

FX Weekly How Long can Higher-For-Longer

Last?

The Week Ahead

- Dollar Bullish Channel. Support at 103; Resistance at 106
- USD/SGD Rising Wedge Broken. Support at 1.34; Resistance at 1.3730
- USD/MYR Gravestone Doji? Support at 4.60; Resistance at 4.75
- AUD/SGD Range. Support at 0.8670; Resistance at 0.8900
- SGD/MYR Bearish Skew. Support at 3.4160; Resistance at 3.48

2022 Déjà vu of High Oil Prices? US Govt Shutdown Could Weaken Higher-For-Longer Narrative

The oil surge towards the \$100/bbl brought back memories of high energy prices in 2022, fueling the higher-for-longer theme. Fears of renewed inflationary pressures due to the strong rebound of oil prices would force central banks to tighten further and to keep the policy rates higher for longer. Unlike 2022 however, Covid fiscal impulses have faded and major economies show signs of slowdown. US' economic outperformance continues to keep the USD on the front foot. We suspect quarter-end USD demand exacerbated the move up in the greenback as well. The bull trend of the USD may extend on US' outperformance and it is not wise to fight the trend, but we still want to caution that softer data (eg. Aug PCE Core deflator tonight, upcoming Sep ISM Mfg, Services, NFP,) could chip away at its strength. In addition, the possibility of a US shutdown looms and the halt of certain key federal services could dampen growth and potentially weaken the higher-for-longer narrative.

China Is Away, Will the Yuan Bears Play?

USDCNY and USDCNH had been swiveling around the 7.30-figure even though the DXY rose almost 3%mtd. Onshore markets are close for National Day break for the whole of next week. Will there be an opportunity for yuan bears to play? Based on the historical performance of the USDCNH (which still trades unlike the onshore), USDCNH had fallen over the past 7 Golden Weeks out of 10 since 2013. USDCNH also tends to fall for 6 Octobers out of 10 over the past decade as well. So yuan bears can be assured that PBoC would continue to prop up the yuan in spite of the National Day Celebrations. In addition, better PMI prints for Sep (due this weekend) may even swing the odds in the favor of the yuan bulls.

Focus on Asian PMIs and Foreign Reserves

Asian Sep PMI numbers are due and growth momentum could provide cues on policy and FX. The higher-for-longer environment could be particularly adverse for economies that are already seeing growth slowdown. Another knock-on effect of higher-for-longer narrative is the weakness of regional currencies. Depreciation of the regional currencies could exacerbate the inflationary pressure at home and central banks are likely to mitigate the resultant risk of imported inflation by supporting currencies with foreign reserves. Countries will report their foreign reserves as of Sep by the end of next week which could probably give a gauge of how sharp ammunitions have declined in the past month. We expect RBA, RBNZ to be non-events.

Other Key Data/Events We Watch This Week

Mon: JP Tankan (3Q), Sep PMI for G7 and Asia, ISM Mfg (Sep), ID CPI (Sep) Tue: RBA Policy Decision (no hike) Wed: RBNZ Policy Decision (no hike), US ADP (Sep), ISM Services (Sep) Thu: PH, TH CPI (Sep) Fri: US NFP, AU, ID, TH, MY, Foreign Reserves

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| Currency | Support/Resistance | Key Data and Events |
|--------------|----------------------|---|
| Dollar Index | S: 103.80; R: 107.20 | Mon: B &P Global US Mfg PMI, Construction spending (Aug), ISM Mfg (Sep), Fed Powell and Harker in Roundtable discussions, Fed William speaks Tue: Fed Mester, Bostic speak, JOLTS job openings (Aug), Wed: ADP (Sep), Services PMI (Sep F), ISM Services (Sep), Factory orders (Aug)Fed Bowman speaks Thu: Trade (Aug), Fed Mester speaks, Fed Daly speaks Fri: NFP (Sep) |
| EURUSD | S: 1.05; R: 1.08 | Mon: ECB Centeno, de Cos speak, HCOB EC Mfg PMI (Sep F) Tue: ECB Simkus speaks, Lane speaks, Villeroy speaks Wed: ECB Lagarde speaks, HCOB EC Services, Composite PMI (Sep F), EC retail sales (Aug), PPI (Aug), ECB Panetta Chairs Panel Thu: BOE's Broadbent, Riksbanks Breman, ECB's Lane on Panel, ECB's Guindos Chairs Conference Session, ECB's Villeroy speaks in Paris Fri: -Nil- |
| AUDUSD | S: 0.6360; R: 0.67 | Mon: Judo Bank Mfg PMI (Sep F). M-I inflation (Sep) Tue: Home Loan (Aug), ANZ Job advertisements (Sep), RBA Policy Decision Wed: Judo Bank Services PMI, Composite PMI (Sep F) Thu: Trade (Aug) Fri: -Nil- |
| NZDUSD | S: 0.58; R: 0.61 | Mon: Building permits (Aug) Tue: NZIER Business Optinion Survey, CoreLogic House Prices (Sep) Wed: RBNZ Policy Decision Thu: ANZ Commodity Price (Sep), 12-Month Govt. Financial Statements Fri: -Nil- |
| GBPUSD | S: 1.2075; R: 1.2435 | Mon: Nationwide House (sep), UK Mfg PMI (Sep F), Catherine Mann speaks Tue: BRC Shop Price (Sep) Wed: Official Reserves changes (Sep), Services, Composite PMI (Sep F) Thu: Construction PMI (Sep), BOE Broadbent speaks Fri: -Nil- |
| USDCAD | S: 1.3400; R: 1.3690 | Mon: Mfg PMI (Sep) Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: Trade (Aug) Fri: Labour report (Sep) |
| USDJPY | S: 146.70; R: 151 | Mon: BoJ Summary of Opinions (Sep MPM), Tankan Large, Small Mfg, Non-Mfg index (Sep) Tue: -Nil- Wed: Jibun Bank Composite, Services PMI (Sep F) Thu: -Nil- Fri: Real Cash Earnings (Aug), Labor Cash earnings (Aug) |
| USDCNH | S: 7.20; R: 7.37 | Mon: Onshore markets closure Tue: Onshore markets closure Wed: Onshore markets closure Thu: Onshore markets closure Fri: Onshore markets closure |
| USDTWD | S: 30.10 ;R: 32.40 | Mon: S&P Gobal Taiwan Mfg PMI (Sep) Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: CPI, PPI, Foreign Reserves (Sep) Fri: -Nil- |
| USDKRW | S: 1330 ;R: 1380 | Mon: -Nil- Tue: -Nil- Wed: Industrial production (Aug), Mfg PMI (Sep) Thu: Foreign Reserves (Sep), CPI (Sep) Fri: -Nil- |
| USDSGD | S: 1.3530; R: 1.3760 | Mon: URA Private home prices (3Q P) Tue: PMI (Sep), Electronics Sector index (Sep) Wed: S&P Global Singapore PMi (Sep) Thu: Retail sales (Aug) Fri: -Nil- |
| USDMYR | S: 4.60; R: 4.74 | Mon: Mfg PMI (Sep) Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: -Nil- Fri: Foreign Reserves |

| Currency | Support/Resistance | Key Data and Events |
|----------|----------------------|--|
| USDPHP | S: 55.80; R: 57.00 | Mon: S&P Global PMI Mfg (Sep) Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: CPI (Sep) Fri: Unemployment rate (Aug) |
| USDIDR | S: 15,200; R: 15,630 | Mon: Mfg PMI (Sep), CPI (Sep) Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: -Nil- Fri: Net Foreign Assets (Sep), Foreign Reserves (Sep) |
| USDTHB | S: 35.90 ;R: 37.10 | Mon: Mfg PMI (Sep), Business Sentiment (Sep) Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: CPI (Sep) Fri: Foreign Reserves (29 Sep) |

| Date | Trade | Entry/[SL] | Objective(s) | P&L | Open/Closed | Remarks |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------|--|---|
| 24 Feb 23 | Short AUDNZD | 1.0915 | 1.0850, 1.0780 | +1.24% | Closed | Hawkish RBNZ Stance should benefit the NZD vs. the AUD that could see RBA turning a tad dovish on recent moderation in CPI. |
| 10 Mar 23 | Sell USDJPY | 137.50 [140.50] | 132.40; 128.00 | | | Markets look for +50bps hike from Fed. An NFP print in line with consensus could bring about USD weakness against the JPY. In addition, potential for credit /financial risks emerging could potentially drive safe haven JPY demand in addition to potentially lower UST yields. 17 Mar Remarks: Trade idea did not come to fruition due |
| | | | | | | to a high entry price. That said, we retain bearish view for USDJPY to head towards 128. |
| 24 Mar 23 | Short GBPUSD | 1.2240 [1.2380] | 1.1890 | -3.5% | Closed | Banking Crisis could linger. European banks are under pressure. Barring a potential contagion from the banking crisis, GBP could also weaken as BoE faces a dilemma between growth risks (weaker Mar mfg PMI) vs. elevated inflation. Risk reward of 1:2.5. |
| 6 Apr 23 | Buy the USDCAD | 1.3479 [1.3380] | 1.3550, 1.3630, 1.3700 | -0.7% | Closed | Risk reward ratio is 1:2.2 |
| 14 Apr 23 | Short EURAUD | 1.6440 [1.6700] | 1.5920, 1.5760 | -2.6% | Closed | Risk reward ratio is 1:2.6 |
| 12 May 23 | Short NZDCAD | 0.8480 [0.8572] | 0.8397, 0.8290, 0.8160 | +0.7% | Closed at 0.8420 | Risk reward ratio is 1:3.5 |
| 18 May 23 | Short CNHAUD | 0.2150 [0.2172] | 0.2122, 0.2104, 0.2093 | -1.0% | Closed at 0.2172 (stoploss stipulated) | While the trade was likely stopped on 26 May when it hit a high of 0.2176 that day, the CNHAUD was down > 6% thereafter. (23 Jun) |
| 18 May 23 | Short CNHKRW | 190.10 [192.01] | 188.10, 185.23 | | | CNHKRW was down >6% since 18 May before recent retracement. (23 Jun) |
| Date | Trade | Entry/[SL] | Objective(s) | P&L | Open/Closed | Remarks |

| 30 May 23 | Long AUDUSD | 0.6550 [0.6380] | 0.6670, 0.6870, 0.6925 | 3.1% | Closed on 13 Jun 2023 | |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 30 May 23 | Short USDCAD | 1.3570 [1.3720] | 1.3520, 1.3410, 1.3275 | 1.5% | Closed on 13 Jun 2023 | |
| 11 Sep | Long AUDUSD | 0.6400 [0.6350] | 0.6522, 0.6576, 0.6625. | +0.6% | Closed on 22 Sep 2023 | Expires on 22 Sep. |
| | Cumulative P/L | | | +2.4% | | |

Selected G7 FX Views

| Currency | Stories of the Week |
|-----------|--|
| DXY Index | Bearish Retracement in Play. The DXY index made a reversal from its high of 106.84 and ended the session with a dark cloud cover for its candlestick for Thu. Just as the oil prices have lifted the UST yields higher as well as the greenback, so could a bearish reversal of oil prices bring along similar retracements for the greenback and the yields. Quarter-end USD demand might have exacerbated the move higher for the USD in the earlier part of this week. The subsequent decline might also be due to the surprising downward revision to the personal consumption for 2Q released alongside third reading of the 2Q GDP. Personal consumption has weakened to 0.8%q/q from 3.8% in 1Q. This goes in line with the recent fall in consumer confidence amid rising concerns on the surge in gasoline prices. |
| | We caution that downside risks to US growth could be growing, not helped the least by the shutdown of US government if it so happens from 1 Oct. The halt of key federal services (esp travel that is not deemed as essential services) could hurt the travel industry of the US and dampen its growth momentum. The Travel Association warned that a shutdown could cost the tourism industry as much as \$140mn a day. |
| | Back on the daily chart, index is seen at 105.75. Support is at 105.40/20 (around lower end bullish trend channel, 21-dma). Pull-backs could be limited to this support level as US outperformance vs. the rest of the world could still keep the USD supported. Break of this level could mean a deeper reversal towards 103.80. For that to happen, ISM services (due Wed) need to be close to 50 or NFP needs to be closer towards 100K (cons. 170k). Resistance at 107.18 (Fibo retracement of 50.0% from Sep 2022 high to Jul 2023 low). |
| EUR/USD | Bearish Trend Channel Watched . EURUSD was last seen around 1.0600, rebounding from the week low of 1.0484 as EU-US yield differentials rose to -166bps from around -180bps seen on 27 th Sep (low for the week). Sep consumer confidence, economic confidence, industrial confidence turned out to be better than expected - Economic confidence fell less than expected to 93.3 from previous (93.6 which was revised higher). Industrial confidence was also better at -9.0 vs. prev99 (revised higher). Services confidence came in at 4.0 vs. previous 4.3 (revised higher too). |
| | EURUSD remains driven by EU-US growth and yield differentials. Any convergence on these two aspects could provide some support. Key supports seen around 1.0480 before 1.0410. Bearish trend is strong. Rebounds to meet resistance around 1.0593 before 1.0670 (21-dma) which also marks the upper bound of the bearish channel. US exceptionalism may see cracks if US data show further slowdown. |
| GBP/USD | Retracements. GBPUSD rebounded and was last seen around 1.2250. The rebound formed an arguable bullish engulfing on Thu. We continue to remain bearish on the GBPUSD as the UK economy comes under increasing pressure from elevated price pressure as well as high interest rate. Break of the 1.2240-resistance opens the way towards the next at 1.2290 before the next at 1.2380 (21-dma). Support seen at 1.2111. Resistance is at 1.2436 (200-dma), 1.2480 (21-dma) before 1.2640 (100-dma). |
| USDJPY | <i>Slow Grind Higher</i> . USDJPY was last seen around 149.00, easing off the 149.71-high for this week, driven by rising oil prices, UST yields. MOF officials have been jawboning on the JPY throughout the week and fears of intervention probably slow the climb of the USDJPY. |
| | Rising wedge is formed and apex is near (151). USDJPY may be susceptible to corrective move lower from here. Support at 147.90 (21-dma) before the next at 145.67. Resistance at 150.20 before 151.10. |
| AUD/USD | Rounding Bottom Forming. AUDUSD has arrived around 0.6480 (50-dma) after a rather choppy week. We hold our view that a rounding bottom has formed and a re-test of the 0.65-figure could be near. Next resistance at 0.6550 before the next at 0.6590. Support around 0.6400 before the next at 0.6360. |
| | RBA will make policy decision on Tue (29 Sep) and we look for no change to the cash target rate at 4.10%. In fact, we look for RBA to keep cash target rate unchanged at 4.10% for the next six-nine months before potentially cutting rates by 50bps to 3.60% by the end of 2024. Weak household spending, crimped by low household saving ratio (at 3.2% for 2Q 2023) and high debt could continue to weigh on growth |

building materials have forced hundreds of construction companies to declare insolvency. The hurdle to hike at this point is quite high and cash target rate is more likely to peak at 4.10% this cycle.

Cash rate futures suggest no positioning for a rate increase for Oct and it is highly likely that RBA would remain hawkish on inflation whilst being vigilant on weakening domestic and external demand. AUDUSD is not likely to have fresh guidance from this policy decision.

NZD/USD On the rise. NZDUSD rose over the past week, buoyed by the higher milk prices at the GDT events. Outlook for NZDUSD brightens a tad on 1) better domestic data; 2) expectations for one more hike; 3) higher dairy prices as El Nino threatens milk production. On the other hand, there are still downside risks especially if the oil rally continues to keep UST yields and concomitantly, the USD supported. NZD has been one of the most resilient currencies in Sep and may continue to be relatively stable vs. the USD should there be more traction for growth recovery, concomitant renewed bets on rate hikes and terms of trade improvement due to higher dairy prices and modest improvement in China's demand.

RBNZ is likely to keep OCR at 5.50% next Wed and for the rest of 2023 and possibly into 1H 2024 even as OIS suggests that another rate hike cannot be ruled out. The recent improvement in activity (housing, retail sales) as well as pick-up in crude oil prices suggest that rate cuts would probably have to be pushed back to 3Q 2024. RBNZ had maintained its view for inflation to fall within the 1-3% target by 3Q 2024 and the latest inflation prints (2Q CPI at 6.0%/y), whilst a tad firmer than expectations, continue to suggest that price pressure continues to ease. On the other hand, monetary policy settings are restrictive enough such that these factors do not fan inflation pressures higher. The central bank notes that the mortgage rates on outstanding loans have increased by around 200bps from early 2022 and average mortgage rates are expected to reach around 6% in early 2024. Such a rise in mortgage rates should continue to dampen consumption and keep inflation from rising. There could be hawkish guidance still given the recent rise in oil prices as well as persistent food inflation. NZDUSD's recent strength might also be due to that but OIS suggests little positioning for a hike on 4 Oct anyway and as such, we see little further boost for the NZDUSD from the decision.

NZDUSD broke above the 0.60-figure before the next at 0.6080 (100-dma). Momentum remains bullish and there could be a further bullish extension. Support is seen around 0.5930 before the next at 0.5840.

Technical Chart Picks:

USDSGD Weekly Chart - Breakout of the Rising Wedge



Rising Wedge for the USDSGD is being broken out and was last seen around 1.3615. Support is now at 1.3590 before the next at 1.3540 (50-dma).

There is also the bearish divergence that is long overdue for a playout on the daily, weekly charts. Support at 1.3540 (50-dma) before the next at 1.3490 (100-dma).

Resistance at 1.3760.

USDMYR Weekly Chart - 4.7480 in Focus Next? Gravestone Doji



USDMYR broke above the 4.70-figure but ended the week back where it started, forming a gravestone doji on the weekly chart.

There is also a bearish divergence forming on the MACD forest which could be compelling for USDMYR bears.

Resistance at 4.7130 before the next at 4.7480. Support around 4.6250. Balance of risks could be shifting towards the USDMYR bears.

Source: Bloomberg, Maybank FX Research & Strategy Note: orange line - 21SMA; blue line - 50 SMA; red line - 100 SMA; green line - 200 SMA

SGDMYR Daily Chart: Slight bearish Skew



SGDMYR was last seen around 3.4430, seemingly stuck in range within the 3.4160-3.4460.

An area of support around 3.4160-3.4290 keeps this cross supported on dips. Stochastics have been biased to the downside.

Rebounds to meet resistance at 3.4460, 3.4580 and then at 3.4802.

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