8 January 2026

Global Markets Research

Midday Currency Outlook

USD/MYR

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Intraday Thoughts – Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

USD/MYR opened 0.01% higher at 4.0588 and trended up to 4.0623 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish with the greenback trading firmer against most regional and G10 currencies in early morning session, the latter seeing the DXY holding firmly in green at 98.76 at the point of writing. Lending support for the Dollar was the mixed economic prints overnight, namely the upbeat ISM Services, unexpected drop in job vacancies and slower than expected gains for ADP private payrolls. Shifting geopolitical risks also bode well for haven USD but with the next batch of labour data due tonight, we expect gains to be capped at 4.0666 today.

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

We are neutral-to-slightly bearish on this pair with increasingly softer labour market and our expectations of a dovish upcoming new Fed Chair reaffirming our house view and consensus call for easier monetary policy going forward, hence a weaker Dollar outlook in the first half of the year. In terms of inflation, there is limited pass through from tariffs to goods inflation at this juncture, but concerns over persistence inflationary pressure will likely keep hawkish FOMC members on their toes and the FOMC divided, capping losses for the pair on a more medium term. In the more immediate timeframe, the ever-shifting geopolitical risks will continue to boost demand for haven assets, lending some support for the greenback. 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, as well as a narrowing interest rate differential between the Fed funds rate and the OPR.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/MYR	4.0430	4.0505	4.0623	4.0666	4.0784

USD/SGD

USD/SGD Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

USD/SGD opened flat at 1.2823 before trending up to 1.2837 at the point of writing, Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish amid a firmer greenback with resistance seen at 1.2848 (R1). Nothing on deck from Singapore today and for the rest of the week and as such, key risk will be USD and sentiment driven.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/SGD	1.2786	1.2804	1.2837	1.2848	1.2879

MYR Crosses

SGD/MYR

SGD/MYR Neutral

SGD/MYR opened 0.05% lower at 3.1640, traded within 3.1621-3.1666 before settling just below its flatline at 3.1650 at the point of writing. In the absence of key events and fresh catalysts, daily outlook is neutral eyeing trading range between 3.1544-3.1699.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
SGD/MYR	3.1446	3.1544	3.1650	3.1699	3.1740

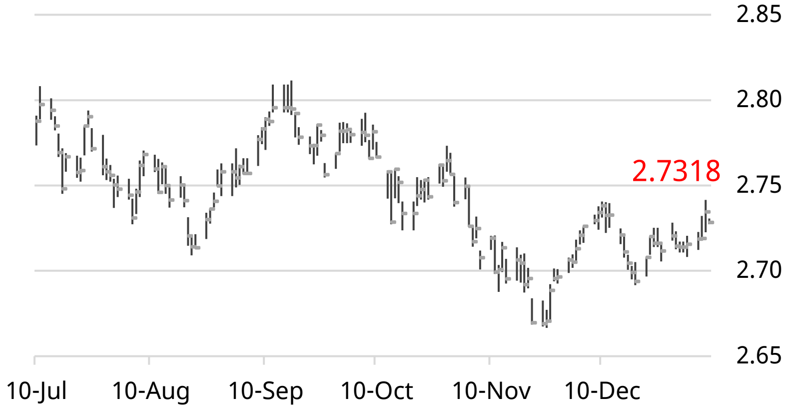
GBP/MYR

GBP/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

GBP/MYR opened 0.18% lower at 5.4664 and slid to 5.4659 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish echoing GBP weakness overnight and with sterling still trading in red at 1.3456 at the point of writing. No 1st tier data on deck but DMP CPI expectations are due for release.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
GBP/MYR	5.4420	5.4577	5.4659	5.4827	5.4891

AUD/MYR



AUD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

AUD/MYR opened 0.15% lower at 2.7304 before paring some its losses to trade at 2.7318 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish given the lower opening and amid the weaker economic prints from Australia this morning. As it is, exports fell 2.9% m/m in November and consequently, trade surplus narrowed sharper than expected to A$2.9bn during the month.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	2.7136	2.7241	2.7318	2.7434	2.7522

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

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