

FX Weekly

With a Soft Landing Looking More Likely...

The Week Ahead

- **Dollar Index - Two-way.** Support at 102.00; Resistance at 104.80
- **USD/SGD - Two-way.** Support at 1.3158; Resistance at 1.3350
- **USD/MYR - Two-Way.** Support at 4.40; Resistance at 4.55
- **SGD/MYR - Two-way.** Support at 3.2000; Resistance at 3.4500

With a Soft Landing Looking More Likely...

US data has essentially reinforced the narrative for a soft landing/Goldilocks environment, with both PPI and CPI inflation coming off and US retail sales surprising to the upside. Fears of a US recession have largely been dispelled and a sense of calm, albeit a tentative one has somewhat returned to markets.. Against this backdrop, the USD is broadly softer in line with our expectations, although it is finding support near the 102.00 level. Fast money is apparently once again seeing value in the JPY carry trade as USDJPY creeps higher and is just shy of the 150 mark, highlighting that memory in markets is quite short-term in nature. Asian currencies are performing well against the USD, with the IDR and the KRW playing catch up with their peers and ending as the top performers for the week. Indonesia's budget announced today represented a slight tightening of the fiscal deficit, which should provide some marginal support for the IDR. MYR and SGD remain resilient, although MYR outperformance has moderated and gains to it have slowed. We look for SGDNEER to remain firm and for MYR to continue to remain strong. At this juncture, we do think that a soft landing can materialize and the USD can weaken further in the longer-term. In the nearer term however, we do not rule out further bumps in the path for the USD and other currencies and risks are two-way for currencies at this point.

Politics and Central Banks Could Drive Markets Next

We see that these bumps could occur because of developments in the political space. Recall that Thai PM Srettha and his cabinet had earlier in the week been dismissed by the court and it looks likely that Paetongtarn (Ing) Shinawatra will be installed as the new PM after winning enough votes in Parliament. THB has still done fairly well against the USD this week. Nevertheless, we monitor developments and possible implications for the Baht closely. In the US, we will have the Democratic National Convention (19 to 22 Aug) held next week, where VP Harris's nomination for the Democratic ticket will be formalized. VP Harris is also scheduled to unveil her economic plans to focus on housing, healthcare and grocery prices. Preliminarily, these plans look to address domestic issues in the US and we are cautiously optimistic that this could imply that she may not need to be as hawkish on China in her campaign. These plans also look likely to provide some economic stimulus and stand in stark contrast to Trump's platform of tariffs and taxes. Apart from politics, we also keenly observe the Jackson Hole Symposium (22 to 24 Aug) where Fed Chair Powell's anticipated speech could give further clues on the leanings of the Fed. With US data this week being largely supportive of rate cuts, it would be tough to see any pushback on rate cuts from Powell. In Asia, we expect holds from the BOK and BOT next week. BSP cut rates this week, but it is unlikely that other regional central banks follow suit, with concerns over both domestic price pressures and potential currency weakness that could arise of cutting ahead of the Fed.

Other Key Data/Events We Watch

- Mon:** MY Trade Balance (Jul), TH GDP (2Q)
- Tue:** EC CPI Inflation (Jun F), RBA Minutes (Aug)
- Wed:** NZ Trade Balance (Jul), BOT Policy Decision
- Thu:** BOK Policy Decision
- Fri:** JP National CPI (Jul)

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Our in-house model implies that S\$NEER is trading at +1.91% to the implied midpoint of 1.3460, suggesting that it remains firm vs trading partner currencies.

Currency	Support/Resistance	Key Data and Events
Dollar Index	S: 102.00; R: 104.00	Mon: Leading Index (Jul) Tue: Phil. Fed Non-Manufacturing Activity (Aug) Wed: MBA Mortgage Applications (16 Aug) Thu: FOMC Minutes (31 Jul), Chicago Fed Nat Activity Index (Jul), Mfg/Svcs/Comp PMIs (Aug P), Existing Home Sales (Jul), Kansas City Fed Manf Activity (Aug) Fri: New Home Sales (Jul), Kansas City Fed Services Activity (Aug)
EURUSD	S: 1.08; R: 1.11	Mon: -Nil- Tue: CPI Inflation (Jul F) Wed: -Nil- Thu: Mfg/Svcs/Comp PMI (Aug P) Fri: Consumer Confidence (Aug P), ECB 1Y/3Y CPI Expectations (Jul)
AUDUSD	S: 0.64; R: 0.67	Mon: -Nil- Tue: RBA Minutes (Aug) Wed: Composite PMI (Aug P), Westpac Leading Index (Jul) Thu: Mfg/Svcs PMI (Aug P) Fri: -Nil-
NZDUSD	S: 0.59; R: 0.62	Mon: Performance Services Index (Jul) Tue: REINZ House Sales (Jul), Exports/Imports/Trade Balance (Jul) Wed: -Nil- Thu: -Nil- Fri: Retail Sales Ex Inflation QoQ (2Q)
GBPUSD	S: 1.2670; R: 1.3000	Mon: Rightmove House Prices (Aug) Tue: -Nil- Wed: Public Finances (Jul) Thu: Mfg/Svcs/Comp (Aug P), CBI Trends (Aug) Fri: GfK Consumer Confidence (Aug)
USDCAD	S: 1.3600; R: 1.3900	Mon: -Nil- Tue: CPI Inflation (Jul) Wed: Industrial Product Price (Jul), Raw Materials Price (Jul) Thu: -Nil- Fri: Retail Sales (Jun)
USDJPY	S: 140; R: 150	Mon: Core Machine Orders (Jun) Tue: Tokyo Condominiums for Sale (Jul) Wed: Exports/Imports/Trade Balance (Jul) Thu: Mfg/Svcs/Comp PMI (Aug P), Machine Tool Orders (Jul F) Fri: National CPI Inflation (Jul), Dept Store Sales (Jul)
USDCNH	S: 7.14; R: 7.30	Mon: -Nil- Tue: 1Y/5Y Loan Prime Rates (20 Aug) Wed: -Nil- Thu: Swift Global Payments CNY (Jul) Fri: -Nil-

Currency	Support/Resistance	Key Data and Events
USDTWD	S: 32.00; R: 33.40	Mon: -Nil- Tue: Export Orders (Jul), BoP Current Account Balance (2Q) Wed: -Nil- Thu: Unemployment Rate (Jul) Fri: Industrial Production (Jul), Money Supply (Jul)
USDKRW	S: 1320; R: 1400	Mon: -Nil- Tue: Consumer Confidence (Aug), South Korea Household Credit (2Q) Wed: PPI Inflation (Jul), Mfg/Non-Mfg Business Survey (Sep), 20 Days Exports/Imports (Aug), Short Term External Debt (2Q) Thu: BOK Policy Decision Fri: -Nil-
USDMYR	S: 4.40; R: 4.55	Mon: Exports/Imports/Trade Balance (Jul) Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: CPI Inflation (Jul), Foreign Reserves (15 Aug) Fri: -Nil-
USDSGD	S: 1.31; R: 1.33	Mon: -Nil- Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: -Nil- Fri: CPI Inflation (Jul)
USDPHP	S: 56.00; R: 58.00	Mon: BOP Overall (Jul) Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: -Nil- Fri: -Nil-
USDIDR	S: 15600; R: 16100	Mon: -- Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: Trade (Jul), External Debt (Jun) Fri: -Nil-
USDTHB	S: 34.00; R: 36.00	Mon: GDP (2Q) Tue: -Nil- Wed: BOT Policy Decision Thu: -Nil- Fri: Gross international Reserves (16 Aug)

G7 FX Views

Currency

Stories of the Week

DXY Index

Soft Landing More Likely. The DXY was last seen lower around 102.87, after a week where the data all but confirmed a US soft landing/Goldilocks scenario. Inflation data has been benign and retail sales surprised to the upside, largely dispelling fears of a US recession. Market jitters have also been calmed by comments from the BOJ that they would not hike while markets were unstable. We are of the view that no central bank (much less the Fed or BOJ) would want to aggravate market volatility. Market pricing for Fed rate cuts remains rather aggressive for the rest of the year at 93bps of cuts. Further adjustments to the rate cut outlook could inject some fresh volatility to currencies. As mentioned on the front page, we watch the US DNC and Jackson Hole Symposium. It would be difficult to see how much Powell can push back on rate cuts, with the data being so supportive of a soft landing. At the same time, we think that half point cuts are unlikely and could risk sending the wrong signal to markets. Our economist sees 50bps of rate cuts in 2024 and 100bps of rate cuts in 2025.

We see two-way trades for the greenback. Resistance at 102.88 before 104.30. Support at 102.00.

EUR/USD

Buy on Dips. EURUSD ends the week slightly higher at 1.0980 levels after retracing from breaking the 1,10 resistance. We see potential for a deeper pullback towards 1.0870 before the next at 1.0820 (50-dma). Rebounds to meet resistance at 1.1000 (5 Aug high). We continue to view pullbacks in the EUR as opportunities to buy and remain constructive on EUR in the medium term on the belief that economic growth will improve and that ECB rate cuts need not result in excessive EUR weakness. Current EUR bullish bets are predicated on the Fed cutting more aggressively than the ECB and we are sceptical that such a narrative can be sustained. However, there should be a narrowing of EU-US growth differentials that we believe will provide a far more sustainable bullish narrative for the EUR.

GBP/USD

Buoyant. GBPUSD remains bid and was last seen at 1.2890 levels. Earlier pair had been lifted by the Jun labour report which turned out stronger than expected at 4.2% vs. previous 4.4%. Easing inflation prints especially in the services space provided for a brief pullback in the pair, however sentiment improving and broad USD weakness were drivers that were too strong for the high beta cable to ignore. Upside to UK retail sales gave a further uptick to the pair towards the end of the week. We look for another 50bps cut this year for the BoE, somewhat similar to OIS implied. We hold a constructive view given Starmer's intention to warm relations with the EU and rate cuts could eventually be supportive of growth, although we maintain that near-term conditions are stretched to the upside and outperformance should moderate a bit.

USDJPY

Creeping Higher. USDJPY was last seen at 148.62 levels, continuing on the retracement of the likely overshoot of the carry trade unwinding. We think that further rises may be temporary. Longer term we stay constructive on the JPY, which remains cheap by many measures even after the latest rally. Even as the BOJ can potentially hold back hikes amid unstable market conditions, weak US data can risk pressuring the Fed to cut at a faster pace, which in turn can have quite a pronounced effect on the JPY. BOJ Deputy Governor has already stated that they will not hike rates when markets are unstable. We see two-way risks with near-term resistance at 150.00 before 151.00. Support at 147.00 followed by 145.30.

AUD/USD

Forming a Bottom. AUDUSD looks to end the week at 0.6636, breaking the key levels we cited at 0.6610 and 0.6630. At home, with RBA being perceived as hawkish and still likely to remain one of the last to start easing, we remain constructive on the AUD. RBA minutes are due next week and we think they are likely to remain hawkish with Governor Bullock mentioning to Australia's Parliament that it would be premature to think about rate cuts and that RBA remained vigilant to upside inflation risks. With concerns over global growth starting to ease we think there could be significant lift for AUD. We see upside risks to the AUD, potentially back towards 0.67. Key support is seen around 0.6470. Resistance is at 0.6640 (50-dma) and 0.6700.

NZD/USD

Upside narrative intact even as RBNZ eases. NZDUSD remains relatively steady at 0.6030 levels as the RBNZ cut earlier in the week. Nevertheless, the double bottom around 0.5850 is still rather compelling to us and a bullish extension could see this NZDUSD re-visit jun high of around 0.62. We expected upside to be temporarily dented as RBNZ cut its policy rate from 5.50% to 5.25% to support growth. Positive driver as concerns over global growth start to ease and provide significant lift for AUD and its antipode mate the NZD. Resistance at 0.6050 to eye before 0.6070 (50-dma) and then at 0.6200. Ultimate key support at 0.5850.

Technical Chart Picks:

USDSGD Daily Chart - Two-Way risks



USDSGD retained a downside bias and was last seen around 1.3198 levels.

There are two-way risks at this point for this pair. Markets pricing of Fed rate cuts at 100bps could run the risk of being aggressive and the possibility of a hawkish repricing should US data turn out stronger than expected. However, strong data at this point is also re-assuring for equities and broader sentiment and that could in turn limit the upside for the greenback. SG NODX data also outperformed and should provide support for SGD. Rebounds to meet resistance at 1.3280 before 1.3350. Support at 1.3150 followed by 1.3100.

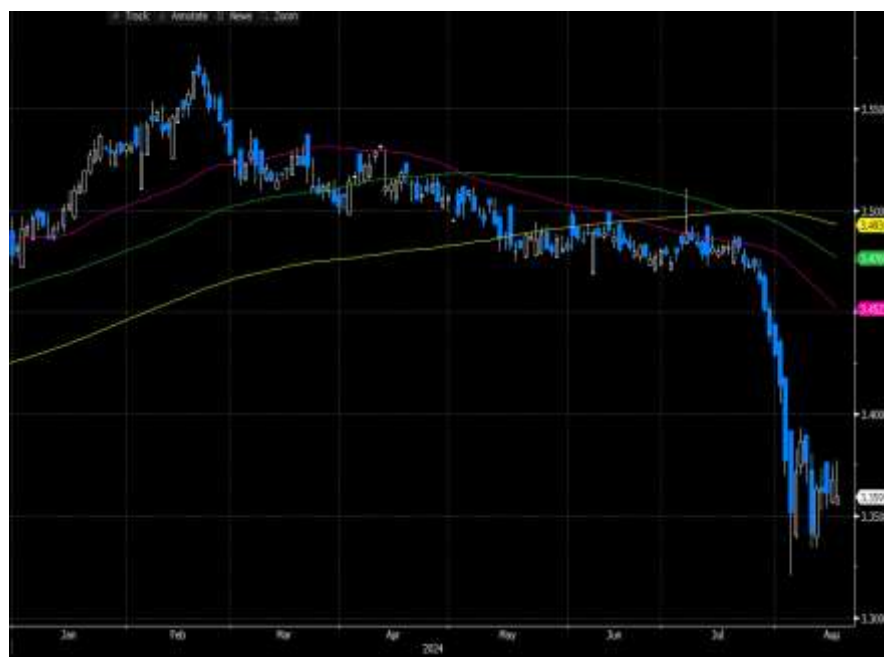
USDMYR Daily Chart - Bearish



USDMYR last seen at 4.4310. The MYR retains much of its gains from the episode of carry-trade unwinding. UST yields (amid possibility of Fed easing and BNM holding rates), JPY strength, bold government reforms, strong economic growth and more optimistic investor sentiment play their part to lift the currency. We expect further downside as the macro transition to an environment of easing central bank rates and recession concerns support the move lower in UST yields. Key support at 4.4000 and 4.2250.

Source: Bloomberg, Maybank FX Research & Strategy

SGDMYR Daily Chart -Two-way risks



SGDMYR retains a downside bias, although that could change from here as we trade around the key support of 3.35. Cross last seen at 3.3595 levels. We see two way risks from here within a range of 3.32-3.39. MACD indicates waning bearish momentum and stochastics are rising from oversold conditions.

Source: Bloomberg, Maybank FX Research & Strategy

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