

FX Weekly

Of Energy Shocks and Stagflation Fears

The Week Ahead

- Dollar Index Sell Rallies. Support at 94.50; Resistance at 99.70
- USD/SGD Sell Rallies. Support at 1.3500; Resistance at 1.3620
- USD/MYR Signs of Breaking Out. Support at 4.15; Resistance at 4.20
- AUD/SGD Bullish. Support at 0.98; Resistance at 1.0160
- SGD/MYR Free Fall. Support at 3.0650; Resistance at 3.1000

EUR, KRW Still Vulnerable while AUD, NZD, CAD, MYR Bid On

War in Ukraine continues to dominate newswires and sentiments. Russian invasion of Ukraine has entered into the second week and the battle is intensifying. The latest is that Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (the largest in Europe) has been seized by Russians while Russia Foreign Minister Lavrov earlier warned that WW3 can "only be nuclear". Geopolitical development remains fluid and information flow comes in dribs and drabs. As such markets will continue to face 2-way risks. That said, fears of further escalation into a military conflict of a grander scale, involving nuclear or more parties, could further undermine risk assets. On FX, EUR is at risk of further sell-off amid stagflation concerns. Prolonged increase in energy and food prices could mean even higher price pressures adding constraints to growth. Net oil importer FX including KRW, INR remain under pressure. But on the flip side, the run-up in commodity prices (energy and food) have seen commodity-linked proxy FX such as AUD, NZD, CAD and MYR benefit. Risk aversion continued to see JPY, USD and gold better bid. Stay nimble while we keep a lookout on any signs of ceasefire. USDSGD is at risk of overshooting towards 1.37 if 1.3615 resistance breaks. USDMYR is showing signs of breaking out of its symmetrical triangle.

ECB Likely Not to Commit to Policy Normalisation

The upcoming ECB meeting scheduled on 10th Mar will be of keen interest as it should offer further hints of shift in policy bias. A reassessment of its APP is also eyed amidst chatters for earlier than expected end to APP (Aug instead of Oct). The set of macroeconomic projection, including inflation will also guide market expectations for rates trajectory. Overall, we expect no major changes to ECB's policy stance, with discount rate maintained at -0.5%. We do think it is possible that the pace of APP be reduced (from planned EUR40bn/month starting Apr) or be made flexible while an earlier end (vs. previously guided timeline of Oct-2022) is not ruled out. However Ukraine development may throw a curveball to ECB policy normalization plans as recent ECB speaks suggest that policymakers may consider slowing policy normalisation process. Holzmann whom earlier said he backed 2 hikes this year is now saying that that the speed may now be somewhat delayed while Stournaras said ECB must keep buying bonds to cushion Ukraine fallout. We opined ECB could defer decision and not commit to policy normalisation plans today in light of war in Ukraine. We do not rule out ECB engaging in some form of intervention if EUR continues to depreciate one way.

US, German, China CPIs; Malaysia IP in Focus Next Week

Key data we watch next week include German factory orders; China trade on Mon. For Tue, EU GDP, German IP; US trade. For Wed, JP GDP; China CPI, PPI. For Thu, US CPI. For Fri, US Uni of Michigan sentiment; German CPI; NZ mfg PMI; UK monthly GDP, IP; Malaysia IP.

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Bloomberg FX Ranking

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

4Q 2021

No. 4 for TWD

No. 5 for CNY



| Currency | Direction | Support/Resistance | Key Data and Events |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|--|
| Dollar Index | \rightarrow | S: 94.50; R: 99.70 | Mon: - Nil - Tue: NFIB small business optimism (Feb); Trade (Jan); Wed: - Nil - Thu: CPI (Feb); real avg hourly earning (Feb); Fri: Monthly budget statement, Uni of Michigan sentiment (Mar prelim) |
| EURUSD | | S: 1.0865; R: 1.1100 | Mon: Sentix investor confidence (Mar); German factory orders (Jan); Tue: GDP (4Q); German industrial production (Jan); Wed: - Nil - Thu: ECB policy decision Fri: German CPI (Feb) |
| AUDUSD | \rightarrow | S: 0.7280; R: 0.7425 | Mon: FX reserves (Feb); Tue: NAB business confidence (Feb); Wed: Westpac consumer confidence (Feb); Thu: - Nil - Fri: - Nil - |
| NZDUSD | | S: 0.6730; R: 0.6930 | Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: Mfg activity voiume (4Q) Thu: card spending (Feb); Fri: Mfg PMI, food prices (Feb) |
| GBPUSD | \rightarrow | S: 1.3165; R: 1.3500 | Mon: - Nil - Tue: BRC sales (Feb); Wed: - Nil - Thu: RICS hour price balance (Feb); Fri: Monthly GDP, IP, construction output, Trade (Jan) |
| USDJPY | | S: 114.50; R: 116.00 | Mon: - Nil - Tue: Current account, cash learnings ((Jan); Wed: GDP (4Q); Thu: -PPI (Feb); Fri: BSI Survey (Dec) |
| USDCNH | → | S: 6.3000; R: 6.3700 | Mon: Trade (Feb); Tue: - Nil - Wed: CPI, PPI (Feb); Thu: - Nil - Fri: - Nil - |
| USDSGD | | S: 1.3450; R: 1.3620 | Mon: FX reserves (Feb) Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: - Nil - |
| USDMYR | \rightarrow | S: 4.1500; R: 4.2000 | Mon: -FX Reserves (Feb); Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: Industrial production (Jan) |
| USDPHP | | S: 51.05; R: 51.90 | Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: Trade (Jan) |
| USDIDR | <u></u> | S: 14,280; R: 14,460 | Mon: - Nil - Tue: FX reserves (Feb) Wed: Consumer confidence (Feb) Thu: - Nil - Fri: - Nil - |

Sources: Bloomberg, Maybank FX Research & Strategy



Selected G7 FX Views

Currency

Stories of the Week

DXY Index Geopolitical Tensions to Drive Sentiments. USD remains better bid this week, alongside gold and oil prices as Russian invasion of Ukraine intensified into its second week. War in Ukraine continues to dominate newswires and sentiments. The latest is that Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (the largest in Europe) has been seized by Russians while Russia Foreign Minister Lavroy earlier warned that WW3 can "only be nuclear". Geopolitical development remains fluid and information flow comes in dribs and drabs. As such markets will continue to face 2-way risks. That said, fears of further escalation into a military conflict of a grander scale, involving nuclear or more parties, could further undermine risk assets. On FX, EUR is at risk of further sell-off amid stagflation concerns. Prolonged increase in energy and food prices could mean even higher price pressures adding constraints to growth. Net oil importer FX including KRW, INR remain under pressure. But on the flip side, the run-up in commodity prices (energy and food) have seen commodity-linked proxy FX such as AUD, NZD, CAD and MYR benefit. Risk aversion slows should continue to benefit JPY, USD and gold.

> Earlier this week in remarks made at the House finance panel, Fed Chair Powell said he leaned more to support a 25bps hike at Mar FoMC though he would not rule out moving more aggressively to raise rate by more than 25bps at "a meeting or meetings" if "inflation comes in higher or is more persistently high than that". He acknowledged that the Russian invasion of Ukraine could trigger a long-term reordering of international relations that would likely reshape the economies of Western Europe but refrains from jumping in too early to conclude how US economy will be affected and what that means for policy. Markets are pricing in 25bps hike at Mar FoMC and the number of rate hikes expected this year is now around 5 - 6 hikes.

> DXY was last at 98 levels. Momentum on monthly, weekly and daily charts is bullish while RSI continues to rise into overbought conditions. Risks remain skewed to the upside for now. We caution that a weekly close above resistance at 97.72 (61.8% fibo retracement of 2020 high to 2021 low) could see gains gather traction. Next resistance is at 99.72 (76.4% fibo). Support at 96.10 (21, 50 DMAs, 50% fibo), 95.70 (100 DMA), 94.50 levels (38.2% fibo).

> Next week brings NFIB small business optimism (Feb); Trade (Jan) on Tue; CPI (Feb); real avg hourly earning (Feb) on Thu; Monthly budget statement, uni of Michigan sentiment (Mar prelim) on Fri.

EUR/USD

Will ECB Intervene? EUR remains under pressure as we entered into the second week of a full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (the largest in Europe) has been seized by Russians while Russia Foreign Minister Lavrov earlier warned that WW3 can "only be nuclear". Fears of further escalation into a military conflict of a grander scale, involving nuclear or more parties, could further undermine risk sentiments. Alongside geopolitical tensions, EUR is at risk of further selloff amid stagflation concerns. Prolonged increase in energy and food prices could mean even higher price pressures adding constraints to growth. Not forgetting that the EU relies heavily on Russia for energy consumption (40% gas comes from Russia).

The upcoming ECB meeting scheduled on 10th Mar will be of keen interest as it should offer further hints of shift in policy bias. A reassessment of its APP is also eyed amidst chatters for earlier than expected end to APP (Aug instead of Oct). The set of macroeconomic projection, including inflation will also guide market expectations for rates trajectory. Overall, we expect no major changes to ECB's policy stance, with discount rate maintained at -0.5%. We do think it is possible that the pace of APP be reduced (from planned EUR40bn/month starting Apr) or be made flexible while an earlier end (vs. previously guided timeline of Oct-2022) is not ruled out. However, Ukraine development may throw a curveball to ECB policy normalization plans as recent ECB speaks suggest that policymakers may consider slowing policy normalisation process. Holzmann whom earlier said he backed 2 hikes this year is now saying that that the speed may now be somewhat delayed while Stournaras said ECB must keep buying bonds to cushion Ukraine fallout. We opined ECB could defer decision and not commit to policy normalisation plans today in light of war in Ukraine. To some extent, we also do not rule out ECB engaging in some form of intervention if EUR continues to depreciate one way too excessively (YTD ->3% and over 10 since start of 2021). A softer EUR may further exacerbate inflation concerns at home. Hence "intervention" (or do whatever it takes) to stabilize sentiments/strengthen EUR could perhaps be a tool to mitigate imported inflation. At the same time, monetary policy could stay status quo to help support growth in the interim.

EUR was last at 1.1015 levels. Daily momentum is bearish while RSI fell. Risks skewed to the downside



for now. Near term support at 1.10, 1.0865 levels. Resistance at 1.1040 levels (76.4% fibo retracement of 2020 low to high), 1.11.

Next week brings Sentix investor confidence (Mar); German factory orders (Jan) on Mon; GDP (4Q); German industrial production (Jan) on Tue; ECB policy decision on Thu; German CPI (Feb) on Fri.

GBP/USD

Risks to the Downside but Bias to buy dips. GBP continued to trade with a heavy bias as Russian invasion of Ukraine intensifies into the second week. Pair was last seen at 1.3315 levels. Daily momentum is bearish while RSI nears oversold conditions. Support here at 1.3320 levels (23.6% fibo), 1.3260 before 1.3160 (Dec low). Resistance at 1.3420 (38.2% fibo retracement of Oct high to Dec low), 1.35 (50% fibo). Risks to the downside but we favor buying dips as ceasefire scenario can see sharp rebound.

Next week brings BRC sales (Feb) on Tue; RICS hour price balance (Feb) on Thu; Monthly GDP, IP, construction output, Trade (Jan) on Fri.

USDJPY

Sideways. USDJPY continued to trade with a bid tone but short of making fresh highs. Pair was last at 115.40 levels. Daily momentum and RSI indicators are flat. Expect sideways trade driven by geopolitics and widening 2y UST-JGB yield differentials. Support at 115 (50DMA), 114.50 (100 DMA). Resistance at 116 levels.

Next week brings Current account, cash learnings (Jan) on Tue; GDP (4Q) on Wed; PPI (Feb) on Thu; BSI Survey (Dec) on Fri.

AUD/USD

Stay Long, Buy Dips. AUD rose sharply this week, in line with our tactical buy (as per last FX Weekly). We suggested to buy AUD on dips towards 0.7150/60 support, targeting a move towards 0.7280, 0.7340 objectives. This is now met. AUD was last at 0.7370 levels. Bullish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI rose towards near-overbought conditions. Cautious of pullback but bullish bias intact. Support at 0.7320 (200 DMA), 0.7280 (50% fibo retracement of Nov high to Dec low). Resistance at 0.7425 (76.4% fibo).

Next week brings FX reserves (Feb) on Mon; NAB business confidence (Feb) on Tue and Westpac consumer confidence (Feb) on Wed.

NZD/USD

Buy Dips. NZD extended its gains this week as Ukraine war triggered commodity price shocks, benefiting NZD. Pair was last at 0.6840 levels. Bullish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI rose. Risks skewed to the upside. Immediate resistance at 0.6850 (100 DMA), 0.69 and 0.6930 (200 DMA). Support at 0.6810 (76.4% fibo retracement of Jan high to Feb low), 0.6750 (61.8% fibo) and 0.6730 levels (50 DMA). Retracement lower not ruled out but bias to buy dips.

Next week brings Mfg activity voiume (4Q) on Wed; card spending (Feb) on Thu; Mfg PMI, food prices (Feb) on Fri.



Technical View: MYR Crosses

| MYR Crosses | Direction | Support/Resistance | Stories of the Week |
|-------------|-----------|----------------------|--|
| SGD/MYR | → | S: 3.0900; R: 3.1200 | Bearish but Nearing Oversold. SGDMYR continued to trade lower this week amid SGD weakness while MYR held ground on proxy gains in prices of oil, palm oil. Relative resilience in RMB also somewhat provided an anchor for RMB. Cross was last at 3.0790 levels. Bearish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI fell towards near oversold conditions. Risks skewed to the downside. Support at 3.0820 (23.6% fibo), 3.0780 and 3.0655 levels (Dec low). Resistance at 3.0920 (38.2% fibo), 3.10 (50% fibo, 50 DMA) and 3.1070/80 (21DMA, 61.8% fibo retracement of 2021 high to low). |
| AUD/MYR | → | S: 3.0080; R: 3.0870 | Eyes on 200DMA. AUDMYR extended its gains this week amid AUD relative strength. Cross was last at 3.0570 levels. Bullish momentum on daily chart remains intact while RSI is rising towards near overbought conditions. Risks to the upside. But key resistance at 3.0650 (200 DMA). A decisive break could see gains accelerate towards 3.0870 next resistance (76.4% fibo retracement of Oct high to Feb low). Failing which, the cross could revert lower. Support at 3.0300/200 levels (100 DMA, 50% fibo) and 3.0080/0100 levels (21, 50 DMAs, 38.2% fibo). |
| EUR/MYR | → | S: 4.6160; R: 4.7050 | Bearish Bias but Oversold. EURMYR continued to trade with a heavy bias. Cross was last at 4.64 levels. Bearish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI fell into oversold conditions). Risks skewed to the downside tough we are cautious of snapback given stretched technical. Support at 4.6160 (76.4% fibo retracement of 2020 low to 2021 high) Resistance at 4.7050 (61.8% fibo), 4.74 levels (50 DMA). |
| GBP/MYR | → | S: 5.5650; R: 5.7000 | Not Ruling Out Rebound Play Ahead. GBPMYR fell again this week, in line with our caution. Cross was last seen at 5.6050 levels. Daily momentum is bearish though RSI shows signs of turning higher from near-oversold conditions. Rebound risks not ruled out. Immediate resistance at 5.6490 (23.6% fibo retracement of Jul high to Nov-Dec low), 5.70 (38.2% fibo). Support at 5.60, 5.5650 (triple bottom). Compressions of moving averages observed around 5.6580. Typically price expansion follows next (breakout). |
| JPY/MYR | <u></u> | S: 3,6000; R: 3,6600 | Range JPYMYR slipped this week. Cross was last at 3.6210. Bullish momentum on daily chart shows signs of fading while RSI is falling. Risks skewed to the downside. Support at 3.60, 3.57 levels. Resistance at 3.6360 (23.6% fibo), 3.66 (38.2% fibo retracement of Dec high to Jan low). |

Technical Chart Picks:

USDSGD Daily Chart - Sell Rallies



USDSGD traded sideways near its higher bound this week. Last seen at 1.3590 levels.

Bullish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI is near overbought conditions. Potential death cross is in the making with 50DMA looking on track to cut 200 DMA to the downside after cutting 100DMA earlier. Bias to sell rallies.

Resistance at 1.3615 (23.6% fibo retracement of 2021 low to high), 1.3660 levels.

Support at 1.3530 (38.2% fibo), 1.3470/80 levels (50% fibo), 1.3420 levels.

USDMYR Daily Chart - Signs of Breaking Out of Symmetrical Triangle



USDMYR traded lower this week and there are signs of it breaking out of its symmetrical triangle alas. Pair was last at 4.1760 levels.

Mild bullish momentum on daily chart faded while RSI turned lower. Risks to the downside. On chart pattern, a symmetrical triangle pattern (represents a period of consolidation) with apex in sight and a break out is imminent.

Support at 4.1680, 4.1520 (38.2% fibo retracement of 2022 low to high).

Resistance at 4.1810 (200 DMA), 4.19 (23.6% fibo, 50 DMA), 4.22 levels.

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

AUDSGD Daily Chart: Upside Risk Though RSI Near Overbought



AUDSGD extended its run-up this week, in line with bias for upside play. Cross was last at 0.9990 levels.

Daily momentum remains mild bullish bias though RSI is in overbought conditions. Bullish crossover observed with 21 cutting 50DMA to the upside. Bias remain skewed to the upside but we are not ruling out slowing gains from here.

Resistance at 0.9994 (76.4% fibo retracement of Nov high to Jan low) before 1.0060, 1.0160 (Nov high).

Support at 0.9890 (61.8% fibo, 200 DMA), 0.9810 (50% fibo).

SGDMYR Daily Chart: Mild Downside Risk



SGDMYR continued to trade lower this week amid SGD weakness (risk-off) while MYR held ground on proxy gains in prices of oil, palm oil. Relative resilience in RMB also somewhat provided an anchor for RMB.

Cross was last at 3.0790 levels. Bearish momentum on daily chart intact while RSI fell towards near oversold conditions. Risks skewed to the downside.

Support at 3.0780 and 3.0655 levels (Dec low).

Resistance at 3.0820 (23.6% fibo), 3.0920 (38.2% fibo), 3.10 (50% fibo retracement of 2021 high to low, 50 DMA).

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