

There's a reason group chats full of otherwise sensible people suddenly start talking about Nvidia earnings or the Fed's next move. The US stock market has this gravitational pull that other markets just don't quite match. Part of it is size. Part of it is familiarity — everyone's used an iPhone, shopped on Amazon, or watched something on Netflix. Investing in companies you already interact with daily feels less abstract than picking stocks off a market you've never touched.



The scale is honestly hard to overstate. American exchanges represent a huge chunk of global market value, and the companies listed there often set the tone for markets everywhere else, Malaysia included. When the S&P 500 has a rough week, you'll usually see ripples across Bursa Malaysia too, even if the connection isn't always obvious to a beginner. Liquidity plays a role as well. US markets trade enormous volumes daily, which generally means tighter spreads and easier entry and exit compared to smaller, thinner markets. [Trade Wall Street shares](#) That matters more than people realize until they've tried trading something illiquid and watched their order sit there awkwardly. Getting started isn't as complicated as it used to be, though it's not instant either. Malaysian investors typically go through international brokers offering US market access — think Interactive Brokers, Moomoo, or similar platforms that have gained traction locally. Account setup usually involves some identity verification and often a currency conversion step, since you'll be funding in MYR but trading in USD. That conversion fee is something people forget to factor in until their returns look slightly smaller than expected. Tax matters too, though it's less painful than some assume. Malaysia doesn't tax capital gains for individual investors in most cases, but dividend withholding tax from the US typically applies — usually around 30% unless reduced through specific forms. Worth reading up on rather than guessing. Currency risk deserves a mention most guides skip. If MYR strengthens against USD while you're holding US stocks, your actual returns in ringgit terms can shrink even if the stock itself gained value. It's a strange feeling, watching a stock go up and your account barely move. Starting small, picking familiar companies first, and getting comfortable with the account mechanics before scaling up tends to work better than diving in with a big lump sum and hoping for the best.