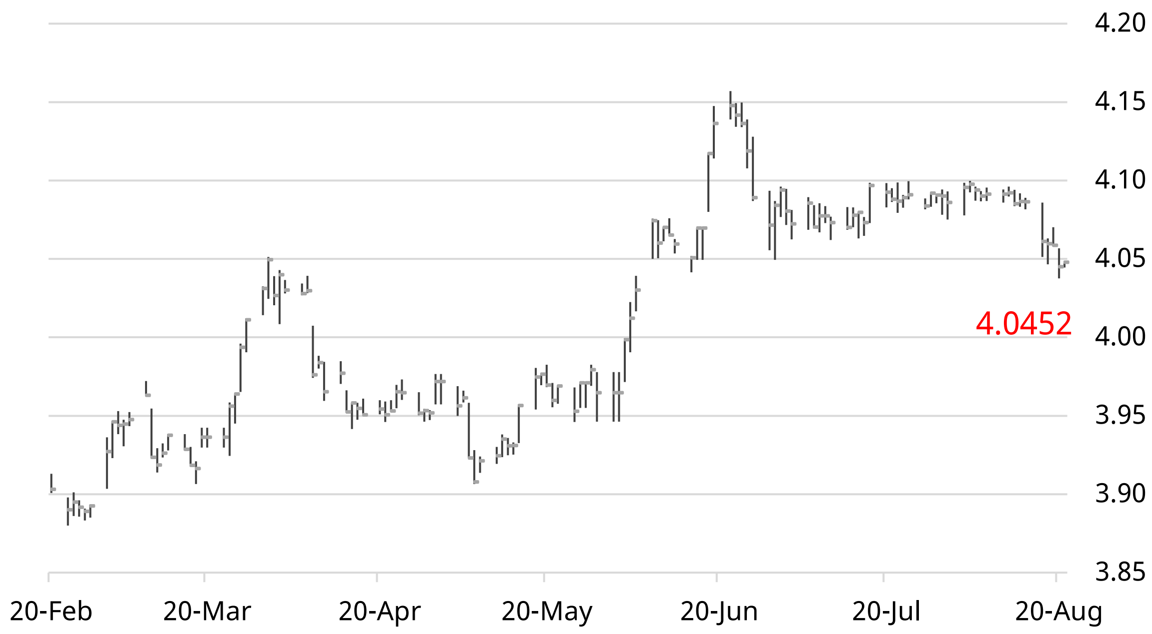
21 August 2026

Global Markets Research

Midday Currency Outlook

USD/MYR



Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Intraday Thoughts – Neutral

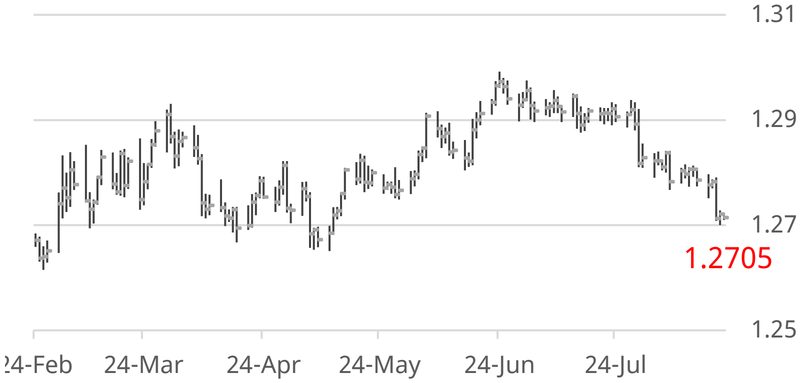
USD/MYR opened 0.04% higher at 4.0465 before retreating closer to its previous close at 4.0452 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral in a tug of war between USD and MYR weakness, and given cautiousness over the geopolitical front, upcoming PMIs for August and as traders watch for more development on the buybacks for US Treasuries. Despite the downtick, the fact that the pair is slightly oversold and a stronger than expected US leading index should also cap further weakness for this pair 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	4.0271	4.0361	4.0452	4.0554	4.0657

USD/SGD



USD/SGD Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

USD/SGD opened flat at 1.2721 before retreating to 1.2705 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish given USD weakness, with losses likely capped at 1.2688 with the pair slightly oversold and thus could see a correction. Consensus, meanwhile, is expecting US manufacturing PMI to hold steady at 53.9.and services to ease 0.6ppts to 54.0.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/SGD	1.2660	1.2688	1.2705	1.2744	1.2772

MYR Crosses

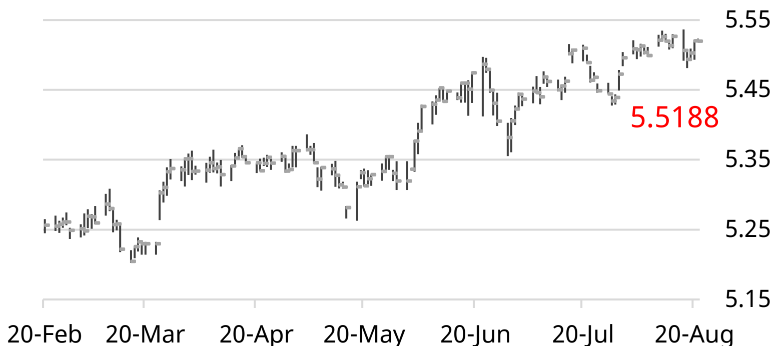
SGD/MYR

SGD/MYR Neutral

SGD/MYR opened 0.07% lower at 3.1812 before rebounding just above its flatline at 3.1843 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral, eyeing trading range between 3.1747-3.1922 with the economic calendar empty on both sides of the border today. Mirroring Singapore, Malaysia's trade numbers continue to chalk robust growth for July overnight.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
SGD/MYR	3.1660	3.1747	3.1843	3.1922	3.2010

GBP/MYR

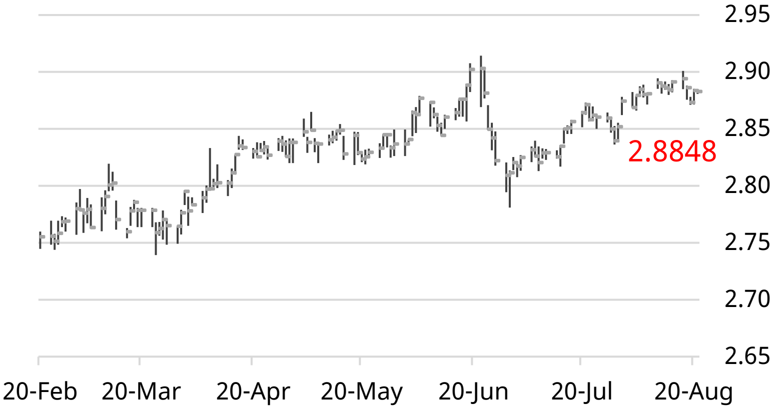


GBP/MYR Neutral

GBP/MYR opened 0.04% higher at 5.5226 before retreating below its flatline at 5.5188 at the point of writing. We prefer to stay neutral for this pair ahead of the UK PMI and retail sales print later in the day, the latter expected to fall 0.5% m/m in July, and the composite PMI expected to ease to 51.6 in August.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
GBP/MYR	5.4831	5.5018	5.5188	5.5305	5.5405

AUD/MYR



AUD/MYR Neutral

AUD/MYR opened 0.06% lower at 2.8818 before rebounding to 2.8848 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral despite the uptick, we expect subdued sentiment, as well as weaker labour data and PMIs from Australia weighing on appetite for AUD.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	2.8662	2.8748	2.8848	2.8887	2.8940

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

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