

## **FX Weekly**

# JPY Swings on Said BoJ Nominees, US CPI to Watch

#### The Week Ahead

- Dollar Consolidation. Support at 99.40; Resistance at 103.90
- USD/SGD Consolidation. Support at 1.30; Resistance at 1.33
- USD/MYR Range-Trade. Support at 4.22; Resistance at 4.37
- AUD/SGD Range. Support at 0.90; Resistance at 0.95
- SGD/MYR Bullish Bias. Support at 3.21; Resistance at 3.29

#### Amamiya Bets Unwind; Speculation on BoJ's Next Act To Persist

Not long after the date for the BoJ's nomination list to be released was announced to be on 14 Feb, Nikkei made a sudden report that Kazuo Ueda is the nominee for the Governor position, effectively spurring the unwinding of (inherently dovish) bets on Amamiya as the next Governor. The Nikkei article further elaborated that Deputy Governor Amamiya firmly refused the position as Governor when approached by the government. Nominees for the Deputy Governor positions were reportedly Shinichi Uchida (BoJ executive Director) and Ryozo Himino (former Chief of the Finance Services Agency). USDJPY moved lower in reaction to the news but initial dips were reversed quickly as the said nominees were not perceived to have extreme policy leanings. Ueda, (a former BoJ board member) had reportedly warned of risks to the domestic bonds if inflation, rates rise back in 2014. Regardless, nomination day is still on 14 Feb. Look for more volatile USDJPY trades as markets move on to speculate on the next BoJ decision, barring a surprise on Tue. IDR, THB could move in tandem.

#### **US Inflation Numbers To Eye**

After a solid NFP release for Jan that is likely skewed by the weather/seasonality factors, eyes are on Jan CPI due on Tue. Consensus looks for the headline to rise +0.5%m/m for Jan vs. previous -0.1%. Core to rise a tad to 0.3%m/m. Any upside surprise to this inflation report could fan bets towards a higher peak target rate vs. median FOMC projection at 5.1% which is also where markets are pricing right now (according to OIS). USD could also receive intermittent boosts. This would bring to fruition our view that the USD could start to consolidate in the next few weeks leading into 2Q when the Fed is expected to pause at its peak target rate. Our core view of the USD for the year remains a bearish one as we look for subsequent economic data to be indicative of a further slowdown vs. the Jan's print that is skewed by the weather and seasonality. We thus retain the view to sell the USD on rally. USDSGD could remain in consolidative trade, capped by 1.3350-resistance while USDMYR looks poised to reach towards resistance at 4.3710.

#### Key Data/Events We Watch Next Week

Policy decisions by BI and BSP is eyed. Our economist expects BI to stand pat given the moderation in inflation for Indonesia as well as the recovery in IDR. Consensus expects BSP to raise overnight borrowing rate by 25bps. Our economist looks for another 50bps to go in rate hikes as inflation remains on the rise. In other key event to watch is Singapore's 2023 budget on 14 Feb. our economist looks for measures to counter rising costs, supporting unemployed workers, help businesses cope with costs as well as a pause on further wealth tax. China's decision on MLF will be watched given the recent liquidity injections to bring repo rates lower.

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Currency	Support/Resistance	Key Data and Events
Dollar Index	S: 102.40; R: 104.90	Mon: - Nil - Tue: Real Avg Hourly earnings (Jan), CPI (Jan), Fed Logan, Williams speak Wed: Fed William's interview on WSJ Event, Fed Cook, Barr, Bostic, Kashkari, Waller Empire mfg (Feb), retail sales (Jan), industrial production (Jan), Mfg Production (Jan) Thu: Building permits (Jan), housing starts (Jan), Philly Fed outlook (Feb), PPI (Jan), Fed Mester, Bullard speaks Fri: Fed Barkin speaks, import, export price index (Jan), leading index (Jan)
EURUSD	S: 1.0480; R: 1.10	Mon: - Nil - Tue: GDP (4Q P), Employment (4Q P) Wed: Industrial production, trade (Dec) Thu: EBC Economic Bulletin, ECB Panetta, Nagel, Lane speak Fri: Current account (Dec), Villeroy speaks
AUDUSD	S: 0.66; R: 0.7080	Mon: - Nil - Tue: Westpac consumer confidence (Feb), NAB business confidence/conditions (Jan) Wed: - Nil - Thu: CBA household spending, labour report (Jan) Fri: RBA Lowe's testimony
NZDUSD	S: 0.62; R: 0.65	Mon: REINZ House Sales (Jan, due 10-14 Feb), performance services (Jan) Tue: Food prices (Jan), 2yr inflation expectation (1Q) Wed: - Nil - Thu: NZ Govt 6-month Financial statements Fri: - Nil -
GBPUSD	S: 1.19; R: 1.25	Mon: Output per hour (4Q P, due 10-20 Feb) Tue: Payrolled employees monthly change (Jan), ILO unemployment rate (Dec) Wed: CPI (Jan, retail price (Jan), Thu: BoE Huw Pill speaks Fri: Retail sales (Jan), CBI trends total orders (Feb)
USDJPY	S: 128; R: 135	Mon: - Nil - Tue: GDP (4Q P), industrial production (Dec F), capacity utilization (Dec) Wed: Tertiary industry index (Dec) Thu: Trade (Jan), core machine orders (Dec) Fri: Nationwide dept sales (Jan, due 16-23 Feb)
USDCNH	S: 6.70; R: 6.88	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: 1Y MLF, FX Net Settlement on behalf of Clients (Jan) Thu: SWIFT CNY share of Global Payments (Jan), new home prices (Jan) Fri: - Nil -
USDSGD	S: 1.30; R: 1.34	Mon: GDP (4Q, F) Tue: Singapore 2023 Budget Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: NODX, Electronic Exports (Jan)
USDMYR	S: 4.22; R: 4.37	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: - Nil - Thu: - Nil - Fri: - Nil -
USDPHP	S: 53.10; R: 56.90	Mon: - Nil - Tue: Overseas Cash remittances, Workers Cash Remittances (Dec) Wed: - Nil - Thu: BSP Policy Decision Fri: - Nil -
USDIDR	S: 14,830; R: 15,110	Mon: - Nil - Tue: - Nil - Wed: Trade (Jan) Thu: BI Policy Decision Fri: - Nil -



#### Selected G7 FX Views

#### Currency

#### Stories of the Week

**DXY Index** Consolidation. The DXY index was capped by the 50-dma, last seen around 103.30. Right after the NFP move, the greenback continues to remain underpinned by hawkish Fed speaks for the rest of the week - Fed Waller's warnings that "interest rates need to be higher for longer than some are currently expecting", noting that the strong labour market could be a risk for inflation. Elsewhere, Fed Williams said "a sufficiently restrictive stance" could be required "for a few years to make sure we get inflation to 2%". Fed Powell's comments at the QnA session at the Economic Club of Washington on Tue was also a tad hawkish. He warned of further rate increases and the labor market is "extraordinarily strong". In addition, he also noted that services inflation, excluding housing, poses the biggest current obstacle to sustained disinflation.

> We maintain our view that as we move pass the peak of inflation, the trend of the CPI may not be as predictable and that portends to the rate trajectory as well as the US dollar's. This brings to fruition our view that the USD could start to consolidate in the next few weeks leading into 20 when the Fed is expected to pause at its peak target rate. Our core view of the USD for the year remains a bearish one as we look for subsequent economic data to be indicative of a further slowdown vs. the Jan's print that is skewed by the weather and seasonality. We thus retain the view to sell the USD on rally.

> Back on the DXY index, recent swivels at the 103-handle could continue extend amid bullish momentum. A break of the 103.50 (50-dma) would open the way towards the 104.90-resistance. We do not want to rule that out a move above 104 but we think the 105-figure could cap aggressive bullish attempts, barring a significant upside surprise to the Jan CPI release on Tue. Support at 102.40 (21-dma), before the next at 101.60.

#### EUR/USD

Sideway Trades Likely. EURUSD slipped on USD strength as market align expectations for Fed's peak rate towards the median estimates of the Fed's Dec projection (at 5.1%). While Fed speakers hogged the headlines after the robust NFP report for Jan, we keep our eyes on the ECB speaks that littered the week as well. Most of the Governing Council members were rather hawkish - Nagel urged "more decisive action" to prevent inflationary expectations to become more entrenched and that requires "further interest-rate increases". Separately, ECB Kazak commented that there could be more rate hikes beyond the Mar decision as risks to inflation are "still tilted to the upside". OIS suggests that a 50bps hike is almost fully priced (and rightfully so given that ECB did give explicit guidance for Mar action last week) and another 25bps is expected for the May decision.

Spot at 1.0720. Hawkish ECB comments could be keeping the EURUSD from breaching the support around the 1.0710 (50-dm). Stochastics on the daily chart suggest that conditions are becoming overbought. However, weekly chart suggests that the pullback is only beginning. As such, we cannot rule out a deeper retracement towards the 1.0460-support (50-ma on the weekly chart, 38.2% Fibonacci retracement).

#### GBP/USD

Sideways. GBPUSD seems to be trapped within the 1.1950-1.2450 range. Boe Governor Bailey and the rest of the 9-member MPC spoke to the Treasury Committee in Parliament on Thu, conveying their expectations for inflation to fall sharply this year, albeit with risks that inflation could remain well above the 2% target. Dec CPI has eased to 10.5%y/y vs. its peak of 11.1% recorded for Oct.

This comes after their decision to hike 50bps took the bank policy rate to 4.00% on 2 Feb from previous 3.50%. Recall that the vote to raise bank rate by 50bps was supported by the 7 out of 9 MPC members. The central bank now sees "shorter, shallower recession" than Nov outlook but retain the view that inflation risks remain "skewed significantly to the upside. On the rate guidance, the word "forcefully" was dropped and the central bank opted for a less aggressive statement - "if there were to be evidence of more persistent pressures, then further tightening in monetary policy would be required". Taken together, the language suggests a downshift and OIS implied a mere 20bps rate hike priced in on 23 Mar.

Back on the GBPUSD chart, stochastics are bearish bias but pair does not show any sign of breaking out of the 1.1950-1.2450 range yet. Moving averages are converging at this point. If this pair continues to trade within the range, we see more headway for GBPUSD to rise modestly. interim resistance seen at 1.2105 before the next at 1.2260. The unlikely break of the 1.1950-support to open the way towards 1.1845 (100-dma).

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#### USDJPY

Unwinding Amamiya Bets, Speculation on BoJ's next Move to Continue. Into the later Asian hours of Fri, Nikkei suddenly reported Kazuo Ueda as the nominee for the Governor position, effectively spurring the unwinding of (inherently dovish) bets on Amamiya as the next Governor. The Nikkei article further elaborated that Deputy Governor Amamiya firmly refused the position as Governor when approached by the government (in line with our expectations). Nominees for the Deputy Governor positions were reportedly Shinichi Uchida (BoJ executive Director) and Ryozo Himino (former Chief of the Finance Services Agency). USDJPY moved lower in reaction to the news but initial dips were reversed quickly as the said nominees were not perceived to have extreme policy leanings. Ueda, a former BoJ board member) had reportedly warned of risks to the domestic bonds if inflation, rates rise in 2014.

USDJPY could remain very volatile as we look for speculations on the BoJ's next move to persist. We maintain our core view that there could be another tweak in the YCC from the current band of 50bps to 75bps and that anchors our core view for USDJPY to continue to head lower towards 122 by year end. In the near-term, resistance is seen at 132.70 (50-dma), before 133.70 and then at 134.80. The clearance of support around 130 is needed to clear the way towards 128-figure and then at 126. We prefer to sell on rallies.

#### AUD/USD

Hawkish RBA only Gives AUD Minor Edge. AUDUSD was last seen around 0.6925. This pair was brought to a high of 0.7011 at one point this week. Over the course of this week, the USD has been arguably strengthening against most currencies with the exception of CHF, GBP, AUD (in order of descending gains thus far vs. the USD). We had a more bullish view of the AUD vs. other commodity-linked currencies such as the NZD and the CAD due to the fact that RBA was poised to be more hawkish vs. RBNZ and BoC given the strong upside surprise to inflation.

RBA did deliver the 25bps rate hike as widely expected to get cash target rate from 3.10% to 3.35%. The language of the statement was hawkish with where inflation is being mentioned at almost every paragraph of the press release. A salient point was the additional paragraph devoted to how inflation could impair the "functioning of the economy" and it would be "very costly" if "high inflation were to become entrenched in people's expectations". The Statement on Monetary Policy actually revealed that the forecast for wage growth and inflation is raised. Trimmed mean inflation gauge is raised to 6.25% from end Jun vs. 5.5% seen previously. The measure is still expected to moderate to 4.25% in Dec while wage growth is expected to peak at 4.25%y/y by Dec. OIS pricing implies around 75bps of policy hikes to go, a notch higher than 60bp seen earlier this week. Hawkish RBA gives AUD small edge over commodity-linked peers. AUDUSD still swung dominantly by the broader USD moves as well as risk sentiment. We eye US CPI release next on Tue.

Back on the AUDUSD chart, the pair had bounced off 50-dma support marked at 0.6870, effectively forming a potential bearish head and shoulders pattern that could effectively violate the rising trend channel for the AUDUSD. Diagonal trend line at 0.6870 acts as a support for now. A break there could open the way towards the next support around the 0.66-figure. Interim support levels seen around 0.6810 (200-dma).

#### NZD/USD

Likely to Remain Trapped in Range. NZDUSD waffled around 0.6320 as we write. This pair could remain supported around 0.6250/70. A decisive break there could open the way towards 0.6190, marked by the 200-dma. Meanwhile, the key resistance at 0.6530 continues to hold up. Interim rebounds to meet resistance around 0.6370 before 0.6530. We see a possibility for consolidative action within the 0.6250-0.6530 range.

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#### Maybank

### **Technical Chart Picks:**

USDSGD Daily Chart - Consolidative Range



Pair was last seen around 1.3250, capped by the 1.3290-resistance. We do not rule out further move towards the 1.3350 (50-dma) but look for bullish attempts to be capped by the 50-dma resistance there. Support remains around 1.3188 (21-dma) before the next at 1.3030. Moves are likely to be consolidative ahead of the US CPI release on Tue. Eyes also on the Singapore's 2023 Budget also to be presented that day.

USDMYR Daily Chart - Bullish Bias



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

Pair rebounded and was last seen around 4.3310. The bullish divergence played out rather nicely in line with our expectations.

Pair continues to retain a bullish bias and we do not rule out further extension towards 4.3615-resistance, close to the 50-dma at 4.3710.

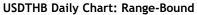
Support is seen around 4.2250.

#### SGDMYR Daily Chart: Rebound Risk



SGDMYR is last seen around 3.2690, playing out our view for a rebound rather well. Next resistance is seen at 3.2780 (100-dma) before the next at 3.2930.

Momentum indicators are bullish and we see further headroom for SGDMYR to rise. Unlikely pullbacks to meet support at 4.2350 (200-dma).





in a holding pattern alongside most other USDAsian pairings.

USDTHB was last seen around 33.67,

We may continue to see range-bound trades for the USDTHB within the 33-34 range. 21-dma marks the lower bound while the 50-dma has proven to be a firm resistance level.

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



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