20 August 2026

Global Markets Research
Midday Currency Outlook

USD/MYR

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Intraday Thoughts – Slightly Bearish

USD/MYR opened 0.07% lower at 4.0555 and slid to 4.0375 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is slightly bearish, hit by double whammy of MYR strength and USD weakness, the latter after the US Treasury Department announced that it would ramp up buybacks of longer-dated bonds, a sign that it wants to lower borrowing costs and resulted in UST yields tumbling overnight. That said, the pair is oversold and with the upcoming trade data on the local front, this should limit losses for the pair at 4.0075 (S1) today.

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 labour market softening, and inflation risk easing, the latter 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 resilient growth for 2026 and benign price outlook, 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	3.9413	4.0075	4.0375	4.0665	4.0746

USD/SGD

USD/SGD Neutral

USD/SGD opened flat at 1.2712 before inching up to 1.2716 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral in signs of weakness for both USD and SGD, and as the pair trades within a narrow range of 1.2709-1.2723. Other from the US Treasury announcement, FOMC meeting minutes were leaning towards a little hawkish, but there is no change in our hold view given the recent weakness in labour and consumer data.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/SGD	1.2654	1.2683	1.2716	1.2766	1.2820

MYR Crosses

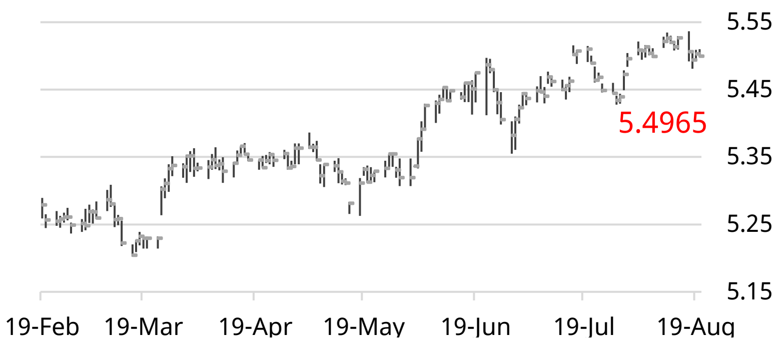
SGD/MYR

SGD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

SGD/MYR opened 0.38% higher at 3.1922 before shaving all its losses to trade at 3.1762 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish barring surprises on Malaysia's trade number. As it is, exports are expected to stay sturdy albeit come in slightly softer at 35.0% y/y in July.

tin	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
SGD/MYR	3.1684	3.1742	3.1762	3.1849	3.1898

GBP/MYR

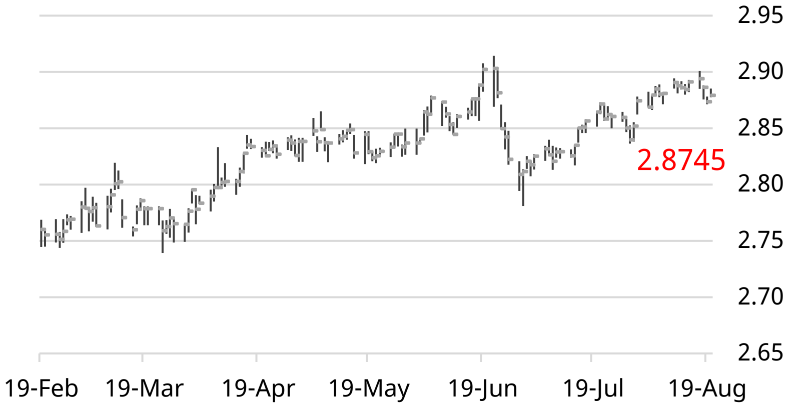


GBP/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

GBP/MYR opened 0.13% higher at 5.5099 before shedding its gains to trade below its flatline at 5.4965 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish given MYR strength and GBP weakness against regional FX. With data overnight showing UK CPI accelerating and likely to keep BOE cautious, this should nonetheless limit losses for this pair at 5.4874 (S1) today.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
GBP/MYR	5.4728	5.4874	5.4965	5.5097	5.5166

AUD/MYR



AUD/MYR Neutral

AUD/MYR opened 0.42% higher at 2.8853 before paring its gains to trade at 2.8745 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral with the weaker than expected labour data from Australia likely to weigh on the AUD today, offsetting the gains from opening. At the point of writing, AUD/USD has slipped to 0.7115 and traders are pencilling status quo for the RBA for the rest of the year.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	2.8673	2.8702	2.8745	2.8880	2.8971

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

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