

FX Weekly

JPY Rally, Greenback Declines

The Week Ahead

- **Dollar Index - Stretched.** Support at 104.80; Resistance at 109.20
- **USD/SGD - Downside.** Support at 1.32; Resistance at 1.36
- **USD/MYR - Downside.** Support at 4.36; Resistance at 4.50
- **SGD/MYR - Sideways.** Support at 3.28; Resistance at 3.39

Dollar Pulls Back as JPY Rallies

Over the last week, focus has been on the JPY as it rallied amid increasing expectations of a BOJ 25bps hike and UST yields falling. Japanese economic data over the week proved to be supportive for the JPY as Nov Tokyo CPI accelerated with the headline number coming out at 2.6% YoY (est. 2.2% YoY, Oct. 1.8% YoY) and the core core number at 1.9% YoY (est. 1.9% YoY, Oct. 1.8% YoY). We had expected that Japan inflation can pick up towards year end as the effect of utility subsidies fade. The reading too serves to back a BOJ 25bps hike, which we have been calling for. At the same time, Trump trades look to be taking some breather and may continue to do so. Despite the announcement that Lighthizer protégé - Jamieson Greer would be nominated as US trade representative, UST yields still came off. JPY strengthening has helped to facilitate a DXY correction, which we have also been expecting. The DXY has been stretched on the upside whilst the end of year can be a seasonally weaker period for it too. Going into next week, we see the possibility that the JPY rally and the greenback softening can continue. At point of writing, USDJPY is testing the key support at 150.00, which we believe it can sustainably break below and open the way to test the 145 level. A few US and Japan data points next week can be crucial. For Japan, we look out for Oct cash earnings, which market expects to still grow robustly on nominal terms although there can be a slight decline on real terms. For the US, Fed's Beige Book, Powell and various Fed speakers ahead FOMC Blackout, but US jobs data and the ISM services readings would be key. A rebound is expected in the Nov NFP data as strikers and hurricane workers return. However, if the number is in line with estimates at 200k, UST yields can avoid a rebound. Nov ISM services is expected to slow to 55.5 (Oct. 56.0). Therefore, a 25bps Fed Dec cut can remain in the books. A number of Fed speakers next week before the blackout period, but notably focus will be on FOMC Chair Powell Fed Chair Jerome Powell who will speak in a moderated session at the New York Times DealBook Summit (5 Dec, 2:45am SGT). DXY has already broken below 106.00 and the next support is now at 105.05. Asian currencies including the MYR could see some strength if the USD retracement continues. The trade-weighted SGDNEER has fallen and is currently at +0.98% above the mid-point this morning but is expected to hold up better than other currencies in times of USD-strength.

Keeping an Eye on India, China and Europe

We continue to watch closely the French political developments and whether the bickering over the budget can lead to a collapse in the government. The opposition left has threatened to push a no-confidence motion as soon as next week. Whilst French bonds have taken a heavy hit with funding cost now on par with the Greek bonds, the EUR has instead strengthened. Lookout for ECB President Lagarde who will testify before the European Parliament committees on Wed (4 Dec). For now, the EUR looks to be taking cue from the broad dollar. The decline in the latter looks to have guided a bounce in the EURUSD and we see it continuing to next week with resistance at 1.0610. Meanwhile, for China, PMI numbers would be due out on Sat and Mon and expectations are for some pick-up especially following the stimulus. In line readings should be some support for the CNH/CNY. There is only one major monetary policy decision in Asia-Pacific next week. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI, 6 Dec, 12:30pm) and consensus is expecting RBI to keep the policy Repo rate unchanged at 6.50% as India's headline inflation is likely to still hover within the 5%-6% range in the months ahead.

Other Key Data/Events We Watch

- Sat:** CH Composite, mfg, non-mfg PMI (Nov)
Mon: US ISM mfg (Nov), CH Caixin PMIs (Nov), ASEAN PMIs (Nov)
Tue: US JOLTS jobs opening (Oct),
Wed: US ADP emp change (Nov), US ISM services (Nov), EC PPI (Oct)
Thu: Fed Beige book, EC Retail sales (Oct),
Fri: US Jobs data (Nov), UMich indexes (Dec P), GE IP (Oct), JP Cash earnings (Oct)

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Our in-house model implies that S\$NEER is trading at +1.03% to the implied midpoint of 1.3540, suggesting that it remains firm vs trading partner currencies.

FX Forecast Ranking

Top 10 For G10 FX Forecast by Bloomberg

Currency	Support/Resistance	Key Data and Events
Dollar Index	S: 104.80; R: 109.20	Mon: S&P Global PMI mfg (Nov F), Construction spending (Oct), ISM mfg (Nov) Tue: JOLTS job openings (Oct), Wards total vehicle sales (Nov) (3 - 4 Dec), Fed Waller speaks, Fed Williams speaks Wed: ADP employment change (Nov), S&P Global PMI services and composite (Nov F), Factory orders (Oct), ISM services (Nov), Durable goods orders (Oct F), Cap goods (Oct F), Fed Kugler speaks, Fed Goolsbee speaks, Fed Musalem speaks Thu: Fed Beige book, Challenger job cuts (Nov), Trade balance (Oct), Initial jobless claims (30 Nov), Fed Powell speaks Fri: NFP (Nov), Unemployment rate (Nov), Average hourly earnings (Nov), Labor force participation rate (Nov), Underemployment rate (Nov), UMich indexes (Dec P), Fed Bowman speaks, Fed Goolsbee speaks
EURUSD	S: 1.02; R: 1.08	Mon: HCOB PMI mfg for GE, FR and Eurozone (Nov F), EC Unemployment rate (Oct) Tue: - Nil- Wed: HCOB PMI composite and services for GE, FR and Eurozone (Nov F), EC PPI (Oct), EC OECD economic outlook Thu: GE Factory orders (Oct), FR IP (Oct), FR Mfg prod (Oct), GE HCOB construction PMI (Nov), EC Retail sales (Oct) Fri: GE IP (Oct), GE Trade data (Oct), FR CA and trade balance (Oct), EC GDP (3Q F)
AUDUSD	S: 0.6300; R: 0.6540	Mon: S&P Global PMI mfg (Nov F), Melbourne Institute inflation (Nov), ANZ - Indeed job advertisements (Nov), Inventories (3Q), Company operating profit (3Q), Building approvals (Oct), Private sector houses (Oct), Retail sales (Oct), RBA Jacobs speak Tue: BoP CA balance (3Q), Net exports (3Q) Wed: S&P Global PMI composite and services (Nov F), GDP (3Q) Thu: Household spending (Oct), Trade data (Oct) Fri: Foreign reserves (Nov)
NZDUSD	S: 0.5870; R: 0.6050	Mon: Building permits (Oct) Tue: Terms of trade index (3Q) Wed: ANZ commodity price (Nov), CoreLogic home value (Nov), RBNZ at Select Committee for annual review Thu: Volume of all buildings (3Q) Fri: - Nil-
GBPUSD	S: 1.2300; R: 1.2730	Mon: Lloyds business barometer (Nov), Lloyds own price expectations (Nov), Nationwide House PX (Nov), S&P Global PMI mfg (Nov F) Tue: BRC sales like-for-like (Nov) Wed: Official reserves changes (Nov), S&P Global PMI services and composite (Nov F) Thu: New car registrations (Nov), S&P Global UK construction PMI (Nov), DMP 3M output price expectations (Nov), DMP 1Y CPI expectations (Nov) Fri: BOE Greene speaks
USDCAD	S: 1.3840; R: 1.4200	Mon: Bloomberg Nanos confidence (29 Nov), S&P Global PMI mfg (Nov) Tue: - Nil- Wed: Labor productivity (3Q), S&P Global PMI composite and services (Nov) Thu: Int'l merchandise trade (Oct), Ivey purchasing managers index (Nov) Fri: Employment change (Nov), Unemployment rate (Nov), Participation rate (Nov), Hourly wage rate permanent employees (Nov)
USDJPY	S: 142.00; R: 155.00	Mon: Capital spending (3Q), Company sales/profits (3Q), Jibun Bank PMI mfg (Nov F) Tue: Monetary base (Nov) Wed: Jibun Bank PMI composite and services (Nov F) Thu: Bond and stocks purchase data (29 Nov), BOJ Nakamura speaks Fri: Cash earnings (Oct), Household spending (Oct), Leading index (Oct P), Coincident index (Oct P)

USDCNH	S: 7.05; R: 7.30	Sat: Composite, mfg and non-mfg PMI (Nov) Mon: Caixin mfg, composite and services PMI (Nov) Tue: - Nil- Wed: - Nil- Thu: - Nil- Fri: - Nil-
USDTWD	S: 32.30; R: 32.70	Mon: S&P Global PMI mfg (Nov) Tue: - Nil- Wed: - Nil- Thu: CPI (Nov), PPI (Nov), Foreign reserves (Nov) Fri: - Nil-
USDKRW	S: 1360; R: 1450	Sun: Trade data (Nov) Mon: S&P Global PMI mfg (Nov) Tue: CPI (Nov) Wed: Foreign reserves (Nov) Thu: GDP (3Q P) Fri: BoP goods and CA balance (Oct)

Currency	Support/Resistance	Key Data and Events
USDMYR	S: 4.36; R: 4.50	Mon: S&P Global PMI mfg (Nov) Tue: - Nil- Wed: - Nil- Thu: - Nil- Fri: Foreign reserves (29 Nov)
USDSGD	S: 1.32; R: 1.36	Mon: Purchasing managers index (Nov), Electronics sector index (Nov) Tue: - Nil- Wed: S&P Global PMI (Nov), COE auction (4 Dec) Thu: Retail sales (Oct) Fri: Foreign reserves (Nov) (6 - 11 Dec)
USDPHP	S: 57.50; R: 60.00	Mon: S&P Global PMI mfg (Nov) Tue: - Nil- Wed: - Nil- Thu: CPI (Nov) Fri: Unemployment rate (Oct), Foreign reserves (Nov)
USDIDR	S: 15600; R: 16200	Mon: S&P Global PMI mfg (Nov), CPI (Nov) Tue: - Nil- Wed: - Nil- Thu: - Nil- Fri: Foreign reserves (Nov)
USDTHB	S: 33.00; R: 36.00	Mon: S&P Global PMI mfg (Nov), Business sentiment index (Nov) Tue: - Nil- Wed: - Nil- Thu: - Nil- Fri: CPI (Nov), Gross international reserves/forward contracts (29 Nov)

G7 FX Views

Currency

Stories of the Week

DXY Index

Correction in Play. After a strong period following Trump's election victory, the DXY fell for most of this week. The drivers did appear both external and idiosyncratic. Externally, rising expectations of a BOJ Dec 25bps hike looks to be driving a JPY rally as Japanese data proved to be supportive with Tokyo CPI showing an acceleration. Idiosyncratically, the Trump trades do look to be taking some breather as UST yields fell even as Trump nominated Lighthizer protégé Jamieson Greer as US Trade Representative. Momentum indicators have also shown that the DXY is stretched on the upside and Dec also can tend to be a seasonally weaker month for the greenback.

Into next week, the DXY would likely look to be driven by the JPY and the US data. Regarding the JPY, we expect it the momentum for the rally to strengthen as markets amid strong expectations of a BOJ hike in Dec of 25bps. Key cash earnings data is due and it continued to be robust and back a BOJ tightening. Important US data next work include Nov NFP data, which we expect a rebound as strikers and hurricane workers return. If the number is in line with estimates at 200k, UST yields can avoid climbing back up. Nov ISM services is expected to slow to 55.5 (Oct. 56.0). Therefore, a 25bps Fed Dec cut can remain in the books. Fed Powell would also be speaking next Thurs 2.45am SG time and we also closely watch that as it comes before the blackout period. The Fed Chair may keep it fairly open about a Dec move in his comments. He had previously said that "going a little slower - if the data lets us go a little slower - seems like a smart thing to do" but that to does not mean he would not cut in Dec. Instead, such comments could mean that he still makes a Dec move open and he could space cuts over the next year.

Back on the chart, we expect the DXY correction to continue into next week and watch closely if the index can hold decisively below the 106.00 support. The next after that stands at 105.06. RESistance is at 107.00 and 108.07 (ytd intraday high).

EUR/USD

Rebound. EURUSD moved higher this week as it retraces losses against the USD and the bullish divergence plays out. The factors that weigh on EUR could remain a drag on the currency - including the escalation of the war in Ukraine as well as weak growth prospect of the Eurozone that sharpens the Fed-ECB policy divergence. Putin declared that he could use ballistic missiles on Kyiv as retaliation for the use of Western missiles on Russia. In other news, the EU proposed sanctions on several Chinese firms they claim helped Russia develop attack drones deployed against Ukraine. Back on the EURUSD chart, pairing could be in the midst of a reversal higher but resistance at 1.0610 could be harder to break through given political uncertainty in Germany and to a certain extent, France. Support at 1.05 before 1.04.

GBP/USD

Bounce Up. GBPUSD was last seen higher at 1.2708 levels as it retraces losses against the USD this week. Similarly, for GBPUSD, we also spot a bullish divergence for the cable. The drop to six-month low last Fri that was triggered by the weaker prelim. Nov Mfg and Svc PMI prints as well as retail sales did not extend on Monday. However, it was also Trump's Treasury Secretary nominee that triggered a broader USD decline and prevented cable from falling further Monday. While we spot a bullish divergence for the cable, there could be limit to its gains at 1.2733 (61.8% Fibonacci retracement of the Apr-Sep rally) before the next at 1.2820 (200-dma). Support is at 1.2680 followed by 1.2600. Resistances are at 1.2750 and 1.2800.

USDJPY

Downside in Play. The pair was last seen around 150.15 as it headed lower for most of this week amid increasing expectations of a BOJ 25bps Dec hike and UST yields pulling back. Japanese economic data over the week proved to be supportive for the JPY as Nov Tokyo CPI accelerated with the headline number coming out at 2.6% YoY (est. 2.2% YoY, Oct. 1.8% YoY) and the core core number at 1.9% YoY (est. 1.9% YoY, Oct. 1.8% YoY). We had expected that Japan inflation can pick up towards year end as the effect of utility subsidies fade. The reading too serves to back a BOJ 25bps hike, which we have been calling for. At the same time, Trump trades look to be taking some breather and may continue to do so. Despite the announcement that Lighthizer protégé - Jamieson Greer would be nominated as US trade representative, UST yields still came off.

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AUD/USD ***USD Fatigue Can help Support.*** AUDUSD was last seen at 0.6518 levels. Broader USD decline has helped and RBA Governor Bullock opined that core inflation remains too elevated for the central bank to consider easing in the near-term. Cash rate futures suggest that markets expect no move by the central bank in Dec and move will be close to a coin toss in Feb. That said, the Australian Reserve Bank Board could be split into two into two entities after an independent review of the central bank led to calls for an overhaul of the bank. The composition of the new monetary policy board will take effect after the 17-18 Feb meeting but it is still unclear. Governor Bullock, Deputy Andrew Hauser and Treasurer Secretary Steven Kennedy will be on the body while six external members will be appointed by Jim Chalmers. Back on the chart, two-way trades within 0.6450-0.6540 could continue within the near-term but bias is skewed to the upside. Some optimism over China's stimulus in light of the incoming US President-Elect that is hostile to China could also be supportive of the AUD. RBA remains one of the few central banks of developed countries to not have embarked on an easing cycle yet. Potential trade war may dim growth outlook for Australia and help to ease inflation there, thereby effectively nudging the RBA into an easing cycle. AUDNZD could continue to fall towards 1.08.

NZD/USD ***Lifted by USD decline.*** NZDUSD rose over the week, mostly due to the broader USD decline as Trump's trade take a pause given the amount of angst/excitement priced in. Back on the NZDUSD chart, bullish divergence may play out more strongly. Resistance at 0.5930 before the next at 0.5970. Support is seen around 0.5770. Bias is skewed to the upside as momentum turns bullish.

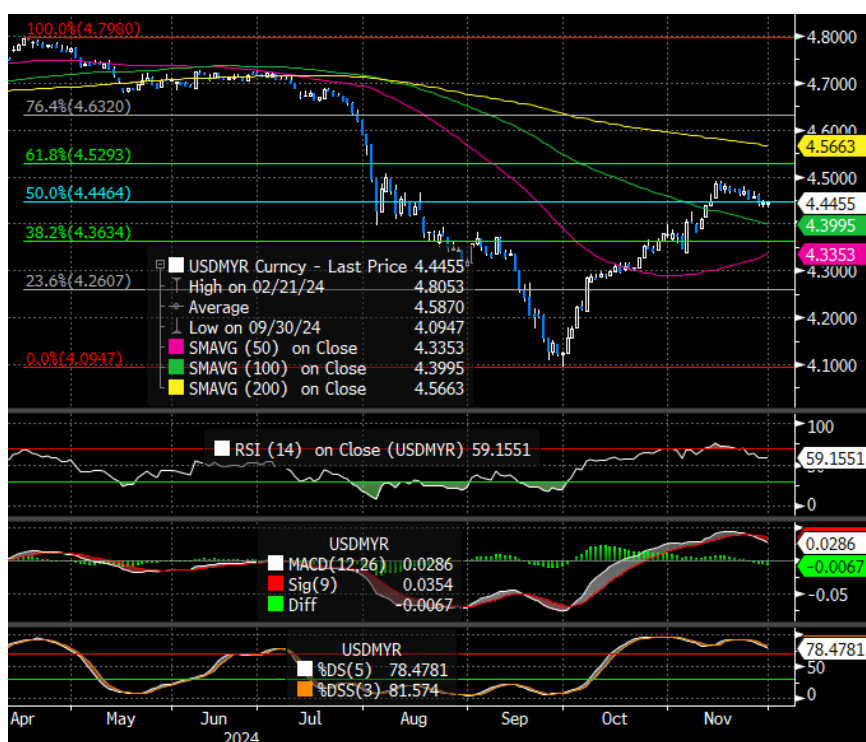
Technical Chart Picks:

USDSGD Daily Chart - Downside



USDSGD trades near 1.3393 as it declined this week in line with the broad dollar. Momentum indicators implies pair is stretched on the upside. With the broad dollar possibly seeing more correction in the near term, we see the possibility for USDSGD coming off further. Key support level is at 1.3342 (200-dma) and 1.3200. Resistance is at 1.3500 and 1.3600.

USDMYR Daily Chart - Downside



USDMYR edged down lower this week in line with the decline in the broad dollar. Momentum indicators after all had already implied the pair was stretched on the upside. Bearish divergence has been playing out. We see the possibility of further downside for the pair near term as the broad dollar continues to correct. Support at 4.4200 and 4.3634. Resistance is at 4.5000 and 4.6500.

Source: Bloomberg, Maybank FX Research & Strategy

SGDMYR Daily Chart - Sideways



SGDMYR could trade sideways around 3.3000 - 3.3500 as the broad dollar comes off given that both USDSGD and USDMYR may move lower in tandem together. Support at 3.2800 and 3.2000. Resistance at 3.3500 and 3.3900.

Source: Bloomberg, Maybank FX Research & Strategy

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