20 February 2026

Global Markets Research

Midday Currency Outlook

USD/MYR

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Intraday Thoughts – Neutral

USD/MYR opened 0.03% lower at 3.9080 but rebounded to 3.9097 at the point of writing. We prefer to stay neutral for this pair with trading likely cautious ahead of key economic data today for both economies, from January's trade numbers for Malaysia at noon to core-PCE prices, PMIs and 4Q GDP for the US later in the day. At the point of writing, consensus is expecting Malaysia's exports to pick up pace to 14.3% y/y, while on the US front, core PCE and services PMI to accelerate slightly to 2.9% y/y and 53.0, manufacturing PMI to hold steady at 52.4 and 4Q GDP to soften to 2.8% q/q.

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, the labour market is showing signs of stabilization while inflation remains elevated with the latest overrun largely underpinned by goods prices due to tariffs. That said, with inflation likely to ease by the middle of 2026 and doves concerned over softer labour market, there is no change in our view of a Fed rate cut in the later part of this year, for now. No doubt, the pair is oversold technically, and could see a correction from the current level. On the domestic front, BNM maintained a neutral stance in its latest policy statement, highlighting rather balanced risks on both the upside and downside in our opinion, This, coupled with our expectation for continued moderate growth expansion (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	3.8940	3.9010	3.9097	3.9180	3.9280

USD/SGD

USD/SGD Neutral

USD/SGD opened flat at 1.2683 before inching up to 1.2690 at the point of writing. For the same reasons as USD/MYR above, daily outlook is neutral barring any surprises on the US economic front, eyeing trading range between 1.2664-1.2701 today. Nothing on deck from Singapore, but Singapore will release its January's CPI next Monday and consensus is expecting a slight acceleration.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/SGD	1.2644	1.2664	1.2690	1.2701	1.2718

MYR Crosses

SGD/MYR

SGD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

SGD/MYR opened 0.13% lower at 3.0811 and has largely circled around the opening level. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish amid broad SGD weakness against regionals, but losses likely firmly limited to 3.0756 (S1) given that the pair is severely oversold and thus, expect a rebound from this level.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
SGD/MYR	3.0662	3.0756	3.0811	3.0937	3.1024

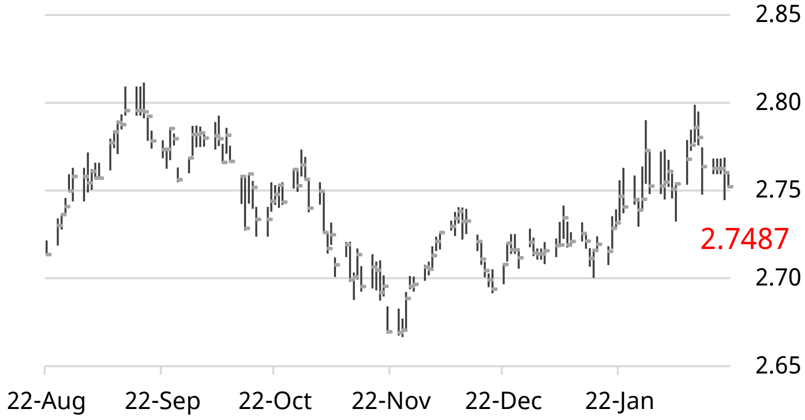
GBP/MYR

GBP/MYR Slightly Bearish

GBP/MYR opened 0.35% lower at 5.2604 and weakened further to 5.2553 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is slightly bearish with GBP/USD extending its losses at 1.3443 after BOE's Mann commented that the labour market is a concern and saw traders reaffirming rate cut bets. The pair is nonetheless oversold and given the upcoming key data from the UK, losses will nonetheless be capped at 5.2451 in our view.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
GBP/MYR	5.2145	5.2451	5.2553	5.2926	5.3063

AUD/MYR



AUD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

AUD/MYR opened 0.09% lower at 2.7576 and slid to 2.7487 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish with AUD/USD drifting lower to 0.7030 at the point of writing following the softer February PMIs for Australia this morning (Manufacturing: 51.5 vs 52.3, Services: 52.2 vs 56.3).

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	2.7329	2.7465	2.7487	2.7716	2.7831

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

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