

23 February 2024

Global Markets Research

Daily Currency Outlook

USD/MYR



Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Intraday Thoughts – Neutral

USD/MYR opened 0.03% higher at 4.7767, slid to as low as 4.7725 before rebounding to its previous close at 4.7755 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral as we expect investors will largely await Malaysia’s CPI print at noon, while USD weakness against regional currencies will be offset by firm US economic data overnight and after Fed Governors Christopher Waller’s comments urging patience on rate cuts after the jump in price prints recently. He, nonetheless, reiterated that he still expects cuts later in the year.

1-Month Outlook – USD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

The USD/MYR outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish in our view, as markets shifted to when and how much the Fed will ease its policy as price prints continue to moderate. However, we expect downside to be capped given the push-backs on rate cut bets, after the CPI prints and labour data came in stronger than expected, while forward looking indicators point to solid economic activity but this does not change our view that the Fed will only start cutting rates towards mid-2024. Domestically, MYR will be supported by expectations for an extended pause in OPR, as recovery in exports, sustained domestic demand and upside risk to inflation amid imminent subsidy cuts should shield BNM from any OPR cut.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/MYR	4.7523	4.7639	4.7755	4.7914	4.8073

USD/SGD



USD/SGD Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

USD/SGD opened flat at 1.3430 before sliding to 1.3425 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish given the downward trajectory post opening and USD weakness against regionals, with support levels seen at 1.3402 (S1) and 1.3375 (S2) respectively. Key risk for this pair today is Singapore's CPI where it is expected to accelerate slightly to +3.8% y/y in January from +3.7% y/y respectively.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/SGD	1.3375	1.3402	1.3422	1.3450	1.3470

MYR Crosses

SGD/MYR



SGD/MYR Neutral

SGD/MYR opened 0.11% lower at 3.5575 before paring some of its losses to trade at 3.5580 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral while traders await the CPI data on both fronts, eyeing trading range between 3.5475-3.5691.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
SGD/MYR	3.5325	3.5475	3.5580	3.5691	3.5769

GBP/MYR



GBP/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

GBP/MYR opened 0.08% lower at 6.0481, weakened to as low as 6.0415 before paring some of its losses to trade at 6.0473 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish given the lower opening and overbought position, with losses mitigated after BOE's Greene signalled that she is not ready to back rate cuts yet as well as after UK composite PMI unexpectedly accelerated in February.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
GBP/MYR	6.0066	6.0304	6.0473	6.0656	6.0789

AUD/MYR

AUD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

AUD/MYR opened 0.34% lower at 3.1328 before paring some of its losses to trade at 3.1389 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish given the significantly lower opening and slightly overbought position, but losses are seen capped as AUD/USD gained on risk on sentiment (0.6572 vs opening level of 0.6557). Thus, this pair will be supported at 3.1360 (S1) and 3.1286 (S2) respectively.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	3.1286	3.1360	3.1389	3.1509	3.1584

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Hong Leong Bank Berhad

Fixed Income & Economic Research, Global Markets
Level 8, Hong Leong Tower
6, Jalan Damansara
Bukit Damansara
50490 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 603-2081 1221
Fax: 603-2081 8936
Email:

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.