



# BULLS vs BEARS

MPC Markets – Weekly edition



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## MPC IN THE MEDIA

### **The AI datacenter boom: AI hyperscalers have hyperscaled demands for key resources**

*While we are focused on US Tech stocks, US Tech stocks are focused on our key resources they need to build their AI Kingdoms*

New article from Mark around the the effects of rapid datacentre expansion on key resources and where we are investing

**live**wire



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## US EARNINGS SEASON: EARLY CLUES AND UPCOMING WINNERS

As Q2 2025 earnings kick off on July 18, mega-cap tech and defensive sectors are emerging as stars amid economic headwinds like tariffs and shifting global flows. Analysts predict Big Tech will drive S&P 500 growth, with AI monetization turning hype into profits, while cyclicals (discretionary, materials, industrials) brace for contractions.

Early results offer bullish clues: Tech shines with TSMC's record 60.7% profit surge (+3.4% stock) on AI chip demand, and Netflix topping estimates despite a -1% dip, lifting guidance on subscriber growth and ads. Healthcare defies dips—Johnson & Johnson beat EPS/revenue forecasts (+6.19%), reducing tariff impacts to \$200M and signaling sector resilience. Financials impress: Goldman Sachs jumped on record trading/dealmaking; Citigroup smashed EPS by 21.7% (+3.4%), hiking dividends/buybacks. Consumer staples like PepsiCo (+7.5%) show steady demand.

Defensives look resilient, with payments (e.g., Visa, Mastercard) poised for beats on consumer spending and low tariff exposure. However, defense stocks face high bars after Q2 gains, with valuations stretched—watch Boeing for cash flow momentum.

Over the next two weeks (July 21-Aug 1), potential winners include Tesla (July 23) amid EV/AI buzz; Meta (July 30) on ad strength; Visa/P&G (July 29) for stable surprises; Coca-Cola (July 22) in staples; and Berkshire Hathaway/Chevron (Aug 1) if energy holds. Stick to AI-powered tech and tariff-light defensives for upside—cyclicals risk pain.





# ASX STOCKS

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

**Clarity Pharmaceuticals (ASX: CU6)** experienced notable developments this week. The company announced the successful completion of participant recruitment for its Co-PSMA trial, designed to evaluate the performance of its investigational prostate cancer diagnostic, <sup>64</sup>Cu-SAR-bisPSMA, compared to standard-of-care imaging. This positive milestone was well received by the market, with Clarity's share price surging 9.5% to \$3.74 following the news on July 17th, 2025. The trial's progress reinforced investor confidence as Clarity continues to advance its clinical pipeline, including two Phase III registrational trials: CLARIFY and AMPLIF

**Mesoblast (MSB)** Shares Surge 38% on Strong Ryoncil Sales Update. Shares in Mesoblast soared as much as 38% to \$2.47 following the release of its June quarter update, reflecting strong early sales of Ryoncil (remestemcel-L-rknd), the first FDA-approved mesenchymal stromal cell therapy for paediatric SR-aGvHD in the U.S. Since its commercial launch on 28 March, Ryoncil generated US\$13.2 million in gross revenue through to 30 June. The company also reported US\$1.6 million in royalties from Japan's TEMCELL product and ended the quarter with US\$162 million in cash. Mesoblast is accelerating onboarding of 45 priority transplant centres, which represent ~80% of U.S. paediatric transplants, and highlighted expanding insurance coverage, including full Medicaid support from 1 July. CEO Silviu Itescu expressed confidence in Ryoncil's commercial rollout and future growth trajectory.

**BHP (ASX: BHP)** delivered a solid June 2025 quarter, with iron ore production reaching 77.5 million tonnes (up 0.9% year-on-year) and record annual output in both iron ore and copper, though cost pressures, especially at Jansen, remain a watchpoint. This week, BHP shares broke through the key \$40 technical resistance level, a move supported by softer Australian jobs data that bolstered rate cut hopes and lifted the broader materials sector. The breakout signals renewed bullish momentum, with traders now eyeing whether \$40 can hold as support. Despite the upbeat operational performance and improved technical outlook, some analysts flag potential softening in iron ore prices and profit growth in the year ahead.



# US STOCK NEWS

## Global Earnings and News

**Netflix -1% (post earnings)** – the streaming company lifted its annual revenue and operating margin guidance, reporting second-quarter results that topped Wall Street estimates, underpinned by subscription price hikes, membership growth, and a weaker dollar. Netflix reported subscriber growth that exceeded internal expectations, with management noting in the shareholder letter that late-quarter additions contributed to the outperformance. The company also confirmed it remains on track to double its advertising revenue in 2025, building on its strong revenue growth of 15% over the last twelve months.

**Johnson and Johnson (NYSE:JNJ) +6.19%** – commentary focused most-specifically on top-line growth acceleration, with uncertainties about tariffs and other factors confounding operative leverage visibility. The company expects a \$200 million tariff impact, down from \$400 million previously. The company increased the adjusted operational revenue growth and multiple new product launches are driving their positive outlook confidence

**Goldman Sachs (NYSE:GS)** – stock rose after the investment bank's profit jumped in the second quarter, as turbulent markets lifted equities trading revenue to a record and a pickup in dealmaking boosted investment banking.

**Citigroup +3%** – the bank delivered standout Q2 2025 results, posting a 21.7% earnings beat with EPS of \$1.96 and revenue of \$21.67 billion, fueled by strong investment banking and trading, as well as record revenues in three of five business divisions. Net income surged to \$4 billion and the stock climbed over 3% as the bank raised its full-year outlook, announced increased dividends, and set at least \$4 billion in share repurchases for Q3. Analysts raised price targets and upgraded earnings forecasts amid Citi's operational efficiency gains and improved profitability, even as the bank faces ongoing credit cost pressures, regulatory compliance investment, and execution risks tied to its transformation initiatives.

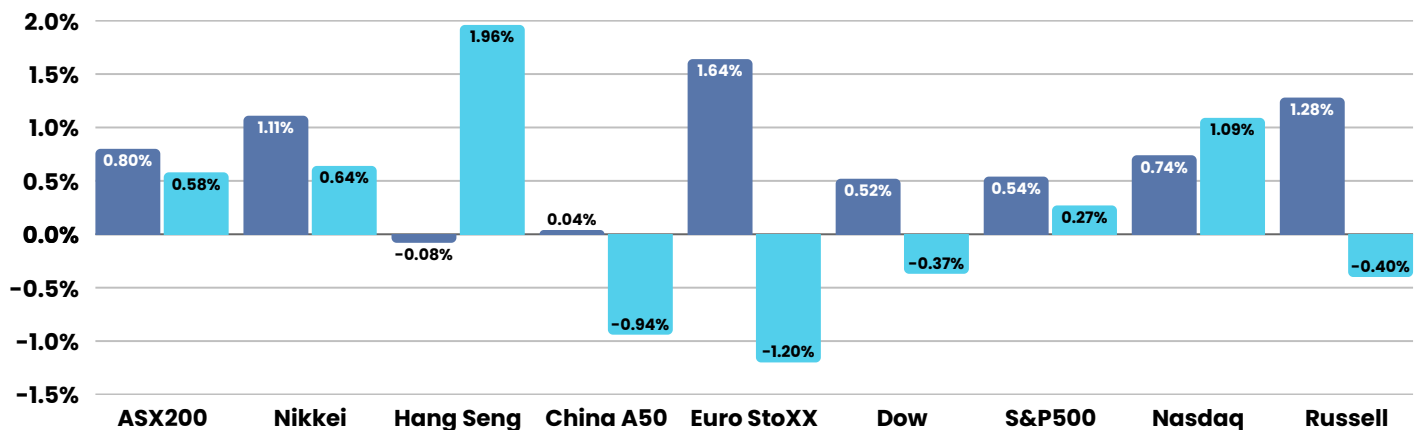
**Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing +3.4%** – reported record profit in the second quarter, smashing market expectations, as the world's biggest foundry chipmaker was bolstered by ever-more robust artificial intelligence demand. TSMC's increasingly positive outlook on advanced node demand, with artificial intelligence customers showing no signs of demand slowdown. Goldman Sachs now expects revenue contribution from the N2 node to be significantly higher compared to N3 at the initial ramp-up stage, particularly in the first two years. TSMC management has raised its 2025 revenue guidance to "30% YoY" growth, up from the previous forecast of "mid-20% YoY," reflecting stronger demand outlook across its business segments.





## US & Global indices

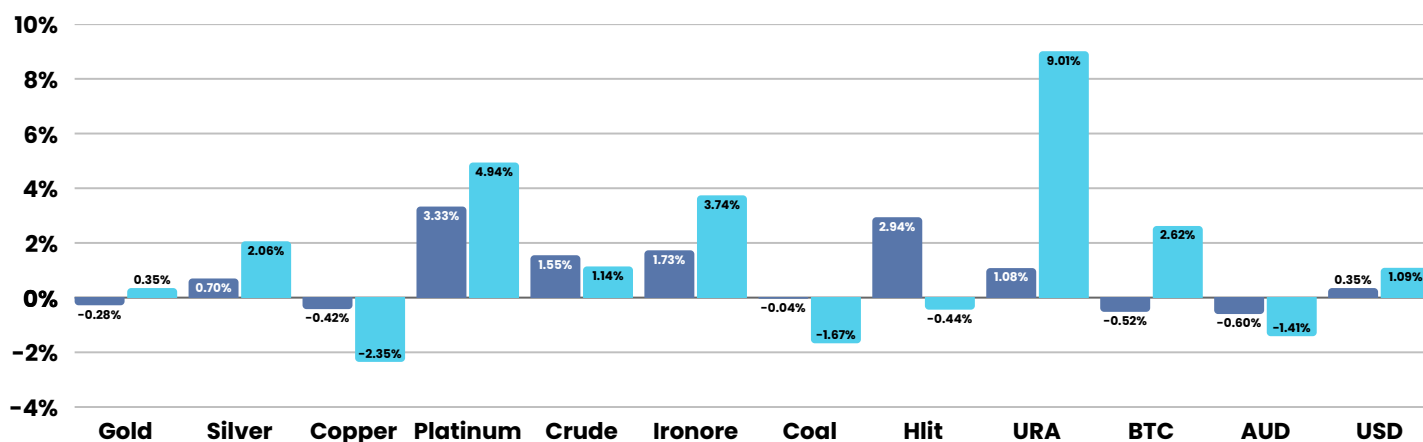
## Weekly S&P500 heatmap





# COMMODITIES & FX

● Day ● 5-days



**Gold:** Gold futures have traded lower since last Friday, falling from above \$3,350 to around \$3,337 per ounce. Strong U.S. economic data bolstered the dollar, limiting gains in gold and reducing Fed rate-cut expectations. Despite minor fluctuations, gold remains near historic highs and above \$3,300 for the week

**Silver:** Silver futures climbed steadily since last Friday, rising from around \$37.65 to \$38.14 per ounce. This advance was fueled by strong investor inflows and growing industrial demand amid global trade tensions. Despite midweek volatility, silver touched multi-year highs and remains firmly in bull market territory, up nearly 5% for July

**Platinum:** Platinum futures surged since last Friday, climbing from around \$1,423 per ounce to \$1,468 by July 18. The rally was fueled by continued tightness in supply and robust investor demand, pushing prices to fresh 11-year highs. Analysts expect volatility ahead as the market anticipates a possible correction in coming months

**Copper:** Copper futures have drifted lower since last Friday, retreating from around \$5.58 per pound to approximately \$5.49 as of July 18. Ongoing global trade tensions and U.S. tariff policy uncertainties triggered volatility, with investor sentiment cautious amid supply concerns. Despite recent weakness, copper prices remain near historic highs for 2025

**Crude Oil (WTI):** Crude oil futures fell sharply since last Friday, dropping from above \$68.50 to around \$67.50 per barrel by July 18. Persistent supply concerns from regional tensions briefly lifted prices midweek, but renewed economic uncertainty and easing geopolitical risks pushed oil to its first weekly loss in three weeks, down over 1%

**Bitcoin:** Bitcoin surged over 8% since last Friday, climbing from around \$110,000 to above \$119,000 by July 18, hitting a new yearly high amid renewed investor optimism. Ethereum outperformed, jumping nearly 25%, rising from \$2,700 to above \$3,350, fueled by strong ETF inflows and bullish sentiment across the crypto sector



# ECONOMY & POLITICS

## Donald Trump: The Ultimate Media Magician

In the high-stakes theater of American politics, President Donald Trump reigns as the undisputed master of distraction, deftly steering the media spotlight away from simmering undercurrents that could erode his image. His latest sleight of hand? Waving a draft letter to fire Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell during an Oval Office meeting with House Republicans on July 16, 2025, sparking a frenzy of headlines and market volatility. Trump mused aloud about ousting Powell over the Fed's pricey headquarters renovation, even asking GOP lawmakers if he should pull the trigger. Yet, legally, he can't unilaterally fire the Fed chair without substantial cause—a fact underscored by recent Supreme Court rulings limiting presidential removals. By day's end, Trump backpedaled, calling it "highly unlikely," but the damage was done: media outlets buzzed, stocks dipped briefly, and attention diverted.

Meanwhile, beneath the surface, Trump quietly advanced the GENIUS Act—a landmark stablecoin regulation bill passed by the House on July 17 in a bipartisan 308-122 vote, now awaiting his signature. Billed as a win for crypto innovation, critics argue it hands too much power to industry giants with minimal safeguards, potentially fueling financial instability. And let's not forget the glaring void in trade policy: Trump's second-term promise of "90 deals in 90 days" has fizzled, with only a handful secured (like a vague

Vietnam pact) despite April's reciprocal tariffs and a July 9 deadline extended to August 1 amid faltering talks. GOP lawmakers express dismay over the lack of progress, as global partners pivot elsewhere. Trump's barrage of campaign rallies, legal battle updates, border rants, and Truth Social tirades keeps the press chasing shiny objects—electoral integrity claims, policy echoes—while these deeper fissures bubble unchecked. It's classic Trump: orchestrate chaos above to mask vulnerabilities below. In an era of 24/7 news, his playbook ensures the real stories stay buried. Masterful? Absolutely. Transparent? Far from it.





# TRADE OF THE WEEK

## Alpha Trade – BUY Austin Engineering (ANG)

Austin Engineering Limited (ANG) is a global engineering company. The company is a market leader in the design and manufacture of dump truck bodies, buckets, water tanks and related attachments.

ANG has been in down trend for about 12 months as the market has digested the challenges in Chile. Recently though any news releases from the company have resulted in price rises. So this is a signal that chances are the lows are in for the company. With a few volume spikes over the last two months with rising price, this shows there is some fresh buying at these levels. So a long entry around current levels is one where the downside risk is easy to manage.

ANG is due to report on 26th August 2025



### Trade Strategy:

Buy ANG up to 38c

Stop Loss 28c

Initial profit target 53c

**\*\*\*GENERAL ADVICE ONLY\*\*\***



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