



# Daily Newswatch

## Market Review

The FBM KLCI rose +0.2% to 1,684.5 points on Tuesday, driven by late buying activities amid signs of year-end window dressing. Energy (+0.5%), Financial Services (+0.5%), and Health Care (+0.5%), were the best-performing sectors. Among the major constituents, 99 Speed Mart, SD Guthrie, and RHB Bank led the gains by +1.8%, +1.6%, and +1.2%, respectively. Nevertheless, market breadth remained negative on Tuesday trading session with 536 losers outpacing 463 gainers, while 544 remained unchanged.

Asian stocks closed in the mixed-on Tuesday, as investors reacted to a combination of weakness in global tech sentiment and thin, holiday-shortened trading volumes, with some indexes dipping while others gained slightly amid cautious positioning. The Shanghai Composite remained unchanged (-0.0%) at 3,965.1 points, the Hang Seng rose +0.9% to 25,854.6 points, Taiwan's TAIEX dropped -0.4% to 28,707.1 points, and the KOSPI declined -0.2% to 4,214.2 points. In China, Real Estate (-1.2%), Utilities (-0.9%), and Consumer Staples (-0.7%) were the worst-performing sectors, dragged by stocks such as Swancor Advanced Materials (-10.2%), Chongqing Sifang New Material (-10.0%), and Anji Foodstuff (-10.0%). In South Korea, Health Services (-2.9%), Non-Energy Minerals (-2.6%), and Producer Manufacturing (-1.8%), were the worst-performing sectors, dragged by TMC, Inscobee, and L&F, each dropped by -16.9%, -14.1%, and -9.9%, respectively.

European equities extended their record-breaking run on Tuesday, driven by gains in banking and commodity stocks as investors focused on expectations of further Fed policy easing in 2026. The STOXX 50 rose +0.8% to a record 5,796 points and the STOXX 600 gained +0.6% to 593, with both indices on track for their strongest annual gains since 2021, supported by easing rates, Germany's fiscal expansion and a rotation away from US technology stocks, while defense shares headed for their biggest annual rise since 1996.

US stocks were mixed heading into the final trading day of 2025 after Wall Street recorded a third straight decline, weighed down by weakness in technology and financial shares. In Tuesday's regular session, the S&P 500 slipped -0.1%, while the Nasdaq Composite and the Dow each fell -0.2%. Investors weighed expectations of resilient economic growth and potential Federal Reserve rate cuts against concerns over stretched valuations in AI-related companies, while trading activity remained subdued amid the shortened holiday week. Despite recent declines, US equities are on track for a strong year, with the S&P 500 set to gain around +17%. Palantir posted triple-digit gains, while Nvidia and Oracle recorded double-digit advances. The Dow rose about +13.7% this year, supported by solid GDP growth and robust consumer spending, while the Nasdaq Composite outperformed with a +21.3% surge.

## Macro Snapshots

- **US:** Home prices rise by least since 2012 in October, govt data shows
- **US:** Tariffs to set US materials up for best earnings in five years
- **CN:** Unveils initial US\$9bn in consumer subsidies for 2026
- **MY:** To open special window for foreign worker quota applications from Jan 19

## Corporate Snapshots

- **AHEALTH:** Privatisation goes ahead
- **CHINHIN:** Files RM201m arbitration claim against Intel Pelican's main contractor
- **GENTING:** Issues RM3bn notes under new RM5bn debt programme
- **CYPARK:** Fully redeems RM235m Tranche 1 of perpetual sukuk

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,684.5	0.2	2.6
Dow Jones	48,367.1	(0.2)	13.7
Nasdaq CI	23,419.1	(0.2)	21.3
S&P 500	6,896.2	(0.1)	17.3
SX5E	5,796.2	0.8	18.4
FTSE 100	9,940.7	0.8	21.6
Nikkei 225	50,339.5	(0.4)	26.2
Shanghai CI	3,965.1	(0.0)	18.3
HSI	25,854.6	0.9	28.9
STI	4,655.4	0.5	22.9

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	1,878.6	(7.5)
Value traded (RM m)	1,901.9	6.4
Gainers	463	
Losers	536	
Unchanged	544	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
TANC	1.150	0.9	69.1
PHRM	0.290	(3.3)	66.9
MEGAFB	0.880	10.0	33.0
TWL	0.020	(20.0)	31.0
MQ	0.085	0.0	26.6

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
TNB	13.780	(0.7)	151.1
CIMB	8.230	0.0	116.4
MAY	10.500	0.6	93.8
TANC	1.150	0.9	79.3
PBK	4.540	0.7	68.0

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	4.048	0.3
USD/JPY	156.390	0.0
EUR/USD	1.175	0.0
USD/CNY	6.996	0.1
US Dollar Index	98.218	0.2

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	61.9	(0.0)
Gold (USD/troy oz)	4,339.5	0.2
CPO (MYR/metric t)	3,990.0	(0.9)
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	88,274.7	0.1

Source: Bloomberg



## Macro News

### US: Home prices rise by least since 2012 in October, govt data shows

US home prices rose in October at the slowest annual rate in more than 13 years, government data showed on Tuesday, in a sign of improving affordability in the long-struggling housing market. The Federal Housing Finance Agency said home prices rose 1.7% from a year earlier in October after climbing by an upwardly revised 1.8% in September. That marked the smallest annual price increase since March 2012, when prices first started rising after a five-year slump triggered by the global financial crisis. On a regional basis, annual price changes ranged from a drop of 0.7% in the lower Midwest to an increase of 5.3% in the Mid-Atlantic region. Home price increases are now a fraction of what they were during and immediately after the Covid-19 pandemic, when widespread work-from-home policies sent the real estate market into a frenzy and sent prices spiraling higher at annual rates approaching 20%. (*Reuters*)

### US: Tariffs to set US materials up for best earnings in five years

While tariffs and shaky consumer confidence continue to create headwinds for corporate America, they're set to lift earnings growth for US materials stocks to the highest in five years. Materials stocks — a group of companies ranging from steelmaker Nucor Corp and paint maker Sherwin-Williams Co to packaging manufacturers including Smurfit WestRock plc and Ball Corp — are set to see earnings rise 20% in 2026, *Bloomberg* Intelligence data shows. Only tech earnings are expected to grow faster. Constituents active in the metals and packaging industries are set to get the biggest lift, as trade protections strengthen steel prices and a volume play by consumer goods makers is driving demand for everything from cereal boxes to soda cans. Both sub-sectors are expected to see earnings grow more than 30% next year. (*Bloomberg*)

### CN: Extends home purchase tax cut to bolster property market

China will extend a policy scrapping value-added tax on certain home sales in a move aimed at easing the country's persistent property slump. The exemption — which applies to individuals selling residential properties they have owned for at least two years — will be implemented from Friday, the country's Ministry of Finance said in a statement Tuesday. A 3% VAT remains for homes sold within two years of purchase. In cities including Shanghai, sellers of homes held for less than two years previously had to pay VAT of 5%. The country's major cities already implemented a VAT exemption in late 2024. (*Bloomberg*)

### CN: Unveils initial US\$9bn in consumer subsidies for 2026

China will provide nearly US\$9bn (RM36.5bn) to subsidise its consumer goods trade-in drive next year, extending a stimulus programme aimed at shoring up domestic demand and countering external headwinds faced by the world's number two economy. The government plans to raise 62.5bn yuan (RM36.1bn) to fund the first tranche of subsidies by selling ultra-long special sovereign bonds, the National Development and Reform Commission, China's top economic-planning agency, said in a statement Tuesday (Dec 30). (*Bloomberg*)

### CN: Mandates 50% domestic equipment rule for chipmakers

China is requiring chipmakers to use at least 50% domestically made equipment for adding new capacity, three people familiar with the matter said, as Beijing pushes to build a self-sufficient semiconductor supply chain. The rule is not publicly documented, but chipmakers seeking state approval to build or expand their plants have been told by authorities in recent months that they must prove through procurement tenders that at least half their equipment will be Chinese-made, the people told *Reuters*. The mandate is one of the most significant measures Beijing has introduced to wean itself off reliance on foreign technology, a push that gathered pace after the US tightened technology export restrictions in 2023, banning sales of advanced artificial intelligence (AI) chips and semiconductor equipment to China. (*Reuters*)

### CN: Vows to stabilise grain, edible oil production in key meeting

China must stabilise grain and edible oil production, improve grain varieties and enhance quality, state news agency *Xinhua* said on Tuesday, following a meeting of the annual Central Rural Work Conference from Dec 29 to 30. The group, which sets China's agricultural priorities, pledged to "enhance the capacity for diversified food supply" and "promote high-quality development of high-standard farmland through zoned and categorised planning," *Xinhua* said. China is highly reliant on imports to feed its people and tensions with the US, a major agricultural trading partner, have accelerated a domestic self-sufficiency drive that includes investments in machinery and seed technology. (*Reuters*)

### MY: Govt to open special window for foreign worker quota applications from Jan 19

The Ministry of Home Affairs will open a special period to receive applications for the employment quota of foreign workers for the year 2025 starting from Jan 19 to March 31, 2026. The ministry in a statement on Tuesday announced that existing quota applications are still being accepted until the earlier set deadline on Dec 31, 2025. According to the statement, the special period involves applications for all sectors and sub-sectors that have been approved by the government on Oct 1, 2025, as well as complying with the stipulated eligibility criteria, including applications for the employment of foreign workers for the service sector under the supervision of the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living which were previously closed earlier. (*Bernama*)



**MY: IRB settles processing and crediting of RM4bn additional allocation for tax refunds**

The entire additional allocation for tax refunds amounting to RM4bn has been processed and credited between Dec 9 and 24, involving 110,074 cases, according to the Inland Revenue Board (IRB). This is in line with the announcement by Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Dec 7 that the government has increased the allocation for tax refunds from RM2bn to RM4bn to expedite refunds of outstanding tax payments to taxpayers. In a statement on Tuesday, the IRB announced that it has processed tax refunds amounting to RM19bn involving 3,632,003 cases for the period from Jan 1 to Dec 24. "For the period 1 Jan to Dec , a total of RM15bn was processed with more than three million cases recorded, while for the periods Dec 9 to 15, Dec 16 to 18, Dec 19 to 22 and Dec 24 to Dec 24, an amount of RM1bn was processed each. (*Bernama*)

## Corporate News

**AHEALTH: Privatisation goes ahead as compulsory acquisition threshold crossed**

Apex Healthcare Bhd said on Tuesday the voluntary takeover offer for the pharmaceutical group has crossed the compulsory acquisition threshold, paving the way for the offeror to buy out the remaining shares and delist the company. In a bourse filing on Tuesday, Apex Healthcare said Pharmora Investment Holdings Pte Ltd and parties acting in concert had received acceptances exceeding 90% of the offer shares as at 5pm on Dec 30 (Tuesday). This triggered the right to compulsorily acquire the remaining shares under Section 222 of the Capital Markets and Services Act 2007. Pharmora is the special purpose vehicle of healthcare-focused private equity firm Quadria Capital Investment Management Pte Ltd, which is backed by Temasek Holdings (Private) Ltd and the Employees Provident Fund. (*The Edge*)

**CHINHIN: Unit files RM201m arbitration claim against Intel Pelican's main contractor**

Chin Hin Group Bhd said its 95%-owned subsidiary, Kayangan Kemas Sdn Bhd (KKSB), has initiated arbitration proceedings against the main contractor of the Intel Pelican Project in Bayan Lepas, Penang, seeking about RM201m following a contract dispute. In a bourse filing on Tuesday, the construction engineering firm said KKSB had filed a demand for arbitration against Exyte Malaysia Sdn Bhd with the American Arbitration Association, in accordance with the Construction Industry Arbitration Rules. Exyte is an engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) company based in Stuttgart, Germany. It specialises in high-tech facilities for the semiconductor and data centre industries. (*The Edge*)

**GENTING: Issues RM3bn notes under new RM5bn debt programme**

Genting Bhd has issued its maiden series of medium-term notes under its new RM5bn unrated MTN programme, lodged with the regulator earlier this month. The Series 1 issuance by wholly owned unit Genting Vista Bhd comprised RM3bn in nominal value, with a one-to-five-year tenure, and carries an annual interest rate of three-month Klibor plus 1.8%, according to the group's bourse filing on Tuesday. Proceeds will be used to redeem the debt notes previously issued by its unit, Genting RMTN Bhd, to part-finance the takeover offer for Genting Malaysia Bhd. "... Genting RMTN has today fully redeemed the aggregate RM3bn nominal value of MTN issued on Nov 10, 20, 27 and Dec 5, 2025 under the MTN programme," it noted. (*The Edge*)

**CYPARK: Fully redeems RM235m Tranche 1 of perpetual sukuk**

Cypark Resources Bhd said its unit has fully redeemed its outstanding Tranche 1 perpetual sukuk. The unit, Cypark Renewable Energy Sdn Bhd's perpetual sukuk under the tranche, amounting to RM235m, was fully redeemed on Tuesday (Dec 30), according to the group's statement. The redemption is one of several initiatives under its RM1.3bn refinancing programme with MBSB Bank, Cypark noted. The financing facility was secured to refinance its renewable energy assets in solar and waste-to-energy earlier in August. "The early and full redemption of Tranche 1 of perpetual sukuk musharakah reflects the steady progress we are making in strengthening Cypark as an organisation and reinforces our commitment to meeting our obligations," Cypark group managing director Datuk Ami Moris said. (*The Edge*)

**SUNVIEW: Unit to acquire 50MW solar plant in Pahang for RM70m**

Sunview Group Bhd said on Tuesday it is acquiring a now-halted large-scale solar farm project in Pekan, Pahang, for RM70m in cash. The plant is being acquired from PKNP Reneuco Suria Sdn Bhd, which is under receivership and is a 95%-owned subsidiary of Practice Note 17-listed Reneuco Bhd, according to a bourse filing. According to Sunview, the plant sits on two parcels of leasehold land and was originally awarded under the Energy Commission's Large Scale Solar 4 (LSS4) bidding exercise in March 2021. Reneuco, then known as Kumpulan Powernet Bhd, in collaboration with Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Pahang (PKNP), was shortlisted to develop the 50MWac solar photovoltaic plant. (*The Edge*)

**UEMS: Wins counterclaims against Ireka in arbitration**

UEM Sunrise Bhd has won its counterclaims in a long-running arbitration against the main contractor of the Imperia mixed development in Puteri Harbour, Johor. An arbitral tribunal dismissed claims brought by Ireka Corporation Bhd's unit Ireka Engineering & Construction Sdn Bhd and allowed counterclaims sought by UEM Sunrise, through its subsidiary UEM Land Bhd, the property developer said in an exchange filing. Ireka is required to pay UEM Land about RM3.0m before taxes. The arbitration began in April 2019 to resolve disputes over the finalisation of a construction contract for the Imperia project. Ireka was appointed as the main contractor in 2012 and sought RM29.3m from UEM Land, along with other outstanding payments. (*The Edge*)

**CITAGLB: Chairman of Perlis Maritime Corridor master developer emerges as Citaglobal substantial shareholder**

Datuk Shabaruddin Ibrahim, group executive chairman of Mutiara Perlis Sdn Bhd — the master developer of the Perlis Maritime Corridor (PMC) — has emerged as a substantial shareholder of Citaglobal Bhd. This came after Shabaruddin's company, Dedap Rimbun Sdn Bhd, completed its disposal of a 20% stake in Manjaran Sdn Bhd, an indirect shareholder of Mutiara Perlis, to Citaglobal in exchange for 42.1m Citaglobal shares worth RM40m or 95 sen apiece. The shares, equivalent to a 9.003% stake, were issued to Dedap Rimbun on Dec 26, according to Citaglobal's bourse filing on Tuesday. This places Shabaruddin, via Dedap Rimbun, as Citaglobal's third-largest shareholder. (*The Edge*)

**INSAS: Ceases to be substantial shareholder in Omesti after 8.5% stake disposal**

Insas Bhd has ceased to be a substantial shareholder in ICT firm Omesti Bhd following an 8.5% stake disposal. Insas disposed of 197.4m shares — equivalent to an 8.5% stake — on Monday (Dec 29), according to a bourse filing on Tuesday. The disposal slashed Insas' stake in Omesti to 4.638%, below the requisite 5% to be deemed a substantial shareholder. In a separate filing on Tuesday, Omesti said Teguh Sedaya Sdn Bhd raised its stake in the company to 14.1% after acquiring 302.9m shares, equivalent to a 13.0% stake, via a private placement exercise. (*The Edge*)

**HTPADU: Gets RM17.6m job to supply ICT equipment to Miri Hospital**

HeiTech Padu Bhd has secured a RM17.6m contract from the Ministry of Health to supply ICT equipment and provide a network upgrade to Miri Hospital in Sarawak. The letter of award was accepted by the information technology system integration company on Monday, according to its exchange filing on Tuesday. The two-year contract, commencing Feb 1, 2026, also encompasses a study, plan, design, delivery, installation, configuration, testing and commissioning of the ICT equipment. Shares in HeiTech Padu ended one sen or 0.6% lower at RM1.7, valuing the company at RM273.8m. (*The Edge*)

**SDCG: Plans one-for-two bonus warrants**

Solar District Cooling Group Bhd has proposed a bonus issue of warrants on the basis of one free warrant for every two shares held in the building management systems company. The proposed exercise involves the issuance of 211.9m warrants, with a five-year tenure, according to a bourse filing on Tuesday. SDCG currently has 423.82 million shares in circulation and no outstanding warrants. The bonus warrants could enable SDCG to raise up to RM169.5m if fully exercised at an assumed exercise price of 80 sen, which is a 37.7% premium to its five-day volume-weighted average price, up to and including Dec 24, of 58.1 sen. (*The Edge*)

Upcoming key economic data releases	Date
US S&P Global Manufacturing PMI (Dec)	Jan 02
<i>Source: Bloomberg</i>	



## Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
Bonia Corporation	Consumer	0.85	0.11	13.49
British American Tobacco (M)	Consumer	4.44	0.58	13.13
Taliworks Corporation	Utilities	0.51	0.05	9.90
REXIT	Technology	0.57	0.05	8.85
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.18	0.42	8.13
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.01	0.08	7.92
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	4.18	0.33	7.87
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.79	0.06	7.85
KIP REIT	REIT	0.90	0.07	7.67
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.29	0.09	7.36
Magnum	Consumer	1.29	0.09	7.36
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.64	0.04	7.09
Bermaz Auto	Consumer	0.71	0.05	6.62
Kim Loong Resources	Plantation	2.35	0.15	6.51
Sports Toto	Consumer	1.36	0.08	6.18

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		
<a href="#">Semico Capital Berhad</a>	ACE Market	0.25	92.7	18.0	2 Jan	13 Jan
SBS Nexus Berhad	ACE Market	0.25	122.5	49.0	7 Jan	20 Jan

Source: Bursa Malaysia

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## Published & Printed By:

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