20 July 2026

Global Markets Research

Midday Currency Outlook

USD/MYR

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Intraday Thoughts – Neutral

USD/MYR opened flattish at 4.0968 before dipping in early morning trading to 4.0828, settling at 4.0865 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral with the pair expected to gain ground as the day goes by, as the conflict in the Middle East heats up with a ninth day of strikes between Iran and the US. Overnight, the preliminary consumer sentiment index for July from the University of Michigan rose by more than expected, and today brings the release of the Leading Index for June with the pre-FOMC communications blackout now in effect. On the MYR front, 2Q advanced GDP growth was firmer than expected and inflation for June unexpectedly cooled on Friday, and we will be looking out for the export numbers for June due at noon for greater clarity on the economic momentum as we closed out 2Q.

1-Month Outlook – USD/MYR Neutral

We are neutral on this pair on expectations that investors will stay cautious with the current geopolitical space still fluid, and on the fundamental front, supported by expectations that the FOMC will maintain rates at this level in the near term with the economy is expanding at a still solid pace, labour market remains resilient albeit softer as reflected by the latest NFP, while inflation risks remained elevated albeit likely to ease, in line with the broadly softer crude oil prices as compared to the beginning of the war in March. On the domestic front, there is also no change in our view that BNM will maintain the OPR at 2.75% in the foreseeable future, given BNM's firm expectations for continued moderate growth for 2026 (4.0-5.0% vs HLB: 4.6%) and benign price outlook (1.5-2.5% vs HLB: 1.9%), and as the central bank maintained a neutral stance in its latest policy statement, albeit with some positive twists such as resilient global growth to stronger than expected exports performance for Malaysia. In our opinion, this should certainly eliminate expectations for rate cut but not enough to signal a near term rate hike in our view, keeping Ringgit well supported in the near term.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/MYR	4.0637	4.0802	4.0865	4.0894	4.1059

USD/SGD

USD/SGD Neutral

USD/SGD opened 0.14% lower at 1.2899, before recovering ground to settle at 1.2914 in early Asian trading. Daily outlook is neutral, with an expected trading range of 1.2884 – 1.2940 for the pair today. Its empty on the Singapore front today as far as economic data releases are concerned.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/SGD	1.2856	1.2884	1.2914	1.2940	1.2968

MYR Crosses

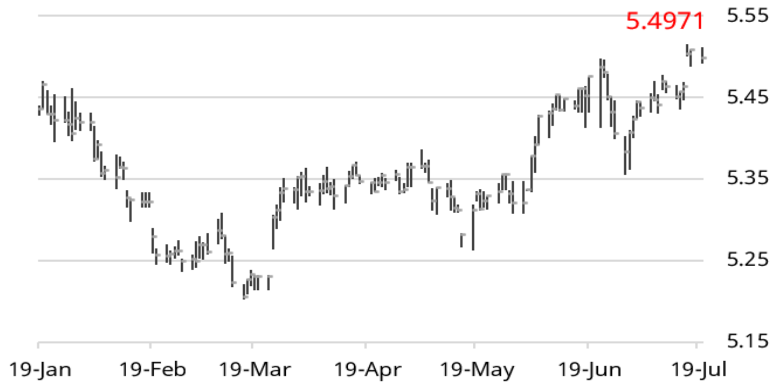
SGD/MYR

SGD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

SGD/MYR opened 0.10% lower at 3.1702 before losing further ground to trade at 3.1646 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish for the day. The key risk for the cross for the day ahead will be Malaysia's trade figures for June at noon, with no economic releases due out of Singapore today.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
SGD/MYR	3.1483	3.1609	3.1646	3.1720	3.1805

GBP/MYR

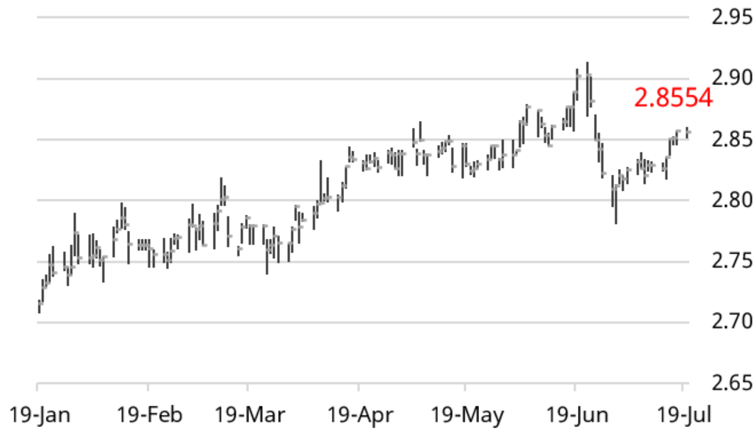


GBP/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

GBP/MYR opened 0.01% higher at 5.5076 before moving lower to 5.4971 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish given the heavy tone in early morning trading. Rightmove reported a further monthly decline for UK house prices for July this morning, while trade data for June will be released on the Malaysian front later today.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
GBP/MYR	5.4801	5.4936	5.4971	5.5013	5.5148

AUD/MYR



AUD/MYR Neutral

AUD/MYR opened 0.08% higher at 2.8587 before making a retreat below its flatline and losing further ground to trade at 2.8554 at the point of writing. Daily outlook for the cross is neutral today, with an empty economic calendar in Australian and key external trade figures for June out of Malaysia today.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	2.8412	2.8487	2.8554	2.8609	2.8656

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

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