

20 January 2026

## Global Markets Research

### Midday Currency Outlook

#### USD/MYR



Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

#### Intraday Thoughts – Neutral

USD/MYR opened 0.02% lower at 4.0538 and slid to 4.0520 at the point of writing. We prefer to stay neutral for this pair today ahead of the release of key economic data from Malaysia, notably its CPI and trade data. At the point of writing, consensus is expecting inflation to hold steady at 1.4% y/y in December, while export growth is anticipated to ease sharply from 7.0% y/y to 2.5% y/y for the same month. On the US front, it will be relatively light calendar wise, with only the ADP weekly employment change and Philadelphia Fed Non-Manufacturing activity index on deck. It will be quiet on the Fed speak with the Fed having entered its pre-FOMC external communications blackout period, but that said, we will be watching for any developments across all officials at World Economic Forum, the latest being Khazanah's Managing Director Dato' Amirul Faizal Wan Zahir who sees the Ringgit strengthening further.

#### 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	4.0424	4.0489	4.0520	4.0583	4.0619

## USD/SGD

### USD/SGD Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

USD/SGD opened flat at 1.2850 before strengthening to 1.2857 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish with SGD trading on marginally on a weaker note against G10 and regional currencies. That said, with the MAS policy decision on deck no later by 30<sup>th</sup> January, a status quo bet will likely cap any gains for this pair in the near term.



	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/SGD	1.2813	1.2832	1.2857	1.2881	1.2911

## MYR Crosses

### SGD/MYR

### SGD/MYR Neutral

SGD/MYR opened 0.02% higher at 3.1545 before making a retreat to 3.1523 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral, barring any surprises on key Malaysia economic data today, eyeing trading range between 3.1498-3.1570.

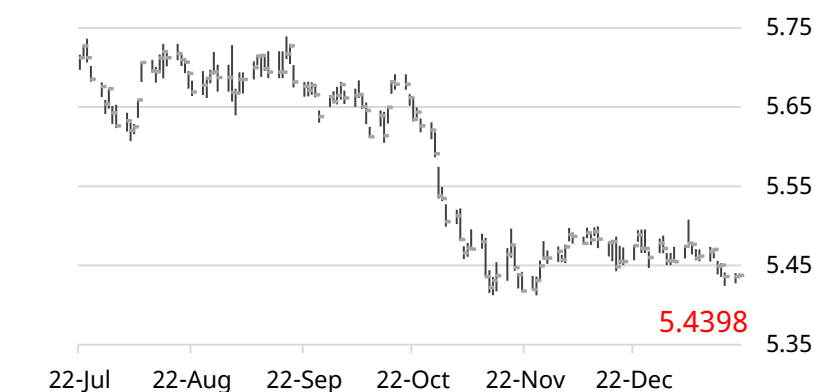


	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
SGD/MYR	3.1456	3.1498	3.1523	3.1570	3.1600

### GBP/MYR

### GBP/MYR Neutral

GBP/MYR opened 0.05% higher at 5.4383 and strengthened to 5.4398 at the point of writing. We prefer to stay neutral given the upcoming 1<sup>st</sup> tier data from Malaysia as well as the UK. For the latter, its November-December labour data is on deck, where expectations are that the unemployment rate will hold steady at 5.1% but the payrolled employees change will fall 20k, narrowing from the 38k decline previously.



	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
GBP/MYR	5.4216	5.4286	5.4398	5.4414	5.4472

## AUD/MYR



## AUD/MYR Neutral

AUD/MYR opened 0.15% higher at 2.7194 before inching higher to 2.7198 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral given the upcoming Malaysia CPI and trade data, and as the higher opening is currently offset by signs of AUD weakness, the latter seeing AUD/USD trending down to 0.6712. Key risk from Australia will be its labour data due tomorrow.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	2.7031	2.7092	2.7198	2.7243	2.7349

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

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