

Key Global Indices

[Click here to open an account](#)

	Last Close	1D% Chg	5D% Chg	1M% Chg	1Y% Chg		Last Close	1D% Chg	5D% Chg	1M% Chg	1Y% Chg
FTSE 100	7,651.8	↓ -0.4%	-0.398%	1.4%	-0.9%	S&P 500	4,783.5	↑ 0.6%	1.7%	3.5%	20.5%
FTSE 250	19,280.1	↓ -0.1%	-0.2%	2.8%	-1.2%	DJIA	37,695.7	↑ 0.5%	0.7%	3.5%	11.0%
DJSTOXX 50	4,469.0	↑ 0.04%	0.5%	-1.6%	16.6%	Nasdaq	14,969.7	↑ 0.8%	2.6%	3.7%	36.9%
FTSEurofirst 300	1,882.2	↓ -0.2%	0.4%	0.6%	6.5%	Nikkei 225*	35,077.1	↑ 1.8%	2.9%	5.0%	30.2%
German DAX 30	16,689.8	↑ 0.01%	0.9%	-0.6%	11.7%	Shanghai Composite*	2,880.5	↑ 0.1%	-3.02%	-3.8%	-9.0%
France CAC 40	7,426.1	↓ -0.01%	0.2%	-1.7%	7.2%						

*Time - GMT 4:30

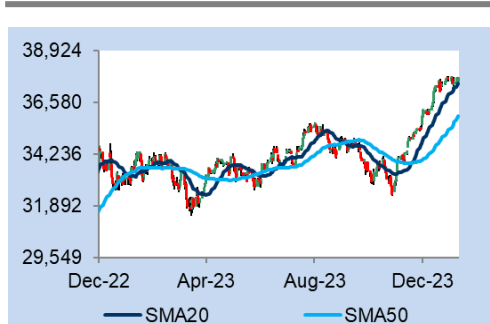
FTSE 100



UK Market Snapshot

UK markets finished lower yesterday, weighed down by losses in retail and insurance sector stocks. Direct Line declined 7.5%, after the Financial Conduct Authority's Head of Insurance suggested that insurance firms may soon face regulatory action for premium finance. Sainsbury dropped 6.2%, after the company reported a drop in its third quarter general merchandise sales. Tesco fell 1.4%, after the company cut the price of more than 150 everyday items. On the other hand, Persimmon gained 6.3%, after the housebuilder announced that its net sales rose in the fourth quarter. Greggs advanced 5.2%, after the baker reported better-than-expected like-for-like sales in the fourth quarter. Pennon Group rose 0.3%, after the company announced that it has acquired Sutton and East Surrey Water for £89 million (\$113.1 million) and intends to raise up to £180 million in a connected share placing. The FTSE 100 dropped 0.4%, to close at 7,651.8, while the FTSE 250 fell 0.1%, to end at 19,280.1.

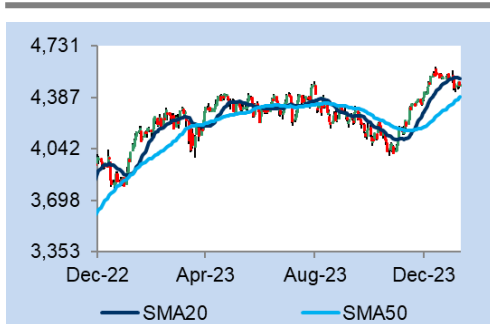
DJIA



US Market Snapshot

US markets closed higher yesterday, ahead of US consumer inflation data. Intuitive Surgical climbed 10.3%, as the company's fourth-quarter earnings surpassed analysts' estimations. Lennar advanced 3.5%, after the company raised its annual dividend to \$2.00 a share and announced that its Board of Directors' have authorized a \$5 billion increase to its share-repurchase program. On the contrary, DocGo plunged 37.6%, after the company stated that it is planning to issue a cease-and-desist letter to a firm that published a short-seller report on the medical-transportation company. Riot Platforms fell 1.2%, after the Securities and Exchange Commission chair stated that a post on X announcing that the agency had approved Bitcoin ETF was unauthorized. The S&P 500 gained 0.6% to settle at 4,783.5. The DJIA rose 0.5% to settle at 37,695.7, while the NASDAQ added 0.8%, to close at 14,969.7.

DJ Euro STOXX50



Europe Market Snapshot

European markets finished mostly lower yesterday, weighed down by losses in commodity sector stocks. Davide Campari dropped 6.5%, after the spirits maker completed a €1.2 billion (\$1.3 billion) private placement of shares and bonds to fund French cognac house Courvoisier's acquisition. Skanska fell 1.2%, after the company reported an impairment charge of \$195.11 million in 4Q23. On the contrary, InPost rose 3.4%, after the automated parcel machine (APM) service provider reported a record surge in parcel volumes in 4Q23. SAP SE gained 2.0%, after the company entered into final agreements with the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, and South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority to settle bribery charges. The FTSEurofirst 300 index eased 0.2%, to close at 1,882.2. Among other European markets, the German DAX Xetra 30 marginally rose to close at 16,689.8, while the French CAC-40 slightly dropped to settle at 7,426.1.

Asia Market Snapshot

Markets in Asia are trading higher this morning, tracking overnight gains on Wall Street. In Japan, Itochu Corp and SMC Corp have risen 4.7% and 4.5%, respectively. Meanwhile, Yamato Holdings Co and Rakuten Group have fallen 3.1% and 2.6%, respectively. In Hong Kong, WuXi AppTec Co and WH Group have gained 4.7% and 3.9%, respectively. Meanwhile, Sands China and Zhongsheng Group Holdings have dropped 3.2% and 1.6%, respectively. In South Korea, Hanwha Investments & Securities Co and Joosung Corp have jumped 30.0% and 29.9%, respectively. Meanwhile, BK Tops Co and PI Advanced Materials Co have declined 24.7% and 5.4%, respectively. The Nikkei 225 index is trading 1.8% higher at 35,077.1. The Hang Seng index is trading 1.5% up at 16,339.8, while the Kospi index is trading 0.2% higher at 2,548.1.

Contents

Key Corporate Releases	2
Commodity, Currency & Bitcoin	3
Sector Performers & Key Economic News	4
Share Tips, Bids & Rumours and Newspaper Summary	5-7

Key Corporate Releases Today

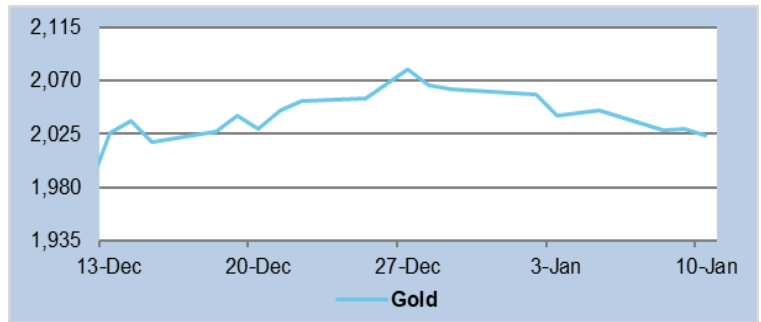
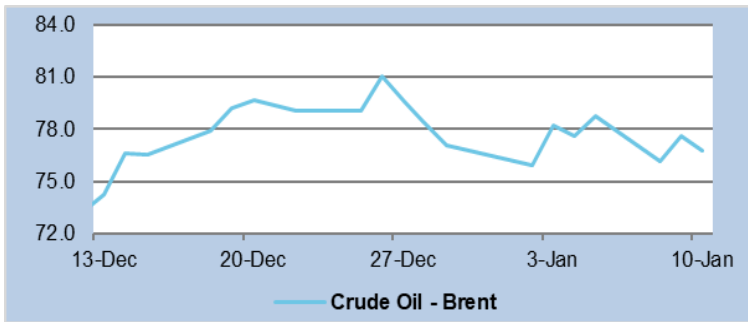
[Click here to open an account](#)

Company Name	Results	Currency	Full Year Consensus	
			Estimated EPS	Estimated Revenue (Mn)
Knights Group Holdings Plc	Interim	GBP	21.43	155.84
Atrato Onsite Energy Plc	Final	GBP	-	-

Note: All Estimates are for Full Year

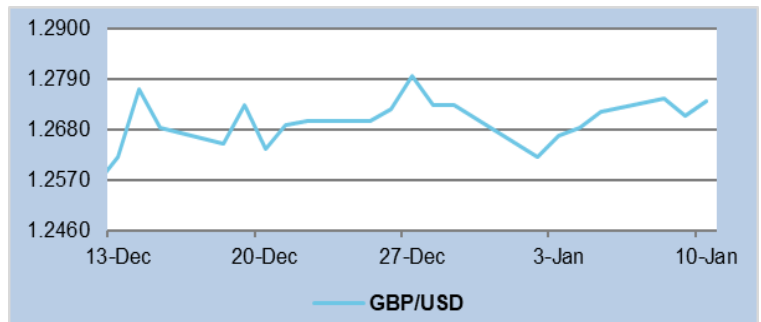
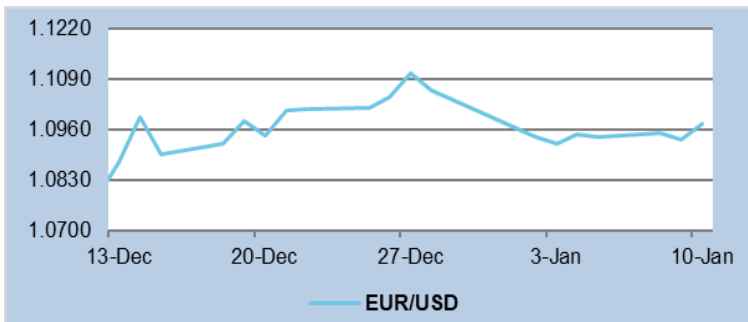
Commodity, Currency and Bitcoin

[Click here to open an account](#)



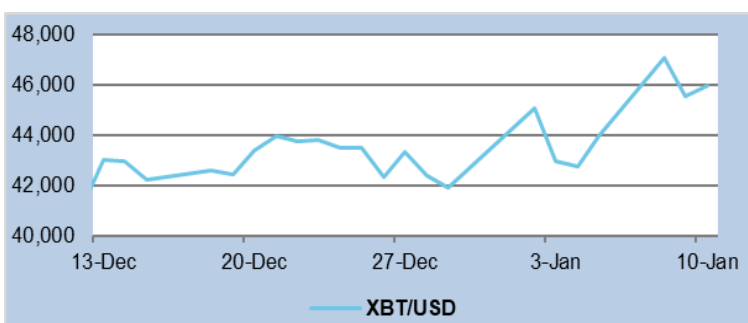
Commodity

- At 0430GMT today, Brent crude oil one month futures contract is trading 0.4% or \$0.30 higher at \$77.1 per barrel. Yesterday, the contract declined 1.02% or \$0.79, to settle at \$76.8 per barrel, after the Energy Information Administration reported that the US crude oil inventories rose by 1.3 million barrels in the week ended 05 January 2024.
- At 0430GMT today, Gold futures contract is trading 0.4% or \$7.42 higher at \$2,031.31 per ounce. Yesterday, the contract fell 0.3% or \$5.17, to settle at \$2,023.89 per ounce, as investors await US consumer inflation data.



Currency

- At 0330GMT today, the EUR is trading 0.1% higher against the USD at \$1.0982, ahead of Germany's current account balance for November, slated to release in a few hours. Additionally, investors await the US consumer price index (CPI) and monthly budget statement both for December, along with initial jobless claims for the week ended 05 January 2024, scheduled to release later today. Yesterday, the EUR strengthened 0.4% versus the USD, to close at \$1.0975. In other economic news, the US MBA mortgage applications climbed in the week ended 05 January 2024.
- At 0330GMT today, the GBP is trading 0.2% higher against the USD at \$1.2766. Yesterday, the GBP strengthened against the USD by 0.3%, to close at \$1.2743.



Bitcoin

- At 0330GMT today, BTC is trading 1.3% higher against the USD at \$46,538.00. Yesterday, BTC advanced 0.9% against the USD to close at \$45,954.00. In major news, a cryptocurrency mining and blockchain firm, Phoenix Group announced that it has concluded an agreement with Bitmain Development PTI Ltd to purchase the latest mining machines. Separately, Crypto custody business BitGo has gained in-principle approval for a Major Payment Institution (MPI) license in Singapore.

To start trading Bitcoin Click [Here](#)

FTSE All Share Index- Performance

[Click here to open an account](#)

UK Top Sector Performers

Sector	Current Price	1D Change	1D (%) Change	1M (%) Change	1Y (%) Change
Household Goods	13494.77	349.49	2.7%	8.6%	25.9%
Media	11275.77	123.21	1.1%	1.6%	19.6%
Personal Goods	21028.53	189.76	0.9%	-7.2%	-38.6%
Software & Computer Services	2357.35	14.29	0.6%	-1.9%	29.8%
Beverages	22007.70	123.91	0.6%	-0.5%	-21.2%

UK Worst Sector Performers

Sector	Current Price	1D Change	1D (%) Change	1M (%) Change	1Y (%) Change
Nonlife Insurance	3227.92	-144.28	-4.3%	-6.6%	-0.1%
Mining	8561.77	-200.96	-2.3%	-9.9%	-28.7%
Mobile Telecommunications	1869.74	-43.09	-2.3%	-2.4%	-17.3%
Chemicals	8928.99	-132.74	-1.5%	-2.0%	-27.3%
Travel & Leisure	7224.15	-94.95	-1.3%	1.7%	4.0%

Key Economic News

US MBA mortgage applications climbed in the week ended 05 January 2024

In the US, the MBA mortgage applications advanced 9.90% in the week ended 05 January 2024, compared to a drop of -10.70% recorded in the prior week.

Share Tips, Bids and Rumours

[Click here to open an account](#)

- [The Daily Telegraph \(Questor share tips\)](#): 'Hold' Rolls-Royce.
- [The Times \(Tempus share tips\)](#): 'Buy' Smith & Nephew; 'Hold' Persimmon.
- [Daily Mail](#): Pennon, which owns South West Water and recently acquired Bournemouth Water and Bristol Water, has bought Sutton and East Surrey Water from its Japanese owners.
- [Daily Mail](#): Diamond giant De Beers will go ahead with a £790 million investment in Botswana despite a downturn in demand.
- [Daily Mail](#): Belvoir Group is set to merge with rival The Property Franchise Group, creating a combined business with a market capitalisation of more than £214 million.
- [The Daily Telegraph](#): Moves towards an onward sale of The Telegraph are underway as the attempted takeover backed by Abu Dhabi risks months of wrangling over press freedom.
- [Financial Times](#): Hewlett Packard has agreed to buy Juniper Networks for about \$14 billion.
- [The Daily Telegraph](#): David Ellison is in discussions to make an all-cash offer for National Amusements, the family-run group that controls Paramount Pictures and Britain's Channel 5.
- [The Times](#): Informa, the publishing, business intelligence, and exhibitions group, last night announced an agreement to combine Informa Tech's digital businesses with TechTarget to create a larger U.S.-listed company called New TechTarget.
- [The Daily Telegraph \(Comment\)](#): China is condemning Old Auto to the wreckage of the past.

Newspaper Summary

The Times

Disinformation from artificial intelligence named biggest global risk: Disinformation driven by AI is the biggest immediate risk facing the world, according to global experts, who have warned of deepening societal division in an important electoral year. For the first time the World Economic Forum's annual risk report, which surveys 1,500 policymakers and risks, identified "misinformation and disinformation" from foreign and domestic actors as the most acute risk facing the world over the next two years.

American lawyers to question Darktrace Head over Autonomy deals: Poppy Gustafsson, the Head of Darktrace, looks set to face fresh questions about more than 100 deals she was involved with while working in the accounts department at Autonomy, as she is drawn into the U.S. criminal trial of Mike Lynch, the Cambridge technology entrepreneur. The deals include multimillion-dollar transactions with household names including JP Morgan, BP, Deutsche Bank and Tottenham Hotspur FC in a far more extensive list put forward by the prosecution than the 21 deals originally outlined last October.

Bank of England's inflation target may be hit by April: Inflation is on track to fall below the Bank of England's target as soon as April, a senior economist predicted, as Andrew Bailey, the Bank's governor, said that the economy had entered the new year in better shape than expected. "A hefty cut to energy bills" was set to drag inflation below the Bank's 2% target from its present level of 3.9% and from a peak of 11.1% in October 2022, Sanjay Raja, senior economist at Deutsche Bank, said.

Government looks past Sizewell and plans for third nuclear plant: The construction of a third new nuclear power station in Britain could be given the go-ahead, even though the government is still working to secure full funding for an existing proposal. The ambition is to build a nuclear plant capable of generating enough energy to power six million homes and similar in size to Hinkley Point C in Somerset, which is under construction, and the planned Sizewell C in Suffolk.

U.S. regulator's shock move over Bitcoin: The U.S. securities regulator last night gave long-awaited approval for the first listed exchange traded funds to track bitcoin, in a watershed moment for the world's largest cryptocurrency and the broader crypto

industry. The Securities and Exchange Commission approved applications, including from BlackRock, Ark Investments, 21Shares, Fidelity, Invesco and VanEck, among others. Some products are expected to begin trading.

Sainsbury's wins market share with festive food sales: Grocery sales may have been a Christmas feast for Sainsbury's, but they were overshadowed by a weak festive performance in its general merchandise and clothing divisions. Britain's second biggest supermarket chain increased its sales by 7.4% in the 16 weeks to January 6 compared with the same time last year, driven by a 9.3% jump in its grocery business that it claimed showed it was winning market share from rivals.

Danone cuts Aptamil baby formula price after regulator's inquiry: Danone is to cut the price of its Aptamil powdered formula to British retailers by up to 7% after a competition watchdog investigation into rising prices in the baby milk market. The French foods group, which also owns Cow & Gate, boasts more than 70% of the U.K. baby formula market, where manufacturers were found to have raised prices by 25% over the past two years.

[Click here to open an account](#)

Price framework paves way for vast electricity storage scheme: Ministers have provisionally agreed to a power pricing framework that could pave the way for more pumped storage hydroelectricity projects in Britain, including a gigantic £1.5 billion scheme from SSE that is starting to take shape in the Scottish Highlands. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero said it intended to develop a “cap and floor” pricing mechanism that would advance the Coire Glas storage project being developed by SSE, the energy company, and could unlock further pumped storage power stations.

Shareholders spooked by potential clampdown on insurers: The prospect of the financial watchdog potentially taking action on finance products designed to help consumers with insurance payments prompted fears in the City of a new regulation being imposed on the sector and a reverse in listed insurers’ share prices. Several insurers were hit as markets anticipated an intervention on insurers’ premium finance products from the Financial Conduct Authority.

Brand new target for Informa: Informa, the publishing, business intelligence, and exhibitions group, last night announced an agreement to combine Informa Tech’s digital businesses with TechTarget to create a larger U.S.-listed company called New TechTarget. The FTSE 100 group, which has offices in 30 countries and about 11,000 employees, is the world’s largest trade show operator. The company said it expects to report that annual revenues for 2023 grew by about 30% to £3.2 billion with adjusted operating profit of about £845 million and free cash flow of £600 million-plus.

Financial Times

Portugal’s Galp asks regulators to join complaint against LNG exporter: Portuguese energy group Galp has asked U.S. regulators to allow it to join BP and Shell in a complaint against a liquefied natural gas exporter that the companies say is costing them billions of dollars in lost revenues.

Grounded Boeing planes won’t return to service until they are safe, official says: U.S. transportation secretary Pete Buttigieg has said no grounded Boeing Max aircraft would return to service until they are safe as the plane maker’s Chief Executive disclosed that the blowout on a flight operated by Alaska Airlines was the consequence of a “quality escape”.

Grant Thornton U.K. Chief David Dunckley steps down: Grant Thornton’s U.K. Chief Executive David Dunckley has quit almost three years early, throwing open the leadership of one of the biggest challengers to the Big Four accountants.

BrewDog drops pledge to pay all staff the U.K. living wage: BrewDog, the U.K.’s biggest craft beer brewer, has abandoned its pledge to pay all staff the voluntary living wage in a move that points to a broader cooling of wage pressures across the economy.

The Lex: Blackstone’s private asset funds are tricky fit for retail investors: The overall returns upside is greater — but so is the requirement for patience.

Carrefour beware: Big brands beat retailers in the hearts of consumers: In a row over pricing it is the big names that hold most of the cards.

Artificial intelligence frenzy underpins \$14.00 billion Juniper deal: HPE points to intensive AI applications using Juniper’s products to justify its acquisition.

The Daily Telegraph

Red Sea crisis poses risk to interest rates, warns Bank of England: A surge in shipping prices triggered by chaos in the Red Sea poses a threat to interest rates, the Governor of the Bank of England has warned. Andrew Bailey said the impact from ships having to reroute from the Suez Canal around South Africa was likely to become an issue for monetary policy.

Telegraph onward sale explored if Abu Dhabi fails press freedom test: Moves towards an onward sale of The Telegraph are underway as the attempted takeover backed by Abu Dhabi risks months of

wrangling over press freedom. RedBird IMI, the fund which last year swooped to acquire The Telegraph out of receivership in a complex debt transaction with the Barclay family, is still pursuing ownership. However, it is understood discussions about how an alternative buyer could be secured have been held by other interested parties.

Channel 5 owner is takeover target for Silicon Valley billionaire’s heir: The heir to one of Silicon Valley’s biggest fortunes is in talks to buy National Amusements, the family-run group that controls Paramount Pictures and Britain’s Channel 5. David Ellison is in discussions to make an all-cash offer for National Amusements through film company Skydance Media, which he founded.

Britain nowhere near ‘peak Greggs’ as bakery chain plots push into South: Britain is far from hitting “peak Greggs”, the bakery chain’s Head has said, as it plans to open dozens of new stores across the country. Greggs will open as many as 160 new shops across Britain in 2024, in an expansion frenzy that will see target areas including the South of England.

Trump’s Scottish golf course Turnberry makes first profit: Donald Trump’s Scottish golf course Turnberry has made its first ever profit after almost a decade of turbulent ownership by the former U.S. President. Trump Turnberry, an 800-acre resort in Ayrshire boasting three golf courses and a hotel, made a profit of £571,000 in 2022, according to newly filed accounts.

Daily Mail

Sosandar celebrates sizzling sales thanks to demand for party dresses and smart trousers: Sales at online women’s fashion retailer Sosandar have boomed — thanks to demand for party dresses and smart trousers. In the final three months of the year, sales hit a record £14.3 million, up 23% on the same period of 2022. Heads said all categories sold strongly, especially party wear, dresses, knitwear and smart trousers.

[Click here to open an account](#)**Defiant De Beers' pushes ahead with £790 million mine upgrade despite falling demand:**

Diamond giant De Beers will go ahead with a £790 million investment in Botswana despite a downturn in demand. The Jwaneng mine, the richest in the world, will be converted into an underground operation to extend its life. De Beers, a unit of Anglo American, said the investment is crucial due to the declining supply of natural diamonds. **Housebuilding by Persimmon at a decade low: Property market wobbled by high interest rates:** The number of homes built by developer Persimmon crashed to the lowest level for more than a decade last year as high interest rates affected the market. The FTSE 250 housebuilder, which is one of the largest in the country, completed just 9,922 new homes in 2023.

Scandal-hit water firm Pennon's £380 million purchase of rival raises eyebrows:

A water company fined for illegal sewage dumping has splashed out £380 million on buying a rival despite pressure to invest in stopping leaks and pollution.

Pennon, which owns South West Water and recently acquired Bournemouth Water and Bristol Water, has bought Sutton and East Surrey (SES) Water from its Japanese owners. Industry regulator Ofwat last year named SES, which has £291 million of debt and supplies 750,000 customers in south-east England, among the four worst performing water companies financially.

The Scottish Herald

Former Harrods of the north NC500 Falls of Shin Centre sold: A restaurant and visitor centre near the North Coast 500 tourist route has been sold.

Famous Glasgow tearoom saved from closure by heritage trust: A famous Glasgow tearoom has been saved from closure after being bought by the National Trust for Scotland.

Helensburgh car dealer moves into employee ownership: A long-established car dealer is understood to have become the first business of its kind in Scotland to move into employee hands.

Scotland houses: Dalry firm McTaggart Construction hiring: An Ayrshire-based housebuilder is recruiting up to 70 staff to "meet growing demand" in 2024.

The Scotsman

Jobs boost as Edinburgh-based fire and flood restoration specialist Insurepair expands into Glasgow: An Edinburgh-based fire and flood restoration specialist has announced its expansion into Glasgow, in a move set to create up to 15 jobs in the next year. Insurepair says the growth comes on the back of increasing demand along the M8 corridor, and the new Glaswegian base in a converted Georgian townhouse on Woodside Place in the city centre is set to open within the next fortnight.

[Click here to open an account](#)

Risk Warning & Disclaimer

CFD and Spread betting Risk Warning

All trading involves risk. Spread bets and CFDs are complex instruments and come with a high risk of losing money rapidly due to leverage. **66% of retail investor accounts lose money when trading spread bets and CFDs with this provider.** You should consider whether you understand how spread bets and CFDs work, and whether you can afford to take the high risk of losing your money. Professional clients can lose more than they deposit.

Shares Risk Warning

The value of stocks and shares, and the income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount you originally invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.

If you are unsure about dealing in shares and other equity investments, you should contact your financial adviser as these types of investments may not be suitable for everyone.

Disclaimer

Any research has been produced by an independent third party provider. Further details can be provided on request.

Any report has been prepared using information available from public sources, which are believed to be reliable as at the date of this report. However, Guardian Stockbrokers, its employees and its independent third party provider make no representation as to the accuracy or completeness of this report. This report should therefore not be relied on as accurate or complete. The facts and opinions on this report are subject to change without notice. Guardian Stockbrokers, its employees and its independent third party provider have no obligation to modify or update this report in the event that any information on this report becomes inaccurate.

Any report is prepared for informational purpose only, with no recommendation or solicitation to buy or to sell. The background of any individual or other investor has not been considered in providing this report. Individuals and other investors should seek independent financial advice which considers their specific risks, objectives and specific constraints, and make their own informed decisions. Individual and other investors should note that investing in shares carries a degree of risk and the value of investments can go up or down. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Investments should be made with regard to an investor's total portfolio. Guardian Stockbrokers, its independent third party provider and its employees make no representation or guarantee with regard to any investment noted on this report, and shall therefore not be liable with regard to any loss.