23 January 2026

# Global Markets Research

# Midday Currency Outlook

## USD/MYR


*Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research*

**Intraday Thoughts – Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish**

USD/MYR opened 0.06% lower at 4.0357 and slid to 4.0177 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish with USD extending its weakness against regionals this morning and amid broad MYR strength, the latter supported by BNM's status quo in policy decision and as the central bank opines that growth outlook will remain resilient going forward, supported by sustained domestic demand, softening inflation, robust tech investment, as well as policy supports from both the monetary and fiscal fronts. That said, losses will be capped given that the pair is slightly oversold and amid a slew a resilient economic prints from the US, which saw traders only expecting rate cuts in 2H of the year and lending some support for the Dollar.

**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 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. Coupled with a slew of resilient prints released recently and haven demand with the ever-changing geopolitical space, these will nonetheless cap losses for the pair in the immediate term. On the domestic front, BNM continued to deliver a neutral note 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: 4.0-4.5%) 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 | 3.9960 | 4.0056 | 4.0177 | 4.0493 | 4.0605 |

## USD/SGD


**USD/SGD Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish**

USD/SGD opened flat at 1.2810 and slid to 1.2803 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish given USD weakness against regionals while key risk today is the upcoming CPI on the Singapore front. As it is, consensus is expecting headline and core to hold steady at 1.2% y/y.

| | S2 | S1 | Indicative | R1 | R2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| USD/SGD | 1.2723 | 1.2773 | 1.2803 | 1.2841 | 1.2873 |

# MYR Crosses

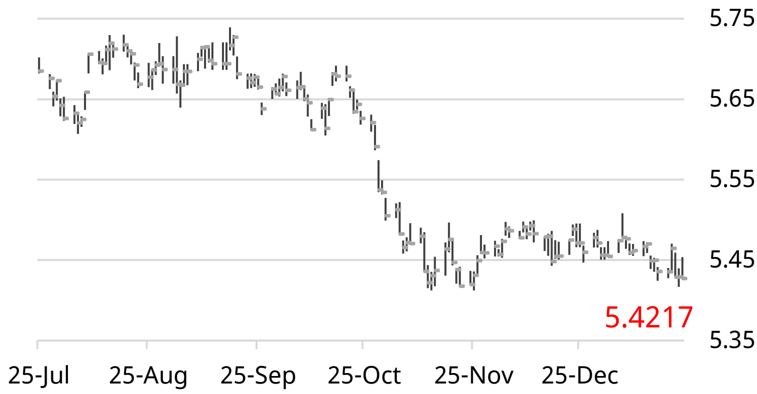
## SGD/MYR


**SGD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish**

SGD/MYR opened 0.27% higher at 3.1543 but made a dive to 3.1381 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish given MYR strength, but losses likely capped as the pair veers towards the oversold territory, thus, likely to be well supported at 3.1348 (S1) today.

| | S2 | S1 | Indicative | R1 | R2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SGD/MYR | 3.1216 | 3.1348 | 3.1381 | 3.1535 | 3.1612 |

## GBP/MYR

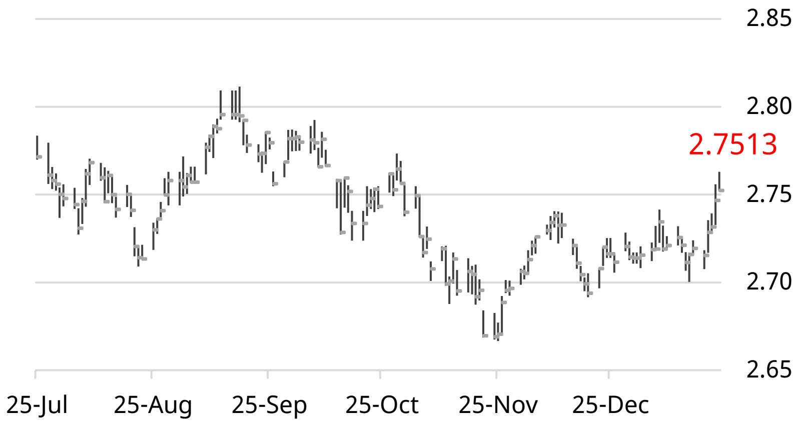



**GBP/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish**

GBP/MYR opened 0.37% higher at 5.4488 before making a retreat below its previous close at 5.4217 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish given MYR strength, as well as GBP weakness against regional and the greenback. It will be a data crucial day with the retail sales data and PMIs up on deck for the UK front.

| | S2 | S1 | Indicative | R1 | R2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GBP/MYR | 5.4054 | 5.4172 | 5.4217 | 5.4402 | 5.4514 |

## AUD/MYR




**AUD/MYR Slightly Bullish**

AUD/MYR opened 0.51% higher at 2.7605 before paring some of its gains to trade at 2.7535 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is slightly bullish amid expectations that the AUD will be well supported by the recent slew of positive economic data from the Aussie front and consequently, raising rate hike bets for the coming year. After the strong labour data overnight, we saw PMIs from Aussie strengthening this morning (Manufacturing: 52.4 vs 51.6; services: 56.0 vs 51.1).

| | S2 | S1 | Indicative | R1 | R2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AUD/MYR | 2.7218 | 2.7342 | 2.7513 | 2.7576 | 2.7686 |

*Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research*

**Hong Leong Bank Berhad**
Fixed Income & Economic Research, Global Markets
Level 8, Hong Leong Tower
6, Jalan Damanlela
Bukit Damansara
50490 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 603-2081 1221
Fax: 603-2081 8936
Email:

**DISCLAIMER**

This report is for information purposes only and does not take into account the investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any particular recipient. The information contained herein does not constitute the provision of investment advice and is not intended as an offer or solicitation with respect to the purchase or sale of any of the financial instruments mentioned in this report and will not form the basis or a part of any contract or commitment whatsoever.

The information contained in this publication is derived from data obtained from sources believed by Hong Leong Bank Berhad (“HLBB”) to be reliable and in good faith, but no warranties or guarantees, representations are made by HLBB with regard to the accuracy, completeness or suitability of the data. Any opinions expressed reflect the current judgment of the authors of the report and do not necessarily represent the opinion of HLBB or any of the companies within the Hong Leong Bank Group (“HLB Group”). The opinions reflected herein may change without notice and the opinions do not necessarily correspond to the opinions of HLBB. HLBB does not have an obligation to amend, modify or update this report or to otherwise notify a reader or recipient thereof in the event that any matter stated herein, or any opinion, projection, forecast or estimate set forth herein, changes or subsequently becomes inaccurate.

HLB Group, their directors, employees and representatives do not have any responsibility or liability to any person or recipient (whether by reason of negligence, negligent misstatement or otherwise) arising from any statement, opinion or information, expressed or implied, arising out of, contained in or derived from or omission from the reports or matter.

Potential and actual conflict of interest may arise from the activities of HLB Group. HLB Group constitute a diversified financial services group. These entities engage in a wide range of commercial and investment banking, brokerage, funds management, hedging transactions and other activities for their own account or the account of others. In the ordinary course of their business, HLB Group may effect transactions for their own account or for the account of their customers and hold long or short positions in the financial instruments. HLB Group, in connection with its business activities, may possess or acquire material information about the financial instruments. Such activities and information may involve or have an effect on the financial instruments. HLB Group have no obligation to disclose such information about the financial instruments or their activities.

The past performance of financial instruments is not indicative of future results. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that statements of facts made in this report are accurate, all estimates, projections, forecasts, expressions of opinion and other subjective judgments contained in this report are based on assumptions considered to be reasonable as of the date of the document in which they are contained and must not be construed as a representation that the matters referred to therein will occur.  Any projections or forecasts mentioned in this report may not be achieved due to multiple risk factors including without limitation market volatility, sector volatility, corporate actions, the unavailability of complete and accurate information. No assurance can be given that any opinion described herein would yield favorable investment results. Recipients who are not market professional or institutional investor customer of HLBB should seek the advice of their independent financial advisor prior to taking any investment decision based on the recommendations in this report.

HLBB may provide hyperlinks to websites of entities mentioned in this report, however the inclusion of a link does not imply that HLBB endorses, recommends or approves any material on the linked page or accessible from it. Such linked websites are accessed entirely at your own risk. HLBB does not accept responsibility whatsoever for any such material, nor for consequences of its use.

This report is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any state, country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation. This report is for the use of the addressees only and may not be redistributed, reproduced or passed on to any other person or published, in part or in whole, for any purpose, without the prior, written consent of HLBB. The manner of distributing this report may be restricted by law or regulation in certain countries. Persons into whose possession this report may come are required to inform themselves about and to observe such restrictions. By accepting this report, a recipient hereof agrees to be bound by the foregoing limitations.