



Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI fell 0.3% on Tuesday, closing at 1,613.6 points, accompanied by profit-taking across regional markets following recent advances, amid cautious sentiment ahead of the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy meeting today (29th October). Most indexes in each sector closed lower, with Health Care (-1.6%), Energy (-1.3%), and Industrial Products & Services (-0.8%) leading the way. The top laggards among significant index items were QL Resources, Petronas Chemicals, and Mr DIY, which fell by 2.1%, 1.5%, and 1.2%, respectively. Market breadth was negative, with 750 losers surpassing 329 gainers and 479 counters unchanged.

Across the region, Asian stock markets are in negative territory due to the present cautious reaction to the upcoming US Federal Reserve's monetary policy meeting. The Shanghai Composite down 0.2% to 3,988.2, the Nikkei 225 dropped 0.6% to 50,219.2, the Hang Seng fell 0.3% to 26,346.1, and the TAIEX fell 0.2% to 27,949.1. Materials (-1.1%), Health Care (-1.0%), and Energy (-0.7%) are the sectors leading the decrease in Shanghai, whereas Technology (-1.5%), Consumer Cyclical (-1.0%), and Financials (-0.8%) led the drop in Hang Seng.

European stocks closed slightly down on Tuesday after reaching record highs the previous day on mixed profit results, as investors continued to analyze the prospects for global trade and European rates. The STOXX 50 fell by 5,701, while the STOXX 600 dropped 0.3% to 576. Pharmaceutical companies led the session's losses, with Novartis falling 4.3% after the Swiss major reported lower results than expected. HSBC, on the other hand, increased its profit forecast for 2025, rising 4.4%. Iberdrola closed strongly higher after reporting results. Meanwhile, Nokia shares rose 20% when Nvidia announced a \$1bn equity investment in the company.

On Tuesday, US markets extended their gains, with the S&P 500 up 0.3%, the Dow up 180 points, and the Nasdaq up 0.8%, all of which set new highs ahead of Wednesday's widely predicted 25 basis point Fed cut. After two corporate events reanchored growth expectations, the recovery was centered in AI and mega cap tech, with Microsoft up 2.3% and Nvidia up 6.1%. Outside tech earnings also helped risk appetite, with UPS up 8.1% on better-than-expected profits and UnitedHealth up 1.6% after upping its profit forecast for 2025. Amazon disclosed approximately 14,000 corporate job losses, which created headline risk but did not derail the gain, which rose 1.4%. Traders are focused on this week's busy results calendar as well as Fed direction.

Macro Snapshots

- US:** Consumer confidence slips in October as worries over jobs persist
- US:** Signs US\$80 bil pact to boost nuclear power in AI drive
- CN:** Excludes EVs in latest five-year plan as industry grapples with oversupply
- MY:** Khazanah has invested over RM6bn in developing Medini Iskandar

Corporate Snapshots

- SCIB:** Appeals High Court's dismissal of RM14m refund claim
- MAA:** Bursa Malaysia takes MAA to court to block EGM on KNM unit sale
- YINSON:** Gets nod from New Zealand for renewable energy projects
- SKYGATE:** Sells Penang factory for RM39.8m

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,613.6	(0.3)	(1.8)
Dow Jones	47,706.4	0.3	12.1
Nasdaq CI	23,827.5	0.8	23.4
S&P 500	6,890.9	0.2	17.2
SX5E	5,704.4	(0.1)	16.5
FTSE 100	9,696.7	0.4	18.6
Nikkei 225	50,219.2	(0.6)	25.9
Shanghai CI	3,988.2	(0.2)	19.0
HSI	26,346.1	(0.3)	31.3
STI	4,450.4	0.0	17.5

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	3,860.4	12.2
Value traded (RM m)	3,026.6	4.1
Gainers	329	
Losers	750	
Unchanged	479	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
PERAK	0.395	17.9	188.3
BORNO	0.005	0.0	132.5
POWER	0.330	(5.7)	125.2
ZETRIX	0.835	(1.8)	80.5
PHRM	0.240	(5.9)	64.9

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
MAY	9.880	(0.3)	153.2
SDG	5.350	(0.9)	116.8
CIMB	7.390	(0.8)	117.3
AMM	5.710	0.7	95.0
TNB	13.220	(1.0)	80.0

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	4.196	0.4
USD/JPY	152.140	(0.0)
EUR/USD	1.165	0.0
USD/CNY	7.099	0.1
US Dollar Index	98.667	(0.1)

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	64.4	(1.9)
Gold (USD/troy oz)	3,944.4	(0.2)
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,262.0	(0.5)
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	113,060.3	0.2

Source: Bloomberg



Macro News

US: Consumer confidence slips in October as worries over jobs persist

US consumer confidence eased in October as households worried about the availability of jobs over the next six months and persistently higher prices because of tariffs on imports. The Conference Board said on Tuesday its consumer confidence index fell to 94.6 this month from an upwardly revised 95.6 in September. Economists polled by *Reuters* had forecast the index slipping to 93.2 from the previously reported 94.2 in September. "Consumers were a bit more pessimistic about future job availability and future business conditions while optimism about future income retreated slightly," said Stephanie Guichard, senior economist, global indicators at the Conference Board. (*Reuters*)

US: Home prices post weakest gain in more than two years

Home prices gained the least in over two years, slowing for the seventh straight month in August as buyers gained leverage in negotiations and inventory grew. A national measure of prices rose 1.5% from a year earlier, according to data from S&P Cotality Case-Shiller. It was the smallest gain since mid-2023 and followed a 1.6% increase in July. The easing of price growth is good news for buyers after a prolonged affordability squeeze caused by soaring prices and high mortgage rates. The index measures a three-month period ending in August, when mortgage rates were beginning to drop from near 7% and available listings were growing. Among 20 cities, New York again led the S&P Cotality Case-Shiller index, with a 6.1% annual gain in prices. Following were Chicago and Cleveland with increases of 5.9% and 4.7%, respectively. (*Bloomberg*)

US: ADP rolls out weekly US payrolls after suspending data to Fed

ADP Research will now be releasing US payroll data on a weekly basis, in addition to its monthly report, to provide high-frequency insights into the labour market. The figures, which are a four-week moving average of the latest total private employment change, will be released on Tuesdays at 8.15am New York time. ADP estimates payrolls increased 14,250 on average in the four weeks ended Oct 11, according to a statement Tuesday. Up until recently, ADP provided a version of weekly payrolls to the Federal Reserve, which the central bank used to gain insight into the private-sector job market. It isn't clear why the data-sharing arrangement was suspended. Senator Elizabeth Warren asked the company what prompted the move, the Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday. (*Bloomberg*)

US: Signs US\$80 bil pact to boost nuclear power in AI drive

The US government agreed to an US\$80bn (RM336.1bn) deal with Westinghouse Electric Co to build large-scale nuclear reactors, the latest push to meet rising demand for electricity from artificial intelligence. The strategic partnership — which also involves Brookfield Asset Management and Canadian uranium producer Cameco Corp — aims to deliver on US President Donald Trump's AI ambitions and scale up an industry he sees as vital to competing with China. The companies said Tuesday (Oct 28) the initiative will create tens of thousands of jobs across the country. (*Bloomberg*)

CN: Excludes EVs in latest five-year plan as industry grapples with oversupply

China has omitted electric vehicles from its list of strategic industries in its five-year development plan for 2026-2030, marking their first exclusion in more than a decade, as the sector grapples with oversupply challenges. New energy vehicles (NEVs) — a category comprising EVs, plug-in hybrids and fuel cell vehicles — were included as strategic emerging industries in the previous three five-year plans, aimed at sharpening industrial competitiveness. The central and local governments had provided billions of dollars in subsidies, helping China achieve a leading position in the global EV market and industry chain. (*Reuters*)

CN: Cheap air fares hurt profit recovery for state carriers

Stubbornly cheap international airfares for Chinese travellers are hurting attempts by the country's biggest carriers to claw their way back to profitability. Ticket prices have lingered between 22% and 34% below 2019 levels, according to a note from *Bloomberg* Intelligence, citing ForwardKeys data. While that's helped boost China's outbound travel recovery, it's been a double-edged sword for carriers' profitability, analysts Eric Zhu and George Ferguson said. "Fares' lack of pricing backbone has helped stimulate travel intent but constrains Chinese air carriers' ability to rebuild their margins," they wrote in the note published Tuesday (Oct 28). China's three leading airlines — China Southern Airlines Co, Air China Ltd and China Eastern Airlines — remained unprofitable through the first half, with low passenger yields squeezing margins, they wrote. (*Bloomberg*)

CN: Streamlines foreign investor rules to lure long-term funds

China's market watchdog rolled out a plan to simplify rules for its overseas institutional investors programme to attract more long-term funds into the country's capital markets. The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) unveiled a two-year strategy to improve the Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor (QFII) system, vowing to make it easier and faster for global investors to enter the nation's securities markets. The goal is to increase the appeal of the QFII programme to medium- and long-term capital with better coordination between onshore and offshore funding channels, the regulator said in a statement. "The plan focuses on improving market access, helping enhance investment efficiency and expanding investment channels," CSRC chairman Wu Qing said at the Financial Street Forum in Beijing on Monday, according to state media *Xinhua News Agency*. (*Bloomberg*)



MY: Dismisses claims Malaysia surrendered sovereignty under US trade deal

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has denied that Malaysia compromised its sovereignty under the recently signed reciprocal trade agreement with the US. Anwar, who is also finance minister, emphasised that the deal serves national and economic interests. Speaking after the closing of the 47th Asean Summit and Related Summits on Tuesday, Anwar said Malaysia would not enter into any agreement that undermines its independence, and that the pact was aimed at strengthening the country's economic standing. (*The Edge*)

MY: BNM commits to share confidential FX data with US Treasury

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) has agreed to share its confidential data on its net foreign exchange purchases and sales with the US Treasury, as part of continued cooperation between both authorities on macroeconomic and currency matters. BNM said it will disclose its net purchase or sale of forex in the market on a six-month aggregated basis with a three-month lag, according to a joint statement by BNM and the US Treasury on Tuesday. This comes after BNM and the US Treasury Department reaffirmed a commitment to avoid manipulating exchange rates or the international monetary system to prevent effective balance of payments adjustment or to gain an unfair competitive advantage. (*The Edge*)

MY: 70% of Malaysian businesses launched in 2019 still thriving — official data

Nearly 70% of Malaysian businesses launched in 2019 are still operating in 2024, up from 66.5% of 2018 start-ups. There were 46,859 new businesses in 2019, compared with 47,247 in 2018. The Department of Statistics Malaysia's Business Demography Statistics on Tuesday (Oct 28) released an analysis of how long businesses operate, from start-up to closure and how long they survive before shutting down. DOSM found that businesses in the construction space led the way with a five-year survival rate of 72.8%, followed by manufacturing at 70.3% and services at 69.8%. (*The Edge*)

MY: RM4.3bn spent on flood mitigation projects nationwide over past five years, says deputy minister

The government has spent RM4.3bn over the past five years to implement the Flood Mitigation Plan (RTB) nationwide, the Dewan Rakyat was told on Tuesday. Deputy Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir said annual expenditure had risen from RM541m in 2021 to RM1.4bn in 2025, in line with the phased implementation of RTB projects under the Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (Petra) through the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID). "For Sabah, a total of 15 projects worth RM948.1m are being or have been implemented under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP). These projects have so far succeeded in reducing flood hotspot areas from 798 to 517," he said when replying to a question from Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee (PN-Beluran). (*Bernama*)

MY: Khazanah has invested over RM6bn in developing Medini Iskandar, Desaru Coast — MOF

Khazanah Nasional Bhd has invested over RM6bn in the development of Medini Iskandar and Desaru Coast in Johor to date, according to the Ministry of Finance (MOF). The MOF said in a written reply at the Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday (Oct 28) that the amount was aimed at attracting more investments and creating job opportunities for Malaysians, especially in the property development, housing, education and tourism sectors in the two areas. "Khazanah's investment is based on the government's mandate to develop Iskandar Malaysia as a special economic corridor and this effort has been extended to Desaru Coast in line with the broader development efforts in Johor. (*Bernama*)

MY: Perak records highest number of LSS projects in peninsula, says deputy minister

Perak recorded the highest number of large scale solar (LSS) projects in Peninsular Malaysia with 28 projects having a capacity of 1,441.3 megawatts (MW), equivalent to approximately 6% of the country's green energy target by 2035. Deputy Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir said this positions the state as a major contributor towards the country's renewable energy capacity (REC) of 23,000 MW, or 40% of the national capacity by 2035 under the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR). "As of Aug 31, 2025, the government, through the Energy Commission, has awarded 117 LSS projects with a capacity of 6,028 MW from LSS 1 to LSS 5+," he said in response to a question from Muhammad Ismi Mat Taib (PN-Parit) regarding the progress of LSS in Perak and its contribution to the country's REC target, during the oral question and answer session in the Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday. (*Bernama*)



Corporate News

SCIB: Appeals High Court's dismissal of RM14m refund claim against Dynamic Prestige

Sarawak Consolidated Industries Bhd has filed an appeal against the High Court's decision to dismiss its RM14m claim against Dynamic Prestige Consultancy Sdn Bhd over payments made for proposed business ventures in the engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) sector. In a bourse filing on Tuesday, the civil engineering and precast concrete specialist said the High Court on Oct 10 dismissed its claim against Dynamic Prestige with costs of RM35,000, ruling that the documentary evidence presented "was not sufficient to support SCIB's claim at this stage." "However, after careful consideration of the sealed copy of the judgment received from the High Court on Oct 27, 2025 (Monday), and following consultations with the company's solicitors, SCIB has filed an appeal to the Court of Appeal on the same date," it said. (*The Edge*)

PLABS: Signs settlement agreement with substantial shareholders to end disputes

PeterLabs Holdings Bhd and two disputing substantial shareholders — former executive director Datuk Loh Saw Foong and his wife Datin Lin Ching Yein — said their disputes concerning the company and its units have ended. In a joint statement, PeterLabs, its units PeterLabs Sdn Bhd (PSB), Thye On Tong Trading Sdn Bhd (TOTT), Loh and Lin said they have entered into a settlement agreement on Tuesday, marking the conclusion of all matters arising from or connected with the management, operations and affairs of PeterLabs, PSB and TOTT. The agreement reflects the "mutual intention of parties to bring finality and closure" to these issues, the statement read. (*The Edge*)

MAA: Bursa Malaysia takes MAA Group to court to block EGM on KNM unit sale

Bursa Malaysia Securities Bhd is taking legal action against MAA Group Bhd to stop it from holding an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) on the proposed sale of Deutsche KNM GmbH (DKNM). According to KNM Group Bhd's bourse filing on Tuesday, Bursa had filed an originating summons at the Kuala Lumpur High Court against MAA, CIMSEC Nominees (Tempatan) Sdn Bhd, KNM and its unit, KNM Process Systems Sdn Bhd. MAA is named as the first defendant while CIMSEC Nominees is the second defendant. The case will be heard on Oct 29, a day before the EGM is to be held on Oct 30, 2025. Bursa is seeking, among others, an order to prevent MAA and CIMSEC Nominees from convening the EGM to discuss or move the proposed special resolution on the disposal of DKNM until the requirements of the Main Market Listing Requirements have been met. (*The Edge*)

YINSON: Gets nod from New Zealand for renewable energy projects

Yinson Holdings Bhd said its subsidiary Yinson Renewables has received approval from New Zealand's Overseas Investment Office (OIO) for its renewable energy investments in the country. The approval paves the way for Yinson Renewables to advance its renewable energy project pipeline in New Zealand. In a statement, the company said it has been actively investing in New Zealand's wind energy sector for the past four years. When asked for details of the investment and project, the company said it was unable to provide further information at this stage. (*The Edge*)

SKYGATE: Sells Penang factory to Danish medical device maker Ambu for RM39.8m

SkyGate Solutions Bhd, formerly known as Ewein Bhd, is selling one of its factories in Penang to Danish medical device firm Ambu AS for RM39.8M. A conditional sale and purchase agreement was inked between SkyGate's 98%-owned unit SkyGate Integration Sdn Bhd and Ambu Sdn Bhd for the sale of the 1.8-acre leasehold land together with a factory building, the precision engineering and industrial property firm said in a bourse filing on Tuesday. The company said the property sale is to generate capital to reinvest in high-growth projects to enhance its profitability. A breakdown of the utilisation of proceeds was not disclosed. (*The Edge*)

ALPHA: Keeps M&A option open, eyes Main Market transfer by early next year

Alpha IVF Group Bhd, a fertility care specialist, has not ruled out potential mergers and acquisitions (M&As) as part of its future growth strategy, should the right opportunities arise, said group managing director Datuk Dr Colin Lee Soon Soo. But for now, the group is focused on organic expansion, with plans to establish two new in vitro fertilisation (IVF) centres — one in Sabah and another in Manila, the Philippines. Both are targeted to begin operations by end-May 2026. "M&A is definitely not something we will overlook," Lee told reporters after the group's annual general meeting on Tuesday. (*The Edge*)

MAHSING: Eyes new data centre partners as second deal with Bridge DC falls through

Mah Sing Group Bhd said it is on the lookout for new partners to develop its second data centre project, after exclusive talks with Bridge Data Centres lapsed. This is the second data centre project collaboration with Bridge Data Centres to have fallen through, after an earlier agreement for a 100MW data centre project on a 17.55-acre site in Southville City also lapsed in May. Meanwhile, the latest one-year exclusivity agreement with Bridge Data Centres Malaysia VII Sdn Bhd for the proposed joint venture development of a 200-megawatt (MW) data centre lapsed on Tuesday, the property developer said in a bourse filing. (*The Edge*)



Upcoming key economic data releases	Date
US GDP (QoQ)	Oct 30
US Core PCE Price Index	Oct 31
US Chicago PMI	Oct 31
<i>Source: Bloomberg</i>	

Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
British American Tobacco (M)	Consumer	5.52	0.53	9.60
REXIT	Technology	0.54	0.05	9.35
Taliworks Corporation	Utilities	0.54	0.05	9.26
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.24	0.42	7.98
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.78	0.06	7.87
KIP REIT	REIT	0.87	0.07	7.82
Bermaz Auto	Consumer	0.64	0.05	7.66
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.63	0.05	7.36
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	4.22	0.31	7.25
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.05	0.07	7.14
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.39	0.09	6.83
Magnum	Consumer	1.39	0.09	6.83
Sports Toto	Consumer	1.39	0.09	6.69
YTL Hospital REIT	REIT	1.11	0.07	6.67
Kim Loong Resources	Plantation	2.31	0.15	6.62

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		
Farmiera Berhad	ACE Market	0.25	117.0	0.0	30 Oct	12 Nov



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