

7 January 2022

Global Markets Research

Mid-day Currency Outlook

USD/MYR



Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Intraday Thoughts – MYR Neutral to Slightly Bearish

USD/MYR opened little changed at 4.2165 as the pre-weekend cautiousness keeps the pair grounded at recent levels, near 4.2100. Expectation of faster than expected Fed rate hikes is still likely supporting the pair today with the bulls now eyeing 4.2200 after breaching 4.2000 and 4.2100 in the previous session. Focus now shifts to tonight's NFP job report that may further stoke the Fed rate hike expectations, thus resulting in a stronger broad USD.

1-Month Outlook – MYR Neutral

We expect the MYR to be relatively resilient in the medium term, taking into account further economic recovery after the government relaxed more Covid-19 related restrictions. This also takes into account our view that the broader USD is also expected to strengthen modestly supported by Fed rate hike expectations and likely outperformance of recovery in the US. That said, the emergence of the Omicron variant could potentially derail the recovery and policy normalization path.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/MYR	4.1900	4.2020	4.2095	4.2200	4.2300

MYR Crosses

SGD/MYR



SGD/MYR Neutral to Slightly Bullish

SGD/MYR opened little changed at 3.0963, surging as high as 3.0998 before pulling back to 3.0959 at the moment. This came as SGD strengthened against the USD in the previous session as some Fed-related USD strength faded. We remain neutral to slightly bullish on SGD/MYR, suspecting that the pair may not break 3.1000 ahead of the key US data but stay supported above 3.0917.

To	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
SGD/MYR	3.0872	3.0917	3.0959	3.1000	3.1030

GBP/MYR



GBP/MYR Neutral to Slightly Bullish

GBP/MYR opened 0.3% higher at 5.7028 as GBP/USD recovered slightly this morning from the previous session's dip. We expect GBP/USD to defend 1.3500-1.3550 levels ahead of tonight's NFP job data. As such we remain neutral to slightly bullish on GBP/MYR, believing that the cross would trade sideways within 5.7000-5.7100 amid cautious sentiment.

To	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
GBP/MYR	5.6600	5.6785	5.7036	5.7100	5.7300

AUD/MYR



AUD/MYR Neutral to Bearish

AUD/MYR opened little changed at 3.0183, holding relatively well despite the overnight selloff of the aussie dollar. Australia's grim Covid situation (record high daily infections, high hospitalisation and over-strained testing system) led authorities to reinstate restrictions in NSW and Victoria. We see such announcements coupled with the stronger Fed rate hike expectations (potentially driven by NFP tonight) weighing on AUD.

To	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	3.0000	3.0100	3.0167	3.0322	3.0475

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Hong Leong Bank Berhad

Fixed Income & Economic Research, Global Markets

Level 8, Hong Leong Tower

6, Jalan Damanela

Bukit Damansara

50490 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: 603-2081 1221

Fax: 603-2081 8936

Email: HLMarkets@hlbb.hongleong.com.my**DISCLAIMER**

This report is for information purposes only and does not take into account the investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any particular recipient. The information contained herein does not constitute the provision of investment advice and is not intended as an offer or solicitation with respect to the purchase or sale of any of the financial instruments mentioned in this report and will not form the basis or a part of any contract or commitment whatsoever.

The information contained in this publication is derived from data obtained from sources believed by Hong Leong Bank Berhad ("HLBB") to be reliable and in good faith, but no warranties or guarantees, representations are made by HLBB with regard to the accuracy, completeness or suitability of the data. Any opinions expressed reflect the current judgment of the authors of the report and do not necessarily represent the opinion of HLBB or any of the companies within the Hong Leong Bank Group ("HLB Group"). The opinions reflected herein may change without notice and the opinions do not necessarily correspond to the opinions of HLBB. HLBB does not have an obligation to amend, modify or update this report or to otherwise notify a reader or recipient thereof in the event that any matter stated herein, or any opinion, projection, forecast or estimate set forth herein, changes or subsequently becomes inaccurate.

HLB Group, their directors, employees and representatives do not have any responsibility or liability to any person or recipient (whether by reason of negligence, negligent misstatement or otherwise) arising from any statement, opinion or information, expressed or implied, arising out of, contained in or derived from or omission from the reports or matter.

Potential and actual conflict of interest may arise from the activities of HLB Group. HLB Group constitute a diversified financial services group. These entities engage in a wide range of commercial and investment banking, brokerage, funds management, hedging transactions and other activities for their own account or the account of others. In the ordinary course of their business, HLB Group may effect transactions for their own account or for the account of their customers and hold long or short positions in the financial instruments. HLB Group, in connection with its business activities, may possess or acquire material information about the financial instruments. Such activities and information may involve or have an effect on the financial instruments. HLB Group have no obligation to disclose such information about the financial instruments or their activities.

The past performance of financial instruments is not indicative of future results. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that statements of facts made in this report are accurate, all estimates, projections, forecasts, expressions of opinion and other subjective judgments contained in this report are based on assumptions considered to be reasonable as of the date of the document in which they are contained and must not be construed as a representation that the matters referred to therein will occur. Any projections or forecasts mentioned in this report may not be achieved due to multiple risk factors including without limitation market volatility, sector volatility, corporate actions, the unavailability of complete and accurate information. No assurance can be given that any opinion described herein would yield favorable investment results. Recipients who are not market professional or institutional investor customer of HLBB should seek the advice of their independent financial advisor prior to taking any investment decision based on the recommendations in this report.

HLBB may provide hyperlinks to websites of entities mentioned in this report, however the inclusion of a link does not imply that HLBB endorses, recommends or approves any material on the linked page or accessible from it. Such linked websites are accessed entirely at your own risk. HLBB does not accept responsibility whatsoever for any such material, nor for consequences of its use.

This report is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any state, country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation. This report is for the use of the addressees only and may not be redistributed, reproduced or passed on to any other person or published, in part or in whole, for any purpose, without the prior, written consent of HLBB. The manner of distributing this report may be restricted by law or regulation in certain countries. Persons into whose possession this report may come are required to inform themselves about and to observe such restrictions. By accepting this report, a recipient hereof agrees to be bound by the foregoing limitations.