

FX Weekly

Caution Intact as Markets Await Hawkish Fed

The Week Ahead

- Dollar Buoyant. Support at 107.70; Resistance at 110.90
- USD/SGD Bullish But Near-overbought. Support at 1.3830; Resistance at 1.42
- USD/MYR Bullish But Overbought. Support at 4.4910; Resistance at 4.60
- AUD/SGD Supported on Dips. Support at 0.9300; Resistance at 0.9650
- SGD/MYR Supported on Dips. Support at 3.1980; Resistance at 3.25

UST Yields Continue on Upswing; Yuan Breaches Key 7-Handle

US data dump yesterday largely showed sustained resilience in the US economy. Initial jobless claims (10 Sep) came in at 213k, versus expected 227k, signalling continued robustness in the labor market. Empire Mfg for Sep registered at -1.5, significantly better than the sharp drop to -31.3 in the prior month. But retail sales data was more mixed. While headline m/m figure surprised to the upside at 0.3% (vs. expected -0.1%), the reading ex auto and gas underperformed at 0.3% (vs. expected 0.5%). On net though, the data largely implied that the economy could likely withstand steeper Fed rate hikes, and UST yields strengthened further, adding to drags on AxJ FX sentiments alongside growth warnings from World Bank and IMF. While upside surprise to China's Aug data is a positive, it might not be able to fully offset the impact of other ongoing risk drivers. The yuan's breach of the key 7handle could imply a shift to a more cautious mood overall in the region; USDCNY could test 7.05-7.10 levels next week if USD support intensifies. Buoyant dollar strength amid hawkish Fed expectations could also see USDSGD, USDMYR testing areas of resistance at 1.41-1.42, 4.55-4.60, respectively. Still, intermittent bouts of retracements on stretched positioning cannot be ruled out.

Swath of Central Bank Meetings Due 22 Sep

At 2am SG/KL time on 22 Sep, FoMC decision is due. Given upside surprise in Aug CPI, signs of macro resilience, markets expect Fed to lean hawkish in policy, pricing in around 26% chance for a +100bps hike vs. 74% chance for +75bps at last seen. Peak Fed funds rate is now seen at nearer 4.5% in 2Q 2023, versus 4.0% late last week. Later in the morning, BoJ is likely to stand pat on ultra-accommodative policy settings, even as it could reinforce recent jawboning on weak JPY. Focus also on its assessment on whether demand-side price pressures are broadening in the economy, which could hint at a review of YCC in 2023. For BSP at 3pm, another +25bps is possible as BSP expects inflation rate to peak only in Oct/Nov. For BI at 3.20pm, our economist team expects a +50bps hike, as the recent fuel price hike will trigger a jump in inflation. For BoE at 7pm, persistently high inflation means a second +50bps hike is likely due.

Key Data/Events Due Next Week

Key data we watch next week include US NAHB housing market index, EC Construction output, UK House prices on Mon. For Tues, we have US Building permits, Housing starts, ECB Current account, RBA Minutes, JP CPI, China 1Y, 5Y LPRs, MY Trade. For Wed, US Existing home sales, AU Westpac Leading index, NZ Credit card spending, UK Public finances are on tap. For Thurs, we have US Current account, Initial jobless claims, EC & NZ Consumer confidence, NZ Trade, Swift Global payments CNY, PH Budget balance. Fed, BoE, BoJ, BSP, BI policy decisions also due Thurs. For Fri, we have PMI readings for US, Eurozone, AU, UK. SG and MY CPI also due.

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Currency	Direction	Support/Resistance	Key Data and Events
Dollar Index	\rightarrow	S: 107.70; R: 110.90	Mon: NAHB Housing market index (Sep) Tue: Building permits (Aug), Housing starts (Aug) Wed: Existing home sales (Aug) Thu: FoMC Policy decision, Current account (2Q), Initial jobless claims (17 Sep), Leading index (Aug) Fri: S&P Mfg, Services PMIs (Sep P)
EURUSD		S: 0.9860; R: 1.0200	Mon: EC Construction output (Jul), ECB's Guindos, Holzmann, Villeroy speaking. Tue: ECB Current account (Jul), ECB's Muller speaks. Wed: ECB's Guindos speaks. Thu: EC Consumer confidence (Sep P) Fri: S&P Mfg, Services PMIs (Sep P), ECB's Kazaks speaks.
AUDUSD	\rightarrow	S: 0.6600; R: 0.6880	Mon: - Nil - Tue: RBA Minutes of Sep policy meeting Wed: Westpac Leading index (Aug) Thu: - Nil - Fri: S&P Mfg, Services PMIs (Sep P)
NZDUSD		S: 0.5900; R: 0.6200	Mon: Performance services index (Aug) Tue: - Nil - Wed: Credit card spending (Aug) Thu: Westpac Consumer confidence (3Q), Trade (Aug) Fri: - Nil -
GBPUSD	\rightarrow	S: 1.1200; R: 1.1870	Mon: Rightmove House prices (Sep) Tue: - Nil - Wed: Public finances (Aug), CBI Trends total orders (Sep) Thu: BoE Policy Decision Fri: Consumer confidence (Sep), S&P Mfg, Services PMIs (Sep P)
USDJPY		S: 139.00; R: 145.00	Mon: - Nil - Tue: CPI (Aug) Wed: - Nil - Thu: Nationwide Dept sales (Aug), BoJ Policy Decision Fri: - Nil -
USDCNH	\rightarrow	S: 6.9260; R: 7.1000	Mon: - Nil - Tue: 1Y, 5Y LPR Decision Wed: - Nil - Thu: Swift Global payments CNY (Aug) Fri: - Nil -
USDSGD		S: 1.3830; R: 1.4200	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: CPI (Aug)
USDMYR	\rightarrow	S: 4.4910; R: 4.6000	Mon: - Nil - Tue: Trade (Aug) Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: CPI (Aug), Foreign reserves (15 Sep)
USDPHP		S: 56.60; R: 58.00	Mon: BoP Overall (due before 23 Sep) Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: BSP Policy Decision, Budget balance (Aug) Fri: - Nil -
USDIDR	nhera Maybank F)	S: 14,770; R: 15,200	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: BI Policy Decision Fri: - Nil -

Sources: Bloomberg, Maybank FX Research & Strategy

September 16, 2022



Selected G7 FX Views

Currency

Stories of the Week

DXY Index Buoyant. DXY index remained largely in buoyant trading ranges over the past week.

US data dump yesterday largely showed sustained resilience in the US economy. Initial jobless claims (10 Sep) came in at 213k, versus expected 227k, signalling continued robustness in the labor market. Empire Mfg for Sep registered at -1.5, significantly better than the sharp drop to -31.3 in the prior month. But retail sales data was more mixed. While headline m/m figure surprised to the upside at 0.3% (vs. expected -0.1%), the reading ex auto and gas underperformed at 0.3% (vs. expected 0.5%). On net though, the data largely implied that the economy could likely withstand steeper Fed rate hikes, and UST yields strengthened further.

Given upside surprise in Aug CPI, signs of macro resilience, markets expect Fed to lean hawkish in policy for its decision due 2am SG/Kl time on 22 Sep, pricing in around 26% chance for a +100bps hike vs. 74% chance for +75bps at last seen. Peak Fed funds rate is now seen at nearer 4.5% in 2Q 2023, versus 4.0% late last week.

Back on the chart, the DXY index was last seen around 110-handle. Resistance at 110.90. Support at 109.20 (21-DMA), 107.70 (50-DMA), 105.80 (100-DMA). Momentum on daily chart is not showing a clear bias while RSI is approaching near-overbought conditions. DXY could remain in buoyant ranges near-term, even as pace of further gains could slow.

EUR/USD Supported on Dips. Pair was pressured lower below parity towards the end of the week.

Despite intervention plans from authorities (redirecting US\$140bn worth of energy companies' profits to consumers), on-going energy crunch at home and potential for further demand destruction due to energy rationing will likely continue to weigh on EU growth sentiments.

But some tempering of EUR drags is expected from persistent hawkish ECB messaging. Holzmann warned that inflation is likely to accelerate even more and the past two decisions demonstrated the central bank's willingness to do more to bring inflation down. Kazaks too, commented that hikes could be seen over the "next several meetings" and even beyond Feb given the risks of second-round effects of inflation. Separately, Villeroy opined that the central bank should bring policy to neutral rate (estimated to be around 2%).

Meanwhile, there could be some near-term underpinnings from signs of progress in Ukraine's counteroffensive against Russia, although sentiment boosts from this aspect is likely modest for now. Recall that Ukraine has made clear that there will not be any territorial concessions while Russia insisted that the invasion would be "continued until the original goals are achieved".

Support is seen around 0.9950 (currently being tested), before 0.9860, 0.9800. Resistance is seen around 1.01 (50-DMA) before 1.02.

GBP/USD *Breached Key Support at 1.1410*. GBP saw renewed downward pressures towards the end of the week, slumping to troughs not seen since 1985.

Retail sales for Aug came in at -1.6%m/m, significantly worse vs. expected -0.5%. This data reading likely added to growth risks flagged by Jul economic indicators, which largely saw modest under-performance versus expectations. E.g., Industrial production and construction posted losses for a second consecutive month.

New PM's Liz Truss' GBP150bn fiscal support package could potentially pull UK back from the brink of recession, but brings with it other concerns over widening fiscal deficit, incremental risk of overheating economy. Truss' hard stance on EU also risks triggering trade conflicts. Other areas of contention include earlier calls for review of BoE mandate, as well as a potentially tougher stance on engaging Beijing.

For BoE decision due Thurs, persistently high inflation means a second +50bps hike is likely due. But hawkish BoE may not be able to sufficiently offset sentiment drags on growth concerns.

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Pair last seen at 1.1380. Falling trend channel is still intact but RSI has reached oversold conditions. Support at 2020-Covid low around 1.1410 has been breached. Next at 1.12. Resistance at 1.1620 (21-DMA), 1.1870 (50-DMA), 1.2110 (100-DMA).

USDJPY *Testing New (Higher) Ranges, But Overbought*. Last seen modestly above 143-handle, with USDJPY continuing to trade lower versus recent high near 145-handle.

We note reports of Japan potentially lifting a ban on individual tourist visa requirements and removing the daily arrival limits in Oct. But positive spillovers to current account from these developments could be gradual and modest. Trade balance for Aug came in at a wider record deficit of -JPY2817bn, versus expected -JPY2386bn, highlighting the cost to the economy from a weak JPY.

Meanwhile, Bank of Japan's rate check (calling up banks to ask for FX rates) earlier this week can be seen as adding weight to their ongoing jawboning efforts. There is now an increasing likelihood that the current USDJPY uptrend may fail to breach the 1998 high near 147.66.

For BoJ decision on Thurs, the central bank is likely to stand pat on ultra-accommodative policy settings, even as it could reinforce recent jawboning on weak JPY. Focus also on its assessment on whether demand-side price pressures are broadening in the economy, which could hint at a review of YCC in 2023.

Key resistance at 145 (double-top), before 147.66. Support at 141.85 (23.6% fibo retracement from Aug low to Sep high), 139.90 (38.2% fibo), 139.00 (38.2% fibo), 136.80 (61.8% fibo). Bullish momentum on daily chart is moderating but RSI is near overbought conditions.

AUD/USD Risk of Double Bottom Being Breached. AUDUSD was pressured lower towards the end of the week.

IMF and World Bank warned of global growth risks, and US data suggested macro resilience and capacity for further Fed hikes. Broader growth fears and upswings in UST yields could continue to weigh on procyclical AUD on net.

Momentum and RSI on daily chart are mildly bearish. But we note potential double-bottom at 0.6680 in play. If double-bottom breaks, next support at 0.6600. Resistance at 0.6825 (21-DMA), before 0.6880 (50-DMA).

NZD/USD Bearish But Near-oversold. NZD remains below the key 0.60-handle at last seen.

Despite modest upside surprise in 2Q GDP data (+0.4%y/y vs. expected +0.0%), wider-than-expected current account deficit (-NZD5.224bn vs. expected NZD-4.701bn), broader bout of risk aversion and buoyant dollar strength continued to weigh on NZD.

On the daily chart, momentum is modestly bearish while RSI is approaching near-oversold conditions. Support at 0.5900. Resistance at 0.6060, 0.6200 (50-DMA).



Technical View: MYR Crosses

MYR Crosses	Direction	Support/Resistance	Stories of the Week
SGD/MYR	\rightarrow	S: 3.1980; R: 3.2500	Supported on Dips. SGDMYR was last seen near 3.22. More two-way swings expected in interim, with both SGD and MYR subjected to broader swings in USD biases and risk sentiments. Momentum on daily chart is mildly bullish, while RSI is dipping lower. Some support for the cross could be seen on dips. Support at 3.1980 (50.0% fibo retracement from Jul low to Aug high), 3.1860 (61.8% fibo). Resistance at 3.2270 (23.6% fibo), 3.25 levels.
AUD/MYR	\rightarrow	S: 2.9780; R: 3.0960	Modestly Bearish. AUDMYR was last seen at 3.0300 levels, heading lower on net for most of this week as AUD tanked. Momentum and RSI on daily chart are modestly bearish. Support at 3.0230 (76.4% fibo retracement from Jul low to Aug high), 2.9780 (Jul low). Resistance at 3.0700 (200-DMA), 3.0960 (38.2% fibo).
EUR/MYR	\rightarrow	S: 4.5055; R: 4.5760	Bullish Momentum Moderating. EURMYR swung lower over the last week with losses largely propelled by EUR softening. Last seen at 4.5240 levels. Bullish momentum on daily chart is moderating while RSI is not showing a clear bias. Support at 4.5055 (23.6% fibo retracement from Jun high to Jul low), 4.4380 (potential double-bottom). Resistance at 4.5760 (100-DMA), 4.6150 (61.8% fibo).
GBP/MYR	→	S: 5.1380; R: 5.2380	Bullish Momentum Moderating. GBPMYR swung lower over the last week, as GBP slumped to troughs not seen since 1985. Cross was last seen at 5.1840 levels. Bullish momentum on daily chart is moderating, while RSI is dipping lower. Support at 5.1380 (Sep low). Resistance at 5.2380 (21-DMA), 5.2640.
JPY/MYR	\rightarrow	S: 3.1060; R: 3.2240	Rising from Oversold Conditions. JPYMYR headed a tad higher over the past week as incremental intervention risks from JP officials supported JPY in an environment of broader risk aversion. Cross was last seen at 3.1670 levels. Bearish momentum on daily chart has largely moderated while RSI is rising higher from oversold conditions. Support at 3.1060 (recent low). Resistance at 3.2240 (38.2% fibo retracement from Aug high to Sep low), 3.2610 (50.0% fibo).

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Technical Chart Picks:

USDSGD Daily Chart - Bullish But Near-Overbought



Pair continues to test the 1.41-handle towards the end of the week. Last seen at 1.4090.

Momentum on USDSGD daily chart is modestly bullish, while RSI is reaching near-overbought conditions.

Up-moves could slow if pair enters key area of resistance at 1.41 (double-top) to 1.42. Support at 1.3930 (61.8% fibo retracement from Jul high to Aug low), 1.3830 (38.2% fibo).

USDMYR Daily Chart - Bullish But Overbought



Pair was last seen at 4.5350, having breached 2017 high near 4.50-handle.

Momentum on daily chart is modestly bullish, while RSI has entered overbought conditions. Upswings could slow.

Support at 4.4900 (21-DMA), 4.4670 (50-DMA), 4.4260 (100-DMA). Key area of resistance at 4.55 - 4.60.

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

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SGDMYR Daily Chart: Supported on Dips



SGDMYR was last seen near 3.22. More two-way swings expected in interim, with both SGD and MYR subjected to broader swings in USD biases and risk sentiments.

Momentum on daily chart is mildly bullish, while RSI is dipping lower. Some support for the cross could be seen on dips.

Support at 3.1980 (50.0% fibo retracement from Jul low to Aug high), 3.1860 (61.8% fibo). Resistance at 3.2270 (23.6% fibo), 3.25 levels.

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



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