

FX Weekly

Fade Fears of Omicron and Fed

The Week Ahead

- Dollar Index Fade. Support at 94.50; Resistance at 97.70
- USD/SGD Hanging Man. Support at 1.3550; Resistance at 1.3750
- USD/MYR Correction. Support at 4.1890; Resistance at 4.2500
- AUD/SGD Downside Risk. Support at 0.9535; Resistance at 0.9920
- SGD/MYR Downside, Support at 3.0720; Resistance at 3.1050

Interim USD Strength but Watch US Payrolls (830pm SG/MY time)

An uneasy confluence of omicron variant concerns and potential Fed policy shifts saw volatilities rise across multi asset classes, including equities, bonds, oil and FX. Omicron's spread and high transmissibility characteristics have lived up to its reputation. More cases of the variant has been found across the world including US, India, Korea, Singapore. This raises concerns of the potential for tighter border controls globally and is a setback to reopening momentum. We maintained our view that uncertainty on Omicron will drive markets both ways and it will take up to weeks for health experts to tell the impact variant has on vaccines. However it not likely we return back to a year ago as (1) more people are vaccinated today than a year ago and; (2) vaccine technology has advanced tremendously. There are now more variety of vaccines and treatment drugs than a year ago. Just before we wrap up the choppy week, we watch US payrolls tonight (830pm SG/MY time). Consensus is looking for NFP to pick up slightly to +550k (vs. +531k prior), unemployment rate to improve further to 4.5%, down from 4.6% and for hourly earnings to pick up to 5%. A stronger than expected or in-line with expectations report could keep USD supported but a much weaker report could upset USD bulls. For USDSGD, bias to fade rallies towards 1.3750 for a move lower towards 1.3550 while we look for a corrective move lower in USD below 4.20.

Fed Paving the Ground for Hawkish Shift at Next FoMC

Fed speaks this week gave the impression that Fed is potentially preparing the ground for a hawkish shift at upcoming FoMC (15-16 Dec) even with uncertainties around omicron variant. In particular Fed Chair Powell told senate banking panel that "it's probably a good time to retire the word, transitory" and that Fed is prepared to quicken the pace of tapering. Quarles said it was time for Fed to prepare to raise interest rates because inflation was likely to stay above Fed's 2% target for longer than anticipated and he also said that this is not a bottleneck story anymore and the Fed needs to bring supply and demand into balance by raising rates to cool the economy until businesses create more productive capacity to meet higher levels of demand. We opined it is likely that pace of taper could step up to end by 1Q-2022 instead of Jun-2022 and that 2 hikes may form Fed's baseline (up from 1 previously). This could add to front-loading of USD strength.

RBA; EU ZEW and CPIs from US, Germany, China Next Week

Some of the data we watch next week include UK construction PMI on Mon. For Tue, US trade; EU ZEW, 3Q GDP; RBA policy decision - expect policy status quo. For Wed, US JOLTS job openings, Japan GDP. For Thu, NX mfg activity; China CPI, PPI. For Fri, US CPI; German CPI; NZ mfg PMI; UK data dump; Malaysia IP.

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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	\rightarrow	S: 94.50; R: 97.70	Mon: - Nil - Tue: Trade (Oct); Wed: JOLTS Job openings (Oct); Thu: Wholesale trade sales, inventories (Oct); Fri: CPI (Nov); Uni of Michigan sentiment (Dec P)
EURUSD		S: 1.1200; R: 1.1420	Mon: Sentix investor confidence (Dec); German factory orders (Oct) Tue: GDP, Employment (3Q); ZEW survey expectations (Dec); Wed: - Nil - Thu: German trade (Oct) Fri: German CPI (Nov)
AUDUSD	\longrightarrow	S: 0.7050; R: 0.7240	Mon: - Nil - Tue: RBA Policy decision; House price index (3Q); FX Reserves (Nov) Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: - Nil -
NZDUSD		S: 0.6710; R: 0.6960	Mon: ANZ Commodity price (Nov); Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: Mfg activity (3Q) Fri: Mfg PMI, card spending (Nov)
GBPUSD	\rightarrow	S: 1.3240; R: 1.3520	Mon: Construction PMI (Nov); Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: Monthly GDP, IP, Trade, construction output, Trade (Oct)
USDJPY		S: 112.50; R: 114.00	Mon: - Nil - Tue: Leading index (Oct P); Wed: GDP (3Q); Current account (Oct) Thu: BSI Large All industry (4Q); machine tool orders (Nov P); Fri: PPI (Nov)
USDCNH	→	S: 6.3500; R: 6.4200	Mon: - Nil - Tue: Trade, FX Reserves (Nov); Wed: - Nil - Thu: CPI, PPI (Nov) Fri: - Nil -
USDSGD		S: 1.3550; R: 1.3750	Mon: - Nil - Tue: FX Reserves (Nov); Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: - Nil -
USDMYR	→	S: 4.1890; R: 4.2500	Mon: - Nil - Tue: FX Reserves (Nov); Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: Industrial production (Oct)
USDPHP		S: 49.80; R: 50.70	Mon: - Nil - Tue: CPI (Nov); Unemployment (Oct); Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: Trade (oct)
USDIDR		S: 14,250; R: 14,500 K Research & Strategy	Mon: - Nil - Tue: FX Reserves (Nov); Wed: Consumer confidence (Nov) Thu: - Nil - Fri: - Nil -

Sources: Bloomberg, Maybank FX Research & Strategy



Selected G7 FX Views

Currency

Stories of the Week

DXY Index Fed Shifts. An uneasy confluence of omicron variant concerns and potential Fed policy shifts saw volatilities rise across multi asset classes, including equities, bonds, oil and FX. Omicron's spread and high transmissibility characteristics have lived up to its reputation. More cases of the variant has been found across US and now, India and Singapore announced first cases overnight. This raises concerns of the potential for tighter border controls globally and is a setback to reopening momentum. We maintained our view that uncertainty on Omicron will drive markets both ways and it will take up to weeks for experts to tell the impact variant has on vaccines. However it not likely we return back to a year ago as (1) more people are vaccinated today than a year ago and; (2) vaccine technology has advanced tremendously. There are now more variety of vaccines and treatment drugs than a year ago. Just before we wrap up the choppy week, we watch US payrolls tonight (830pm SG/MY time). Consensus is looking for NFP to pick up slightly to +550k (vs. +531k prior), unemployment rate to improve further to 4.5%, down from 4.6% and for hourly earnings to pick up to 5%. A stronger than expected or in-line with expectations report could keep USD supported but a much weaker report could upset USD bulls.

> Fed speaks this week gave the impression that Fed is potentially preparing the ground for a hawkish shift at upcoming FoMC (15-16 Dec) even with uncertainties around omicron variant. In particular Fed Chair Powell told senate banking panel that "its probably a good time to retire the word, transitory" and that Fed is prepared to quicken the pace of tapering. Bostic said that "it would be in our interest" to end QE purchases towards end-1Q to give it more flexibility to raise rates if needed. He added there is a good case to pull forward more rate hikes if inflection is elevated in 2022 but his preferred path is to go slow and steady. Daly said that she expects more than 1 hike pencilled in the dots plot at the upcoming FoMC (15-16 Dec). Outgoing Quarles said it was time for Fed to prepare to raise interest rates because inflation was likely to stay above Fed's 2% target for longer than anticipated and he also said that this is not a bottleneck story anymore and the Fed needs to bring supply and demand into balance by raising rates to cool the economy until businesses create more productive capacity to meet higher levels of demand. We opined it is likely that pace of taper could step up to end by 1Q-2022 instead of Jun-2022 and that 2 hikes may form Fed's baseline (up from 1 previously). This could add to front-loading of USD strength.

> DXY was last at 96.22 levels. Mild bearish momentum on daily chart while decline in RSI moderated for now. We are biased to lean against strength. Resistance at 96.70, 97.70 (61.8% fibo). Support next at 95.5 (21 DMA) before 94.40/50 (38.2% fibo retracement of 2020 high to 2021 low, 50 DMA).

Next week brings Trade (Oct) on Tue; JOLTS Job openings (Oct) on Wed; Wholesale trade sales, inventories (Oct) on Thu; CPI (Nov); Uni of Michigan sentiment (Dec P) on Fri.

EUR/USD

Downside Risk. EUR was caught between a rock and a hard place. On one hand, widening yield differentials amid ECB-Fed policy divergence weighed on EUR but on the other hand, its "safe haven" characteristic is supportive of EUR (as markets unwind carry trades funded by negative yielders such as EUR, JPY, CHF).

This week there were reports saying that a growing number of ECB officials were considering delaying decision on post-PEPP plan. The ECB has earlier indicated that they will provide an update at the 16th Dec ECB meeting with regards to asset purchases plans after PEPP lapsed in Mar-2022. Chatters were for this to be pushed out to 3rd Feb meeting when more details and impact on omicron variant comes to light. A delay in decision (if any) would come in sharp contrast to the Fed, whom has been talking about faster pace of tapering even with omicron variant. This divergence in monetary policy bias exposes EUR's vulnerability as further widening in yield differentials may drag on EUR.

EUR was last at 1.1295 levels. Daily momentum turned mild bullish while rise in RSI moderated. Sideways trade likely. Resistance at 1.1360 (21 DMA) and 1.1490 levels (50% fibo retracement of 2020 low to 2021 high). Support at 1.1290 (61.8% fibo), 1.1220, 1.1180.

Next week brings Sentix investor confidence (Dec); German factory orders (Oct) on Mon; GDP, Employment (3Q); ZEW survey expectations (Dec) on Tue; German trade (Oct) on Thu and German CPI (Nov) on Fri.

GBP/USD Looking for Technical Rebound. GBP continued to trade near recent lows this week amid omicron

Dec 3, 2021



uncertainty, Fed (potentially quickening its pace of policy normalisation) while markets pared back expectations of a Dec BoE hike. UK had warned that people should not assume that covid will evolve to become a milder disease while the New and emerging respiratory virus threats advisory group urged UK ministers to take early and robust actions to limit transmission of omicron variant. Worries of pre-emptive measures taken by policymakers to tighten restrictions would dampen reopening momentum and weighed on risk sentiments, including GBP. That said we refrain from jumping the gun on omicron negatives as experts said that it remains too early to tell the impact of omicron on vaccines. Furthermore UK has also recently approved the use of an antibody treatment, sotrovimab which the manufacturers said appear to be effective against the omicron variant.

Pair was last at 1.3290. Bearish momentum on daily chart still intact while RSI is near oversold conditions. Potential bullish divergence still seen on daily MACD - yet to play out. Falling wedge pattern observed - a potential bullish reversal. We monitor price actions for potential rebound. Resistance at 1.3350, 1.3410 (23.6% fibo retracement of Oct high to Nov low), 1.3460 (50 DMA). Support here at 1.3280, 1.3190 (2021 low).

Relatively quiet week ahead with Construction PMI (Nov) on Mon and a data dump on Fri: Monthly GDP, IP, Trade, construction output, Trade (Oct).

USD/JPY

Risks to the Upside. USDJPY fell to a low of 112.53 (Tue) before erasing losses. Fed speaks this week suggest a potential hawkish shift. Repricing of hawkish shift adds to higher near term yields and this could drive USDJPY higher in the interim. 2y UST yield rose from 0.49% at start of week to 0.62%.

Pair was last seen at 113.45 levels. Mild bearish momentum shows signs of fading while RSI is rising from near overbought conditions. Risks to the downside. Resistance at 114 (21 DMA), 115, 115.5. Support at 113.10 (50 DMA), 112.50 levels.

Next week brings Leading index (Oct P) on Tue; GDP (3Q); Current account (Oct) on Tue; BSI Large All industry (4Q); machine tool orders (Nov P) on Thu; PPI (Nov) or Fri.

AUD/USD

RBA on Hold. AUD traded lower this week amid Fed's hawkish speaks and omicron uncertainty. Pair was last at 0.7060 levels. Bearish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI dips into oversold conditions. Bias to the downside. Next support at 0 0.7050 and 0.70 levels. Resistance at 0.7105, 0.7240 levels (2 DMA). RBA policy decision is due next Tue - we expect policy status quo given little evidence of wage increase while core inflation has barely only made its way into the target band for the first time in a long while. We expect RBA to lag other G7 central banks.

Next week brings RBA Policy decision; House price index (3Q); FX Reserves (Nov) on Tue.

NZD/USD

Oversold. Break below double-bottom at 0.6810 is somewhat adding to bearish pressure this week. NZD was last seen at 0.67850 levels. Bearish momentum on daily chart shows tentative signs of fading while RSI is in oversold conditions. We are still biased to buy dips, opportunistically. Support at 0.6770 levels. Resistance at 0.6860, 0.6905 (23.6% fibo retracement of Oct high to Nov low), 0.6960 (32.8% fibo).

While caution is warranted on omicron variant, we see the glass half-full rather than half empty. We opined it not likely we return back to a year ago as (1) more people are vaccinated today than a year ago and; (2) vaccine technology has advanced tremendously. There are now more variety of vaccines and treatment drugs than a year ago. Moderna, Pfizer are saying that modified mRNA vaccine is possible within six weeks and that can ship initial batches within 100 days. Experts also pointed to the existence of antiviral drug such as Merck's covid pill (molnupiravir) and existing therapy via anti-inflammatory drug (dexamethasone) that are likely to work against omicron. Though a recent study found that omicron is at least 2.4x more likely to re-infect people who previously had covid, it also said that virus may be no more transmissible than delta and illness it causes is thought to be less severe.

Next week brings ANZ Commodity price (Nov) on Mon; Mfg activity (3Q) on Thu; Mfg PMI, card spending (Nov) on Fri.



Technical View: MYR Crosses

MYR Crosses	Direction	Support/Resistance	Stories of the Week
SGD/MYR	→	S: 3.0720; R: 3.1050	Slight Bias for Downside Play. SGDMYR consolidate in choppy fashion this week. Cross was last at 3.0855 levels. Mild bullish momentum on daily chart shows signs of fading while RSI shows signs of turning lower. We are slightly biased for renewed downside play. Support at 3.0830/40 (50DMA, 50% fibo), 3.0810 (21 DMA), 3.0720 (61.8% fibo). An extended move lower towards 3.0680 is not ruled out. Resistance at 3.0940/60 levels (100 DMA, 38.2% fibo retracement of Mar low to 2021 double top), 3.1050, 3.1110 (23.6% fibo).
AUD/MYR	→	S: 3.0000; R: 3.0700	Consolidation. AUDMYR slipped this week amid AUD underperformance. Cross was last seen at 3.0095 levels. Bearish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI rose from oversold conditions. Room for further consolidation. Support at 2.9950 (previous low), 2.99 levels. Resistance at 3.0250, 3.0350.
EUR/MYR	\rightarrow	S: 4.7600; R: 4.8500	Rebound Underway. EURMYR extended its rebound this week, in line with our call - <i>looking for extended rebound</i> . Move higher came amid EUR strength while MYR fell sharply. Cross was last at 4.7930 levels. Bullish momentum intact while RSI is rising. Room for further upside. Immediate resistance at 4.8130 (50 DMA), 4.8490 levels. Support at 4.76, 4.7050 levels.
GBP/MYR	—	S: 5.6000; R: 5.6800	Trying to Find a Bottom. GBPMYR slipped this week. Cross was last seen at 5.6280 levels. Mild bullish momentum is fading while RSI climbed. Consolidative trades likely. Resistance at 5.6490 (23.6% fibo retracement of Jul hight to Nov low), 5.6690 (50 DMA) and 5.7370 (100, 200 DMAs). Support at 5.60, 5.5650 levels (Nov low).
JPY/MYR	→	S: 3.7000; R: 3.7800	Retain Bias to Buy Dips. JPYMYR traded higher this week/ Cross was last at 3.7410. Bias still to buy dips. Support at 3.6540 (21 DMA), 3.6250 (2021 low). Resistance at 3.75, 3.78. Support at 3.7140, 3.6960 (50 DMA).

Technical Chart Picks:

USDSGD Weekly Chart - Hanging Man?



USDSGD fell in early week but partially reversed early week's losses into Fri session.

On daily chart (not shown here), bullish momentum is fading while RSI is falling. On weekly chart, we noted a potential hanging man candlestick (but note that trading session is still ongoing at time of writing and price swings can occur). If confirmed, this can signal an interim top is in place. We watch for confirmation in price action next week. Risk-reward favour a sell rallies (with tight stop placed 10-20pips above said-resistance).

Immediate resistance at 1.3730/50 (38.2% fibo retracement of 2020 high to 2021 low).

Support at 1.3605 (21 DMA), 1.3540/50 (50, 100 DMAs).

USDMYR Daily Chart - Chance for Corrective Move Lower



USDMYR consolidated near recent highs this week. Last seen at 4.2300 levels.

Bullish momentum on daily chart faded while RSI declined from overbought conditions. We are biased for corrective move lower.

Support at 4.2220 (50% fibo), 4.20 and 4.1890 (21, 100 DMAs). An extension of the pullback towards 4.1530 (200 DMA) is not ruled out.

Immediate resistance at 4.2450 (2021 high), 4.2760 (61.8% 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 Daily Chart: Break-Out but Caution for Snapback Risk



Our caution for AUDSGD to break out of its inverted cup and "handle" pattern came to fruition this week. Cross was last at 0.9690 levels.

Bearish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI is in oversold conditions. Inverted cup and handle pattern is in play typically a bearish continuation pattern. Next support at 0.9673 (previous low in 2021). A decisive break below may see the cross extend its decline towards where the inverted cup and handle started at: 0.9535 levels (Oct-2020). One note of caution is that a falling wedge is developing. We caution for snapback risk ahead.

Resistance at 0.9770 (76.4% fibo retracement of Oct-2020 low to 2021 high), 0.9850 (21 DMA) and 0.9920 (21, 50 DMAs).

SGDMYR Daily Chart: Bias for Downside Play



SGDMYR consolidate in choppy fashion this week. Cross was last at 3.0855 levels.

Mild bullish momentum on daily chart shows signs of fading while RSI shows signs of turning lower. We are slightly biased for renewed downside play.

Support at 3.0830/40 (50DMA, 50% fibo), 3.0810 (21 DMA), 3.0720 (61.8% fibo). An extended move lower towards 3.0680 is not ruled out.

Resistance at 3.0940/60 levels (100 DMA, 38.2% fibo retracement of Mar low to 2021 double top), 3.1050, 3.1110 (23.6% fibo).



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