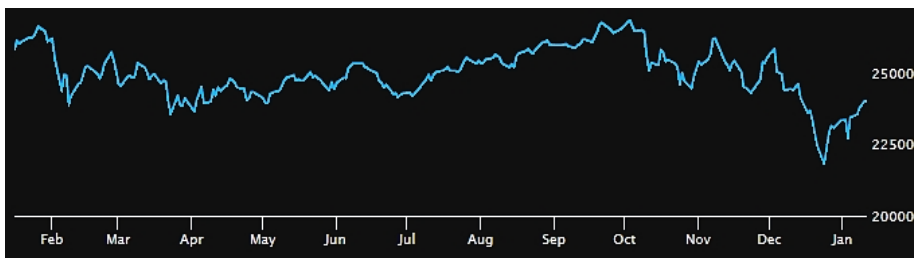


HEADLINES

US MARKETS

US stocks finished higher on Wednesday as the Federal Reserve's last meeting reaffirmed for investors that the US central bank would be patient with respect to further interest rate hikes. The S&P financial index gained 0.6% following the release however, the S&P Materials index led the gains out of the 11 S&P major sectors with a 1.7% gain, which was boosted by gains in commodity prices. The DJIA rose 0.24%, the S&P500 gained 0.18% and the Nasdaq gained 0.03%. Investors also considered news from Donald Trump on Wednesday saying the United States would impose tariffs on European car imports if it cannot reach a trade deal with the European Union.

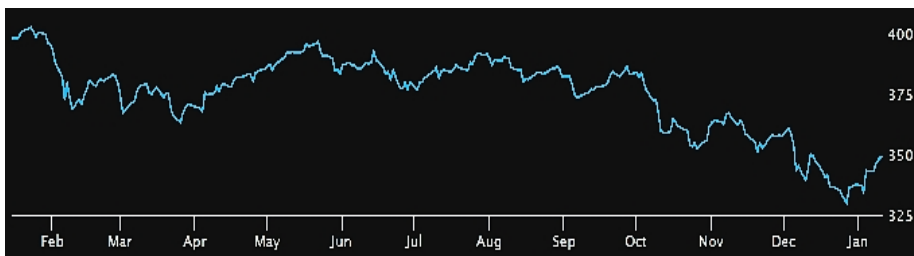
DOW JONES ONE-YEAR CHART



EUROPEAN MARKETS

Trade talks between the world's two biggest economies helped European shares rise on Wednesday, while the threat of a blocked merger sank shares in British Supermarket Sainsbury's and a money laundering scandal hit Swedbank. Germany's DAX led the way with a 0.8% gain and the STOXX600 gained 0.7% after Donald Trump reported the trade talks with China are going well. Britain's retail index fell 2.9% with Morrison losing 5.3%. Swedbank shares fell 13.6% after Estonia said it was investigating allegations linking Swedbank to suspicious transactions in the country involving Danske Bank. Irish Nutrition company Glanbia jumped 12.9% after fourth quarter results, while Danish Software company Simcorp also rose 7% after announcing strong results and a share buy back program.

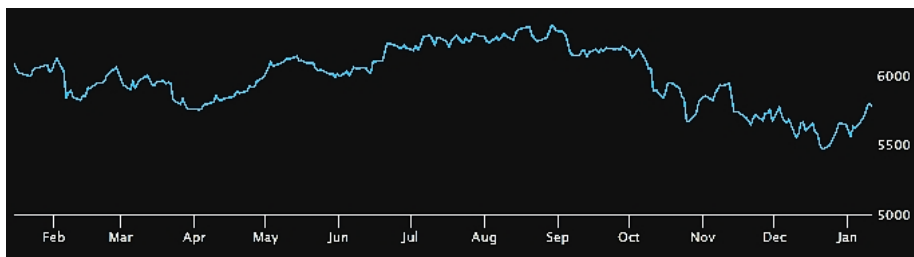
STOXX 600 ONE-YEAR CHART



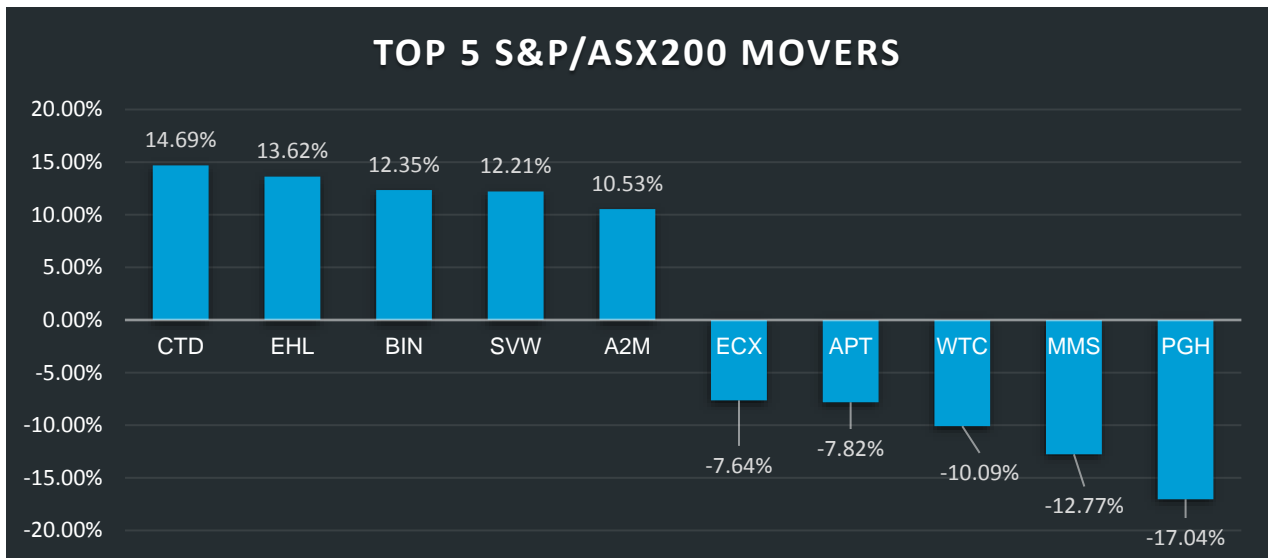
AUSTRALIAN MARKET

The S&P/ASX 200 did reach over the 6100 mark for one day however it has closed at 6096 yesterday. The consumer staples sector was the worst performer today as Woolworths shares dropped by 5% and Coles fell by 5.8%. The best performing sector was materials which was up 1.8% on BHP's 2.5% rise, Rio's 2.6% rise and Newcrest's 2.3% rise. Large swings from yesterday's trading include: Pact Group -17%, McMillian Shakespeare falling 12.3%, WiseTech Global -10%, corporate travel + 14.7%, Emeco Holdings + 13.6%, Bingo Industries + 12.3% and A2 Milk + 10.5%. The real estate sector under performed with a 1.4% drop. Some key companies reporting today include: Ausdrill, APN property group, Coca-Cola Amatil, ERM power, Flight Centre, Globe International, Growthpoint Properties, Iluka Resources, Iress, Santos, Sydney Airport and Wesfarmers.

ASX 200 ONE-YEAR CHART



TOP MOVERS (PREVIOUS SESSION)



MARKET DATA

INDICES	CLOSE	CHANGE	FX	CLOSE	CHANGE	COMMODITIES	PRICE (US\$)	CHANGE	AU BONDS	RATES
ASX 200	6096	-0.17%	AUD/USD	0.7163	-0.03%	GOLD	\$1,339.09	-0.17%	1 YEAR	0.02
SPI FUTURES	6066	0.10%	AUD/NZD	1.045	0.35%	SILVER	\$16.06	0.50%	2 YEAR	0.02
DOW	25954	0.24%	AUD/EUR	0.6314	-0.03%	PLATINUM	\$827.00	1.16%	3 YEAR	0.02
FTSE 100	7229	0.69%	AUD/GBP	0.5488	0.07%	BRENT CRUDE	\$56.81	1.44%	4 YEAR	0.02
NIKKEI 225	21431	0.60%	AUD/YEN	79.36	0.17%	NATURAL GAS	\$2.64	-0.64%	5 YEAR	0.02
HANG SENG	28514	1.01%	EUR/USD	1.134	-0.01%	COPPER	\$2.92	1.51%	10 YEAR	0.02
VIX	14	-5.38%	GBP/USD	1.3043	-0.13%	IRON ORE	\$88.53	-0.03%	15 YEAR	0.02

WEEKLY ECONOMIC CALENDAR

THU	21-Feb	FRI	22-Feb	SAT	23-Feb	Mon	25-Feb	Tue	26-Feb
	AUD Unemployment Rate (JAN)		EUR Euro-Zone Consumer Price Index (YoY) (JAN F)				USD Retail Sales Advance (MoM) (JAN)		NZD Trade Balance (JAN)
	AUD RBA's Lowe Parliamentary Testimony		EUR German Gross Domestic Product w.d.a. (YoY) (4Q F)				USD Retail Sales Ex Auto and Gas (JAN)		USD Consumer Confidence Index (FEB)

In the US, data on Housing permits, the housing price index and consumer confidence will be released. In New Zealand, data on trade balances will be released.

TODAY'S CORPORATE ACTIONS

ASX code:	Action:
QVE	QUOTED: Ex Dividend
MODND	NEW LISTING: [MODND] MODRES DEF
AKG	QUOTED: Ex Dividend
CVC	QUOTED: Ex Dividend
EVN	QUOTED: Ex Dividend
GWA	QUOTED: Ex Dividend
JBH	QUOTED: Ex Dividend
KOV	QUOTED: Ex Dividend
LTR	QUOTED: Ex Entitlement
MAM	QUOTED: Ex Dividend
MRN	QUOTED: Ex Dividend

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