


Support / Potential "buy" levels
\$8,416.
Resistance
\$8,769.
KEY TAKEAWAYS
Australian equities edge lower as caution returns

Australian shares slipped on Tuesday, with the ASX 200 ending 0.52% lower as weakness in utilities, consumer staples and financials overshadowed a handful of eye-catching rallies. Despite the decline, market breadth was fairly balanced, with advancers narrowly outnumbering decliners, suggesting investors were rotating rather than retreating wholesale.

Bluescope Steel stole the spotlight, surging 20.57% to a five-year high of 29.48, while DroneShield jumped 18.13% and Lontown Resources climbed 14.50% to a fresh 52-week high. On the downside, Lovisa fell 4.45%, Virgin Australia slipped 4.32% and Judo Capital lost 3.92%. Volatility ticked up, with the ASX 200 VIX rising to 10.42.

Away from equities, data pointed to a slowing but still expanding economy. Services and composite PMIs eased in December, though confidence improved. The Australian dollar hovered near \$0.672, close to recent highs, as markets weighed softer US data, looming inflation figures at home and ongoing geopolitical noise offshore.

Investor Pulse Wealth Account

Take control of your investments with a fully **CHES**-sponsored **wealth account** under your existing HIN - seamlessly accessible through your **Investor Pulse Members Area**.

Portfolio Performance

- Growth Portfolio:** 21% p.a. average return - ideal for investors seeking higher capital growth.
- Balanced Portfolio:** 15% p.a. average return with a 5% dividend yield - the perfect blend of growth and income.
- Income Portfolio:** 13% p.a. average return with a 6% dividend yield - Defensive, focused on stable, consistent returns.

**Past performance is not indicative of future performance*

All portfolios can be customised to match your objectives - dial up income or growth as you prefer.

Macquarie Cash Accounts

Wealth clients receive a **Macquarie CMA Account** plus a **Cash Accelerator Account paying 3.9% p.a.**, automatically linked to your wealth account for seamless cash management.

Fees and Reporting

A simple **flat fee of 1.5% p.a. (incl. GST)** applies, debited monthly. You'll receive comprehensive **tax reporting** each financial year, ready for your accountant.

Access and Transparency

Monitor your **portfolio performance, holdings, and annual tax pack** anytime via the Investor Pulse Members Area.

Setup in Minutes

Getting started takes just **five minutes** - click below to open your account and select your preferred entity type.

[Click here to get started](#)

MARKET MOVERS

Australian equities retreated on Tuesday, with the ASX 200 closing down 0.52% as losses across utilities, consumer staples and financials outweighed sharp gains in a handful of resource and defence-linked names.

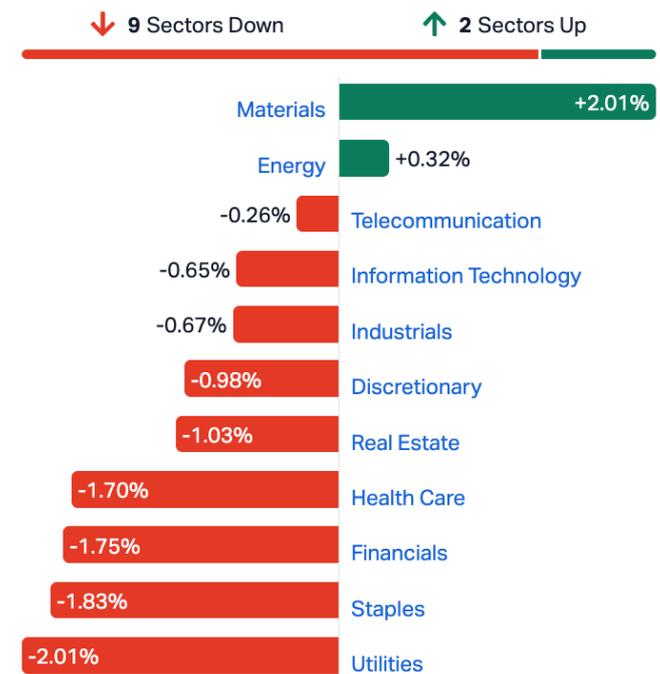


The benchmark ended the session lower in Sydney despite a broadly mixed internal picture, where advancing stocks narrowly outnumbered decliners by 643 to 533, while 350 names finished unchanged, underscoring a market pulled between pockets of optimism and growing macro unease.

Standout performances at the top end of the index were dominated by Bluescope Steel, which surged 20.57%, adding 5.03 points to close at 29.48, its highest level in five years. The rally provided a notable counterpoint to the broader sell-off and reflected renewed investor enthusiasm for steel producers amid expectations of improved margins.

DroneShield followed closely, climbing 18.13% or 0.60 points to 3.91, as appetite for defence and security technology stocks remained robust. Liontown Resources also attracted strong buying interest, rising 14.50% or 0.25 points to 1.93 to mark a fresh 52-week high, reinforcing the resilience of selected lithium and battery materials plays despite recent volatility in the sector.

Losses were more evenly spread across the laggards. Lovisa Holdings fell 4.45% or 1.31 points to 28.15, extending pressure on discretionary retail names.



Virgin Australia Holdings declined 4.32% or 0.15 points to 3.32, while Judo Capital slid 3.92% or 0.07 points to 1.72, reflecting renewed caution toward smaller financial institutions as funding costs and credit conditions remain under scrutiny. The broader sense of unease was also evident in derivatives markets, with the S&P/ASX 200 VIX rising 2.38% to 10.42, signalling a modest uptick in implied volatility.

Macro data released during the session pointed to a slowing but still expanding domestic economy. The S&P Global Australia Services PMI Business Activity Index eased to 51.1 in December from 52.8 in November, indicating a softer pace of growth if confirmed by final readings. Survey respondents pointed to weaker growth in services and new business amid heightened competition, even as employment rose at a quicker pace as firms sought to manage workloads. Export demand for services moderated, producing a smaller increase in new export business than in the previous month. Despite the slowdown, business confidence improved to its highest level since June, suggesting firms remain cautiously

optimistic about the outlook. Cost pressures, however, intensified, with input price inflation accelerating due to higher energy, wage and material expenses, while selling price inflation picked up to a three-month high.

A similar pattern emerged in the broader private sector. The S&P Global Australia Composite PMI slipped to 51 in December from 52.6 in November, marking the fifteenth consecutive month of expansion but the slowest pace in seven months. The moderation reflected slower growth in both manufacturing output and services activity. In contrast, overall new orders rose at a faster pace, largely driven by a stronger upturn in the services sector, while job creation accelerated, allowing firms to further reduce backlogs. Input cost and output price inflation edged slightly higher than in November, highlighting persistent price pressures. Even so, business confidence improved, underpinning expectations of continued, albeit more measured, growth into the new year.

In currency markets, the Australian dollar edged higher to around \$0.672, hovering near its strongest level since October 2024.

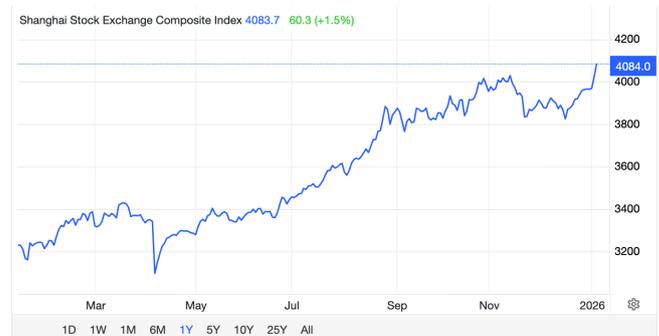


Crosses	Price		Day	Year	Date	
AUDUSD	0.67314	▲	0.00174	0.26%	8.04%	14:23
EURAUD	1.7430	▼	-0.0019	-0.11%	5.03%	Jan/06
GBPAUD	2.0128	▼	-0.0041	-0.20%	0.51%	Jan/06
AUDNZD	1.1595	▼	-0.0005	-0.04%	4.83%	Jan/06
AUDJPY	105.2470	▲	0.2700	0.26%	6.87%	Jan/06
AUDCNY	4.6960	▲	0.0077	0.17%	2.67%	Jan/06
AUDCHF	0.5327	▲	0.0012	0.23%	-6.02%	Jan/06
AUDCAD	0.9263	▲	0.0018	0.19%	3.46%	Jan/06

The move came as global risk appetite improved and the US dollar weakened after an unexpected drop in the ISM manufacturing survey raised concerns about the health of the American economy. Markets largely brushed aside reports of a US strike on Venezuela that reportedly resulted in the capture of President Nicolás Maduro. Attention at home is now turning to November inflation data due on Wednesday, with expectations of a modest easing. The release is seen as pivotal for monetary policy after the Reserve Bank of Australia warned it may need to lift the cash

rate if price pressures do not subside. Markets are currently pricing only a 30% probability of a rate hike in February, with roughly 37 bps of tightening expected over the year.

Across the region, Chinese equities advanced, defying geopolitical tensions.



Indexes	Price		Day	Month	Year	Date	
HK50	26,732.00	▲	384.76	1.46%	3.75%	37.46%	Jan/06
SHANGHAI	4084	▲	60	1.50%	4.03%	26.40%	14:21
CSI 300	4,789.78	▲	72.03	1.53%	3.64%	26.18%	Jan/06
SHANGHAI 50	3,158.15	▲	58.40	1.88%	4.60%	21.75%	Jan/06
CH50	15,705.46	▲	157.00	1.01%	2.18%	20.69%	Jan/06

The Shanghai Composite rose 0.8% to above 4,050, its highest level in more than a decade, while the Shenzhen Component gained 0.5% to around 13,900, close to four-year highs. Investors continued to pile into technology and artificial intelligence-related stocks, with East Money Information up 4.5%, Leo Group jumping 6.5% and Giga Device Semiconductor adding 1%. Aerospace shares also performed strongly, with China Spacesat up 1.9% and China Satellite Communications surging 9.3%. Beijing urged Washington to resolve the Venezuela crisis through dialogue, while emphasising that Chinese interests in the country would be protected under the law.

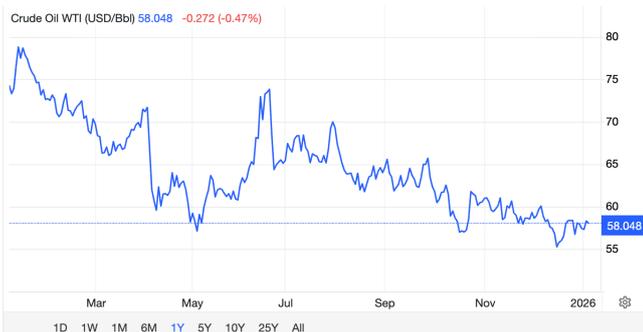
US stock futures were little changed after Wall Street closed higher in the previous session.

On Monday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 1.23% to a new all-time high, led by energy and financial stocks after President Donald Trump called on American companies to invest in Venezuela's oil sector. Chevron rose 5.1% and Goldman Sachs advanced 3.7%, while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite gained 0.64% and 0.69%, respectively, supported by technology heavyweights such as Tesla, up 3.1%, and Amazon, which added 2.9%. Investors are now focused on a series of US labour market indicators, culminating in the December jobs report on Friday, for further signals on the Federal Reserve's policy trajectory.



Indexes	Price	Day	Month	Year	Date	
US30	49057	▲ 80	0.16%	2.76%	15.35%	14:23
US400	3,392.28	▲ 42.89	1.28%	2.72%	7.47%	Jan/05
US2000	2,547.92	▲ 39.70	1.58%	1.07%	12.41%	Jan/05
US500	6920.01	▲ 17.96	0.26%	1.08%	17.11%	14:23
US100	25498	▲ 96	0.38%	-0.49%	20.45%	14:23
USVIX	14.90	▲ 0.39	0.39%	-1.76%	-1.14%	Jan/05

Commodity markets reflected a balance between geopolitical risk and supply fundamentals. WTI crude futures edged down to US\$58.1 a barrel after a volatile prior session that ended 1.7% higher.

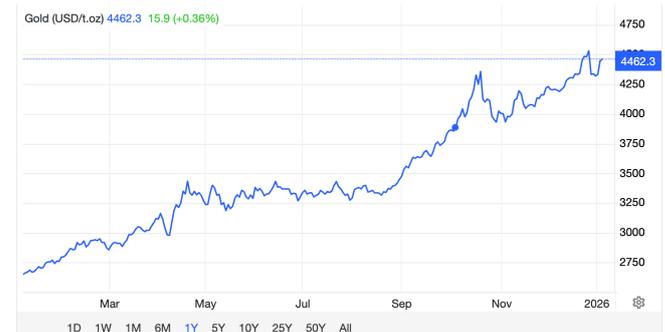


	Price	Day	Month	Year	Date	
Crude Oil	58.048	▼ 0.272	-0.47%	-1.36%	-21.78%	14:23
Brent	61.571	▼ 0.189	-0.31%	-1.42%	-20.05%	14:23
Natural gas	3.4348	▼ 0.0882	-2.50%	-30.05%	-0.38%	14:23
Gasoline	1.7162	▼ 0.0006	-0.03%	-4.30%	-15.68%	14:24
Heating Oil	2.1354	▼ 0.0074	-0.35%	-7.06%	-9.96%	14:24
Coal	106.20	▼ -0.35	-0.33%	-3.89%	-11.32%	Jan/05
Ethanol	1.59	▲ 0.0100	0.63%	-0.16%	-5.21%	Jan/05
Urals Oil	51.38	▲ 2.16	4.39%	-5.41%	-27.25%	Jan/05

While Venezuela holds the world's largest proven oil reserves, its production accounts for less than 1% of global output, limiting the immediate impact of any disruption. Analysts noted that output could rise if political stability returns and if US investment materialises, potentially adding

supply to an already well-stocked market. Elsewhere, Saudi Arabia cut selling prices to Asia for a third consecutive month, while OPEC+ maintained its plan to pause output increases in the first quarter amid concerns over surplus and subdued demand.

Gold prices, by contrast, continued to benefit from safe-haven flows, rising above US\$4,460 an ounce for a third straight session.



	Price	Day	Month	Year	Date	
Gold	4462.32	▲ 15.92	0.36%	6.59%	68.56%	14:24
Silver	78.637	▲ 2.064	2.70%	35.32%	161.43%	14:24
Copper	6.0383	▲ 0.1282	2.17%	12.90%	45.64%	14:24
Steel	3,076.00	▲ 8.00	0.26%	0.26%	-3.81%	Jan/06
Lithium	127,500.00	▲ 8000	6.69%	37.47%	68.99%	Jan/06
Platinum	2,303.40	▲ 57.00	2.54%	39.04%	139.74%	Jan/06
Iron Ore	106.13	▼ -1.04	-0.97%	-0.27%	6.73%	Jan/05

Bullion had surged 2.7% on Monday following the US military operation in Venezuela, and demand remained firm as investors assessed political risks and awaited key US economic data. Comments from Minneapolis Fed president Neel Kashkari that inflation remains too high, alongside warnings of a potential rise in unemployment even as rates approach neutral, added to the cautious tone. Against this backdrop, the pullback in Australian equities appeared less a sign of domestic weakness than a reflection of a global market recalibrating risk amid slowing growth, persistent inflation pressures and an unsettled geopolitical landscape.

Regards,
 Mark Elzayed
 Investor Pulse

MARKET DATA
ASX Top 20

 CBA^D* Commonwealth Bank	155.85 -4.73 -2.95%	 WOW^D* Woolworths	28.84 -0.46 -1.57%
 BHP^D* BHP	47.22 +0.74 +1.59%	 TLS^D* Telstra	4.82 -0.02 -0.41%
 CSL^D* CSL	168.29 -4.17 -2.42%	 GMG^D* Goodman Group	30.42 -0.11 -0.36%
 WBC^D* Westpac Bank	38.19 -0.86 -2.20%	 TCL^D* Transurban	13.70 -0.34 -2.42%
 NAB^D* National Australia Bank	41.53 -1.01 -2.37%	 SQ2 Block Inc	
 ANZ^D* ANZ	35.97 -0.72 -1.96%	 ALL^D* Aristocrat Leisure	55.13 +0.52 +0.95%
 FMG^D* Fortescue Metals	22.84 +0.35 +1.56%	 NCM Newcrest Mining	
 WES^D* Wesfarmers	79.78 -1.06 -1.31%	 REA^D* REA Group	180.35 +2.80 +1.58%
 MQG^D* Macquarie Group	206.07 +2.72 +1.34%	 WDS^D* Woodside Energy	23.52 +0.19 +0.81%
 RIO^D* Rio Tinto	152.27 +2.68 +1.79%	 XRO^D* Xero	107.14 -0.78 -0.72%

TV
TV
Commodities & Forex

 TIO1!^o IRON ORE	 AUDUSD Australian Dollar / U.S. Dollar	0.67328 +0.28% +0.00
 GC1!^o GOLD	 AUDGBP AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR / BRITISH POUND	0.4965 +0.22% +0.0011
 SI1!^o SILVER	 AUDEUR AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR / EURO	0.5738 +0.19% +0.0011
 HG1!^o COPPER	 AUDNZD Australian Dollar / New Zealand Dollar	1.15951 +0.06% +0.00
 ZW1!^o WHEAT	 AUDJPY Australian Dollar / Japanese Yen	105.254 +0.25% +0.27
 CL1!^o CRUDE OIL	 AUDCNY AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR / CHINESE YUAN	4.6998 +0.15% +0.0071
 NG1!^o NATURAL GAS	 AUDTHB AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR / THAI BAHT	20.984 -0.14% -0.029
 NCF1!^o COAL	 AUDIDR AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR / INDONESIAN ...	11,286.5 +0.34% +37.8
 LTH1!^o LITHIUM		

TV

Economic Calendar

		Actual	Forecast	Prior	
 					
January 6					
16:30	 	S&P GLOBAL SERVICE PMI <input type="checkbox"/>	Coming soon	52.1 Index (diffusion)	51.3 Index (diffusion)
21:45	 	S&P Global Comp PMI Final <input type="checkbox"/>			54.2 Index (diffusion)
January 7					
15:00	 	FX Reserves (Monthly)* <input type="checkbox"/>		3.36 Tln \$	3.346 Tln \$
16:30	 	S&P Global CONSTRUCTION PMI <input type="checkbox"/>		42.5 Index (diffusion)	39.4 Index (diffusion)
20:15	 	ADP National Employment <input type="checkbox"/>		47 K Person	-32 K Person
22:00	 	ISM N-Mfg PMI <input type="checkbox"/>		52.3 Index	52.6 Index
		JOLTS Job Openings <input type="checkbox"/>		7.6 M Person	7.67 M Person
January 8					
17:00	 	Consumer Confid. Final * <input type="checkbox"/>		-14.6 Net balance	-14.2 Net balance
		Unemployment Rate <input type="checkbox"/>		6.4%	6.4%
20:30	 	Initial Jobless Clm * <input type="checkbox"/>		210 K Person	199 K Person
January 9					
08:30	 	CPI MM * <input type="checkbox"/>			-0.1%
		CPI YY * <input type="checkbox"/>		0.9%	0.7%