

22 January 2026

Global Markets Research

Midday Currency Outlook

USD/MYR



Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Intraday Thoughts - Neutral

USD/MYR opened 0.06% higher at 4.0503 and retreated to 4.0452 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral as we expect trading to be cautious ahead of key economic events for both the US and Malaysia today. On the US front, consensus is expecting core PCE to hold steady at 2.8% in November, while on the domestic front, BNM is anticipated to hold its overnight policy rates unchanged at 2.75% with little change to its monetary policy tone.

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	4.0305	4.0410	4.0452	4.0550	4.0620

USD/SGD

USD/SGD Neutral

USD/SGD opened flat at 1.2846 before sliding to 1.2840 at the point of writing. For the same reason as USD/MYR, daily outlook is neutral eyeing trading range between 1.2797-1.2863 today. Besides the PCE prices, the final US 3Q GDP as well as initial jobless claims are also on deck later today.



	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/SGD	1.2797	1.2818	1.2839	1.2863	1.2879

MYR Crosses

SGD/MYR

SGD/MYR Neutral

SGD/MYR opened 0.12% lower at 3.1484 before shaving its losses to trade at 3.1514 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral given the upcoming BNM meeting and in a tug of war between SGD and MYR strength against regional peers in early morning session. Nothing on deck on the Singapore front this morning, but MAS policy decision is due by end month.

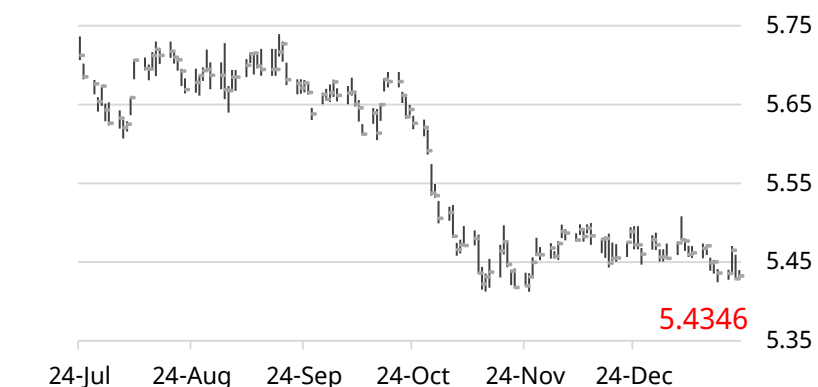


	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
SGD/MYR	3.1453	3.1488	3.1514	3.1589	3.1655

GBP/MYR

GBP/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

GBP/MYR opened 0.01% higher at 5.4291 before strengthening to 5.4346 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish with GBP/USD holding firmly above the 1.3400 handle this morning, supported by the uptick in services CPI and the higher than headline inflation print in the UK overnight.



	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
GBP/MYR	5.4077	5.4181	5.4346	5.4491	5.4697

AUD/MYR



AUD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

AUD/MYR opened 0.05% higher at 2.7328 and strengthened to 2.7506. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish amid broad AUD strength, supported by an upward surprise in the labour print this morning and correspondingly, a boost in RBA rate hike expectations.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	2.7228	2.7271	2.7506	2.7540	2.7600

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

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