



Daily Newswatch

Market Review

Bursa Malaysia ended lower to close at 1,609 on Friday as investors chased bargains, bucking the regional downtrend. Market sentiment turned cautious after US President Donald Trump announced a fresh round of tariffs, while investors also pared back expectations of sharp US rate cuts following stronger-than-expected economic data. By sector, Industrial Products & Services gained 1.0%, Financial Services rose 0.7%, while Transportation & Logistics slipped 0.4%. Among key index constituents, PCHEM was the top performer with a 2.9% gain, followed by MRDIY up 1.9% and IHH higher by 1.8%. Overall market breadth was cautious, with 419 gainers against 505 losers.

On Friday, Chinese equities ended lower as both the Shanghai Composite and the Shenzhen Component retreated after two consecutive sessions of gains. The Shanghai Composite declined 0.7% to close at 3,828, while the Shenzhen Component fell 1.8% to finish at 13,209. The weakness in the market was largely attributed to selling pressure in financial-related shares, with banking stocks easing 0.9% and insurers slipping 0.3%. Investors appeared cautious during a quiet period for major policy developments ahead of upcoming holidays, and profit taking after recent advances also weighed on sentiment. As a result, the declines in financials overshadowed the resilience shown by some technology names earlier in the week, leaving the broader market in negative territory by the close.

European markets opened higher on Friday, with the STOXX 600 rising 0.8% and the STOXX 50 up 1.0%, even as broader sector weakness and lingering macroeconomic headwinds weighed on sentiment. Defence stocks stood out as the top performers after U.S. President Donald Trump's latest comments on the conflict in Ukraine were interpreted as supportive of continued defence spending. The Stoxx Europe Aerospace & Defence index advanced 1.0%, with Germany's Hensoldt and Renk as well as Sweden's Saab all climbing several percent intraday, making defence one of the strongest sectors of the session.

On Friday, U.S. stocks rose, snapping a three day slide that had been the first such losing streak in about six months: the Dow increased 0.7% to 46,247, the Nasdaq gained 0.4% to 22,484 and the S&P 500 edged up 0.6% to 6,643 as August inflation data broadly matched expectations and eased concern that the Federal Reserve would delay further rate cuts, supporting risk appetite. Earlier in the week, company specific shocks had pressured markets, with Oracle falling 5.6% after announcing an \$18bn bond offering to help finance its AI data center buildout, Micron declining 3.0% amid profit taking after recent gains, and CarMax plunging 20.0% after a weak quarterly report that raised questions about the health of the tariff hit auto resale sector, yet relief driven by the data helped lift the major indexes on Friday.

Macro Snapshots

- **US:** Consumer spending increases solidly in August
- **US:** Consumer sentiment falls to four-month low on income worries
- **MY:** Bridging the connectivity gap
- **CN:** Industrial profits jump in August, reversing drop

Corporate Snapshots

- **ZETRIX:** Miss Universe pageant organiser partners Zetrix AI to launch blockchain-enabled voting
- **INTA:** Secures RM40.6m housing construction job from Eco Majestic
- **AEONCR:** Establish AEON360 to integrate group ecosystem
- **AYER:** Secures full take-up of Bukit Puchong Boulevard, unveils Phase 2

The	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,609.1	0.7	(2.0)
Dow Jones	46,247.3	0.7	8.7
Nasdaq CI	22,484.1	0.4	16.4
S&P 500	6,643.7	0.6	13.0
SX5E	5,499.7	1.0	12.3
FTSE 100	9,284.8	0.8	13.6
Nikkei 225	45,355.0	(0.9)	13.7
Shanghai CI	3,828.1	(0.7)	14.2
HSI	26,128.2	(1.3)	30.3
STI	4,266.0	(0.2)	12.6

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	4,162.5	17.2
Value traded (RM m)	3,168.9	14.7
Gainers	419	
Losers	505	
Unchanged	466	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
FOCUS	0.010	100.0	117.7
ARMADA	0.365	1.4	73.9
TANCO	0.900	1.1	61.1
XDL	0.010	0.0	59.1
VS	0.600	1.7	53.6

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
MAYBANK	9.890	1.0	172.0
IHH	7.500	1.8	166.0
RHBBANK	6.570	0.9	94.5
SUNWAY	5.550	1.3	81.7
PBBANK	4.340	1.4	77.6

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	4.223	(0.3)
USD/JPY	149.360	0.1
EUR/USD	1.171	0.1
USD/CNY	7.135	(0.0)
US Dollar Index	98.131	(0.0)

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	69.5	(0.9)
Gold (USD/troy oz)	3,769.5	0.3
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,321.0	(1.0)
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	112,156.8	1.2

Source: Bloomberg



Macro News

US: Consumer spending increases solidly in August

US consumer spending increased slightly more than expected in August, keeping the economy on solid ground as the third quarter progressed, while inflation continued to rise at a measured pace. Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of economic activity, rose 0.6% last month after an unrevised 0.5% advance in July, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis said on Friday. Economists polled by *Reuters* had forecast consumer spending increasing 0.5% after a previously reported 0.5% gain in July. (*Reuters*)

US: Consumer sentiment falls to four-month low on income worries

US consumer sentiment fell in September to a four-month low on growing concerns about the impact of high prices on personal finances. The final September sentiment index dropped to 55.1 from 58.2 a month earlier, according to the University of Michigan. That compared with a preliminary reading of 55.4. Consumers expect prices to rise at an annual rate of 4.7% over the next year, data released on Friday showed. That was down slightly from both the preliminary September reading and the prior month. They saw costs rising at an annual rate of 3.7% over the next five to 10 years, up from August. (*Bloomberg*)

MY: Bridging the connectivity gap

The upcoming opening of the Light Rail Transit 3 (LRT3), or LRT Shah Alam Line, marks a long-awaited addition to the Klang Valley's transport network, enhancing connectivity between its eastern and western corridors. *City & Country* asked PA International Property Consultants Sdn Bhd group managing director Subramaniam Arumugam, Nawawi Tie Leung (NTL) Property Consultants Sdn Bhd executive director and regional head of research and consulting Saleha Yusoff, and CCO & Associates (KL) Sdn Bhd executive director Chan Wai Seen for their insights into the impact of the LRT3 on property values along its route. (*The Edge*)

MY: Govt ready to consider extending Budi95 to small passenger boat operators

The government is open to expanding the newly introduced Budi Madani RON95 (Budi95) initiative to benefit small-time passenger boat operators, particularly in Sabah and Sarawak. Second Finance Minister Datuk Amir Hamzah Azizan said the government principally does not see any obstacle in extending the scheme to those involved in passenger boat operations, as they too play a vital role in serving local communities, especially in rural and island areas. "The government is willing to work with the Sabah and Sarawak state governments on this matter, as passenger boat operators are also among groups heavily reliant on subsidised fuel to sustain their operations and livelihood," he told reporters after visiting the Petroliam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) petrol station in Jalan Pohon Batu, here on Sunday. (*Bernama*)

CN: Industrial profits jump in August, reversing drop

Chinese industrial profits surged after months of declines, signalling that national campaigns to tackle overcapacity and excessive competition are bearing fruit. Industrial profits in August climbed 20.4% from a year earlier, the first increase in four months, according to data released on Saturday by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). For the first eight months of the year, they climbed 0.9%, beating a *Bloomberg Economics* forecast for a 1.6% drop. Chinese factory deflation eased for the first time in six months in August amid a government campaign to reduce overcapacity across the economy. But a continued deceleration in industrial output growth may have offset any benefits to company bottom lines. (*Bloomberg*)

JP: LDP contender Takaichi hints at review of US trade deal

A top contender to lead Japan's ruling party suggested that a trade renegotiation with the US could be on the table if the deal doesn't serve Japan's interests. "We must stand our ground if anything unfair that is not in Japan's interests comes to light in the process of implementing the deal," Sanae Takaichi said on Sunday with regard to a US\$550bn (RM2.3tn) Japanese investment fund that was part of an agreement to lower US tariffs. "That includes a potential renegotiation." The right-leaning Takaichi made the comments during a live *Fuji TV* show, less than a week before the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is set to elect its new leader from five candidates. (*Bloomberg*)



Corporate News

ZETRIX: Miss Universe pageant organiser partners Zetrix AI to launch blockchain-enabled voting

Zetrix AI Bhd, formerly MyEG Services Bhd, has partnered with the organiser of the annual Miss Universe beauty pageant, the Miss Universe Organization (MUO), to develop the pageant's first global blockchain voting app. The app also features artificial intelligence (AI) companions based on Miss Universe contestants, giving fans a fun and unique way to connect with the women, their causes, and cultures. The app will be available on Apple's App Store and Google Play Store ahead of the 74th Miss Universe competition on Nov 21 in Bangkok, which will feature contestants from over 130 countries. *(The Edge)*

INTA: Secures RM40.6m housing construction job from Eco Majestic

Inta Bina Group Bhd has secured a RM40.6m contract to construct 128 two-storey terrace houses within a gated and guarded development at Beranang in Selangor's Hulu Langat district. The contract was awarded to the group's wholly owned subsidiary, Inta Bina Sdn Bhd, by Eco Majestic Development Sdn Bhd, said Inta Bina in a filing with Bursa Malaysia on Friday. Earlier this month, Inta Bina won another contract worth RM66.5m from Eco Majestic to build 154 houses in the gated and guarded project in Beranang. The latest contract, spanning 20 months, is scheduled to commence on Oct 8. *(The Edge)*

AEONCR: Establish AEON360 to integrate group ecosystem

AEON Credit Service (M) Bhd and AEON Co (M) Bhd have jointly established AEON360 Sdn Bhd, a new venture aimed at unifying the AEON group of companies' ecosystems in Malaysia and accelerating customer-centric growth nationwide. According to filings with Bursa Malaysia, AEON Credit holds a 51% stake in AEON360, while AEON Co owns the remaining 49%. Both companies said the joint venture, slated to commence operations in October, represents a strategic investment to future-proof the group through ecosystem thinking, digital infrastructure, and data-driven innovation. *(The Edge)*

AYER: Secures full take-up of Bukit Puchong Boulevard, unveils Phase 2

AYER Holdings Bhd has recorded a full take-up for all 54 units at Bukit Puchong Boulevard within 11 months of launch and is moving ahead with the second phase of the commercial precinct, it said in a press release on Sept 23. AYER group chief executive officer Joanne Lee said: "The 100% take-up rate achieved within just 11 months of launch is a testament to the strong trust placed in AYER and the enduring appeal of Bandar Bukit Puchong as a growing destination for businesses and communities." *(The Edge)*

PARAMON: To open ninth co-working space in Johor this November

Paramount Corporation Bhd plans to launch its ninth Co-labs Coworking location at Mid Valley Southkey in Johor this November — its first expansion outside the Klang Valley. Deputy chairman Benjamin Teo, at a media briefing after the launch of the KL Sentral branch, highlighted Johor's fast economic growth, proximity to Singapore, and growing start-up scene as key reasons for the expansion into Johor. The new site will serve Malaysian and Singaporean businesses, benefiting from initiatives like the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone. The 14,000 sq ft space in Johor will mirror the KL Sentral branch, which became profitable within just three months and has reached over 50% occupancy. It has reached operating break-even in terms of profit before interest and depreciation. *(The Edge)*

PESONA: Wins RM666m contract from TA Global to build shopping mall, office tower

Pesona Metro Holdings Bhd said it has bagged a RM666m contract from TA Global Bhd to build a shopping mall and an office tower in Bandar Sri Damansara, Petaling Jaya. The contract value is more than double the construction and trading group's market capitalisation of RM292m, based on Friday's closing share price. The contract has also boosted its order book to a record RM2.6bn, providing the group with revenue visibility for the next three years, said Pesona in a statement on Friday. The project, which has a tenure of 30 months from Sept 18, involves the main building works for DA Central Mall and The Arden office tower in property developer TA Global's 48-acre Damansara Avenue development in Bandar Sri Damansara. *(The Edge)*



Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
British American Tobacco (M)	Consumer	5.18	0.53	10.23
Taliworks Corporation	Utilities	0.52	0.05	9.71
REXIT	Technology	0.54	0.05	9.35
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.19	0.42	8.05
KIP REIT	REIT	0.87	0.07	7.93
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.79	0.06	7.77
Bermaz Auto	Consumer	0.65	0.05	7.54
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.62	0.05	7.42
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	4.15	0.31	7.35
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.04	0.07	7.21
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.36	0.09	6.99
Magnum	Consumer	1.36	0.09	6.99
RHB Bank	Finance	6.51	0.45	6.85
YTL Hospital REIT	REIT	1.11	0.07	6.67
Sports Toto	Consumer	1.40	0.09	6.64

Source: Bloomberg

User guide: Mercury Securities compiles a list of dividend-yielding stocks for conservative long-term passive investors looking for regular income whilst capping downside risk of their investment.

Methodology: The list above includes stocks that have a high dividend yield, estimated to be greater than 4% per annum. These stocks also have a history of paying dividends consistently, having paid dividends for the past 3 years.

IPO Tracker

Company	Listing Sought	Issue Price (RM/Share)	No. Of Shares (m)		Closing Date	Listing Date
			Public Issue	Offer for Sale		
Camaroe Berhad	ACE Market	0.14	99.0	49.5	12 Sep	2 Oct
Cheeding Holdings Berhad	ACE Market	0.36	143.0	65.0	23 Sep	7 Oct

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Published & Printed By:

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