

Week of 4 May 2026

- Domestically, we expect the RBA to hike by 25bps to 4.35% on Tuesday.
- Internationally, OPEC+ meets with Brent at \$120, while Chinese trade data and US non-farm payrolls lead a busy data week.
- In the US, non-farm payrolls (Friday) headline a heavy data week including ISM services and secondary labour market data.

Domestically, NAB expects the RBA to hike by 25bps to 4.35% on Tuesday, alongside an updated set of forecasts in the SoMP.

Household spending data will be released earlier in the day and is likely to show a solid increase, largely driven by higher fuel prices.

The release will also include Q1 volumes, helping to refine our forecast for real household consumption growth of 0.2% qoq.

Elsewhere on the calendar, building approvals, ANZ-Indeed job ads and the Melbourne Institute inflation data are due on Monday, with the trade balance released on Thursday.

Internationally, the **OPEC+** monthly meeting (Sunday) will draw attention with Brent crude hitting \$120 this week as the Iran war enters its third month.

In NZ, **Q1 labour market** data (Wednesday) is the key release. BNZ expects modest employment growth of +0.2% q/q, and the unemployment rate to tick up to 5.5%. From the RBNZ, **external MPC member Prasanna Gai** speaks (Monday) on 'how disruptions to energy and shipping hubs can push costs up across the economy and increase the risk of prolonged or extreme inflation.' The semi-annual **Financial Stability Report** is also published (Wednesday).

In Asia, China's April Caixin services **PMI** (Wednesday) and **trade** data (Saturday) are the highlights, after March's surplus almost halved on surging imports. In Japan, **BoJ minutes** (Thursday) will be closely watched after this week's 6-3 split, the biggest since 2016. March **wage data** and **machine tool orders** (both Friday) are also due.

In the US, the week builds to April **non-farm payrolls** (Friday). Wednesday is loaded with April **ISM services**, March **JOLTS** and **ADP** employment. The March **trade balance** (Tuesday) is also due. **Bowman, Waller** and others speak at the Hoover Monetary Policy Conference (Friday). In Canada, April **labour market** data (Friday) is due, with Governor **Macklem** before lawmakers (Tuesday).

In Europe, the focus shifts to hard data after this week's ECB and BoE decisions. German **factory orders** (Thursday) and **industrial production** (Friday) will test whether the March **PMI** surge reflected genuine demand or stockpiling. EZ **retail sales** (Thursday) are also due. **Lane, Schnabel** and **Bailey** speak, amongst others. The **Riksbank** and **Norges Bank** hold (Thursday). UK **local elections** (Thursday) may unsettle the governing Labour Party, potentially flowing through to Gilt yields.

Contents

Week Ahead Calendar	2
Key Event Preview	3
Forecasts Tables.....	5

Key Data

	Latest	Next
GDP	2.6% yoy	1Q on 3 Jun
Unemployment	4.3%	Apr on 21 May
Trimmed Mean	3.5% yoy	2Q on 29 Jul
RBA	4.10%	5 May

Key Markets

	Latest	Week	YTD
% change			
Rates		<i>bps</i>	<i>bps</i>
AU BBSY 3m	4.42	2.3	63.6
AU 3y swap	4.70	9.2	60.0
AU 3yr yield	4.71	3.0	57.5
AU 10yr yield	5.02	4.5	28.1
US 10yr yield	4.37	4.6	20.4
AU-US 10yr spread	65.1	-0.1	7.7
Commodities		%	%
Iron ore	107	0.9	3.4
Coal (thermal)	134.0	0.6	24.7
Brent oil	110.4	11.1	83.3
Gold	4630.5	-1.7	7.2
FX			
AUD/USD	0.7204	0.7	8.0
USD (DXY)	98.06	-0.7	-0.3
AUD/NZD	1.2	-0.2	-4.9
AUD crosses			
AUD/JPY	113.10	0.8	-7.6
AUD/CNY	4.9150	-0.8	-5.1
AUD/EUR	0.6141	-0.7	-7.5
AUD/GBP	0.5	-0.2	-6.5

Source: Bloomberg

Week Ahead Calendar

Highlighted events are previewed below.

		Event	Period	NAB	Previous
Monday, 4 May	11:00	AU	Melbourne Institute Inflation MoM	Apr	1.3%
	11:30	AU	ANZ-Indeed Job Advertisements MoM	Apr	-3.1%
	11:30	NZ	RBNZ MPC Member Prasanna Gai Speaks	--	--
	11:30	AU	Building Approvals MoM	Mar	0.30
	11:30	AU	Private Sector Houses MoM	Mar	0.2%
	18:00	SZ	Domestic Sight Deposits CHF	01 May	433.0b
	00:00	US	Factory Orders	Mar	0.0%
	02:50	US	Fed's Williams Delivers Keynote Remarks	--	--
	05:30	CA	Bank of Canada's Macklem and Rogers Appear Before	--	--
Tuesday, 5 May	09:00	AU	S&P Global Australia PMI Composite	Apr F	50.10
	11:30	AU	Household Spending MoM	Mar	2.0% 0.30%
	14:30	AU	RBA Cash Rate Target	05 May	4.35% 4.10%
	14:30	AU	RBA-Statement on Monetary Policy	--	--
	18:00	UK	New Car Registrations YoY	Apr	0.07
	--	US	(05 May - 06 May) Building Permits MoM	Mar F	-0.11
	00:00	US	ISM Services Index	Apr	54.00
	00:00	US	JOLTS Layoffs Rate	Mar	0.01
	Wednesday, 6 May	08:45	NZ	Unemployment Rate	1Q
11:45		CH	RatingDog China PMI Composite	Apr	51.50
16:45		FR	Manufacturing Production MoM	Mar	0.00
16:45		FR	Manufacturing Production YoY	Mar	0.0
18:00		EC	ECB's Lane Speaks in Berlin	--	--
18:00		EC	S&P Global Eurozone Services PMI	Apr F	47.40
18:30		UK	S&P Global UK Composite PMI	Apr F	52.00
19:00		EC	PPI YoY	Mar	-0.03
Thursday, 7 May		09:50	JN	BOJ Minutes of March Meeting	--
	11:30	AU	Trade Balance	Mar	A\$5686m
	16:30	AU	Foreign Reserves	Apr	A\$106.8b
	17:15	EC	ECB's Guindios Speaks in Frankfurt	--	--
	17:30	SW	Riksbank Policy Rate	07 May	1.75%
	22:30	US	Nonfarm Productivity	1Q P	1.8%
	22:40	EC	ECB's Lane Speaks in London	--	--
	--	EC	ECB's Schnabel Speaks in London	--	--
	05:30	US	Fed's Williams in Moderated Discussion	--	--
Friday, 8 May	16:00	GE	Exports SA MoM	Mar	0.04
	16:00	GE	Industrial Production SA MoM	Mar	0.00
	22:30	US	Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	Apr	178k
	22:30	CA	Net Change in Employment	Apr	14.1k
	22:30	CA	Hourly Wage Rate Permanent Employees YoY	Apr	0.05
	22:30	US	Underemployment Rate	Apr	0.08
	00:00	US	U. of Mich. Expectations	May P	48.10
	00:00	US	Wholesale Trade Sales MoM	Mar	0.03
	Upcoming Central Bank Interest Rate Announcements				
	AU	RBA	05 May	4.10	
	NZ	RBNZ	27 May	2.25	
	CA	BoC	10 Jun	2.25	
	EZ	ECB	11 Jun	2.00	
	JN	BoJ	16 Jun	0.75	
	US	Federal Reserve (Upper Bound)	17 Jun	3.75	
	UK	BoE	18 Jun	3.75	

Sydney Time. Dates reflect 24 hours from 7am

Key Event Preview

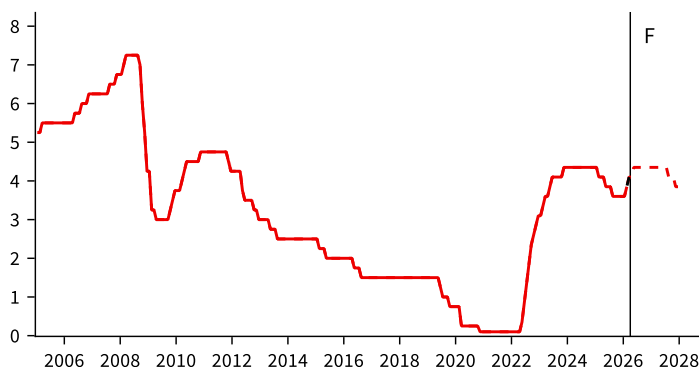
Tuesday

AU RBA Policy Decision (May)

We expect the RBA to hike by another 25bps to 4.35% (market pricing 19ps as of Friday), taking the cash rate to its pre-2025 cut levels. Even before the escalation in the Middle East, the domestic backdrop was one of above-potential growth, a labour market near capacity and inflation pressures re-emerging. Since then, higher energy prices have added to inflation and lifted inflation expectations in the near term. With Q1 trimmed-mean inflation printing at 3.5% yoy, the RBA has limited scope to look through the shock.

The RBA will release an updated set of forecasts in its SoMP. The key question will be how the RBA chooses to balance the risks to growth and inflation. There will likely be a downward revision to growth in the near-term and an upward revision to inflation. The unemployment rate forecast is likely to be little changed in the near-term and lifted further out in the forecast horizon. The cash rate underlying these forecasts will likely peak around 4.6% (compared to 4.3% in the February SoMP).

RBA Cash Rate Target and NAB Forecast



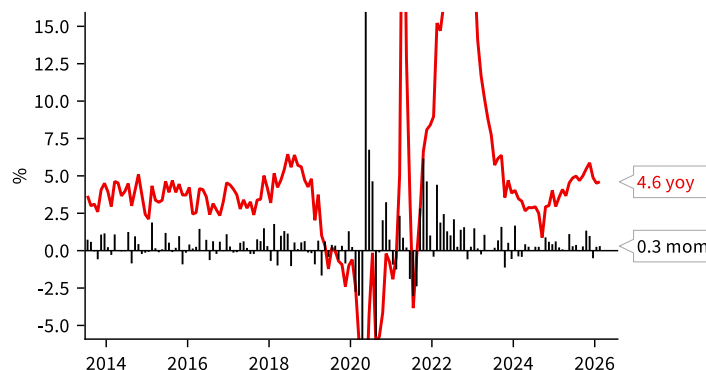
Source: National Australia Bank, RBA, Macrobond

AU Household Spending Indicator (Mar)

NAB expects the monthly household spending indicator (MHSI) to rise by 2.0% in March, which is broadly consistent with our [NAB Spend Trend](#). The increase will be largely driven by fuel, reflecting higher prices from the Middle East conflict shock.

The ABS will also release Q1 volumes which will help refine our forecast for real consumption growth of 0.2% qoq. That said, we place less weight on the signal from partial indicators and apply judgment, given the MHSI outperformed the national accounts measure in Q4 and coverage gaps.

Household Spending Indicator



Source: National Australia Bank, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Macrobond

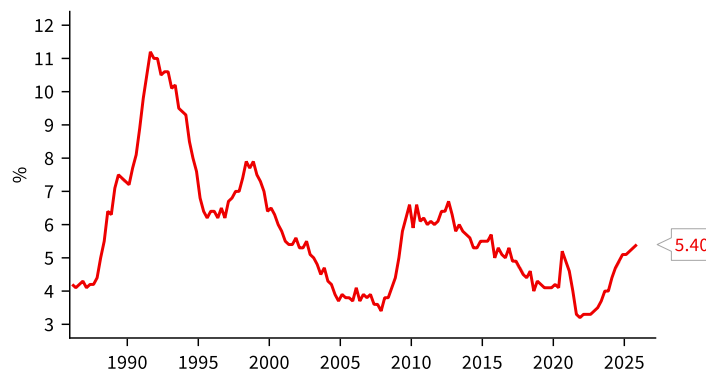
Wednesday

NZ Employment/Unemployment (Q1)

Official labour market data for Q1 are due Wednesday. BNZ forecast a 0.2% qoq gain in employment. This would see a small lift in the unemployment rate from 5.4% to 5.5%, assuming the labour force participation rate also nudges up to 70.6%. BNZ's employment growth assumption is softer than the RBNZ's February MPS projection of 0.4%, with their pick for the unemployment rate higher than the RBNZ's forecast of 5.3%.

On wages, BNZ expect a 0.4% qoq lift in the private-sector LCI. Such a quarterly move would see annual wage inflation remain subdued at 2.0%. The RBNZ forecast 0.4% q/q and 1.9% y/y in the February MPS. BNZ will also monitor QES filled jobs, QES paid hours, and HLFS hours worked to get further insight into labour market and economic activity in the quarter. There is much more interest in how the employment picture evolves from Q2 onwards.

NZ Unemployment Rate



Source: National Australia Bank, Statistics New Zealand, Macrobond

NZ RBNZ Financial Stability Report

The Financial Stability Report (FSR) is the RBNZ’s semi-annual assessment of the soundness and efficiency of the NZ financial system, with risk identification a key part. Some articles could be released early, as has been the case in recent times. The full report will be released Wednesday at 9am, with the press conference at 1pm. There will also be RBNZ FSR testimony to Parliament Thursday morning, from 9am.

Monetary policy is not a focus of the FSR. However, comments from RBNZ officials at the press conference on the likes of oil price shocks and subsequent economic impacts could have folk inferring monetary policy implications.

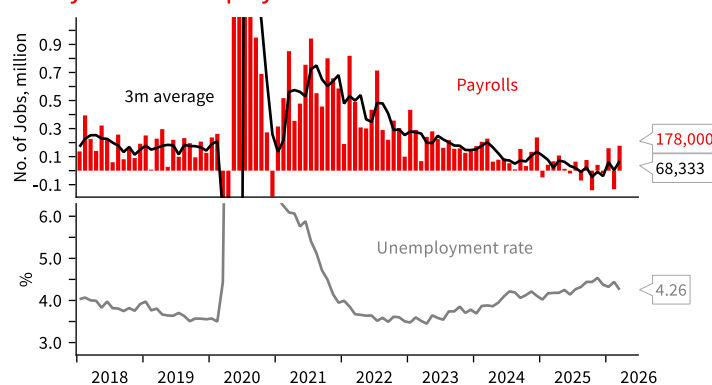
Friday

US Non-Farm Payrolls (April)

April payrolls will provide the clearest read on how the US labour market is absorbing the energy shock. March payrolls rebounded to 178k after February's weather and strike-affected fall of 92k. Average hourly earnings will also draw attention, with firms potentially cutting hours before headcount as energy costs compress margins.

With the Fed on hold and rate cut expectations for 2026 all but gone, the data will test how long the labour market can hold up under the energy shock.

US Payrolls & Unemployment



Source: National Australia Bank, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Macrobond

Forecasts Tables

See: [Forward View Australia](#)

Australian Economic Forecasts													
		2025				2026				2027			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
GDP	(% yoy)												
Household Consumption		0.9	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.1	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.6
Dwelling Investment		6.6	5.5	6.3	5.5	3.1	3.0	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.9	2.2
Underlying Bus. Investment		-0.7	-1.7	3.6	4.0	3.5	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0
Public Final Demand		3.9	2.7	1.5	2.4	3.1	3.4	2.4	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Domestic Final Demand	(% qoq)	0.4	0.6	1.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4
	(% yoy)	2.0	2.2	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9
Gross Domestic Product	(% qoq)	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4
	(% yoy)	1.3	1.9	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.0	1.9	1.5	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9
Labour Market													
Employment	(% qoq)	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Unemployment Rate	(%)	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7
WPI Wages	(% qoq)	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
	(% yoy)	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Inflation													
CPI Trimmed Mean	(% qoq)	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6
	(% yoy)	2.9	2.7	3.0	3.4	3.5	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.1	2.8	2.7
CPI Headline	(% qoq)	0.9	0.7	1.3	0.6	1.4	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6
	(% yoy)	2.4	2.1	3.2	3.6	4.1	4.7	4.3	4.3	3.4	2.5	2.2	2.3

Source: ABS, NAB Economics.

See: [Global FX Strategist](#)

Exchange Rate Forecasts						
	30-Apr	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27
Majors						
AUD/USD	0.7204	0.71	0.72	0.73	0.74	0.73
NZD/USD	0.5907	0.59	0.61	0.63	0.64	0.63
USD/JPY	157.0	156	153	152	150	149
EUR/USD	1.1730	1.18	1.19	1.20	1.21	1.20
GBP/USD	1.3604	1.33	1.34	1.33	1.36	1.35
USD/CNY	6.83	6.75	6.70	6.60	6.50	6.40
USD/CAD	1.3579	1.37	1.36	1.35	1.34	1.35
USD/CHF	0.7816	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.76	0.77
Australian Cross Rates						
AUD/NZD	1.22	1.20	1.18	1.16	1.15	1.15
AUD/JPY	113	111	110	111	111	109
AUD/EUR	0.61	0.60	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61
AUD/GBP	0.53	0.53	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.54
AUD/CNY	4.92	4.79	4.82	4.82	4.81	4.67
AUD/CAD	0.98	0.97	0.98	0.99	0.99	0.99
AUD/CHF	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.57	0.56

Source: Bloomberg

Interest Rate Forecasts						
	30-Apr	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27
Australian Rates						
RBA cash rate	4.10	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35
3 month bill rate	4.37	4.47	4.47	4.47	4.48	4.32
3 Year Swap Rate	4.70	4.45	4.45	4.35	4.25	3.95
10 Year Swap Rate	5.11	5.00	5.10	5.00	4.95	4.95
Offshore Policy Rates						
US Fed funds	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.25
RBNZ OCR	2.25	2.25	2.50	2.75	3.00	3.50
10-year Bond Yields						
Australia	5.02	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.90	4.90
United States	4.37	4.35	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
New Zealand	4.68	4.75	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90

Source: Bloomberg

See: [Global Forward View](#)

Global GDP				
	2024	2025	2026	2027
US	2.8	2.1	2.1	1.9
Euro-zone	0.9	1.5	1.0	1.3
Japan	-0.2	1.2	0.6	0.7
UK	1.1	1.4	0.7	1.0
Canada	2.0	1.7	1.0	1.7
China	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.3
India	7.2	7.5	6.3	6.5
Australia	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.9
NZ	-0.3	0.2	1.7	2.0
Global	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.1

Economics and Markets Research Contacts

Sally Auld
Chief Economist
+61 422 224 752
sally.auld@nab.com.au

Teisha Bonner
Executive Assistant
+61 452 093 086
teisha.bonner@nab.com.au

Economics

Australian Economics

Gareth Spence
Head of Australian Economics
+61 422 081 046
gareth.spence@nab.com.au

Taylor Nugent
Senior Economist
+61 452 671 752
taylor.nugent@nab.com.au

Jessie Cameron
Economist
+61 491 380 013
jessie.cameron@nab.com.au

Michael Hayes
Economist
+61 411 186 777
michael.hayes@nab.com.au

International Economics

Tony Kelly
Head of International Economics
+61 477 746 237
antony.kelly@nab.com.au

Gavin Friend
Senior Markets Strategist
+44 207 710 1588
gavin.friend@eu.nabgroup.com

Josh Copeland
Economist
+61 484 239 255
josh.copeland@nab.com.au

Behavioural Economics

Dean Pearson
Head of Behavioural Economics
+61 457 517 342
dean.pearson@nab.com.au

Robert De Iure
Senior Economist
+61 477 723 769
robert.de.iure@nab.com.au

Economics Analytics

Brien McDonald
Senior Economist
+61 455 052 520
brien.mcdonald@nab.com.au

Thao Nguyen
Senior Data Analyst
+61 451 203 008
thao.nguyen5@nab.com.au

Markets Research

Skye Masters
Head of Markets Research
+61 467 767 604
skye.masters@nab.com.au

Barbara Leong
Research Assistant
+61 429 127 590
barbara.leong@nab.com.au

Credit Strategy

Evy Noble
Credit Strategist
+61 2 7226 7336
evy.noble@nab.com.au

FX Strategy

Ray Attrill
Head of FX Strategy
+61 2 9293 7170
ray.attrill@nab.com.au

Rodrigo Catril
Senior FX Strategist
+61 2 9293 7109
rodrigo.h.catril@nab.com.au

Rates Strategy

Kenneth Crompton
Head of Rates Strategy
+61 439 411 709
kenneth.crompton@nab.com.au

Gregorius Steven
Rates Strategist
+61 2 7209 8133
gregorius.steven@nab.com.au

Important Notice

This document has been prepared by National Australia Bank Limited ABN 12 004 044 937 AFSL 230686 ("NAB"). Any advice contained in this document has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. Before acting on any advice in this document, NAB recommends that you consider whether the advice is appropriate for your circumstances. NAB recommends that you obtain and consider the relevant Product Disclosure Statement or other disclosure document, before making any decision about a product including whether to acquire or to continue to hold it.

Please [click here](#) to view our disclaimer and terms of use.