

19 January 2026

Global Markets Research

Midday Currency Outlook

USD/MYR



Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Intraday Thoughts - Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

USD/MYR opened 0.04% higher at 4.0590 before making a sharp retreat to 4.0555 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish in anticipation that MYR will be well supported by the 4Q GDP beat last Friday, while jittery over the latest Trump's tariff plan could likely put a dampener on the greenback today. No economic data is scheduled today but cautiousness over the upcoming BNM meeting and core-PCE prices for the US will keep any loss in check.

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

We are neutral-to-slightly bearish on this pair premising on soft labour market outlook in the US and our expectations of a dovish upcoming new Fed Chair. This reaffirmed 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	4.0484	4.0529	4.0555	4.0631	4.6888

USD/SGD

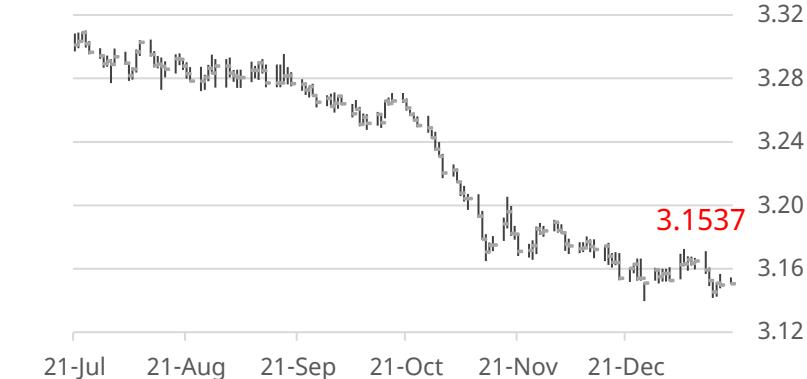


USD/SGD Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

USD/SGD opened 0.01% lower at 1.2888 and made a retreat to 1.2861 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish in anticipation of USD weakness today. Nothing on deck for Singapore, with the next key data being December's CPI which are due later in the week.

MYR Crosses

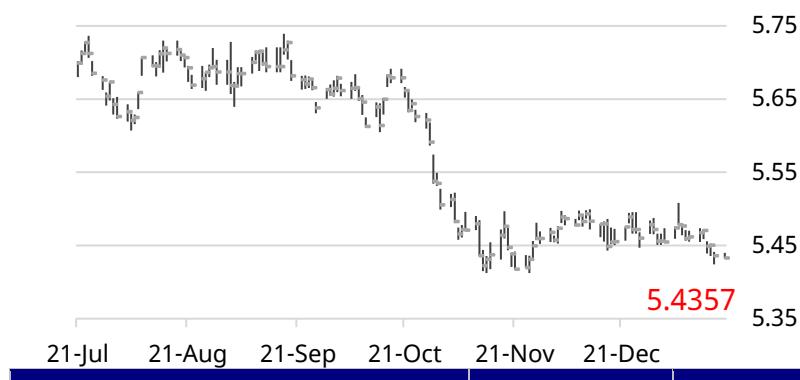
SGD/MYR



SGD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

SGD/MYR opened 0.14% higher at 3.1543 but shaved some of its gains to trade at 3.1537 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish with SGD outperforming its regional peers in early Asian session in a risk-off environment.

GBP/MYR



GBP/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

GBP/MYR opened 0.08% higher at 5.4399 before making a sharp retreat to 5.4357 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish given the downward trajectory and on our expectation that Trump's tariff threat will dampen some appetite for the sterling today.

AUD/MYR

AUD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

AUD/MYR opened 0.16% lower at 2.7148 and slid to 2.7119 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish on broad AUD weakness this morning and key risk being China's GDP print due for release today. As it is, consensus is expecting growth to ease to 4.5% y/y in 4Q from 4.8% y/y previously.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	2.6855	2.7027	2.7119	2.7239	2.7285

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

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