



Week beginning 26 October 2026

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND WEEKLY

Analysis and forecasts for this week's key releases.

In this week's edition:

Economic Insight: Open mouth operations.

The Week That Was: Managing Expectations.

Focus on New Zealand: RBNZ now expected to hike in October.

For the week ahead:

Australia: CPI, RBA senate appearance, private sector credit, PPI, export and import price index.

New Zealand: RBNZ policy decision, employment indicators, business confidence, consumer confidence.

China: NBS manufacturing and Non-manufacturing PMIs, industrial profits.

Japan: BoJ policy decision, Tokyo CPI, jobless rate, industrial production.

Euro Area: ECB policy decision, Q3 GDP, unemployment rate, economic confidence.

Canada: BoC policy decision.

United States: FOMC policy decision, Q3 GDP, PCE deflator, personal income and spending.

Information contained in this report current as at 23 October 2026.

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.

Open mouth operations



Luci Ellis
Chief Economist, Westpac Group

- **Central banks' communication is carefully scrutinised for every nuance. Lately, there seems to have been more RBA communication to pore over. The method of delivery has also evolved. This has sometimes caused confusion when tone seems to vary. Different audiences call for different tone and varying complexity.**
- **The content has evolved, too. RBA officials are increasingly using speeches directed to professional audiences to discuss more technical estimates of inferred variables such as neutral rates and financial conditions. They are also highlighting that monetary policy combats inflation in more ways than just squeezing mortgage holders.**
- **One thing has not changed: the RBA is not in the business of providing 'forward guidance' promises about the future path of interest rates. It does, however, give more running commentary about how it is interpreting recent data. These interpretations are themselves useful signals about what the RBA thinks it might do.**

Market participants pore over every utterance by central banks for clues to future rate moves. They will have plenty to pore over in the run-up to the November RBA decision. After the flurry of fireside chats this week, '60 Minutes' will run a pre-recorded interview with chief economist Sarah Hunter on Sunday. Next Wednesday, the whole senior policy team will appear before Senate Estimates, just as the quarterly CPI is released. (This timing will have been the Senate's choice, not the RBA's.) After the decision will come the *Statement on Monetary Policy*, a media release and press conference. More speeches will follow, including one by the Deputy Governor on the Thursday.

RBA communication does seem to have changed, not just following the RBA Review but also more recently. There may be fewer policy meetings each year, but the communication outside that certainly feels more frequent than a couple of years ago. Back in 2024, speaking engagements felt a little sparse outside the post-meeting media conference and parliamentary appearances. We have counted 58 public engagements so far this year on the Speeches page on the RBA's website. This compares with 58 for the whole of last year and 52 in 2024. Excluding the 'compulsory' press conferences and parliamentary appearances, fewer than half of the 2024 events were related to economics, markets and monetary policy.

The 'how' has changed

The way the RBA communicates with markets has changed as well. There are fewer set-piece speeches on policy and a

lot more semi-scripted 'fireside chats'. Compared with a few years ago, there are more interviews across a wide range of media. This is a big change from the pre-Review world. It was a huge deal when the previous Governor appeared on the *7:30 Report*; it is hard to imagine him agreeing to an Assistant Governor appearing on *60 Minutes*.

Part of the change reflects increased efforts to reach a general audience. Central banks want to explain why they do what they do. This matters especially when interest rates are rising but the household sector is not the source of the inflation.

Speaking differently to different audiences can sometimes confuse markets. As the RBA's Chief Communication Officer [highlighted](#) in a recent panel discussion, the post-meeting media conference is designed to speak to the public. Market participants and economists certainly tune in, but we are not the primary audience. So, if you think that what the Governor said in the media conference sounded more 'dovish' than what another official says in a more market-oriented forum, it is partly because she is trying to convey that the RBA understands that its recent policy actions are making things harder for many Australians. But this is in much the same way that a doctor might say, "This might hurt a bit." It does, but that will not stop the treatment.

A related issue is that it is easier to control tone in pre-drafted material such as the minutes and set-piece speeches than in unstructured Q&A. Senior central bankers are trained to be careful with their words in unscripted settings. If the tone differs, the minutes are still more likely to say what the Board really means than an off-the-cuff answer.

"The RBA does not want to promise what it will do, but it is increasingly trying to tell us what it thinks."

Greater communication with the broader public might have reduced the pressure to make the set-piece speeches more accessible. Research on central bank communication often uses measures such as the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level and Flesch Reading Ease score. A comprehensive analysis was beyond the scope of this note. However, a spot comparison suggests four speeches from 2026 ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)) were harder to read than four from 2021 ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)). The 2021 speeches scored in the 11 to 12 range, which is high-school-level

complexity. The 2026 speeches scored between 12 and 15, which is academic or technically dense text requiring university-level education. (Including two of my own 2021 speeches is an obvious caveat, but the two speeches by then-Governor Phil Lowe also scored better on these metrics than the sample from this year. It should be noted, though, that readability metrics do not necessarily imply better clarity if the concepts discussed are more abstract.)

The ‘what’ has changed

As noted above, the content of RBA communication has evolved, too. As its intellectual framework has begun to put more weight on the balance of supply and demand, and those invisible ‘star’ variables (NAIRUs, neutral real rates, ‘financial conditions’, etc.), the communication to professional audiences has increasingly focused on those topics.

More recently, the RBA has also placed more emphasis on the full range of transmission channels from interest rates to inflation (though not, as we have [noted previously](#), the labour supply channel). This is understandable in a world of supply shocks. People need to understand that monetary policy is not simply an exercise in hitting mortgage borrowers. We doubt they would be comforted, though, by the Deputy Governor’s explanation this week that the ‘cashflow channel’ was the smallest of the transmission channels from interest rates to inflation, with the exchange rate much more prominent. That implies a lot of pain for a small group, for little effect on inflation. It raises the question of whether other policy tools or institutional arrangements might get the same effect on inflation through the other channels without hitting a minority of households disproportionately.

We have also seen a move away from using catchphrases to summarise the position. From ‘narrow path’ to ‘not ruling anything in or out’ to ‘cautious and predictable’, once entrenched, a phrase can outlast its usefulness.

One thing that has not changed is the way the minutes record the presentations to the Board and the members’ discussion. The minutes rarely convey much new information beyond the post-meeting statements. Sometimes, though, the minutes reveal the Board’s reaction to the staff’s analysis. The [August 2024 minutes](#) were a good example: the discussion highlighted just how sensitive the forecasts were to key judgements by the staff.

The ‘why’ has not changed

Despite these changes, the underlying objectives of the RBA’s communication have not changed. It wants to explain – and perhaps justify – its decisions. And it wants to describe how it interprets incoming data, especially inflation, the labour market and the balance of supply and demand.

The RBA, like any central bank, is not really in the business of providing ‘forward guidance’ about future moves. Circumstances change, so it can never guarantee a particular future path for interest rates. Some academic literature argues that promising to keep rates low for a long time (or high,

for that matter) independently amplifies the transmission of monetary policy beyond the effect of current-period interest rates alone, by shifting the short end of the yield curve. Central banks including the RBA have certainly tried jawboning in this way from time to time. The prevailing view, though, is that the potential cost of reputational loss if things do not turn out as predicted outweighs the benefits of a slightly stronger transmission mechanism.

In this context, it is the interpretation of data that provides the signal about future policy directions. This is why it was [noteworthy](#) that the Governor still characterised the labour market as ‘a little tight’ after the September meeting, even though the Board’s post-meeting communication did not. We have been [noting](#) for some time that the RBA staff have a downbeat view of supply capacity. Together with the RBA’s oft-stated concerns about inflation, this is why the Deputy Governor’s ‘hawkishness’ did not surprise us.

Cliff Notes: managing expectations

Elliot Clarke, Head of International Economics
Ryan Wells, Economist
Illiana Jain, Economist

With little domestic data of significance, participants' attention focused on RBA Deputy Governor Hauser's [fireside chat](#), which saw an abrupt shift in market expectations of a follow-up rate hike at the November meeting.

Hauser warned in his remarks that the current inflation outlook was "materially worse" than the RBA's August forecasts. Three upside inflation risks were characterised as having "crystallised" ahead of the September meeting – the Middle East, the AI boom, and domestic supply constraints. Hauser noted the Middle East picture "looks worse" given oil prices are "about a third higher than [the RBA] assumed in August". He then positioned AI and data centre developments among an "extraordinary sequence of positive demand shocks around the world", with "higher AI prices, tech prices feeding through into CPI". Finally, on domestic capacity pressures, the Deputy Governor noted that "inflation's been coming in at or a little bit above expectations, despite an apparent easing in the labour market". He went on to state that the staff are currently assessing "whether [the RBA] need to change [its] judgement on capacity pressures in the labour market again" – in other words, revise up their assumption for the NAIRU.

Hauser's comments prompted a material reassessment of market pricing for a follow-up November hike, from just a 20% chance at the end of last week to a 50/50 proposition today ahead of next week's Q3 CPI. For that release, we are forecasting a 1.3% (4.1%yr) lift in headline inflation and a 0.9 (3.5%yr) increase in trimmed mean inflation. Our [preview](#) provides more detail behind the component mix for Q3 as well as our upward revisions to the preliminary Q4 forecast. Provided inflation prints broadly in line with our expectations, the RBA is likely to hike by 25bp at the November meeting.

Across in New Zealand, [consumer prices rose 0.7% in Q3](#) and annual inflation eased from 4.1%yr to 3.7%yr. Under the surface of this 'as expected' read though, several closely watched measures of core inflation took a step higher to now be at or slightly above the top of the RBNZ's target band. Our NZ economics team consequently expect the RBNZ will raise the OCR 25bps to 3.00% at its October policy review, while retaining a 4.00% terminal OCR forecast for September 2027.

Earlier in the week, [China's economy surprised](#) to the upside in Q3, GDP growth accelerating from 0.9%qtr to 1.2%qtr, lifting annual growth from 4.3%yr to 4.5%yr – keeping authorities on track to achieve their 4.5–5.0% full-year growth objective.

While annual retail sales growth improved in September, rising from 0.4%yr to 1.1%yr, the current pace of growth is only a quarter of the gain seen just a year ago and very weak versus history. Consumer spending continues to be constrained by weak confidence, particularly with respect to employment prospects and wealth. On housing wealth, five years into the property downturn, house prices continue to decline month-on-month and investment remains in a deep downturn, –20.6%ytd.

“With little domestic data of significance, participants' attention focused on RBA Deputy Governor Hauser's fireside chat. Offshore, China GDP was the key release. ”

Total fixed asset investment has been detracting from annual GDP growth since April owing to a lull in high-tech investment, a lack of confidence in future demand amongst domestically oriented businesses as well as property's malaise. For aggregate growth to hold up through 2027 and 2028 as the contribution from net exports moderates, broad-based stimulus in scale will prove necessary. Expect recent targeted support measures to be broadened and given much greater scale in coming months.

Finally, in the UK, inflation accelerated from 3.1%yr to 3.5%yr in September, exceeding both market expectations and the Bank of England's July forecast. The surprise was largely driven by energy, fuel prices rising 5.4%mt. However, core inflation also edged up from 2.6%yr to 2.8%yr as services inflation increased from 3.4%yr to 3.7%yr. While not an immediate concern inflation, the labour market showing resilience, the ILO unemployment rate falling from 4.9% to 4.7% in August, suggests demand risks for inflation will need close monitoring as well as supply-side concerns.

Next week will see the focus once again return to the US as the FOMC meet and US Q3 GDP is released. For both events, the implications for risks to the outlook will be the focus. The week after, the US mid-term elections are due.

RBNZ now expected to hike in October



Satish Ranchhod
Senior Economist

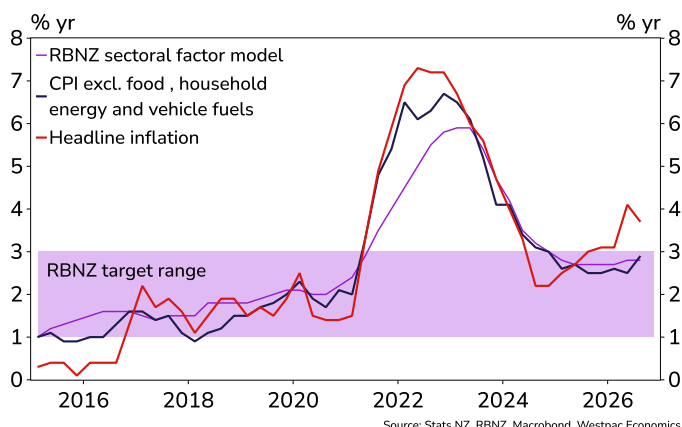
We now expect the RBNZ will deliver a 25bp hike at its policy review on 28 October. While September quarter inflation was slightly below the RBNZ's forecast, the underlying detail was firm. More recently, increases in fuel prices point to a material lift in inflation by year-end. We expect further interest rate increases over the coming months, with the OCR reaching a peak of 4% next year.

Softer headline inflation but firm core pressures leave RBNZ on course to hike in October

We now expect the RBNZ to raise the Official Cash Rate by 25bp at its October policy review (previously, we had expected a pause at this meeting). This change in view reflects significant upside risks to near-term inflation relative to the RBNZ's previous forecast.

While in line with [our forecast](#), the September quarter inflation figures were slightly softer than the RBNZ expected, with prices rising 3.7% over the past year (compared with the RBNZ's forecast of 3.9%). However, the details were less reassuring. Excluding volatile items such as food and fuel, underlying inflation pressures remained firm. Closely watched measures of core inflation moved higher and now sit close to, or a little above, the top of the RBNZ's target band. We also saw an increase in the number of goods recording price rises, taking that measure back to levels seen in the wake of the pandemic.

New Zealand headline and core inflation



Alongside the existing firmness in underlying inflation, the risks for inflation over the coming quarters are firmly tilted to the upside. That near-term upside risk has also been noted by the Governor. Following a sharp rise in global fuel costs, we

expect inflation to reach 4.3% by the end of this year (above the RBNZ's September MPS forecast for +3.9%). While that is mainly due to higher prices at the pump, businesses in sectors such as construction are also reporting related increases in transport and materials costs. Consistent with those trends, we expect core inflation to remain in the upper part of the RBNZ's target band through 2027.

Reinforcing the case for an OCR hike at the October meeting, the New Zealand dollar is notably weaker than the RBNZ assumed: on a trade-weighted basis, the NZD is currently 3.6% below the RBNZ's September projections. If sustained, that would add to inflation pressures over the next few quarters. We suspect this will not have shifted the RBNZ's medium-term outlook for inflation.

Several other developments need to be weighed against that firmer inflation outlook. First, wholesale long-term interest rates have risen markedly, and there has also been a more moderate rise in some mortgage rates. The RBNZ is likely to note the role of those increases in managing medium-term inflation risks.

In addition, the RBNZ is likely to continue to emphasise that there is little evidence of a lift in businesses' longer-term plans for price setting at this stage in response to the rise in energy prices (sometimes referred to as "second-round inflation effects"). We expect the RBNZ to highlight the risk that more persistent inflation pressures could emerge, depending on the duration of the oil price shock.

We also expect the RBNZ to note that the labour market remains cyclically weak and is not a significant driver of inflation. Employment growth that remains weak relative to labour force growth, subdued growth in job vacancies and low labour market turnover are consistent with this view and could be emphasised.

Finally, the RBNZ is likely to acknowledge that while the global growth outlook remains solid, there are significant downside risks from the Iran war and concerns about the sustainability of the AI investment cycle.

Balancing those concerns, we think the MPC will lift the cash rate next week. However, a vote seems very possible as differences in view will likely remain among the MPC about how much the medium-term inflation outlook has really shifted in recent weeks.

In September, the bulk of the MPC saw upside risks to the inflation outlook while two members (Conway and Hansen) thought the risks were balanced. Recent developments will not have made those seeing upside risks to inflation more

comfortable, while the more dovish MPC members will likely focus on the ongoing downside risks for growth given continued softness in house prices and the mounting pressure on real incomes. Indeed, all MPC members saw some degree of downside risks to growth which likely remain relevant. All these messages should remain in the RBNZ's updated views.

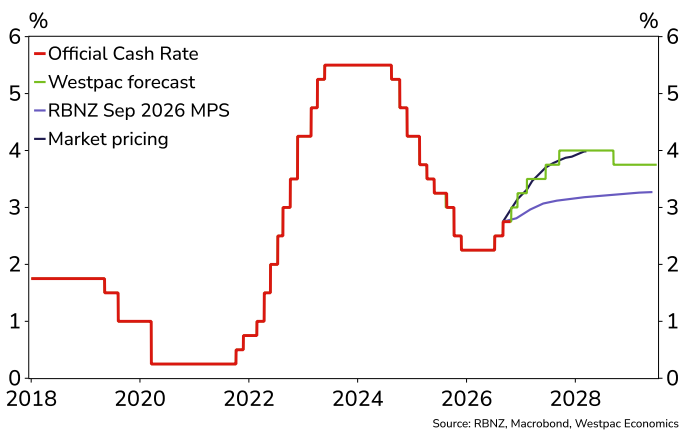
The MPC is likely to continue to present its decision as a gradual evolution of the approach taken since July: a higher OCR now provides insurance against the need for a much higher OCR later if upside risks to medium-term inflation materialise. We doubt the aim will be to push market interest rates materially higher.

RBNZ to leave door open for further hikes, OCR still expected to peak at 4% in 2027

In its forward guidance, the RBNZ is likely to leave open the option of raising the OCR further at the December Monetary Policy Statement, without presenting an increase as certain. While the RBNZ will not publish an updated OCR projection at this review, the press statement is likely to note that further increases may be needed, depending on economic conditions. The September projection showed the OCR eventually rising to 3.25%.

We expect the RBNZ will end up delivering another 25bp hike in December, followed by a further hike in February. That would take the OCR to 3.5%, roughly where the RBNZ estimates the neutral rate to be. At that point, we expect the RBNZ to slow the pace of rate increases (previously, we had expected that point to be reached a little later).

RBNZ Official Cash Rate



We continue to expect further 25bp hikes at the June and September 2027 meetings, taking the OCR to a peak of 4.0%. While oil prices are generating significant swings in inflation, underlying pressures remain firm. More restrictive conditions are likely to be needed to bring core inflation sustainably back to 2%.

Scenarios

Our central scenario, with a probability of around 60%, is that the RBNZ increases the OCR by 25bp and signals that a further increase in December remains an option, without committing to a markedly tighter future stance than it outlined in September.

Alternative scenarios include:

- A hawkish scenario (around a 20% probability) would see the OCR increase to 3%, with the RBNZ placing greater emphasis on upside risks to core and medium-term inflation. That would suggest an upward revision to the RBNZ's projected OCR path in December. Downside risks to the exchange rate could also be emphasised.
- A dovish scenario (around a 20% probability) would see the RBNZ leave the OCR unchanged and signal that the medium-term inflation outlook has not changed meaningfully from its September forecast, despite higher near-term inflation. In this scenario, the RBNZ would reiterate its previous forecast: a 25bp increase in December and one further hike during 2027.

How might the election play into the decision?

While next week's meeting is close to the General Election on 7 November, the decision taken by the MPC will not be politically motivated. However, the election outcome is close. And should it result in a Labour Party-led coalition, it seems likely the new government would adopt the Labour Party's promise to restore the RBNZ's dual mandate. That would require the MPC to weigh the degree of labour market slack more highly in its deliberations. As the degree of labour market slack currently seems high, a new mandate might justify the MPC taking more time to return inflation to the middle of the target range ([our earlier note](#) discusses this issue). This could figure into the deliberations of some MPC members if the decision between leaving the OCR unchanged and raising it now is viewed as finely balanced.

AUS: Q3/Sep CPI (%qtr/%mth)

Oct 28, Quarter, Last: 0.6%, Westpac f/c: 1.3%, Market f/c: 1.3%, Range: 0.6 to 1.4.

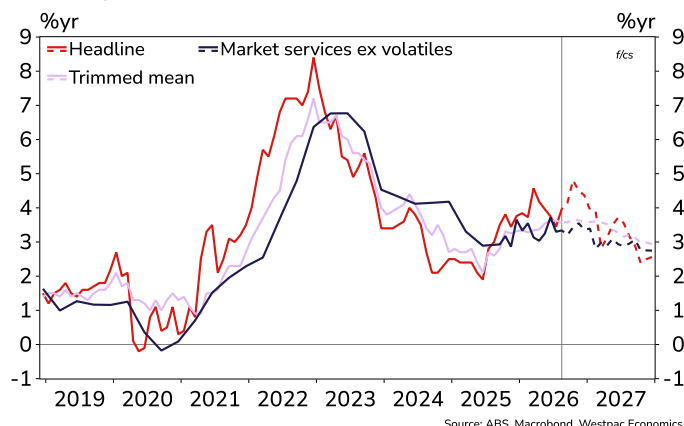
Oct 28, Month, Last: 0.4%, Westpac f/c: 0.6%, Market f/c: 0.6 Range: 0.3 to 0.8

As noted in the review of the [August CPI](#), our September quarter CPI estimate is unchanged at 1.3%qtr holding the annual pace flat at 3.9%yr. At the margin there was a 0.04ppt increase due to a lift in auto fuel but it still rounds to 1.3%. The seasonally adjusted CPI gains 1.1% highlighting that part of the increase is due to usual seasonality.

In the month, the September CPI is expected to rise 0.6% with the annual pace lifting to 4.1%yr. Recreation & culture make the largest contribution but transport is not far behind. Our seasonally adjusted estimate increases 0.5%.

For more details please see "[September CPI Preview](#)".

Monthly inflation indicators



AUS: Q3/Sep Trimmed Mean (%qtr/%mth)

Oct 28, Quarter, Last: 0.8%, Westpac f/c: 0.9%, Market f/c: 1.0%, Range: 0.9 to 1.0.

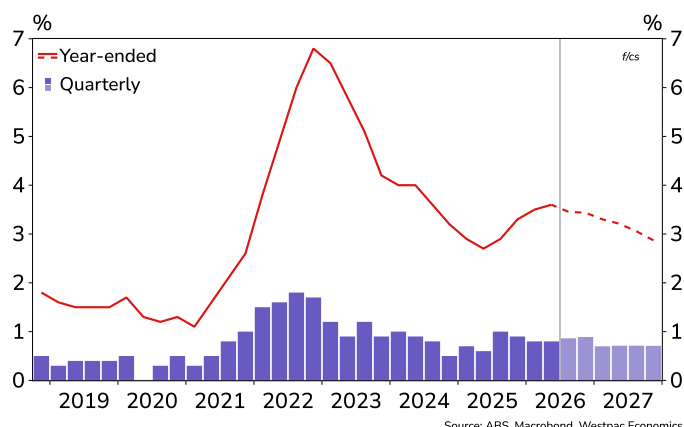
Oct 28, Month, Last: 0.2%, Westpac f/c: 0.3%, Market f/c: 0.3%, Range: 0.2 to 0.4

Our September quarter Trimmed Mean estimate is unchanged at 0.9%qtr with the annual pace dipping a touch from 3.6%yr to 3.5%yr. There was a small downward revision of 0.03ppt to 0.88% compared to our original published estimate but it still rounds to 0.9%qtr.

In the month of September we are looking for a 0.3% in the Trimmed Mean holding the annual pace steady at 3.6% which will be the fourth consecutive month at this pace. The distribution of the September Trimmed Mean ranges from -0.3% to 0.7%.

For more details please see "[September CPI Preview](#)".

Trimmed Mean Inflation



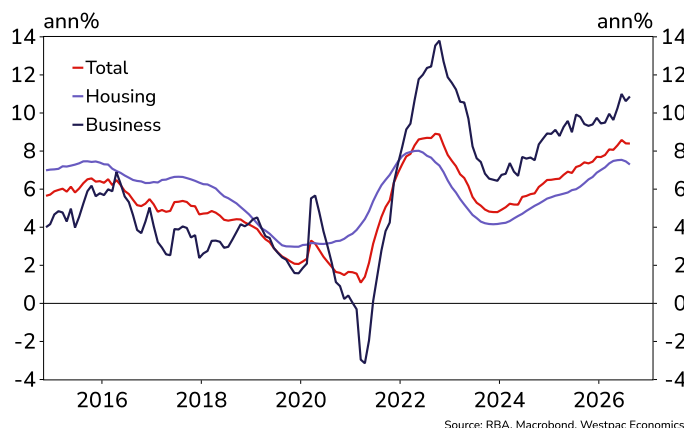
AUS: Sep Private Sector Credit (%mth)

Oct 30, Last: 0.6, Westpac f/c: 0.5 Market f/c: 0.5, Range: 0.4 to 0.6

Private sector credit growth came in slightly firmer than expected at 0.6% in August, above Westpac's and the market's forecast for a 0.5% gain, leaving credit growth running at 8.4%yr. Growth in housing credit continued to ease, as we expected, though the mix highlights that the waning in momentum is uneven, centred on investors rather than owner-occupiers. Business credit meanwhile remains a source of strength, notwithstanding some slowing recently.

For September, we expect credit growth to nudge to 0.5% mth, with the divergence between housing credit and business credit persisting.

Private sector credit growth

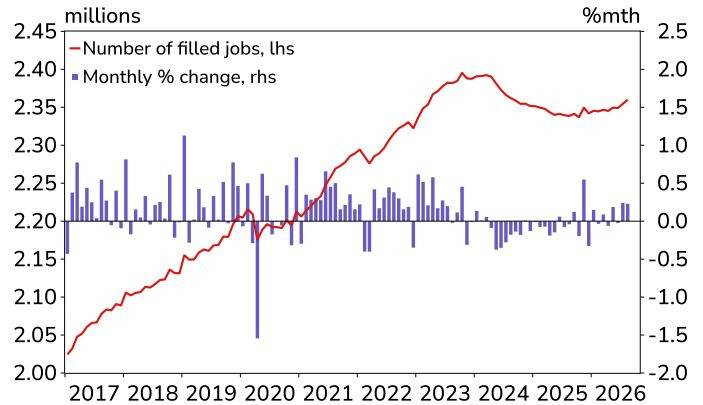


NZ: Sep Monthly Employment Indicator (%mth)

Oct 28, Last: 0.2, Westpac f/c: 0.3

The MEI has been gradually ticking higher in recent months, showing that the jobs market has held its ground through the Iran conflict and the consequent surge in fuel prices. The weekly snapshots provided by Stats NZ have been running ahead of year-ago levels and suggest another solid result for September – we’ve pencilled in a 0.3% increase. Given the history of this measure, however, both this month and the previous month are likely to be revised down a little from their initial release.

Monthly Employment Indicator

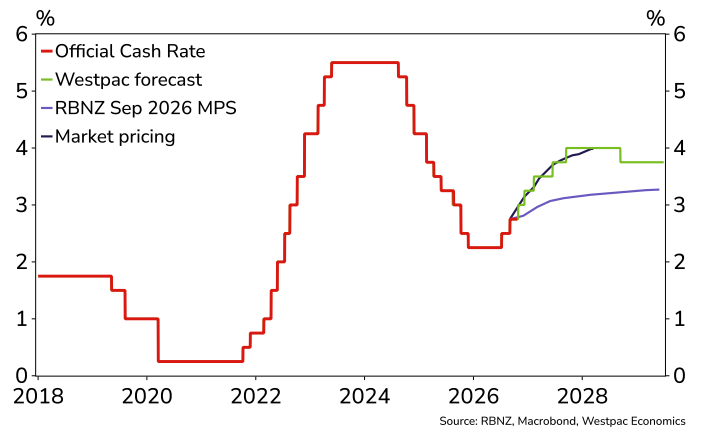


NZ: RBNZ Official Cash Rate Review (%)

Oct 28, Last: 2.75, Westpac f/c: 3.00, Mkt f/c: 3.00

We expect the RBNZ to raise the OCR by 25bps to 3% at the 28 October Review. Data since September show a higher outlook for year-end inflation and a stronger GDP starting point, but increased risks to domestic consumption and residential investment. On balance, the medium-term inflation picture will probably be judged to have worsened slightly given recent movements in energy prices and the exchange rate. A vote seems very possible as differences in view will likely remain among the MPC about how much the medium-term inflation outlook has really shifted in recent weeks. Forward guidance will likely leave open the option to raise the OCR further at the December Monetary Policy Statement without presenting it as a sure thing.

RBNZ Official Cash Rate

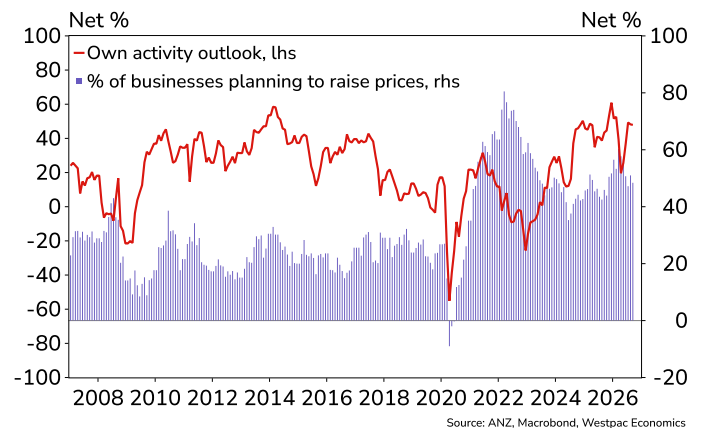


NZ: Oct ANZ Business Confidence (index)

Oct 29, Last: 51.9

Firms remained optimistic in the September survey of business confidence, with both the activity and inflation measures broadly holding steady. However, it’s likely that most responses were submitted in the early part of the month, while fuel prices took a sharp step higher from the second half of September. The survey comes too late for the RBNZ’s October policy review, but evidence about the breadth of cost and price pressures could have a bearing on the RBNZ’s thinking about the total amount of policy tightening needed in the months ahead.

ANZ Business Outlook survey



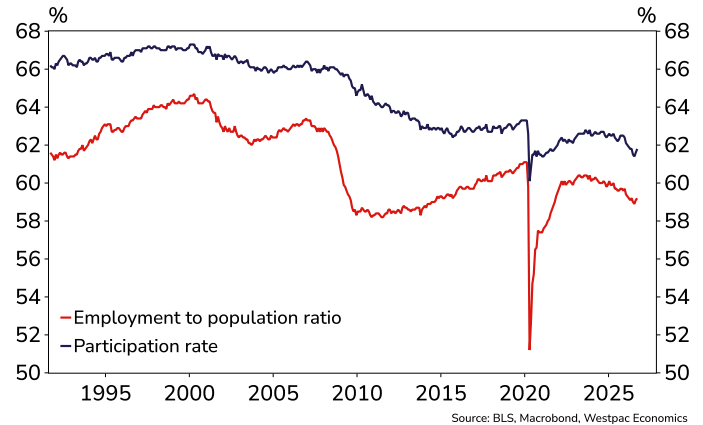
Oct FOMC meeting

Oct 27-28, Last: 3.875%, Mkt f/c: 3.875%, WBC f/c: 3.875%

Core CPI inflation and producer price inflation both surprised to the upside in September, and the price of Brent oil has risen back to around USD110. Underlying momentum in the economy also remains robust, although employment disappointed in the latest update. Given the concerns shown by Committee members over price risks and their collective resolve to return annual inflation to target, the above data could easily justify a follow-up hike at the October meeting.

That said, Committee members who have spoken recently have shown patience with respect to assessing the economy and positioning policy. The market has responded, effectively pricing out the chance of an October hike in favour of a December move, which is also our expectation.

Labour market is not a concern for inflation



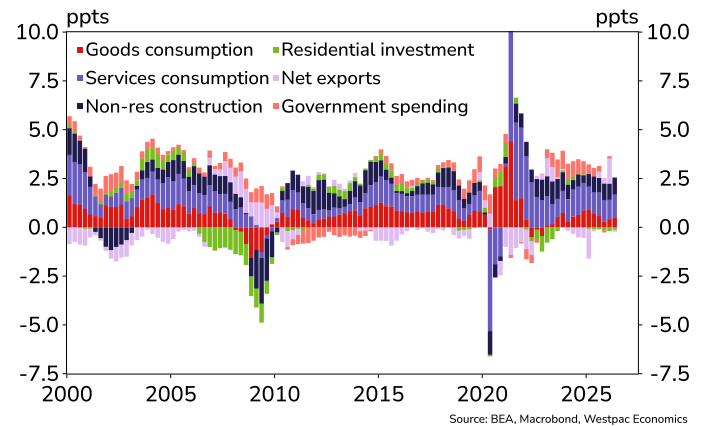
US Q3 GDP

Oct 29, %ann'd, Last: 2.2%, Mkt f/c: 3.0%, WBC f/c: 3.1%

The US economy continues to grow at a pace well above trend. This outperformance is almost entirely due to the strength of investment in data centres and other AI related assets. The pipeline for this activity remains strong, limiting near-term risks to the downside.

Abstracting from AI investment's contribution, other business investment and residential investment is weak, weighed down by high term interest rates and uncertainty related to trade policy. Household consumption growth is volatile month-to-month, but the trend is solid. Absent a marked deterioration in the labour market, which is not our expectation, this momentum is likely to persist, as wealth continues to grow and household income gains neutralises inflation. Come 2027 and 2028, growth is expected to slow to trend, but not below.

Growth supported by AI and consumer



What to watch

	For	Data/Event	Unit	Last	Market f/c	Westpac f/c	Risk/Comment
Sun 25							
	Aus	RBA Assist' Governor (Economic)	–	–	–	–	Hunter interviewed on 60 Minutes, 8:30pm AEDT.
Mon 26							
	Aus	RBA Assist' Governor (Fin System)	–	–	–	–	Jones panel participation at AFR Summit, 8:40am AEDT.
	Ger	Oct IFO Business Climate Survey	index	89.9	90.0	–	Recovered from initial Iran war shock, but delicately poised.
	US	Sep Chicago Fed Activity	index	–0.04	–0.10	–	Suggests growth is around trend, but likely underestimating.
		Oct Dallas Fed Manufacturing	index	9.8	–	–	Solid recovery, even in the face of higher fuel costs.
Tue 27							
	Chn	Sep Industrial Profits	%ann	4.2	–	–	Profit growth narrowly based; consumer-facing sluggish.
	US	Sep Durable Goods Orders	%mth	–0.1	1.4	–	Points to a solid underlying investment pulse.
		Aug S&P/CS Home Price Index	%mth	0.32	0.30	–	Prices continue to edge higher despite record long-term rates.
		Oct Richmond Fed Manufacturing	index	–2	–	–	Momentum fading over recent months.
		Sep New Home Sales	%mth	6.4	–6.4	–	Affordability limits number of buyers and available homes ...
		Oct Conf. Board Consumer Confidence	index	81.9	80.4	–	... which among other factors, is weighing heavily on confidence.
Wed 28							
	Aus	RBA Senate Appearance	–	–	–	–	RBA's top brass appear before Senate, 11:15am AEDT.
		Sep Headline CPI	%mth	0.4	0.6	0.6	Uptick in headline inflation anticipated in September month ...
		Sep Trimmed Mean CPI	%mth	0.2	0.3	0.3	... broad-based enough to see trimmed mean lift also.
		Q3 Headline CPI	%qtr	0.6	1.3	1.3	Chunky increase in Q3 headline inflation given fuel prices ...
		Q3 Trimmed Mean CPI	%qtr	0.8	1.0	0.9	... RBA will closely watch the quarterly trimmed mean.
	NZ	Sep Employment Indicator	%mth	0.2	–	0.3	August likely to be revised down from previous print.
		RBNZ Policy Decision	%	2.75	3.00	3.00	Near term inflation pressures have been mounting.
	US	Sep Wholesale Inventories	%mth	0.5	–	–	Business working hard to build inventory buffers.
		Oct FOMC Policy Decision	%	3.875	3.875	3.875	Committee members have advocated for patience near-term.
	Can	Oct BoC Policy Decision	%	2.25	2.25	–	Markets split on whether to BoC will hold or hike.
Thur 29							
	Aus	Q3 Export Price Index	%qtr	1.1	–	–	Mixed price action among Australia's key resource exports ...
		Q3 Import Price Index	%qtr	5.7	–	–	... while fuel prices remain a clear driver on the import side.
	NZ	Oct ANZ Business Confidence	index	51.9	–	–	Resilient in recent months, price pressures will be a key focus.
	Eur	Oct EC Economic Confidence	index	97.9	–	–	Sensitive to consumer sentiment, which remains sluggish.
		Oct ECB Policy Decision (Deposit Rate)	%	2.50	2.50	2.50	Will remain on hold, but one final rate hike due by year-end.
	US	Sep Personal Income	%mth	0.2	0.3	–	Nominal incomes rising at a slower pace than inflation ...
		Sep Personal Spending	%mth	0.9	0.6	–	... but consumer spending continues to charge ahead.
		Sep PCE Deflator	%mth	0.3	0.5	–	Fed's preferred inflation gauge to remain elevated.
		Initial Jobless Claims	000s	194	–	–	Still at a low level versus history.
		Q3 GDP	%ann'd	2.2	3.0	3.1	Growth well above trend, thanks to data centres and AI.
Fri 30							
	Aus	Q3 PPI	%qtr	1.3	–	–	Elevated fuel costs at the core of upstream price pressures.
		Sep Private Sector Credit	%mth	0.6	0.5	0.5	Investor credit growth continues to slow.
	NZ	Oct ANZ Consumer Confidence	index	97.6	–	–	Continued increases in fuel costs likely to weigh on sentiment.
	Jpn	Oct Tokyo CPI	%ann	2.7	2.7	–	Elevated core inflation gives green light for another rate hike.
		Sep Jobless Rate	%	2.5	2.5	–	Low, stable unemployment reflects a fairly tight labour market.
		Sep Industrial Production	%mth	–2.4	1.3	–	Factory output starting lift, albeit off a weak base.
		Oct BoJ Policy Decision	%	1.25	1.25	1.25	Expected to hold steady for now, hike in Dec looks likely.
	Eur	Q3 GDP	%qtr	0.6	0.2	–	Should still eke out some growth amid significant headwinds ...
		Sep Unemployment Rate	%	6.4	6.4	–	... low unemployment a positive sign of the region's health.
	US	Q3 Employment Cost Index	%qtr	0.9	0.8	–	Wages growth expected to tick slightly lower in Q3.
Sat 31							
	Chn	Oct NBS Manufacturing PMI	index	50.1	50.1	–	Bumping around broadly neutral so far this year ...
		Oct NBS Non-Manufacturing PMI	index	50.2	–	–	... policy stimulus should support services activity, in time.

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Economic & financial forecasts

Interest rate forecasts

Australia	Latest (23 Oct)	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27	Mar-28	Jun-28	Sep-28	Dec-28
Cash	4.60	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.60	4.35	4.10	3.85	3.85	3.85
90 Day BBSW	4.82	4.95	4.95	4.80	4.55	4.30	4.10	3.95	3.95	3.95
3 Year Swap	4.85	4.90	4.85	4.75	4.65	4.55	4.45	4.35	4.30	4.25
3 Year Bond	4.83	4.90	4.85	4.75	4.65	4.55	4.45	4.35	4.30	4.25
10 Year Bond	5.16	5.20	5.15	5.10	5.05	5.05	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
10 Year Spread to US (bps)	20	15	15	15	15	10	0	-5	-10	-15
United States										
Fed Funds	3.875	4.125	4.125	4.125	4.125	4.125	3.875	3.625	3.625	3.625
US 10 Year Bond	4.97	5.05	5.00	4.95	4.90	4.95	5.00	5.05	5.10	5.15
New Zealand										
Cash	2.75	3.25	3.50	3.75	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.75	3.75
90 Day Bill	3.31	3.60	3.75	4.00	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.15	3.95	3.95
2 Year Swap	4.04	3.95	4.10	4.25	4.20	4.20	4.15	4.15	4.10	4.10
10 Year Bond	4.90	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05
10 Year Spread to US (bps)	-6	-5	0	5	15	10	5	0	-5	-10

Exchange rate forecasts

	Latest (23 Oct)	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27	Mar-28	Jun-28	Sep-28	Dec-28
AUD/USD	0.7014	0.72	0.72	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	0.72
NZD/USD	0.5693	0.56	0.58	0.61	0.63	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.65	0.65
USD/JPY	156.94	156	154	153	152	151	150	149	148	146
EUR/USD	1.1213	1.14	1.16	1.18	1.20	1.21	1.22	1.22	1.21	1.21
GBP/USD	1.3394	1.34	1.35	1.36	1.38	1.39	1.40	1.41	1.41	1.40
USD/CNY	6.6729	6.65	6.60	6.50	6.45	6.40	6.35	6.35	6.30	6.30
AUD/NZD	1.2312	1.27	1.24	1.20	1.16	1.15	1.13	1.12	1.12	1.11

Australian economic forecasts

	2026				2027				Calendar years			
% change	Q1	Q2	Q3(f)	Q4(f)	Q1(f)	Q2(f)	Q3(f)	Q4(f)	2025	2026(f)	2027(f)	2028(f)
GDP %qtr	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	-	-	-	-
%yr end	2.5	2.1	2.2	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.6	2.6	1.5	1.6	2.4
Unemployment rate %	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.5
Wages (WPI) (sa) %qtr	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	-	-	-	-
%yr end	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.4
Headline CPI %qtr	1.4	0.6	1.3	1.3	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.5	-	-	-	-
%yr end	4.1	3.9	3.9	4.6	3.6	3.4	3.2	2.4	3.6	4.6	2.4	2.3
Trimmed Mean CPI %qtr	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	-	-	-	-
%yr end	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.5	2.9	2.4

New Zealand economic forecasts

	2026				2027				Calendar years			
% Change	Q1	Q2	Q3f	Q4f	Q1f	Q2f	Q3f	Q4f	2025	2026f	2027f	2028f
GDP %qtr	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.7	-	-	-	-
Annual avg change	0.9	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6	0.3	2.4	2.6	3.0
Unemployment rate %	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.4	5.5	5.0	4.4
CPI %qtr	0.9	1.5	0.7	1.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	-	-	-	-
Annual change	3.1	4.1	3.7	4.3	3.7	2.5	2.3	1.4	3.1	4.3	1.4	1.9

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