

12 March 2026

Global Markets Research

Midday Currency Outlook

USD/MYR



Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Intraday Thoughts - Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

USD/MYR opened 0.21% higher at 3.9267 and strengthened to 3.9275 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish on the back of a firm USD amidst haven demand following the renewed climb in oil prices overnight and expectations that the FOMC will maintain their policy stance next week amid inflationary concerns. Meanwhile, news of the US administration’s investigation into a dozen trading partners (including Malaysia) under Section 301 of the Trade Act and a risk-off space does not bode well for MYR today. Data overnight saw tame inflation for the US (February’s headline at 2.4%), but we opine that this data is moot to dictate inflation outlook given the recent surge in oil prices.

1-Month Outlook - USD/MYR Neutral

We are neutral on this pair on expectations that the FOMC will maintain rates at this level in the near term given that the economy is expanding at a solid pace, while inflation remains elevated with the latest overrun largely underpinned by goods prices due to tariffs and possibly, in the near term, from the recent spike in crude oil prices due to the Middle-East flare up. On the sentiment front, it will also be a tug of war between renewed jittery over the US’ trade policies and its fiscal deficit, against haven demand from the tension, while on the medium term, tussle between hawks concerned over price pressure and doves concerned over softer labour market. We nonetheless opine that the former will take centre stage for now, and thus there is no change in our view that any Fed rate cuts will occur only in the later part of this year. On the domestic front, BNM maintained a neutral stance in its latest policy statement, while acknowledging increased risks from the Middle-east conflict. This, coupled with our expectation for continued moderate growth (2026: 4.8%) and benign price outlook (2026: 2.0%), reinforced our view for an extended OPR pause this year, as well as a narrowing interest rate differential between the Fed funds rate and the OPR.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/MYR	3.9050	3.9118	3.9275	3.9360	3.9515

USD/SGD



USD/SGD Neutral

USD/SGD opened flat at 1.2743, traded within 1.2739-1.2768 before settling at the opening level again. Given that the pair is narrowly traded and given SGD's resilience in an environment of uncertainty, daily outlook is neutral for this pair today, eyeing trading range between 1.2714-1.2778.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/SGD	1.2686	1.2714	1.2743	1.2778	1.2824

MYR Crosses

SGD/MYR

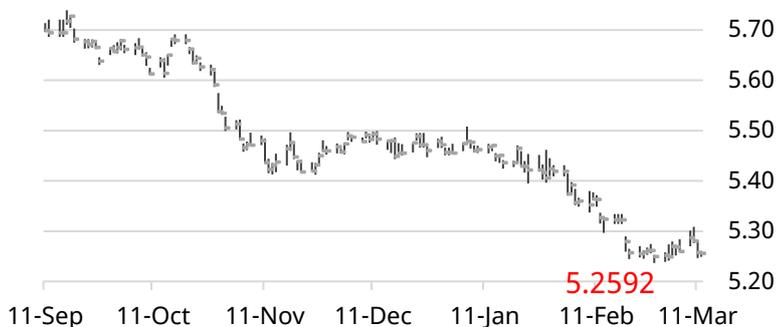


SGD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

SGD/MYR opened 0.17% lower at 3.0725, but quickly rebounded to 3.0813 at the point of writing. Given the upper trajectory post opening and expectations that SGD will outperform in a risk-off space, daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish today.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
SGD/MYR	3.0629	3.0703	3.0816	3.0873	3.0969

GBP/MYR



GBP/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

GBP/MYR opened 0.12% lower at 5.2509 before shaving its losses to trade at 5.2592. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish as the spike in yields to the UK gilt overnight will likely support GBP and as the pair is trading near its oversold territory. Nothing on deck today, but the monthly GDP for UK is due tomorrow.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
GBP/MYR	5.2268	5.2420	5.2592	5.2767	5.2962

AUD/MYR



AUD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

AUD/MYR opened 0.11% lower at 2.7973 before making a jump above its flatline at 2.8098 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish on expectations that AUD will be well supported by some expectations, albeit divided of a RBA rate hike next week. That said, the pair is veering towards the overbought territory, and this, could limit gains for this pair.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	2.7809	2.7908	2.8098	2.8149	2.8291

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

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