

FX Weekly

Economic Optimism is Key in the Face of Rising Yield and Energy Prices

The Week Ahead

- **Dollar Index - Fade.** Support at 92.60; Resistance at 94.50
- **USD/SGD - Consolidate.** Support at 1.3380; Resistance at 1.3510
- **USD/MYR - 2-Way Trades.** Support at 4.1300; Resistance at 4.1800
- **AUD/SGD - Buy Dips.** Support at 1.0020; Resistance at 1.0210
- **SGD/MYR - Sell Rallies.** Support at 3.0720; Resistance at 3.0960

Aggressive Normalization Expectations May Be Uncalled For

USD slipped this week but decline was shallow. USD found support as markets priced in an earlier than expected Fed rate hike. 30D fed fund futures now implied a 30% probability of Fed raising rate to 0.25% in Jun-2022 and 63% probability of Fed fund rate at 0.61%. This is akin to 2 hikes in 2022 instead of just 1 hike earlier anticipated. Market's preemptive move to price in more aggressive pace of normalisation may well lend USD some support, especially in the lead-up to 3rd Nov FoMC but we doubt the Fed will alter normalisation stance. Fed tapering schedule (to begin in Nov or Dec) and Fed's messaging for lift-off sometime late next year should still remain the base case. Hence the run-up in USD (if any) may well be a buy on rumor, sell on fact (on FoMC). Potential unwinding of stretched USD long position may exacerbate the downside then. In the meantime, against a backdrop of rising yields and energy prices, growth momentum/economic optimism is crucial for risk assets/ proxys to benefit. If this is absent, those FX that are of net-energy importer and sensitive to rising yields would be more exposed to downward pressures. These include KRW, TWD and INR. Today's prelim PMIs will offer some insights on whether growth momentum stays intact. In addition, we also keep a lookout on recent covid resurgence happening in some parts of the world including UK, East Europe and even Melbourne. Lockdowns in response can undermine sentiment. For USDSGD, 1.3410 support may hold for now as we look for 1.3410 - 1.3510 range while we look for USDMYR to consolidate in 4.13 - 4.18 range.

ECB Non-Event; Watch Lagarde Press Conference

Upcoming ECB meeting on Thu is likely to be a non-event. We keep a lookout on Lagarde's press conference post-decision on how she may respond to markets' expectation for ECB to hike rates (~30bps) in 2023. An overwhelming dovish rebuke could further weigh on EUR. There maybe some focus on how ECB plans to phase out PEPP when the program expires in Mar-2022. But the ECB has already indicated that more details will be unveiled at the Dec-2021 meeting. Our take is that bond purchases is not likely to end for ECB even with expiry of PEPP and potentially, existing APP may take on more significant role and be expanded to ensure no sudden fallout in financial conditions. Pace of bond purchases in 2022 could be smaller than the current pace of combined bond purchases in PEPP and APP schemes, giving improvements and upgrades to growth and inflation outlook. Potentially there may be a name change for APP but in essence, it is still an asset purchase program with some flexibility.

US, EU GDPs; US, EU, SG CPIs; China PMI Next Week

Week ahead brings German IFO; US CFNAI; SG CPI on Mon. For Tue, BoJ MPC; US consumer confidence; SG IP. For Wed, BoC MPC; AU CPI; US durable goods. For Thu, ECB; US GDP; Malaysia trade. For Fri, US core PCE; EU GDP, CPI estimate; AU retail sales, PPI. Next Sun, China PMIs.

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Bloomberg FX Ranking

1Q 2021












No. 2 for SGD, CNH
No. 3 for NZD, THB
No. 5 for AUD

2Q 2021

No. 2 for CNH
No. 3 for TWD, SGD, CAD
No. 5 for CNY
No. 10 for GBP

3Q 2021

No. 1 for VND
No. 3 for TWD

Currency	Direction	Support/Resistance	Key Data and Events
Dollar Index		S: 92.60; R: 94.50	Mon: Dallas Fed mfg activity (Oct); CFNAI (Sep); Tue: New home sales (Sep); Richmond Fed mfg index, Conf Board consumer confidence (Oct); Wed: Durable goods (Sep P); Thu: GDP (3Q); Pending home sales (Sep); Kansas City fed mfg index (Oct) Fri: Chicago PMI, Uni of Michigan sentiment (Oct); Personal income, spending Core PCE (Sep)
EURUSD		S: 1.1570; R: 1.1810	Mon: German IFO expectations (Oct) Tue: - Nil - Wed: German consumer confidence (Nov); Thu: Consumer confidence (Oct); ECB policy decision; Lagarde press conference; Fri: CPI estimate (Oct); GDP (3Q)
AUDUSD		S: 0.7320; R: 0.7590	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: CPI (3Q); Thu: Import, export prices (3Q) Fri: Retail sales, PPI (3Q)
NZDUSD		S: 0.7060; R: 0.7320	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: Trade (Sep); Activity outlook, business confidence (Oct); Thu: - Nil - Fri: Consumer confidence (Oct)
GBPUSD		S: 1.3570; R: 1.3850	Mon: - Nil - Tue: CBI reported sales (Oct); Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: M4 (Sep)
USDJPY		S: 112.00; R: 115.00	Mon: Coincident index, leading index (Aug); Tue: PPI services (Sep) Wed: - Nil - Thu: Retail sales (Sep); BoJ MPC; Fri: Industrial production, housing starts, jobless rate (Sep); consumer confidence (Oct)
USDCNH		S: 6.3500; R: 6.4400	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: Industrial profits (Sep); Thu: - Nil - Fri: - Nil - Sun: NBS PMIs
USDSGD		S: 1.3410; R: 1.3510	Mon: CPI (Sep); Tue: Industrial production (Sep); Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: Money supply (Sep)
USDMYR		S: 4.1300; R: 4.1800	Mon: FX Reserves (Oct); Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: Trade (Sep) Fri: - Nil -
USDPHP		S: 50.40; R: 51.20	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: - Nil -
USDIDR		S: 14,050; R: 14,280	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: - Nil -

Sources: Bloomberg, Maybank FX Research & Strategy

Selected G7 FX Views

Currency	Stories of the Week
DXY Index	<p><i>Cautious of Pre-emptive Expectations for Aggressive Normalisation.</i> USD slipped this week but decline was shallow. USD found support as markets priced in an earlier than expected Fed rate hike. 30D fed fund futures now implied a 30% probability of Fed raising rate to 0.25% in Jun-2022 and 63% probability of Fed fund rate at 0.61%. This is akin to 2 hikes in 2022 instead of just 1 hike earlier anticipated. A more aggressive pricing of Fed's path of normalisation came amid concerns of inflation lasting longer. UST yields rose sharply this week, with 10y briefly touching a high of 1.7%, from 1.51% (last Fri). Most non-USD FX partially retraced their early week's gains. Focus today on prelim PMIs and Fed Chair Powell's participation as panelist at event hosted by South African Reserve Bank on post-covid monetary and financial stability challenges.</p> <p>Market's pre-emptive move to price in more aggressive pace of normalisation may well lend USD some support, especially in the lead-up to 3rd Nov FoMC but we doubt the Fed will alter normalisation stance. Fed tapering schedule (to begin in Nov or Dec) and Fed's messaging for lift-off sometime late next year should still remain the base case. Hence the run-up in USD (if any) may well be a buy on rumor, sell on fact (on FoMC). Potential unwinding of stretched USD long position may exacerbate the downside then. In the meantime, against a backdrop of rising yields and energy prices, growth momentum/economic optimism is crucial for risk assets/ proxys to benefit. If this is absent, those FX that are of net-energy importer and sensitive to rising yields could be more exposed to downward pressures. These include KRW, TWD and INR. Today's prelim PMIs will offer some insights on whether growth momentum stays intact. In addition, we also keep a lookout on recent covid resurgence happening in some parts of the world including UK, East Europe and even Melbourne. So far Latvia has moved to lockdown phase this week in attempt to curb the spread of covid and it remains to be seen if more countries will follow suit. A lockdown will dampen sentiment. That said East Europe is one of the regions that has lower vaccination rate so further lockdowns there is not unexpected (Estonia already indicated it might follow). UK on the other hand, indicated that see no need for new restrictions in light of recent resurgence but they may activate "plan B", which would include mask mandates, WFH and vaccine passports. So risk factors in the near term, we watch prelim PMIs as a gauge for growth momentum and whether more countries move into lockdowns.</p> <p>DXY was last at 93.77 levels. Daily momentum is bearish while RSI is flat. Bearish divergence on weekly MACD is playing out. We stick to our bias looking for pullback but caution that pullback might well be shallow. Support here at 93.25/40 (50 DMA, 23.6% fibo retracement of May low to Oct high) and 92.60/70 (100DMA, 38.2% fibo). Resistance at 93.80/94.00 levels (neckline, 21 DMA), 94.50 (double-top).</p> <p><i>Next week brings Dallas Fed mfg activity (Oct); CFNAI (Sep) on Mon; New home sales (Sep); Richmond Fed mfg index, Conf Board consumer confidence (Oct) on Tue; Durable goods (Sep P) on Wed; GDP (3Q); Pending home sales (Sep); Kansas City fed mfg index (Oct) on Thu; Chicago PMI, Uni of Michigan sentiment (Oct); Personal income, spending Core PCE (Sep) on Fri.</i></p>
EUR/USD	<p><i>ECB in Focus Next Thu.</i> We expect a non-event risk and look for ECB to retain its dovish bias and to keep key policy parameters including policy rate and pace of PEPP purchases on hold as it seeks to prevent any unnecessary tightening in financial conditions and to support economic recovery momentum. We will also keep a lookout on Lagarde's press conference on how she may respond to markets' expectation for ECB to hike rates (~30bps) in 2023. An overwhelming dovish rebuke could further weigh on EUR.</p> <p>ECB has indicated at the last meeting in Sep that more details on PEPP will be unveiled only at the 16th Dec meeting. Market chatters that an abrupt end to PEPP (originally intended for Mar-2022 expiry) is probably unlikely as financial conditions could be impacted. Instead ECB could potentially increase existing APP buying pace (currently at EUR20bn per month) while winding down the PEPP (which was supposed to be an emergency tool in light of pandemic). On net, we believe that bond purchases is not likely to end for ECB even with expiry of PEPP come Mar-2022 and potentially, APP may take on more significant role and be expanded to ensure no sudden fallout in financial conditions. However the pace of bond purchases in 2022 should be smaller than the current pace of combined bond purchases in PEPP and APP schemes, giving improvements and upgrades to growth and inflation outlook. Potentially there may be a name change for APP but in essence, it is still an asset purchase program with some flexibility.</p> <p>That said we reiterate that ECB may be underestimating inflationary pressures. Higher energy, oil prices</p>

have caused a pronounced pick-up in Euro-area CPI (nearly half of the recent surge in headline CPI to 3.4% was contributed by energy prices) and there is still no signs of it abating. Sustained uptick in energy prices should pose upside risks to ECB's inflation projections and policymakers may well be forced to normalise earlier than expected. Or ECB may risk a sharper upward adjustment thereafter.

EUR extended its gains modestly this week, in line with our tactical call looking for rebound. Pair was last seen at 1.1625 levels. Daily momentum is mild bullish but rise in RSI slows. Potential bullish divergence on MACD remains intact. Still look to buy but on pullbacks. Support at 1.1610 (21DMA), 1.1560 levels, 1.1490 (50% fibo retracement of 2020 low to 2021 high). Resistance at 1.1670 (previous neckline support), 1.1720 (50 DMA) and 1.1810 (100DMA).

Next week brings German IFO expectations (Oct) on Mon; German consumer confidence (Nov) on Wed; Consumer confidence (Oct); ECB policy decision; Lagarde press conference on Thu; CPI estimate (Oct); GDP (3Q) on Fri.

GBP/USD **Near Term BoE Tightening Priced.** GBP traded higher this week but gains were partially unwound after CPI missed expectations (3.1% vs. 3.2% expected, prior) and USD bounced. This week, BoE Chief Economist Huw Pill told FT that 4 Nov rate setting decision is "live" as officials will debate whether to raise rates. He added that debate is "finely balanced". Inflation could exceed 5% but likely to fall in 2H 2022 but the surge in inflation is "uncomfortable". We think baby steps for 15bps hike at Nov is not unlikely. But the near term rate hike expectations may already have been priced. Focus on the forward guidance beyond end-2021. A more hawkish guidance could reignite GBP bulls but short of hawkish BoE may see GBP reverse gains. We also keep a look out on recent covid resurgence in UK (daily cases rose to 50k) if it would trigger tighter restrictions. For now, Business Secretary Kwarteng said that the government doesn't want to impose new restrictions or lock down the economy again. Health Minister Javid confirmed no need for new covid restrictions yet but will warn activating "plan B" which would include mask mandates, WFH and vaccine passports.

Pair was last at 1.3795 levels. Daily momentum is bullish but RSI shows signs of easing. Likely to see more 2-way risks from here. Next resistance at 1.3850 (200 DMA), 1.3910 levels. Support at 1.3730 (50 DMA) and 1.3650 (21DMA).

Largely quiet on data docket with no tier-1 data scheduled for release.

USD/JPY **Pullback May Happen; Buy Dips Then.** Widening UST-JGB yield differentials (+56bps vs. 39bps at start of month) continued to underpin USDJPY's rise. Pair was last seen at 114 levels. Bullish momentum on daily chart intact but RSI shows tentative signs of turning from near overbought conditions. Bullish bias intact but we think a tactical pullback lower is not ruled out. Support at 112.60 (21 DMA), 112 and 110.90 (50 DMA). Immediate resistance at 114.50 levels (76.4% fibo retracement of 2017 high to 2020 low) before 118.60 (2017 high). Respect the pullback as we look to buy dips (unless rise in energy prices and UST yields reversed).

Next week brings Coincident index, leading index (Aug) on Mon; PPI services (Sep) on Tue; Retail sales (Sep); BoJ MPC on Thu; Industrial production, housing starts, jobless rate (Sep); consumer confidence (Oct) on Fri.






AUD/USD **CPI, PPI, Retail Sales in Focus Next Week.** AUD traded higher for the week. Pair was last seen at 0.75 levels. Daily momentum is bullish but RSI shows signs of falling from overbought conditions. Pullback lower not ruled out. Support at 0.74 (100 DMA), 0.7320/40 levels (21, 50 DMAs). Buy dips favoured. Resistance at 0.7570/90 (200 DMA, 61.8% fibo retracement of May high to Aug low) before 0.7710 (76.4% fibo).

Next week brings CPI (3Q) on Wed; Import, export prices (3Q) on Thu; Retail sales, PPI (3Q) on Fri.

NZD/USD **Buy Dips.** NZD rose this week as much higher than expected 3Q CPI fuelled expectations for quicker pace of RBNZ tightening. NZ inflation rose to a 10-year high of 4.9% in 3Q, much higher than the 4.2% forecast and way outside RBNZ's 1% - 3% target range. The rise was broad based, with food, housing, and transport-related costs still the main drivers of price increases. NZD rose; last at 0.7185 levels. Daily momentum is bullish but RSI fell from overbought conditions. Pace of NZD gains may moderate as we look for dips to buy into. Support at 0.71/0.7120 (61.8% fibo retracement of May high to Aug low, 200 DMA), 0.7060 (50% fibo). Resistance at 0.7220, 0.7250 and 0.7320 levels (May high).

Next week brings Trade (Sep); Activity outlook, business confidence (Oct) on Wed; Consumer confidence on Fri.

Technical View: MYR Crosses

MYR Crosses	Direction	Support/Resistance	Stories of the Week
SGD/MYR		S: 3.0720; R: 3.1100	Lean against Strength. SGD/MYR rebounded this week amid SGD outperformance, especially post-MAS policy to tighten. Cross was last at 3.0890 levels. Bullish momentum on daily chart intact but RSI shows signs of turning lower. Double bearish cross overs observed: 21DMA cutting 200DMA and 50DMA cutting 100DMA to the downside. Rally so far may pause in the interim and this is consistent with our bias to sell rallies. Support at 3.0840 (50% fibo retracement of Mar low to 2021 double-top, 200 DMA), 3.0720 (61.8% fibo). Resistance at 3.0960 (38.2% fibo), 3.1050 and 3.1110 (23.6% fibo).
AUD/MYR		S: 3.0900; R: 3.1500	Not Ruling Out Pullback Risks. AUD/MYR continued to punch its way higher this week, in line with our call for <i>rebound underway</i> . Move higher came amid AUD outperformance. Cross was last seen at 3.1130 levels. Daily momentum is bullish while RSI is rising towards near overbought conditions. Bias still to the upside but risk of slowing pace of gains, with RSI nearing overbought levels. Resistance at 3.13 (200 DMA), 3.1460 (61.8% fibo retracement of May high to Sep low) and 3.18 (76.4% fibo). Support at 3.0950 (100 DMA), 3.0920 (38.2% fibo).
EUR/MYR		S: 4.8200; R: 4.9100	Break Above 21DMA Opens Room for Further Gains. EUR/MYR rose this week, in line with our caution for risk of snapback given RSI at oversold conditions. Cross was last at 4.8410 levels. Daily momentum turned bullish while RSI is rising. Potential falling wedge (bullish reversal) could be in play. Risks still to the upside. Immediate resistance at 4.8510 (21 DMA), 4.8680 (23.6% fibo retracement of 2021 high to low) and 4.9090 (50DMA, 38.2% fibo). Support at 4.82, 4.80 and 4.7770.
GBP/MYR		S: 5.6900; R: 5.77 n00	Rebound Momentum May Fizzle Interim. GBP/MYR further rebounded this week, in line with our call in the last FX Weekly that <i>rebound risks intact</i> . Cross was last seen at 5.7340 levels. Daily momentum is bullish while rise in RSI shows signs of slowing. Gains may pause in the interim. Resistance at 5.7680 (50% fibo retracement of 2021 high to Oct low), 5.8040 (61.8% fibo). Support at 5.6940 (21 DMA). Support at 5.6900/40 levels (23.6% fibo, 21 DMA).
JPY/MYR		S: 3.6250; R: 3.7500	Rebound Risk. JPY/MYR consolidated this week after sharp decline since mid-Sep. Move lower was in line with our call in the last FX Weekly for temporary pause in decline. Cross was last seen at 3.6550 levels. Bearish momentum on daily chart intact but there are signs of it fading while RSI is showing signs of turning higher from near oversold conditions. Technicals still argue for some rebound risks ahead. Resistance at 3.72, 3.75 levels. Support at 3.67, 3.65 and 3.6250 levels.

Technical Chart Picks:

USDSGD Daily Chart - Looking for Extended Pullback



Decline in USDSGD in Oct appeared to have been stopped in its track. Pair was last seen at 1.3470 levels.

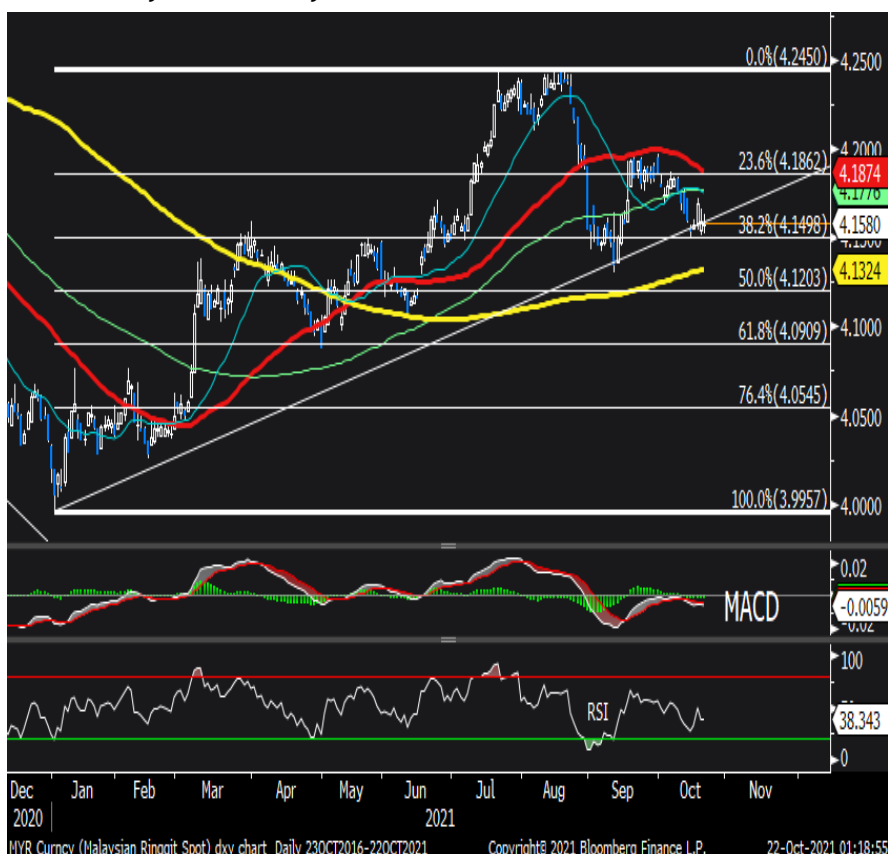
Daily momentum is mild bearish while RSI shows signs of turnaround higher from near oversold conditions. Signs of rebound play could be emerging.

Resistance at 1.35 (38.2% fibo), 1.3570 (23.6% fibo) and 1.3620 (falling trend-line resistance).

Key support at 1.3440 (50% fibo retracement of Jun low to Jul high), 1.3410 (200 DMA) before 1.3380 (61.8% fibo).

We look for 1.3410 - 1.3510 range within wider perimeters of 1.3380 - 1.3570.

USDMYR Daily Chart - 2-Way Trade



USDMYR consolidated this week. Last seen at 4.1580 levels.

Daily momentum and RSI indicators are not showing a clear bias for now. We stick to our earlier bias that pace of decline is likely to slow as we look for 2-way trade.

Support at 4.15, 4.12 levels.

Resistance at 4.1770 levels (21, 50 DMAs), 4.1860 (23.6% fibo retracement of 2021 low to high), 4.1910 (50DMA).

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

AUDSGD Daily Chart: Respect Pullback Risks; Buy Dips Preferred



AUDSGD remained better bid amid AUD outperformance. Cross was last seen at 1.0065 levels.

Daily momentum is bullish but RSI is showing signs of turning lower from overbought conditions. Pullback lower in near term not ruled out. Support at 1.0020 (23.6% fibo), 0.9950 (38.2% fibo). Favor buying the cross on dips.

Resistance at 1.0130, 1.0210 levels.

SGDMYR Daily Chart: Lean against Strength



SGDMYR rebounded this week amid SGD outperformance, especially post-MAS policy to tighten. Cross was last at 3.0890 levels. Bullish momentum on daily chart intact but RSI shows signs of turning lower. Double bearish cross overs observed: 21DMA cutting 200DMA and 50DMA cutting 100DMA to the downside. Rally so far may pause in the interim and remains consistent with our bias to sell rallies.

Support at 3.0840 (50% fibo retracement of Mar low to 2021 double-top, 200 DMA), 3.0720 (61.8% fibo). Resistance at 3.0960 (38.2% fibo), 3.1050 and 3.1110 (23.6% fibo.).

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