

19 March 2025

Global Markets Research

Midday Currency Outlook

USD/MYR



Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

Intraday Thoughts - Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

USD/MYR opened 0.03% lower at 4.4440 before sliding to 4.4338 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish on account of MYR strength this morning, but gains are likely capped given mixed sentiment in the financial markets and cautiousness ahead of FOMC meeting today. As it is, market is pencilling a status quo in the policy rate, but remains divided if the statement and Powell's press conference will take on a dovish, neutral or hawkish stance today.

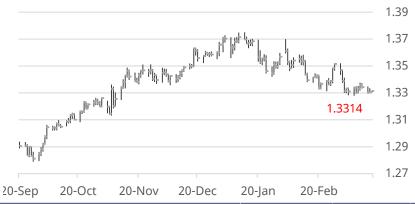
1-Month Outlook - USD/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish

We prefer to stay neutral-to-slightly bullish for the USD/MYR waiting for more clarity on the ongoing trade war, the FOMC meeting scheduled today, and as the pair consolidated from the 109 to 105 levels, after a slew of disappointing and weaker forward looking economic data. While the Fed held its ground at the January FOMC meet, pointing to the significant amount of uncertainly and its impact on both the economic and inflation, market is currently pencilling in more gradual rate cuts going forward, with about two 25bps moves expected for the whole of 2025. On the domestic front, BNM maintained the OPR at 3.00% as well as neutral policy stance in its latest monetary policy meeting. With no material changes in the policy statement, other than the characterization of exports being "expected to expand at a more moderate pace" amidst global policy uncertainties, this supports our view for an extended pause in the OPR in 2025, and in tandem with this, supportive of the MYR as well.

	S2	S 1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/MYR	4.4113	4.4276	4.4338	4.4529	4.4602



USD/SGD



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

USD/SGD opened flat at 1.3306 before trending up to 1.3314 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bullish given USD strength against most regionals and G10, the latter seeing DXY trending up slightly to 103.34 at the point of writing.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
USD/SGD	1.3275	1.3290	1.3314	1.3328	1.3351

MYR Crosses



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

SGD/MYR opened 0.13% higher at 3.3400 before quickly paring all its gains to trade at 3.3306 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is thus neutral-toslightly bearish, but will likely be supported at 3.3221 (S1) ahead of FOMC decision today.

18-Sep	18-Oct	18-Nov	18-Dec	18-Jan	18-Feb	18-Mar			
				S	2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
	SGD	/MYR		3.31	172	3.3221	3.3306	3.3455	3.3494

3.15

GBP/MYR



GBP/MYR Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish

GBP/MYR opened 0.37% higher at 5.7794 but quickly lost its lustre to trade at 5.7629 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral-to-slightly bearish on MYR strength and GBP weakness against regionals, and as the pair remains slightly overbought. That said, GBP/USD remains firmly traded around the 1.30 level, likely capping losses for this pair today.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
GBP/MYR	5.7043	5.7449	5.7629	5.7877	5.79352.



AUD/MYR



AUD/MYR Neutral

AUD/MYR opened 0.22% higher at 2.8280 before making a retreat to 2.8209 at the point of writing. Daily outlook is neutral as both AUD and MYR traded on a stronger note today. Westpac Leading index was released this morning, showing no material change to the state of the Australia's economy.

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2
AUD/MYR	2.7617	2.8108	2.8209	2.8473	2.8576

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.