle. Highlighting this, the Richmond Fed manufacturing index declined from -7 to -17 in September as expectations for capital expenditures remained weak at -11. Looking to the medium term, the weakness in investment is not just a risk for economic growth but also for inflation. Weak investment in 2025 and 2026 will restrict capacity thereafter, leading to excess demand and price pressures. This is why we remain concerned that US inflation will be much more difficult to return sustainably to the 2.0%yr target than the market and FOMC currently expect.

# New chapter for the RBNZ; fiscal challenges loom

Kelly Echold NZ Chief Economist  
Darren Gibbs NZ Senior Economist

The key domestic news over the past week has been the announcement of the next RBNZ Governor. Dr Anna Breman, currently the First Deputy Governor of the Riksbank, will begin her tenure on 1 December. Acting RBNZ Governor Christian Hawkesby will remain Governor until 30 November – overseeing the 8 October OCR review and 26 November Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) – and will then depart the RBNZ. This will leave a further vacancy on the MPC, which will likely be filled prior to the February 2026 MPS meeting. In announcing the appointment, Minister of Finance Nicola Willis noted that she had no intention of changing the RBNZ's inflation target.

Dr Breman's credentials and experience make her look well suited to leading the RBNZ in the years ahead. In addition to her time at the Riksbank, she was Deputy Director of Economic Affairs at the Swedish Ministry of Finance and was group Chief Economist at Swedbank from 2015 to 2019. She has a PhD from the Stockholm School of Economics.

In a note published after her appointment, we have discussed some [preliminary thoughts on the approach that Dr Breman will likely bring to the RBNZ](#), and what the impending changes of leadership imply for monetary policy over the remainder of this year and beyond. Her strong academic background and track record suggests she will take an analytical approach to monetary policy formulation. At the same time, in her press conference, she emphasised that she would go to some lengths to get around the country and meet with people and businesses. This suggests that she is also quite a pragmatic policymaker, willing to use information from industry experts and others to supplement formal data sources.

We think that Dr Breman will have little difficulty adapting to her new role. While there are differences between the New Zealand and Swedish economies, there are also many similarities. Both are small open economies, so Dr Breman's understanding of the global economic environment and the exchange rate as a key transmission channel will be well employed. The RBNZ's approach to monetary policy making will also be very familiar to her. Both the RBNZ and Riksbank employ flexible inflation targeting to achieve their goals, with developments in output and employment also considered when deciding how quickly to return inflation back to 2% following a shock. Moreover, in recent times, the Riksbank has faced similar economic conditions to those faced by the RBNZ. In both economies activity has been weak and sizeable negative output gaps have opened, leading to monetary policy easing cycles (indeed, Dr Breman voted for a rate cut at

this week's Riksbank meeting). Had she been in the role, we suspect that Dr Breman would have been comfortable with the RBNZ's dovish pivot in the August MPS.

In terms of her general approach to policy, we are reluctant to label the new Governor before she arrives in the role. When we look at her public comments and voting record while at the Riksbank we do see evidence that she was in the dovish range of the Riksbank Executive Board. In the 35 Executive Board meetings that she has participated in, on 33 occasions she voted with the consensus. Her two dissents were dovish. However, it's important to recognise that this does not necessarily mean she would be dovish relative to the RBNZ MPC in place in recent years. We also see some evidence that Dr Breman has activist tendencies relative to the other members of the Executive Board i.e., that she is relatively quick to shift her view. Note though, it's by no means clear that Dr Breman is as activist as the previous RBNZ Governor Orr, who tended to be relatively aggressive in that regard.

One thing that is very clear is that Dr Breman strongly supports a high degree of transparency and frequent communication as good tenets of monetary policymaking – areas where we think the RBNZ can improve. Indeed, in her press conference, while praising the RBNZ, Dr Breman did say that she thought that there was more work for the RBNZ to do in this area. We think that she, and the Minister of Finance, will both be receptive to the [ideas to improve transparency and accountability](#) that we set out in a report earlier this month. In particular, we note that [in a recent speech](#), Dr Breman argued in favour of the Riksbank's 2007 decision to begin recording the names of who had said what in its published minutes, which she said had led members to take greater pains to explain their positions in detail. She also argued that it had led to Board members referring more often to their own previous contributions and judgements and could possibly be seen as an expression of Board members feeling greater responsibility for their stances over time. We think that it is likely that Dr Breman will seek to bring this approach to the RBNZ.

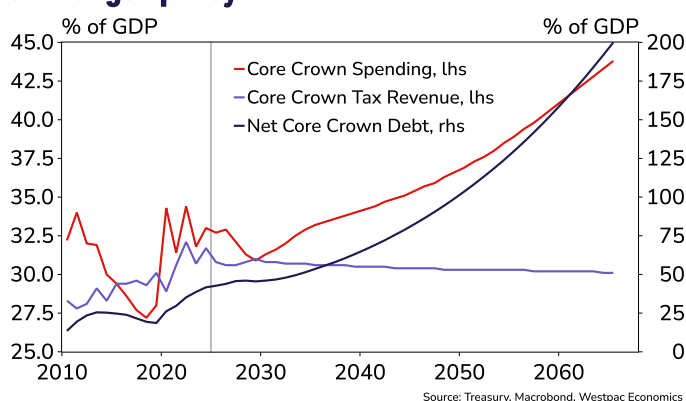
More generally, in her speeches – including her remarks during her press conference – Dr Breman emphasised that she believes that transparency builds trust among both financial market participants and the public. A further aspect of that is her support for the use of alternative scenarios to better communicate the uncertainty that surrounds the monetary policy outlook, so that people are less surprised when monetary conditions deviate from what might have been forecast and seen as sensible earlier. This was also a theme

in a conference that the RBNZ hosted earlier this year. So, we expect to see more use of scenario analysis in Monetary Policy Statements written under her watch.

Given that Dr Breman does not formally start until 1 December, in principle her appointment has no obvious implications for the upcoming meetings on 8 October and 26 November. That said, we cannot rule out the possibility that she is invited to participate in the final stages of the November meeting as an observer. And if so, while she would not have a vote, it is not unreasonable to think that MPC members would be interested in her viewpoint. Perhaps of greater interest is the implications of the impending departure of current Governor Christian Hawkesby on 30 November. We thought that Hawkesby was probably not one of the two MPC members that urged a 50bps “circuit breaker” cut at the August MPS meeting. The weak Q2 GDP data might have changed his perspective. But nevertheless, it seems less likely that Hawkesby will try to drive the MPC consensus view one way or the other since he will not be on the MPC to deal with whatever transpires after November. At the margin, we think that this might increase the likelihood of a 50bp cut on 8 October.

Turning to this week’s other news, the Treasury released its latest Long-term Fiscal Statement. This report – issued every four years – looks beyond the usual period covered in the Budget, using modelling and analysis to drive an outlook for the fiscal position over a 40-year horizon. The report highlights the choices governments will need to take to balance revenue and expenditure, particularly in the face of pressures arising from long-term trends such as an ageing population (impacting superannuation and healthcare costs) and climate change.

## Treasury Long-Term Projections, assuming unchanged policy



Unsurprisingly, the broad conclusions of the report were very similar to those reached in the previous report, published in 2021. Assuming unchanged policy settings, New Zealand’s current expenditure and revenue settings are judged to be unsustainable. Spending on superannuation is projected to rise from 5.1% of GDP now to around 8% of GDP by 2065, while health expenditure is projected to rise from 7.1% of GDP now to around 10% in 2065 if policies are left unchanged. Given

broadly stable revenue as a share of GDP, widening primary deficits and increasing debt would cause spending on debt servicing to more than quadruple from around 2.0% of GDP to 8.8% of GDP. As a result, core Crown expenditure would rise from around 32% of GDP at present to almost 44% of GDP. Given the baseline assumption for interest rates (assumed to stabilise at around 4.3% of GDP), net core Crown debt would more than quadruple to 200% of GDP. If interest rates were to stabilise at around 6%, net debt would approach 290% of GDP.

These projections highlight that New Zealand is likely to face some difficult fiscal choices over coming years. The Treasury’s report gives a sense of the sorts of policy options that might be available. For example, the Treasury’s modelling suggests the cost of superannuation could be kept stable as a percentage of GDP by increasing payment rates in line with inflation rather than wages. Achieving the same by steadily increasing the age of eligibility would require it to rise to 72 by 2065. Controlling health costs through health prevention, increasing efficiency, and increases to user pays could help slow government expenditure at the margin. To fully offset the projected rise in the cost of superannuation and health spend, other core expenditure would need to fall from about 13% of GDP to only 5% of GDP by 2065 – an unlikely scenario. Meeting expenditure pressures through tax increases alone would require the average tax rate on labour income to gradually increase from 21% at present to 32% in 2065. Alternatively, goods and services tax (GST) would need to increase from 15% at present to 32% by 2065.

The reality is that dealing with these fiscal pressures is likely to require a movement across several policy fronts. The sooner that these choices are made, the less disruptive and painful the adjustment will be. And we suspect that consensus amongst the major political parties will be required to successfully deal with these fiscal pressures.

Finally, this week has been momentous in the foreign exchange market as we have seen a noticeable step down in the New Zealand dollar. The Trade Weighted Index is currently around 2% lower than the level assumed by the RBNZ in its August forecasts reflecting a weak currency against most cross rates. We signalled last week the risks of a lower exchange rate given the weak growth impulse and the decline in interest rate differentials that seem set to feature in coming months. This week’s move has come quicker than expected and highlights the clear downside risks while growth momentum remains weak. We doubt this will concern the RBNZ. Rather, they will respond to the factors driving the currency weakness and so look through any short-term inflation impact.



## AUS: Aug Dwelling Approvals (%mth)

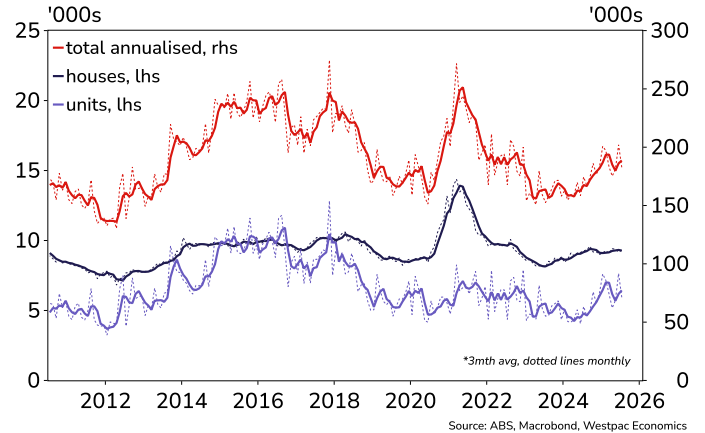
Sep 30, Last: -8.2, Westpac f/c: 0.5

Mkt f/c: 2.8, Range: 0.0 to 4.0

Dwelling approvals fell -8.2%<sup>mth</sup> in July, reversing most of June's 12.2%<sup>mth</sup> surge. Even so, approvals lifted 2.3%<sup>qtr</sup>, the first move into positive quarterly momentum since March. Volatility has centred on high rise approvals.

August looks to be a relatively soft month. HIA figures on new home sales – often a guide to detached and medium density approvals – eased for the third consecutive month. However, medium density approvals have been on a steady uptrend this year and could continue on this path in August particularly as HIA figures have been a poor guide recently. High-rise approvals had a strong result in May and June with July only providing a partial unwind, so there could be more left to give back here. Overall, we are expecting a subdued 0.5%<sup>mth</sup> rise in August.

## Detached homes could see some softening



## AUS: Aug Private Sector Credit (%mth)

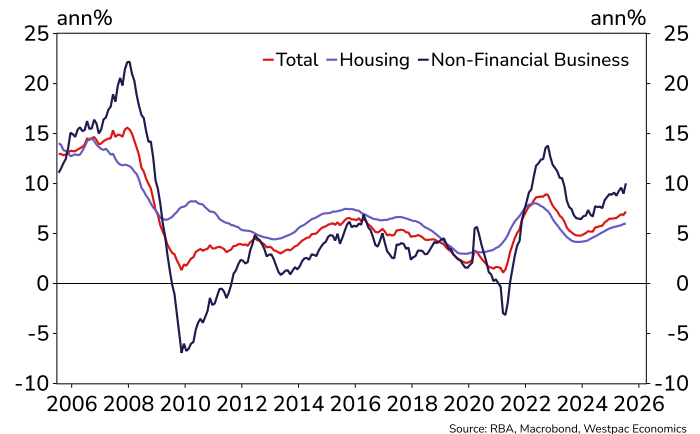
Sep 30, Last: 0.7, Westpac f/c: 0.6

Mkt f/c: 0.6, Range: 0.5 to 0.7

Over the past four months, private sector credit growth has recorded two monthly increases of 0.6% and two of 0.7%. The firmer reads coincided with surges in business credit growth – rising to 1.0% in April and reaching 1.4% in July.

The typically volatile business credit segment is expected to ease somewhat in August, possibly dropping below the 1.0% mark. While the housing market's increased momentum signals some upside risk for housing credit growth, this measure tends to be particularly persistent. As such, we anticipate that any acceleration will emerge only gradually and become more evident in the aggregate data from September onwards. Taking both factors into account, total private sector credit growth is forecast to ease back to 0.6%<sup>mth</sup>.

## Private sector credit growth



## AUS: RBA Policy Decision (%)

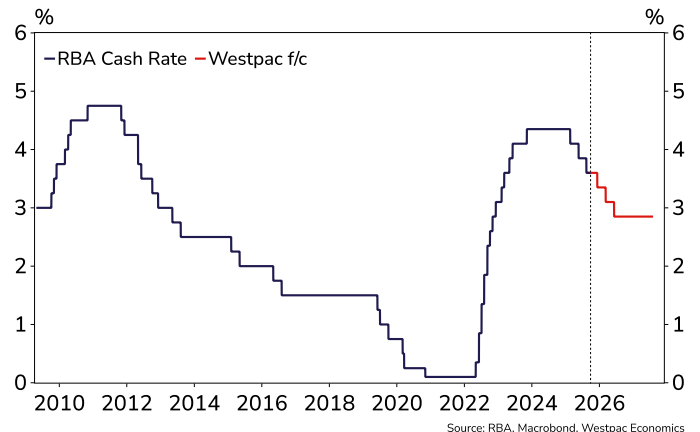
Sep 30, Last: 3.60, Westpac f/c: 3.60

Mkt f/c: 3.60, Range: 3.60 to 3.60

Data released since the RBA's August meeting have been mixed. Labour market indicators point to a gradual re-emergence of softening, with employment growth easing and job vacancies paring back gains seen earlier in the year. Meanwhile, some components of the August Monthly CPI data came in hotter-than-expected, though – as Chief Economist Luci Ellis discusses above – it is prudent to avoid reading too much into this partial measure for inflation trends beyond Q3.

Taking a wider view, the RBA is unlikely to rush into rate cuts, but nor will it keep policy tighter than necessary for too long. Hence, we continue to expect the RBA to remain on hold next week, with cuts to follow in November, February and May. For more detail, see Page 2.

## RBA to leave rates unchanged in September



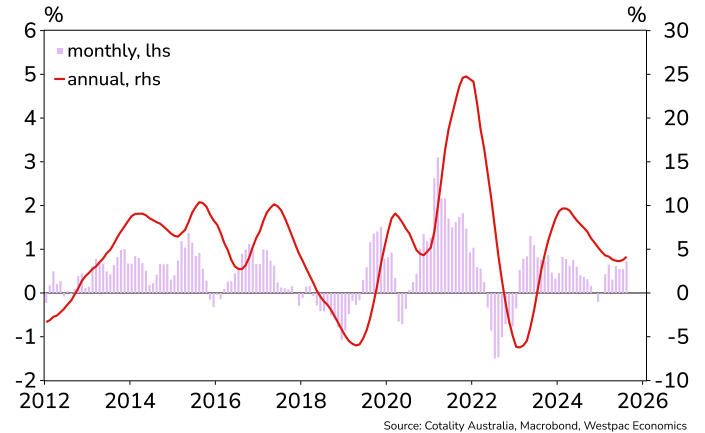
## AUS: Sep Cotality home value index (%mth)

**Oct 1, Last: 0.8, Westpac f/c: 0.9**

The Cotality home value index (formerly CoreLogic) rose 0.8% in August, a slight step-up on the 0.5-0.6% pace over the previous three months. Annual growth lifted to 3.6%yr, with price gains tracking at an 8% annualised pace since April.

Daily measures point to another robust rise in September, tracking a 0.9% gain for the month as a whole which would lift the annual pace to 4.2%yr. The detail from daily measures (which only cover the five biggest capital cities) points to a particularly strong 1.5% rise in Perth. Brisbane is tracking around 1%, with the remaining three cities seeing a slightly softer pace.

## RBA rate cuts supporting price growth

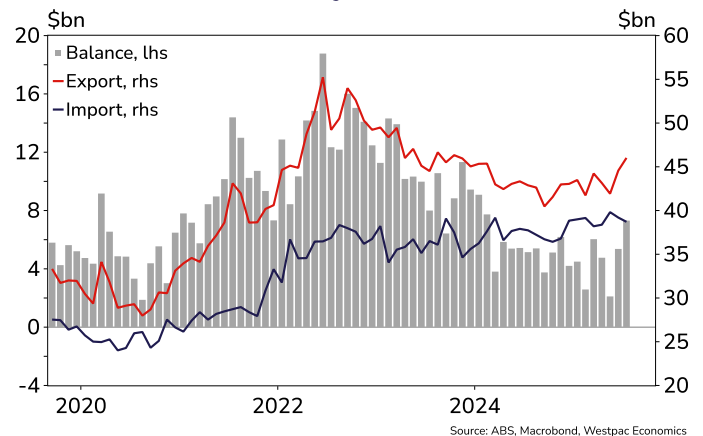


## AUS: Aug Goods Trade Balance (\$bn)

**Oct 2, Last: 7.3, Westpac f/c: 5.9**  
**Mkt f/c: 6.1, Range: 5.0 to 8.0**

Following a widening to a seventeen-month high of \$7.3bn in July, the goods trade balance is expected to deteriorate in August. We anticipate a decline to a \$5.9bn surplus, which would still be towards the upper end of the range observed so far this year. We expect that exports of the 'Big 3' commodities will pull back after their notable increase in July. Shipment data from major ports indicate a significant reduction in coal exports. LNG exports are also likely to weaken, while iron ore exports are expected to remain broadly unchanged. Rural goods exports, which rose by almost 10% over the past two months, are also likely to ease, with meat exports leading the decline. On the imports side, we foresee a similar figure to July, which was very close to the YTD average.

## Goods trade surplus likely to narrow



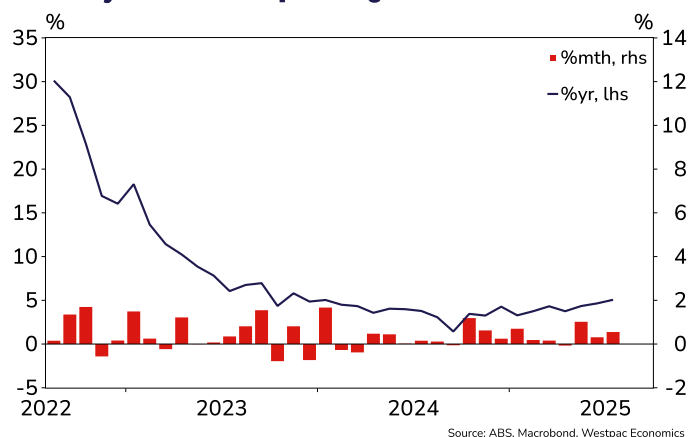
## AUS: Aug Household Spending Indicator (%mth)

**Oct 2, Last: 0.5, Westpac f/c: 0.0**  
**Mkt f/c: 0.3, Range: 0.0 to 0.6**

The ABS monthly household spending indicator (MHSI) rose 0.5% in July. With gains in 10 of the past 11 months, annual growth rate lifted to 5.1%yr – the fastest pace since November 2023.

Our **Westpac-DataX Card Tracker** aligned well with the July result and points to some softening in August, led by further weakness in durables. July also received a solid boost from spending on hotels, cafes & restaurants, but our equivalent Card Tracker category shows a pull back in August, suggesting some of that support likely faded. Meanwhile, new vehicle sales gained in the month but at a softer pace than July. It has also been a poor gauge as of late. Overall, we expect a flat result for August, with risks tilted to the downside.

## Monthly household spending indicator

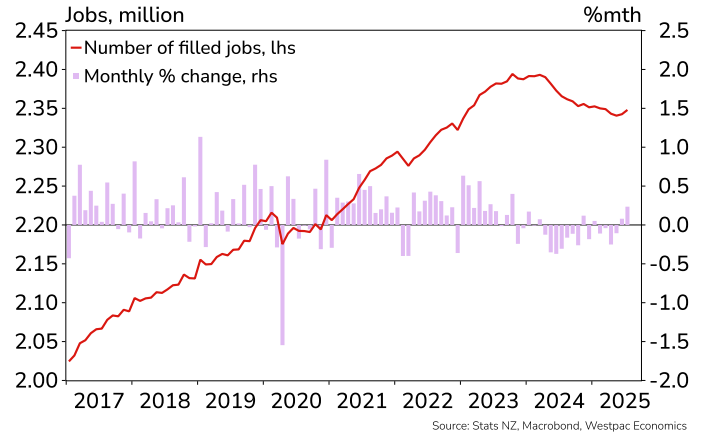


## NZ: Aug Monthly Employment Indicator (%mth)

Sep 29, Last: 0.2, Westpac f/c: 0.0

The Monthly Employment Indicator (MEI) is drawn from income tax data, making it a comprehensive record of the number of people in work. However, it tends to be overstated on the first release due to incomplete information at the end of the month. As a result, we suspect the reported 0.2% rise in filled jobs for July will be revised down. In general, the weekly snapshots provided by Stats NZ suggest broadly stable levels of employment following a further decline in the first half of this year.

## Monthly Employment Indicator

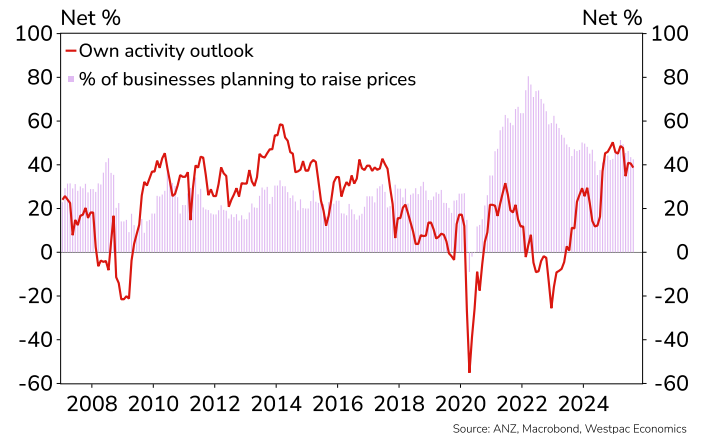


## NZ: Sep ANZBO business confidence

Sep 30, Last: 49.7

The September Business Outlook survey will be the first since the recent weaker than expected GDP result, and we'll be watching to see if that softness is continuing or if conditions are starting to turn. While businesses continued to express confidence about the future, buoyed by interest rate reductions, surveys have continued to highlight tough current trading conditions. We'll also be keeping an eye on the inflation gauges in the survey: firms continue to report significant cost pressures and a greater than average proportion of respondents are reporting an intention to raise their selling prices.

## Business sentiment and pricing intentions

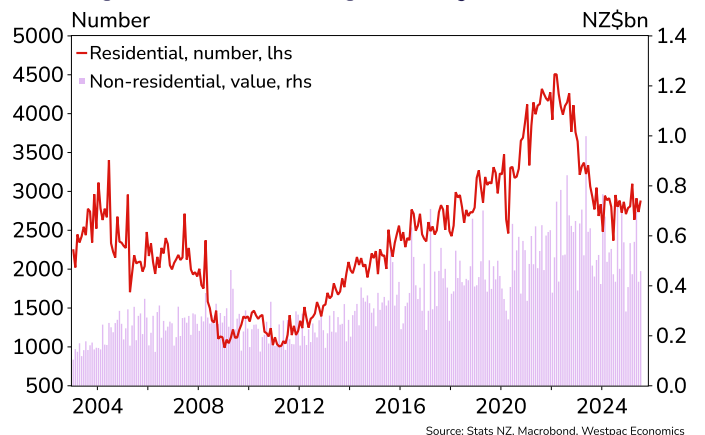


## NZ: Aug Building Consents (%mth)

Oct 1, last +5.4, Westpac f/c: -5.0

We're forecasting a 5% fall in consents in August. That follows a similar sized increase in July that was driven by a sharp rise in the volatile multi-unit categories. Smoothing through the normal month-to-month volatility in consents, the annual total is expected to remain around 34,000, where it has sat for a year now. That's consistent with a stabilisation in home building activity after it trended down over the past year. On the non-residential front, softness in public sector projects is continuing, while planned private sector work is holding up, mainly due to office and industrial projects.

## Building consents trending sideways





## US: Sep employment report

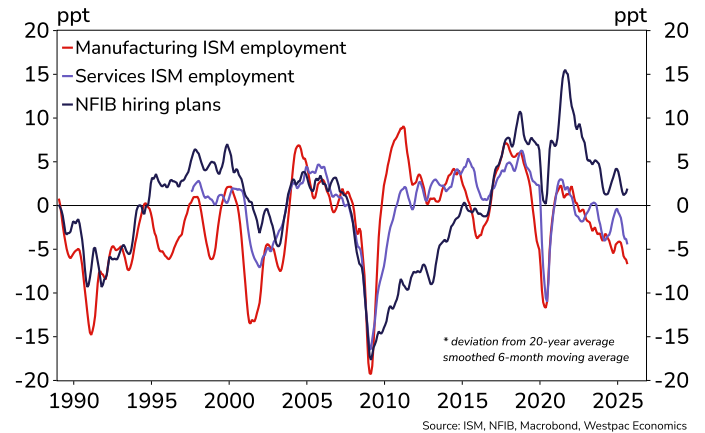
**Oct 3, payrolls, Last: 22k, WBC f/c: 55k, Mkt f/c: 50k**  
**Oct 3, U/E rate, Last: 4.3%, WBC f/c: 4.3%, Mkt f/c: 4.3%**

The combination of a weak 22k gain for payrolls in August and an annual revision to March 2025 which effectively wiped out half the employment gains over the prior 12 months has seen the market take a sombre view of the US labour market outlook.

September's update is likely to confirm there is cause for concern, but not hype the market's anxiety, with payrolls expected to rise 55k and revisions to the prior two months to be modest.

The unemployment rate is likely to hold at 4.3% in September, although risks lay to the upside given the recent decline in participation which is susceptible to a partial reversal. Had the participation rate been unchanged over the past year, the unemployment rate would now be 4.6%.

## Labour market risks one sided



# What to watch

	For	Data/Event	Unit	Last	Market f/c	Westpac f/c	Risk/Comment
<b>Mon 29</b>							
NZ	Aug	Monthly Employment Indicator	%mth	0.2	–	0.0	Weekly snapshots point to flat month; July likely revised down.
Eur	Sep	Consumer Confidence	index	–14.9	–	–	Final estimate.
	Sep	EC Economic Confidence Survey	index	95.2	–	–	Confidence fragile as manuf. sector shows signs of strain.
US	Aug	Pending Home Sales	%mth	–0.4	0.1	–	Leading indicator for existing home sales.
	Sep	Dallas Fed Manufacturing Survey	index	–1.8	–	–	Regional conditions are varied, Texas improving.
<b>Tue 30</b>							
Aus	Aug	Dwelling Approvals	%mth	–8.2	2.8	0.5	A soft month on the cards.
	Aug	Private Sector Credit	%mth	0.7	0.6	0.6	Pick-up in the housing market to flow through gradually.
		RBA Policy Decision	%	3.60	3.60	3.60	Sep on hold, base case remains for cuts in Nov, Feb and May.
NZ	Sep	ANZ Business Confidence	index	49.7	–	–	Current conditions still soft, confidence firmer.
Jpn	Aug	Industrial Production	%mth	–0.4	–0.8	–	Softer demand likely to see production ease.
Chn	Sep	Manufacturing PMI	index	49.4	49.6	–	While stimulus and front-running of US tariffs have...
	Sep	Non-Manufacturing PMI	index	50.3	50.2	–	...supported production and growth, further stimulus...
	Sep	RatingDog PMI Services	index	53.0	–	–	...will be needed to ensure growth remains strong...
	Sep	RatingDog Manufacturing PMI	index	50.5	–	–	...over the medium-term.
UK	Q2	GDP	%qtr	0.3	–	–	Final estimate.
US	Sep	Chicago PMI	index	41.5	–	–	Indicator continues its year long run of moving sideways.
	Aug	JOLTS Job Openings	000s	7181	7100	–	Vacancy-to-unemp. ratio <1 for the first time since Apr-2021.
	Sep	CB Consumer Confidence	index	97.4	95.8	–	Has stalled after regaining half of its tariff induced decline.
		Fedspeak	–	–	–	–	Bostic, Jefferson, Goolsbee.
<b>Wed 01</b>							
Aus	Sep	CoreLogic Home Value Index	%mth	0.8	–	0.9	Daily measures show a further acceleration in price growth.
NZ	Aug	Building Permits	%mth	5.4	–	–5.0	Annual consent issuance continue to track around 34k.
Jpn	Q3	Tankan Large Manufacturers	index	13	15	–	Manufacturing conditions key to assessing demand.
Eur	Sep	HICP	%ann	2.0	–	–	Base effects expected to push headline rate higher.
US	Sep	ADP Employment Change	000s	54	50	–	Pace of hiring has been relatively subdued in recent months.
	Sep	ISM Manufacturing PMI	index	48.7	49.2	–	Regional surveys have largely signalled weaker conditions.
	Aug	Construction Spending	%mth	–0.1	–0.1	–	Has declined for 5mths in a row, with another fall expected.
		Fedspeak	–	–	–	–	Logan.
World	Sep	Manufacturing PMIs	index	–	–	–	Final estimates for Japan, UK, Eurozone and US.
<b>Thu 02</b>							
Aus	Aug	Trade Balance	\$bn	7.3	6.1	5.9	Surplus to narrow but remain near the top end of 2025.
	Aug	Household Spending Indicator	%mth	0.5	0.3	0.0	Support from hospitality spending likely faded in August.
		RBA Financial Stability Review	–	–	–	–	Assessment of risks to financial stability.
Eur	Aug	Unemployment Rate	%	6.2	–	–	Not budging from historically low levels.
US		Initial Jobless Claims	000s	218	–	–	To remain low for now.
	Aug	Factory Orders	%mth	–1.3	0.1	–	A small rise expected following two straight declines.
		Fedspeak	–	–	–	–	Logan.
<b>Fri 03</b>							
NZ	Sep	ANZ Commodity Prices	%mth	0.7	–	–	Weaker exchange rate makes commodities more expensive.
Jpn	Aug	Jobless Rate	%	2.3	2.4	–	Demographics and services boost to keep unemployment low.
US	Sep	ISM Non-Manufacturing	index	52.0	52.0	–	Labour market risks at the forefront.
	Sep	Nonfarm Payrolls	000s	22	50	55	Downside risks to the labour market are beginning to...
	Sep	Average Hourly Earnings	%mth	0.3	0.3	–	...materialise resulting in a sombre outlook for the...
	Sep	Unemployment Rate	%	4.3	4.3	4.3	...US labour market.
		Fedspeak	–	–	–	–	Williams.
World	Sep	Services PMIs	index	–	–	–	Final estimates for Japan, UK, Eurozone and US.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The forecasts given above are predictive in character. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure that the assumptions on which the forecasts are based are reasonable, the forecasts may be affected by incorrect assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. The results ultimately achieved may differ substantially from these forecasts.

# Economic & financial forecasts

## Interest rate forecasts

Australia	Latest (26 Sep)	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27
Cash	3.60	3.35	3.10	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85
90 Day BBSW	3.60	3.30	3.05	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95
3 Year Swap	3.54	3.40	3.45	3.50	3.60	3.70	3.80	3.90	3.95	4.00
3 Year Bond	3.59	3.45	3.50	3.55	3.65	3.75	3.85	3.90	3.95	4.00
10 Year Bond	4.38	4.35	4.45	4.55	4.60	4.65	4.70	4.75	4.80	4.85
10 Year Spread to US (bps)	21	15	15	15	10	5	0	-5	-5	-5
<b>United States</b>										
Fed Funds	4.125	4.125	3.875	3.875	3.875	3.875	3.875	3.875	3.875	3.875
US 10 Year Bond	4.17	4.20	4.30	4.40	4.50	4.60	4.70	4.80	4.85	4.90
<b>New Zealand</b>										
Cash	3.00	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.50	2.75	3.00	3.25	3.75
90 Day Bill	2.83	2.35	2.35	2.35	2.45	2.70	2.95	3.20	3.45	3.85
2 Year Swap	2.68	2.70	2.90	3.15	3.35	3.55	3.70	3.85	3.95	4.00
10 Year Bond	4.23	4.20	4.30	4.45	4.55	4.70	4.85	4.90	4.95	4.95
10 Year Spread to US (bps)	6	0	0	5	5	10	15	10	10	5

## Exchange rate forecasts

	Latest (26 Sep)	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27
AUD/USD	0.6540	0.68	0.69	0.70	0.71	0.71	0.72	0.72	0.73	0.73
NZD/USD	0.5767	0.59	0.60	0.61	0.62	0.62	0.63	0.64	0.64	0.65
USD/JPY	149.70	145	143	141	139	137	135	133	132	131
EUR/USD	1.1678	1.18	1.19	1.19	1.20	1.20	1.21	1.21	1.21	1.21
GBP/USD	1.3351	1.36	1.36	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.38	1.38	1.38
USD/CNY	7.1328	7.10	7.05	7.00	6.95	6.90	6.80	6.70	6.60	6.50
AUD/NZD	1.1342	1.15	1.16	1.15	1.15	1.14	1.14	1.13	1.13	1.12

## Australian economic forecasts

	2025				2026				Calendar years			
% Change	Q1	Q2	Q3f	Q4f	Q1f	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f	2024	2025f	2026f	2027f
GDP %qtr	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	-	-	-	-
%yr end	1.4	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.3	1.9	2.4	2.6
Unemployment rate %	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.3
Wages (WPI) %qtr	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	-	-	-	-
%yr end	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.1
CPI Headline %qtr	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.5	-	-	-	-
%yr end	2.4	2.1	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.4	2.6	2.4	3.0	2.6	2.5
CPI Trimmed Mean %qtr	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	-	-	-	-
%yr end	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.3	3.2	2.6	2.3	2.5

## New Zealand economic forecasts

	2025				2026				Calendar years			
% Change	Q1	Q2	Q3f	Q4f	Q1f	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f	2024	2025f	2026f	2027f
GDP %qtr	0.9	-0.9	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.8	1.2	-	-	-	-
Annual avg change	-1.1	-1.1	-0.4	0.4	0.8	1.6	2.1	2.5	-0.6	0.4	2.5	3.5
Unemployment rate %	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.6	5.1	5.3	4.6	4.2
CPI %qtr	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.4	-	-	-	-
Annual change	2.5	2.7	3.1	3.0	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.2	3.0	2.0	2.1

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The forecasts given above are predictive in character. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure that the assumptions on which the forecasts are based are reasonable, the forecasts may be affected by incorrect assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. The results ultimately achieved may differ substantially from these forecasts.



# Corporate Directory

## Westpac Economics / Australia

### Sydney

Level 19, 275 Kent Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Australia

E: [economics@westpac.com.au](mailto:economics@westpac.com.au)

### Luci Ellis

Chief Economist Westpac Group  
E: [luci.ellis@westpac.com.au](mailto:luci.ellis@westpac.com.au)

### Matthew Hassan

Head of Australian Macro–Forecasting  
E: [mhassan@westpac.com.au](mailto:mhassan@westpac.com.au)

### Elliot Clarke

Head of International Economics  
E: [eclarke@westpac.com.au](mailto:eclarke@westpac.com.au)

### Sian Fenner

Head of Business and Industry Economics  
E: [sian.fenner@westpac.com.au](mailto:sian.fenner@westpac.com.au)

### Justin Smirk

Senior Economist  
E: [jsmirk@westpac.com.au](mailto:jsmirk@westpac.com.au)

### Pat Bustamante

Senior Economist  
E: [pat.bustamante@westpac.com.au](mailto:pat.bustamante@westpac.com.au)

### Mantas Vanagas

Senior Economist  
E: [mantas.vanagas@westpac.com.au](mailto:mantas.vanagas@westpac.com.au)

### Illiana Jain

Economist  
E: [illiana.jain@westpac.com.au](mailto:illiana.jain@westpac.com.au)

### Neha Sharma

Economist  
E: [neha.sharma1@westpac.com.au](mailto:neha.sharma1@westpac.com.au)

### Ryan Wells

Economist  
E: [ryan.wells@westpac.com.au](mailto:ryan.wells@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](mailto:economics@westpac.co.nz)

### Kelly Eckhold

Chief Economist NZ  
E: [kelly.eckhold@westpac.co.nz](mailto:kelly.eckhold@westpac.co.nz)

### Michael Gordon

Senior Economist  
E: [michael.gordon@westpac.co.nz](mailto:michael.gordon@westpac.co.nz)

### Darren Gibbs

Senior Economist  
E: [darren.gibbs@westpac.co.nz](mailto:darren.gibbs@westpac.co.nz)

### Satish Ranchhod

Senior Economist  
E: [satish.ranchhod@westpac.co.nz](mailto:satish.ranchhod@westpac.co.nz)

### Paul Clark

Industry Economist  
E: [paul.clarke@westpac.co.nz](mailto:paul.clarke@westpac.co.nz)

## Westpac Economics / Fiji

### Suva

1 Thomson Street  
Suva, Fiji

### Shamal Chand

Senior Economist  
E: [shamal.chand@westpac.com.au](mailto:shamal.chand@westpac.com.au)



 [westpaciq.com.au](http://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](http://www.westpac.co.nz).

**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

Disclaimer continues overleaf ►



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.

**Fiji:** Unless otherwise specified, the products and services for Westpac Fiji are available from [www.westpac.com.fj](http://www.westpac.com.fj) © Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141. This information does not take your personal circumstances into account and before acting on it you should consider the appropriateness of the information for your financial situation. Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141 is incorporated in NSW Australia and registered as a branch in Fiji. The liability of its members is limited.

**Papua New Guinea:** Unless otherwise specified, the products and services for Westpac PNG are available from [www.westpac.com.pg](http://www.westpac.com.pg) © Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141. This information does not take your personal circumstances into account and before acting on it you should consider the appropriateness of the information for your financial situation. Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141 is incorporated in NSW Australia. Westpac is represented in Papua New Guinea by Westpac Bank - PNG - Limited. The liability of its members is limited.

**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.