



BULLS vs BEARS

MPC Markets – Weekly edition



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MPC IN THE MEDIA

Mark Joined Andrew Georgeon and Mark Moreland from Value 3 for the US/ASX mixed version of the Call on Ausbiz on Thursday. the 2 stocks covered from the US were SuperMicro and RocketLabs, with Rocket labs being the most interesting story. With a Kiwi founder, the company operates in the small rocket space, launching more regular but smaller, space bound satellites. While the company was a bit too rich for both the Marks, both agreed that it was worth buying at lower levels



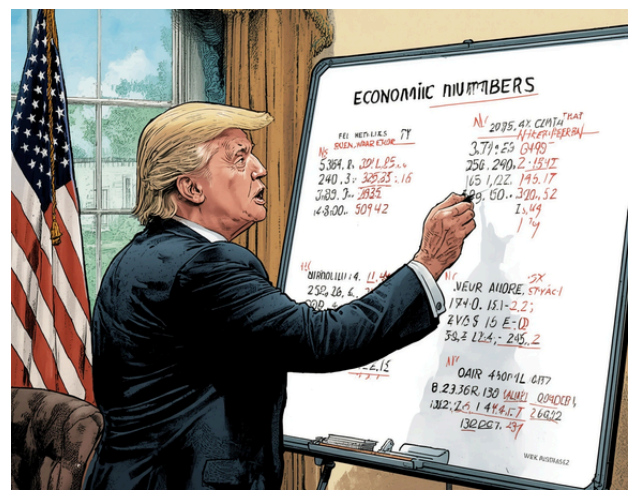
IF THE NUMBERS DONT FIT THE NARRATIVE, CHANGE THE NUMBERS

President Donald Trump's abrupt firing of Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Commissioner Erika McEntarfer on August 1, 2025, and his nomination of E.J. Antoni, a Heritage Foundation economist, have ignited fierce debate about the politicization of economic data. Trump, without evidence, labeled the data "phony" and "rigged" to undermine his administration, accusing McEntarfer, a Biden appointee with over 20 years of federal experience, of manipulating figures.

Trump has repeatedly called for aggressive interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve, advocating for rates as low as 1%. However, current economic indicators, including robust job growth prior to July, do not justify such drastic reductions, as inflation remains a concern. This decision comes amid escalating pressures on the U.S. economy, where the national debt has surpassed \$37 trillion, with annual interest payments exceeding \$1 trillion. The average interest rate on federal debt stands at 3.352%, making refinancing increasingly burdensome.

While Trump won't explicitly admit it, a recession could align with this agenda by forcing the Fed's hand on rate cuts, allowing the administration to refinance spiraling debt at lower costs. Yet, with data not supporting a downturn, installing an insider at the BLS could ensure numbers

reflect the needed narrative of economic weakness. Antoni, nominated to replace McEntarfer, was a Project 2025 contributor, was present at the Capitol riots in 2021 and is an outspoken critic of the BLS methodologies. Antoni has suggested suspending monthly job reports and his appointment raises concerns about the BLS's independence, as economists warn that such actions threaten the credibility of data relied upon by global markets, businesses, and policymakers.... [Read More](#)





ASX STOCKS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Commbank (CBA) Commonwealth Bank of Australia reported a record annual profit of \$10.25 billion, driven by strong home and business lending. The result provides capacity to accelerate investment in artificial intelligence, including a multi-year partnership with OpenAI to enhance customer and employee services and combat scams and fraud. Despite the record result, CBA shares fell, reflecting investor caution after a prolonged rally and concerns over rising costs and intensifying competition from rivals such as Macquarie Bank. Increased hiring of software engineers and other technology investments are expected to weigh on near-term margins. CEO Matt Comyn said the bank's \$2.3 billion annual investment program, up \$300 million, and robust balance sheet position would support continued lending growth and strategic technology initiatives to maintain competitive strength.

Temple & Webster (TPW) posted strong annual results, with revenue up 21% to \$601 million for the year to June 30, driven by standout performance in its home improvement segment. Net profit surged to \$11.3 million from \$1.8 million a year earlier. Shares rose 7% to \$27.90 in Tuesday afternoon trading, extending a 12-month rally that has more than doubled the company's market value. The upbeat performance contrasts with sluggish growth among major retailers amid higher mortgage costs, though recent interest rate cuts and easing inflation have supported a lift in consumer sentiment. CEO Mark Coulter cautioned against assuming the recovery is entrenched, noting it may take another six months to confirm if Australians are confident enough to sustain higher discretionary spending, despite expectations of further RBA rate cuts.

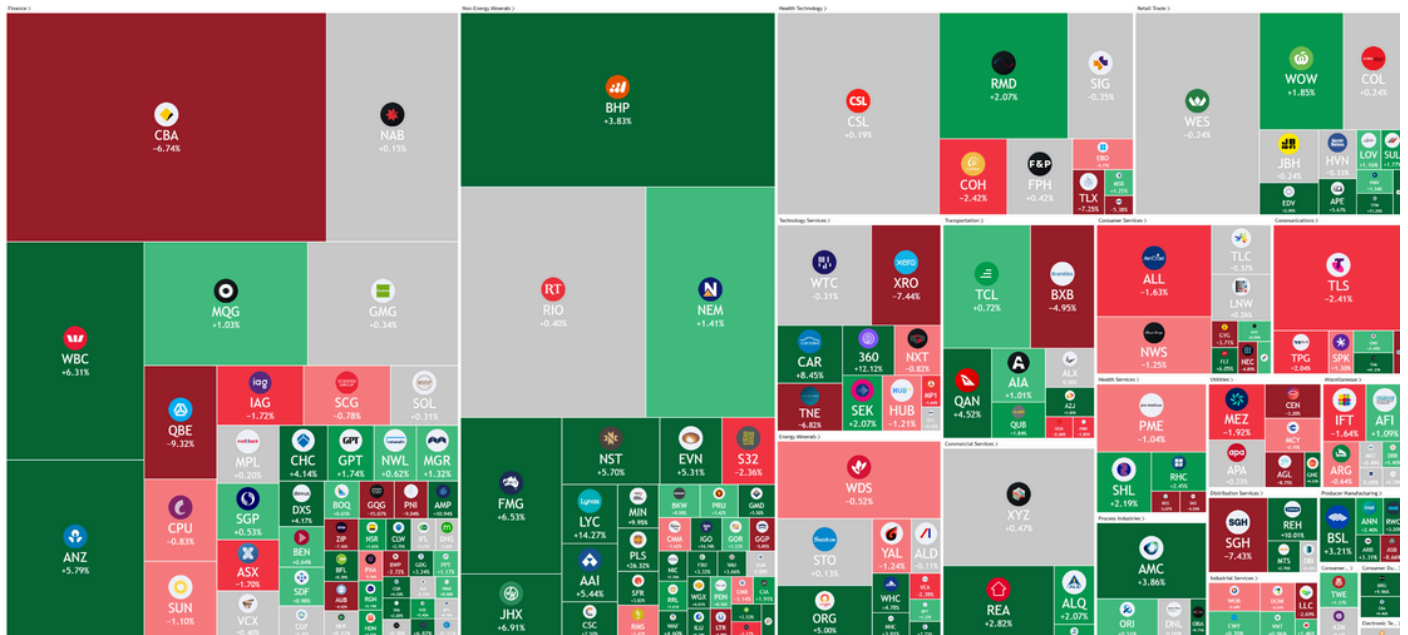
JB Hi-Fi (JBH) reported a 10% rise in sales to \$10.6 billion for FY24, driven by strong demand for new product releases, including Nintendo's record-breaking Switch 2. Net profit rose 5.4% to \$462.4 million, with EBIT up 7.3% to \$694.1 million, exceeding market expectations. The result included contributions from premium appliance retailer E&S, acquired in September, which expanded JB Hi-Fi's reach into higher-end home appliances and new customer segments. The board declared a \$1.05 final dividend and a \$1 fully franked special dividend, taking total ordinary dividends to \$2.75 per share. CEO Terry Smart will step down later this year after two stints leading the company, handing over to COO Nick Wells. Shares fell 8.8% to \$107.17 despite the strong result, reflecting profit-taking after significant outperformance over the past year.



15th August 2025

ASX STOCKS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK





US STOCK NEWS

Global Earnings

- **CoreWeave Inc (-20%)** – Shares plunged after Q1 losses widened far more than analysts anticipated, despite revenue surging 420% year-over-year to nearly \$982 million. Deutsche Bank attributed the steep loss expansion to skyrocketing expenses linked to meeting huge new AI-driven demand. Heavy investment in infrastructure and talent weighed on margins even as demand boomed.
- **Cisco (-1.42%)** – Stock slipped slightly after the company forecast Q1 revenue above Wall Street estimates, driven by more than double the anticipated AI infrastructure orders from large cloud service customers. CEO Chuck Robbins highlighted a “massive opportunity ahead” as the company’s networking and AI offerings remain central to next-gen cloud buildouts.
- **Tencent Music Entertainment Group (+11%)** – Shares jumped after Q2 revenue of \$1.18 billion beat expectations, increasing nearly 18% year-over-year. Growth was fueled by rising music subscription adoption, higher average revenue per paying user, and strategic investments in premium long-form audio and K-Pop content.
- **Circle Internet Group (+2%)** – Posted its first quarterly results as a publicly listed company, beating on both revenue and profit. Q2 revenue rose 53% year-over-year to \$658 million, with USDC stablecoin circulation up 90%. Results were tempered by one-off IPO-related costs, but overall outlook remained strong.
- **Pinterest (-10%)** – Shares dropped sharply after analysts highlighted that Q2 sales in the U.S. and Canada lagged behind key rivals. While global user and revenue growth beat projections, the underperformance in its core ad markets raised competitive concerns.
- **Wendy’s (-1.3%)** – Fell after cutting its full-year global sales outlook to a 3%–5% decline, from prior guidance of flat to down 2%. Management cited higher input costs and lower U.S. traffic, particularly among cost-conscious consumers.
- **Expedia (+4%)** – Gained on raised full-year gross bookings and revenue growth guidance of 3%–5%. The company pointed to a rebound in U.S. leisure travel demand starting in July, a 7% quarterly increase in booked room nights, and improved confidence despite ongoing macro headwinds.
- **Deere & Co (-6%)** – Deere & Company reported a significant drop in third-quarter 2025 profit, with net income falling 26% year-over-year to \$1.289 billion (\$4.75 per share), while net sales declined 9% to \$10.36 billion. The company surpassed analysts’ earnings expectations despite these declines, aided by disciplined cost management and inventory controls. Deere also warned that tariff-related expenses are now forecasted to reach \$600 million for the year, up from previous estimates, further pressuring margins. Ongoing weak demand—stemming from lower crop prices, cautious farmer spending, and favored equipment rentals—compounded these challenges, leading the company to cut the upper end of its annual profit guidance to \$5.25 billion. Shares fell about 7–8% following the report, as investors reacted to the company’s lower outlook and the persistent impact of tariffs.



GLOBAL ALPHA

Global Earnings and News

This Week in Global Markets: Quick Facts

Market Overview

- **Stock Markets Remain Buoyant:** The U.S. S&P 500 and Nasdaq hit new highs following easing inflation data and ongoing enthusiasm for artificial intelligence and tech stocks.
- **Japan's Nikkei 225 Rally:** The Nikkei soared past the 43,000 mark for the first time, driven by a weaker yen (boosting exporters like Toyota), robust corporate results, and ongoing investor optimism about Asia's post-pandemic resurgence.
- **Tariff Watch:** New U.S. tariffs introduced on key tech imports have created short-term volatility, but leaders in semiconductors and logistics are still outperforming.

Other Global Market Movers This Week

- **Apple (AAPL):** Rose over 13% this week on a \$100B investment pledge and possible tariff exemptions.
- **Toyota (Japan):** Delivered a 78% profit surge—helped by the weaker yen and robust auto demand.
- **Palantir (PLTR) and Super Micro (SMCI):** Continue their strong rallies, driven by huge demand for AI and data center solutions.
- **TME** posted robust earnings.

Why This Matters

- **Diversification Delivers:** Markets like Japan and global tech highlight why investors should stay diversified.
- **Alpha in Action:** Despite market swings, Global Alpha's picks like TSM and TME are outpacing the global benchmarks. Semiconductor stocks (both U.S. and Asia) are a recurring theme—strengthened by chip demand, even amid trade tensions.
- **Focus for the Week Ahead:** Watch sectors tied to AI, semiconductors, and exporters benefiting from currency moves. Stay mindful of volatility spikes after sharp rallies, but the long-term global story remains compelling.

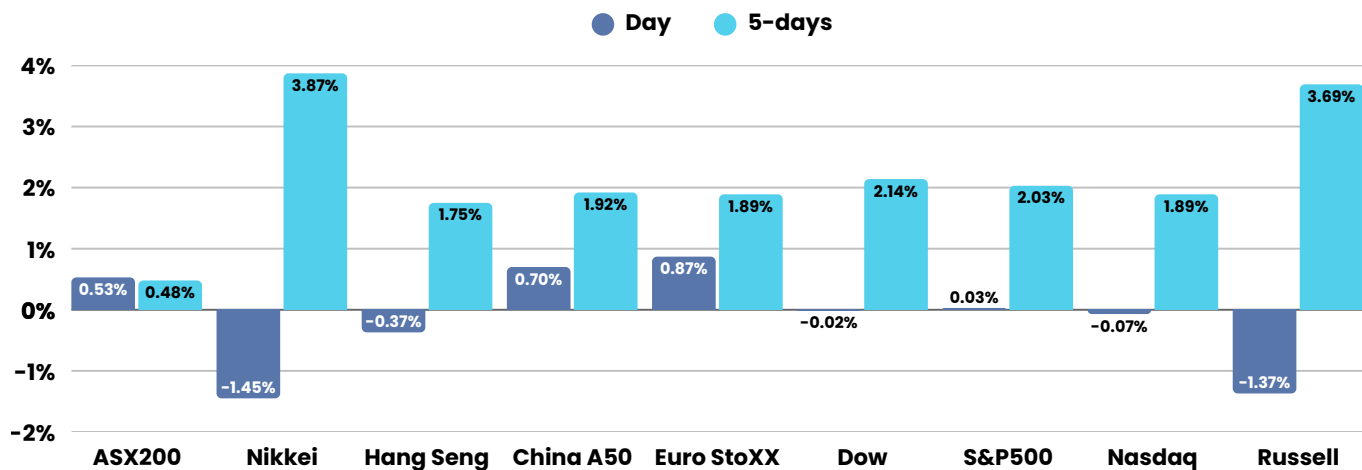
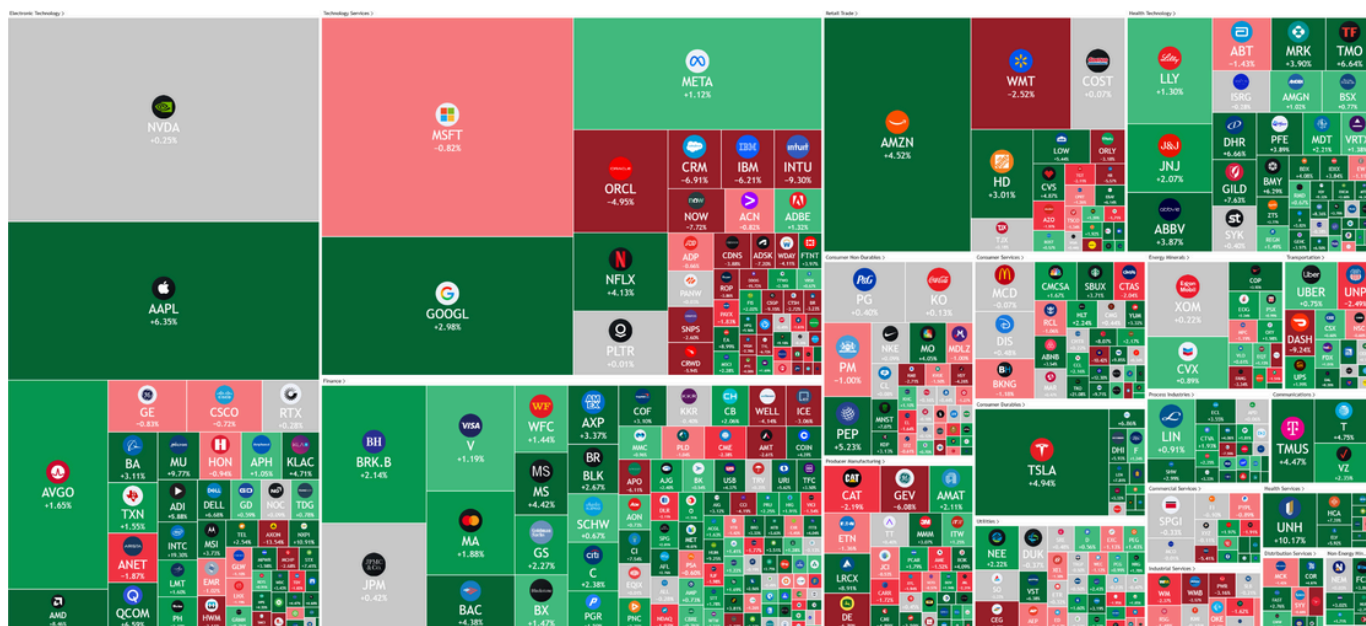
Curious about which global leaders could be next? Follow Global Alpha for weekly actionable opportunities and the latest global market insights.

	CLOSED TRADES								
	CODE	COMPANY	DATE	OPTIMAL ENTRY	DAY OF REC' ENTRY	SELL DATE	# Days	SELL PRICE	NET
Win Rate	LYFT	LYFT, INC.	9/05/2025	\$14.70	\$14.66	13/05/2025	4	\$18.20	23.81%
86%	TME	TENCENT MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT GROUP	12/05/2025	\$14.00	\$14.41	7/07/2025	56	\$17.35	32.59%
Average Win	SPOT	SPOTIFY	30/04/2025	\$585.00	\$585.00	5/06/2025	36	\$700.00	13.38%
17.96%	DIS	THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY	9/05/2025	\$106	\$105.26	17/06/2025	39	118.96	12.76%
Average Loss	DASH	DOORDASH, INC.	6/05/2025	\$183	\$193.00	23/06/2025	48	220	20.22%
-33%	CVS	CVS HEALTH CORPORATION	21/05/2025	\$64	\$63	7/07/2025	47	67.2	5.00%
	TTD	THE TRADE DESK, INC.	25/07/2025	\$84.50	\$84.77	9/08/2025	15	\$56.50	-33.14%
	Trimmed								



US STOCK NEWS

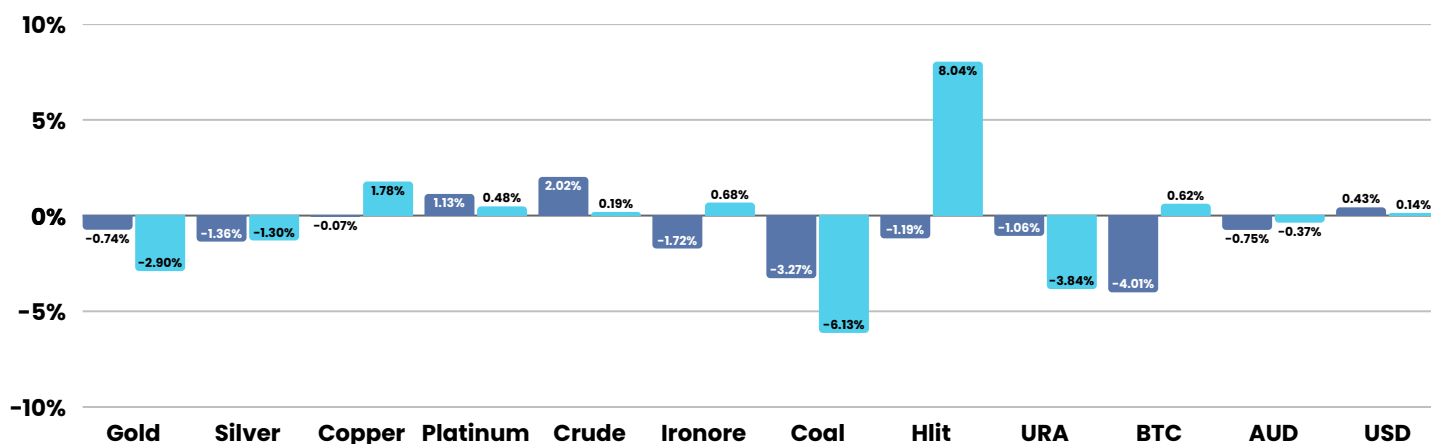
US & Global indices





COMMODITIES & FX

● Day ● 5-days



Gold: Gold futures plunged sharply since last Friday, retreating from near record highs. Prices fell about 2.4%, dropping to around \$3,407 per ounce early this week following tariff rumors and subsequent White House clarifications. Volatility persisted, with futures hovering close to key support at \$3,334 by Thursday.

Silver: Silver futures traded mostly sideways since last Friday, consolidating after last week's high near 38.88. Prices rolled over into a calculated retracement, bottoming at 37.52 on Monday, before attempting a modest rebound. The market remains coiled in a controlled distribution phase ahead of key cycle inflection points on August 14–15

Platinum: Platinum futures have moved modestly higher since last Friday, recovering from last week's dip amid ongoing supply constraints. Prices rose to \$1,351.40/oz on August 14, driven by disruptions in South African mining and steady demand from auto and jewelry sectors. The market remains supported by physical tightness and ETF inflows

Copper: Copper futures declined since last Friday, pressured by tariff-related volatility and shifting inventory flows. Prices fell 0.37% to \$4.47/lb by August 14, despite ongoing export redirection and increased LME stockpiles. Tariff exemptions for refined copper contributed to market confusion, with traders rapidly unwinding speculative positions amid weak demand

Crude Oil (WTI): Crude oil futures rebounded since last Friday, climbing 2% to settle at \$63.90 per barrel by August 14 after hitting a two-month low midweek. Prices rallied on geopolitical tensions and expectations of a September US rate cut, which lifted market sentiment and halted a brief bearish trend

Crypto: Bitcoin has climbed 2.7% since last Friday, rising from around \$117,460 to \$123,561. After a volatile start, BTC regained bullish momentum, reaching new monthly highs midweek. Ethereum surged more dramatically, up nearly 28%, rallying from \$3,735 to about \$4,792, just shy of its all-time high, driven by ETF inflows



TRADE OF THE WEEK

Global Alpha – Re-Buy Tencent Music TME:NYSE

Tencent Music's rapid earnings growth, expanding user monetization, and continuous margin improvement are irrefutable positives—especially as the company anchors itself as China's undisputed leader in online music. For long-term investors, TME still offers a compelling combination of growth, profitability, and operating leverage, with fundamentals signaling years of upside if user monetization keeps rising.

- ☒ COMPANY FUNDAMENTALS
- ☒ TECHNICAL ANALYSIS
- ☐ MACRO/GEOPOLITICAL
- ☒ CATALYST (EARNINGS, ANNOUNCEMENT)



Trade Plan:

Expected Timeframe: Short-to-medium term (2–3 Months)

Entry: \$22.10–\$22.20 (11th Aug)

Stop-loss: \$21.10

key pivot/support and pre-market low

Trim Zone: (optional) \$23.00–\$24.00

take partial profits if overbought, RSI >70, or price stalls

Target: \$26.00

will raise technical momentum if breakout continues

**GENERAL
ADVICE
ONLY**



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