

18 December 2025

Global Markets Research

Midday Currency Outlook

USD/MYR



Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Intraday Thoughts – Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

USD/MYR opened 0.04% lower at 4.0868 before rebounding to 4.0910 at the point of writing. With the pair slightly oversold and the Dollar trading on a slightly stronger note this morning, daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish for the pair today. That said, we opine that gains will be capped with the jobless claims prints on deck today, as well as the inflation print for November. As it is, consensus is expecting headline CPI to accelerate to 3.1% y/y from 3.0% y/y in September, while core to hold steady at 3.0% y/y.

1-Month Outlook – USD/MYR Neutral

We prefer to stay neutral on USD/MYR as investors and FOMC members await the deluge of US economic data but on the fundamental front, we opine that there is no change in the outlook with regards to limited pass through from tariffs to goods inflation at this juncture and increasingly softer labour market. That said, concerns over persistence inflationary pressure will likely keep hawkish FOMC members on their toes, while the doves will likely focus on the softer labour market and spending data, one that could keep the Fed divided on the next move for now. While there is concern over the quality and reliability of the data since the weeks-long shutdown could have impacted the collection and reporting processes, there is no change to our current house view for another two quarter point cuts in 2026, as well as our weakening Dollar outlook in the more medium term. On the domestic front, BNM continued to deliver a neutral note in its latest policy statement, with the overall tone largely unchanged with balanced risks on both the upside and downside in our view. This reaffirmed our view for an extended OPR pause going into 2026.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/MYR	4.0752	4.0818	4.0910	4.0962	4.1067

USD/SGD

USD/SGD Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

USD/SGD opened flat at 1.2911 before trending up to 1.2918 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish, but gains likely capped at 1.2935 (R1) ahead of the upcoming CPI print as well as on dovish speak by Fed's Waller overnight. Just a recap, the Governor said that rates are up to 100bps above the neutral level.



	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/SGD	1.2864	1.2888	1.2918	1.2935	1.2958

MYR Crosses

SGD/MYR

SGD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

SGD/MYR opened 0.07% higher at 3.1672 and inched up to 3.1678 at the point of writing. We have a neutral-to-slightly bullish outlook for this pair today as opine that SGD will likely outperform MYR in a risk-off space, as reflected in the downward trajectory for most Asian bourses this morning.

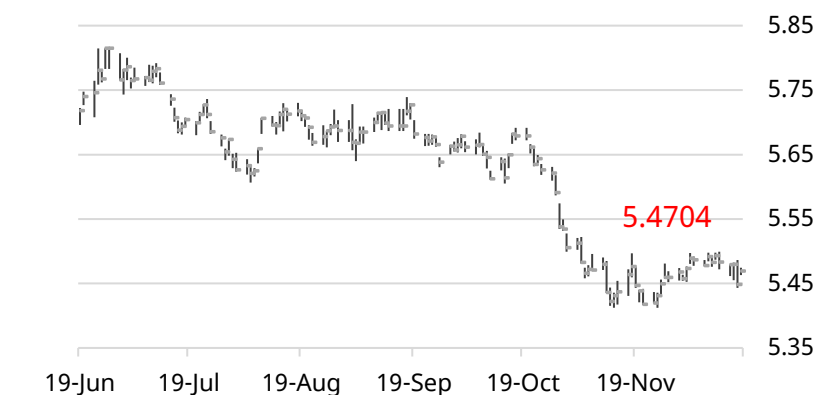


	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
SGD/MYR	3.1546	3.1598	3.1678	3.1712	3.1888

GBP/MYR

GBP/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

GBP/MYR opened 0.29% higher at 5.4640 and strengthened to 5.4704 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish given the sharply higher opening, but expect gains to be capped at 5.4753 (R1) amid cautiousness ahead of BOE's decision. As it is, the softer than expected UK CPI overnight all but cemented bets of a rate cut today.



	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
GBP/MYR	5.4159	5.4320	5.4704	5.4753	5.5025

AUD/MYR



AUD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

AUD/MYR opened 0.28% lower at 2.6968 but pared some of its losses to trade at 2.7016 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish on extended AUD weakness this morning, the latter seeing AUD/USD trading in red at 0.6600 at the point of writing.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	2.6877	2.6962	2.7016	2.7087	2.7132

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Hong Leong Bank Berhad

Fixed Income & Economic Research, Global Markets

Level 8, Hong Leong Tower

6, Jalan Damanlela

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.