

FX Weekly

Beware of Head-Fake, Quarter-End Flows

The Week Ahead

- Dollar Index Fade. Support at 91.10; Resistance at 94.30
- USD/SGD Consolidation. Support at 1.3380; Resistance at 1.3520
- USD/MYR Stretched. Support at 4.12; Resistance at 4.17
- AUD/SGD Buy Dips. Support at 1.0160; Resistance at 1.0400.
- SGD/MYR Range. Support at 3.0500; Resistance at 3.0850

Watch DXY's Weekly Close

USD extended its run-up broadly against most currencies this week. A divergent thematic of growth, monetary, fiscal policy and vaccine lead is playing in USD's favour. Vaccination in US is progressing smoothly, relative to other parts of the world (slow pace in EU and potentially slowing pace in UK due to vaccine row with EU). 133mio doses have been administered in US at an average pace of 2.51mio doses/day and Biden is looking to increase goal to 200mio shots in his 1st 100 days in office. On monetary policy divergence, the Fed appears comfortable with UST yield increases while other major central banks including ECB appear more anxious. This may see EUR reassert itself as a funding currency of choice (a potential drag on EUR). DXY has broken above the 200DMA for the 1st time in 10 months - a bullish signal. However we caution against jumping the gun on calling for more upside on 2 things: (1) risk of head fake (so watch for further price action - if DXY makes a weekly close above 200 DMA) and (2) month/quarter-end flows - may distort price action in the near term. We are still of the view that this USD bounce is moderate and temporary. Broader thematic of reflation, commodity rebound, vaccine trade should return and support a sharper global economic rebound. Pro-cyclical FX such as AUD, KRW should eventually benefit while countercyclical USD stays back footed. For the week, USDSGD could consolidate in 1.3380 - 1.3520 range while the recent rise in USDMYR increasingly looks stretched; we look for 4.12 - 4.17 range.

FTSE Russell Review Should See No Negative Surprise for MGS

Upcoming FTSE Russell review on 29 Mar is closely watch as its biannual fixed income review will be published and Malaysia is on the watch list for possible exclusion from its WGBI index. There have been a number of market initiatives targeted at promoting deep and vibrant onshore financial markets. Most recently, following the pilot program back in Nov-2020 to provide flexibility for participating onshore banks and AOOs to trade MYR IRS with non-resident banks without underlying position, BNM announced (wef 15 Mar 2021) that non-resident banks may now trade MYR IRS with any onshore bank or its AOOs. This flexibility aims at encouraging participation of non-resident banks in onshore IRS, promoting a liquid domestic market so that corporates and asset managers can lower hedging costs. Positive steps taken to improve domestic market depth and breadth should continue to bode well and address investors' concerns.

Holiday-Shortened Week ahead; Focus on China PMIs, US NFP

Some of the key data we watch this week include US, EU consumer confidence on Tue. For Wed, US ADP; EU CPI; UK GDP; China PMIs. For Thu, US ISM non-mfg; AU retail sales. For Fri US payrolls. Most regional markets including US, UK, SG, HK, AU, NZ, etc. are close on 2 Apr for Good Fri holidays.

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Bloomberg FX Ranking - 4Q 2020

No. 2 for EUR, SGD

No. 3 for JPY

No. 5 for MYR, PHP, AUD, KRW

No. 6 for NZD

No. 8 for GBP

No. 2 for Asia FX



Currency	Direction	Support/Resistance	Key Data and Events
Dollar Index		S: 91.10; R: 94.30	Mon: Dallas Fed mfg activity (Mar); Tue: Conference Board Consumer confidence (Mar); Wed: ADP employment, Chicago PMI (Mar); pending home sales (Feb); Thu: ISM Mfg (Mar); construction spending (Feb); Fri: NFP, average hourly earnings, unemployment (Mar);
EURUSD		S: 1.1600; R: 1.1930	Mon: - Nil - Tue: Consumer confidence (Mar); German CPI(Mar); Wed: CPI (Mar P); Thu: PMI Mfg (Mar); Fri: - Nil -
AUDUSD	\rightarrow	S: 0.7560; R: 0.7650	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: Building approvals (Feb); Thu: PMI, commodity index (Mar); Trade, retail sales (Feb) Fri: - Nil -
NZDUSD		S: 0.6870; R: 0.7060	Mon: - Nil - Tue: Building permits (Feb); Wed: Activity outlook, business confidence (Mar); Thu: Consumer confidence (Apr) Fri: - Nil -
GBPUSD		S: 1.3680; R: 1.3880	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: GDP, current account (4Q F); Thu: PMI Mfg (Mar) Fri: - Nil -
USDJPY		S: 108.50; R: 110.70	Mon: - Nil - Tue: Jobless rate, retail sales (Feb); Wed: Industrial production (Feb) Thu: Tankan mfg index (Mar) Fri: - Nil -
USDCNH	→	S: 6.4700; R: 6.6000	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: NBS PMI - mfg and non-mfg; Thu: Caixin PMI mfg; Fri: - Nil -
USDSGD		S: 1.3380; R: 1.3520	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: Bank loans & advances (Feb); Thu: URA home prices (1Q); Fri: - Nil -
USDMYR	→	S: 4.1200; R: 4.1700	Mon: Trade (Feb); Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: PMI Mfg (Mar) Fri: - Nil -
USDPHP		S: 48.20; R:48.90	Mon: Budget balance (Feb) Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: - Nil -
USDIDR	mhera Mayhank FX	S: 14,160; R: 14,500	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: PMI Mfg, CPI (Mar) Fri: - Nil -

Sources: Bloomberg, Maybank FX Research & Strategy



Selected G7 FX Views

Currency

Stories of the Week

DXY Index Watch Weekly Close. USD extended its run-up broadly against most currencies this week. A divergent thematic of growth, monetary, fiscal policy and vaccine lead is playing in USD's favour. Vaccination in US is progressing smoothly, relative to other parts of the world (slow pace in EU and potentially slowing pace in UK due to vaccine row with EU). 133mio doses have been administered in US at an average pace of 2.51mio doses/day and Biden is looking to increase goal to 200mio shots in his 1st 100 days in office. On monetary policy divergence, the Fed appears comfortable with UST yield increases while other major central banks including ECB appear more anxious. This may see EUR reassert itself as a funding currency of choice (a potential drag on EUR). This divergent play in favour of US should still lend further support for USD in the interim (dollar smile theory where USD is supported on US outperformance and/or risk aversion - global bond rout previously which has somewhat stabilised).

> Technically, DXY has broken above the 200DMA for the 1st time in 10 months - a bullish signal. However we caution against jumping the gun on calling for more upside on 2 things: (1) risk of head fake (so watch for further price action - if DXY makes a weekly close above 200 DMA) and (2) month/quarter-end flows - may distort price action in the near term. We are still of the view that this USD bounce is moderate and temporary. Broader thematic of reflation, commodity rebound, vaccine trade should return and support a sharper global economic rebound. Pro-cyclical FX such as AUD, KRW should eventually benefit while countercyclical USD comes under pressure again.

> DXY was last at 92.77 levels. Mild bullish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI shows tentative signs of turning from near overbought conditions. Bullish crossover observed as 50 DMA cuts 100 DMA to the upside. Though DXY traded above 200DMA overnight for the first time in 10 months (typically a bullish signal), we continue to monitor price action - if DXY makes a weekly close tonight. Weekly close above key resistance at 92.65 (200 DMA) puts next resistance at 93.1 (76.4% fibo) and 94.30 (Nov high). Support at 92.35 (61.8% fibo), 91.75 (50% fibo retracement of Nov high to Jan low) and 91.10 (38.2% fibo, 50, 100 DMAs).

> Next week brings Dallas Fed mfg activity (Mar) on Mon; Conference Board Consumer confidence (Mar) on Tue; ADP employment, Chicago PMI (Mar); pending home sales (Feb) on Wed; ISM Mfg (Mar); construction spending (Feb) on Thu; NFP, average hourly earnings, unemployment (Mar) on Fri.

EUR/USD

Signs of Rebound. EUR slipped this week as continued rise in covid infection in Euro-area, vaccine supply issues pose risk to further lockdowns and recovery momentum. Daily infection rose past respective 7-day rolling averages for several EU countries while France saw a sharp spike in daily infection to 45k. We reiterate our cautiousness on EUR's outlook in the interim due to covid resurgence (3rd wave) in Europe, slow pace of inoculation that could pose risks to economic recovery momentum being derailed and policy divergence factor (ECB perceived to be more willing than other major central banks to do more).

Pair was last at 1.1780. Bearish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI is showing tentative signs of turning from near oversold conditions. Rebound risks not ruled out. Resistance at 1.1870 (200 DMA), 1.1930 (21 DMA). Key support at 1.1820 (61.8% fibo retracement of 2018 high to 2020 low) appears to have been broken (we watch weekly close for confirmation). Next firm support at 1.1595 levels (50% fibo).

Next week brings Consumer confidence (Mar); German CPI(Mar) on Tue; CPI (Mar P) on Wed; PMI Mfg (Mar) on Thu.

GBP/USD

EU-UK Tensions Weigh but Bias to Buy. GBP retraced some of its early week's decline. Pair was last at 1.3760 levels. Bearish momentum on daily chart intact for now while RSI is rising from near-oversold conditions. Interim rebound not ruled out Resistance at 1.3830 (50 DMA), 1.3880 (21 DMA). Support at 1.3680 levels (76.4% fibo retracement of 2018 double top to 2020 low), 1.3630 (100 DMA).

We remain slightly cautious of GBP in the near term owing to ongoing USD strength and EU-UK tensions. EU will tighten restrictions on covid vaccine export (for about 6 weeks) as the bloc wants 'timely' deliveries to the EU. This add to woes as EU had launched legal action against UK over Gibraltar aid (Britain failed to recover EUR100mio in state aid given by UK territory to MNCs). The EU also had earlier denounced UK's unilateral decision to extend a grace period easing the flow of exports from rest of



Britain to Northern Ireland and said it will take legal action. But beyond the near term, we maintain a constructive outlook on vaccine lead and gradual exit out of pandemic (as country detail reopening plans). Pent-up demand (BoE Chief Economist Haldane said that excess savings is now about GBP150bn and we note that this is a 50% improvement from a quarter ago) could overwhelm when restrictions are eventually eased and economy reopens.

Next week brings GDP, current account (4Q F) on Wed and Mfg (Mar) on Thu.

USD/JPY

Break Out Risk. USDJPY traded a week of 2 halves - falling in early week before retracing losses into gains as we approach Asia close for the week. Pair was last at 109.40 levels. Mild bearish momentum on daily chart shows signs of fading while RSI is attempting another run at overbought conditions. Upside risks. Immediate resistance at 109.50 (76.4% fibo retracement of 2020 high to 2021 low) before 110, 110.70 levels. Support at 108.40/50 (21 DMA), 108.20 (61.8% fibo), 107.10 (50% fibo).

Next week brings Jobless rate, retail sales (Feb) on Tue; Industrial production (Feb) on Wed; Tankan mfg index (Mar) on Thu.

AUD/USD

Bearish Momentum though Mild Rebound Not Ruled Out Near Term. AUD briefly broke below 0.76-handle this week but losses have since been partially pared. Pair was last seen at 0.7620 levels. Bearish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI shows signs of turn-around higher from oversold conditions. Rebound risks not ruled out but maybe mild. Weekly technical still bearish while bearish divergence on MACD, RSI is playing out. Resistance at 0.7650, 0.7730 (21, 50 DMAs). Support at 0.7560, 0.7460 levels.

Next week brings Building permits (Feb) on Tue; Activity outlook, business confidence (Mar) on Wed; Consumer confidence (Apr) on Thu.

NZD/USD

Dead Cat Bounce. NZD traded sharply lower this week, triggered by PM Ardern's property measures - Government will phase out the ability of investors to claim mortgage interest as a tax-deductible expense and will extend the period in which profits from sale of investment property are taxed to 10years from 5 years, and subsequently compounded by fears of a 3rd wave in Europe, India (concerns of global economic recovery momentum being derailed).

Pair traded a low of 0.6943 (Thu); last seen at 0.6990 levels. Bearish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI shows signs of rising from near oversold conditions. Rebound not ruled out but may not be lasting. Resistance at 0.70, 0.7060 levels before 0.7120 (100 DMA). Support at 0.6950, 0.6870 (200 DMA).

Next week brings Building permits (Feb) on Tue; Activity outlook, business confidence (Mar) on Wed; Consumer confidence (Apr) on Thu.



Technical View: MYR Crosses

MYR Crosses	Direction	Support/Resistance	Stories of the Week
SGD/MYR		S: 3.0500; R:3.0850	Range. SGDMYR extended its run higher this week. Cross was last at 3.0770 levels. Mild bullish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI is rising into near overbought conditions. Bullish bias remains though we cautioned that the cross may be stretched. Immediate resistance at 3.0850 levels. Support at 3.0680 (38.2% fibo retracement of 2020 low to high), 3.0520/30 (50, 200 DMAs). We look for 3.0500 - 3.0850 range next week.
AUD/MYR	→	S: 3.1060; R: 3.2000	Lean against Strength. AUDMYR slipped, in line with our caution in the last FX weekly. Cross was last at 3.1580 levels. Bearish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI shows tentative signs of turning around. Mild risks to the upside but bias to fade. 21DMA looks on tract to cut 50DMA to the downside. Support at 3.1480 (50 DMA), 3.12 before 3.1060 levels. Resistance at 3.1690 levels (21 DMA), 3.20 levels.
EUR/MYR	→	S: 4.8350; R:4.9160	Bearish Crossovers. EURMYR traded lower this week, in line with death cross signal. Cross was last at 4.88 levels. Daily momentum shows signs of turning bearish while RSI is falling. Multiple bearish crossovers observed - 21DMA cutting 50, 200DMAs to the downside. Bias still skewed to the downside. Support at 4.8580, 4.8350 levels. Resistance at 4.8850 (23.6% fibo retracement of Jul high to Sep, Nov triple bottom) and 4.9160 (38.2% fibo) levels.
GBP/MYR	<u> </u>	S: 5.6300; R: 5.7300	Temporary Bounce. GBPMYR fell, in line with our caution for downside risks in the last FX Weekly. Cross was last seen at 5.6980 levels. Bearish momentum intact but RSI shows signs of turning higher. Bounce in the interim not ruled out. Resistance at 5.73, 5.7650 levels. Support at 5.6940 (21 DMA), 5.6260 (50 DMA).
JPY/MYR	<u> </u>	S: 3.7500; R: 3.8280	Sideways. JPYMYR saw a brief spike above 3.81-handle higher this week. Cross has since eased; last at 3.7910 levels. Bullish momentum intact but shows signs of fading while RSI shows signs of turning lower. Sideways trade likely. Immediate resistance at 3.8160, 3.8280 (50 DMA). Support at 3.7850 (21 DMA), 3.75 levels.

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Technical Chart Picks:

USDSGD Daily Chart - Bullish Momentum Fizzled Out



USDSGD firmed this week; last seen at 1.3470 levels.

Bullish momentum on daily chart faded while RSI eased from overbought conditions. Retracement lower from the sharp rise earlier is not ruled out. Support at 1.3420 (21 DMA), 1.3380 (38.2% fibo retracement of Nov high to Jan low, double bottom in Jan, Feb), 1.3340 (21, 100 DMAs).

Resistance at 1.3510 (61.8% fibo) and 1.3530 (200 DMA).

USDMYR Daily Chart - Bullish but Nearing Overbought Conditions



USDMYR traded higher this week, alongside the rise in USDAXJs including USDCNH and softer oil prices. Pair was last at 4.1465 levels.

Mild bullish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI is rising towards overbought conditions. 50DMA cuts 100 DMA to the upside - another bullish signal.

Resistance at 4.1690 (38.2% fibo), 4.1750 levels. Support at 4.1380 (200 DMA), 4.1030 (23.6% fibo retracement of 2020 high to 2021 low).

Note: blue line - 21SMA; red line - 50 SMA; green line - 100 SMA; yellow line - 200 SMA





AUDSGD slipped further amid AUD underperformance this week. Cross was last seen at 1.0260 levels.

Bearish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI shows signs of turning higher from oversold conditions. Rebound risks ahead. Resistance at 1.0310 (50 DMA), 1.0350 (21 DMA) and 1.04 levels.

Support at 1.0210 levels (this week low), 1.0160 levels (100 DMA).

Still favor buying on deeper pullback.





SGDMYR extended its run higher this week. Cross was last at 3.0770 levels.

Mild bullish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI is rising into near overbought conditions. Bullish bias remains though we cautioned that the cross may be stretched.

Immediate resistance at 3.0850 levels.

Support at 3.0680 (38.2% fibo retracement of 2020 low to high), 3.0520/30 (50, 200 DMAs).

We look for 3.0500 - 3.0850 range next week.



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