

FX Weekly

Fed Cuts and Central Bank Independence

The Week Ahead

- **Dollar Index - Downside Risk.** Support at 95.00; Resistance at 100.00
- **USD/SGD - Downside Risk.** Support at 1.2500; Resistance at 1.3000
- **USD/MYR - Downside Risk.** Support at 4.10; Resistance at 4.30
- **SGD/MYR - Downside Risk.** Support at 3.25; Resistance at 3.35

Fed Cuts and Central Bank Independence

Powell's speech at Jackson Hole provided an insight to the Fed's reaction function for the upcoming Sep meeting, with his dovish leanings being one of the major focal points for markets, although we would argue that other nuances of his speech, such as the challenging uncertain environment the Fed has to deal with, were virtually disregarded. Odds of a Sep cut rose to 84% (prev: 73%), amid further efforts from Trump to pressure the Fed to cutting rates, undermining central bank independence. Trump initiated the removal of Fed Governor Lisa Cook amid allegations of mortgage fraud, although Cook is likely to dispute the removal. Trump also tapped Stephen Mirran as a possible replacement for a vacancy on the Fed board in Jan 2026. It is interesting to note that Trump's actions are taking place at a time where Fed rhetoric (and most notably that of Fed Chair Powell) is starting to tilt a bit dovish with Fed Williams opining that the low neutral rate era "appears far from over". Powell did hint that the balance of the Fed's dual inflation-employment mandate could be tilting a tad towards employment with increasing signs of labour market weakness. The USD sold off post-Jackson Hole, found some support and then sold off again as concerns over Fed independence were raised. We think USD could see some near-term support given the considerable uncertainty ahead, although the longer-term weaker USD theme on rate cuts and fading US exceptionalism remain intact. Separately, developments on trade could still feature for currencies that have yet to strike a deal, with India refusing to cross certain red lines a likely source of pressure for the INR. SGD and MYR are resilient against this backdrop of uncertainty and potential Sep Fed cut.

BOK and BSP Due, EUR Risks on French Budget

BOK and BSP are due to decide on their policy rates this week. We expect BOK to cut rates by 25bps to provide growth support against consensus which is expecting a stand pat as property risks and a buoyant USDKRW could keep the BOK more cautious. BSP Governor Eli had earlier highlighted the possibility of an Aug rate cut and two more cuts in 2025. Our economist expects one further cut for the year. We expect the PHP to maintain its medium-term strength. On the political front, French PM Francois Bayrou is set to trigger a confidence vote (on 8 Sep) over his unpopular budget aimed at tightening the fiscal situation that France is facing, although the preliminary indication is that both the far-right and far-left will support toppling the government. To survive, the centrist Bayrou will need support from other parties, which does not look likely. Risks for the EUR could be to the downside if the French government fails.

Other Key Data/Events We Watch

Mon: SG CPI (Jul)

Tue: SG Industrial Production (Jul)

Wed: AU CPI (Jul)

Thu: US GDP (2Q), BOK & BSP Policy Decisions

Fri: Core PCE Price Index (Jul)

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Currency	Support/Resistance	Key Data and Events
Dollar Index	S: 95.00; R: 100.00	Mon: Chicago Fed Nat Activity (Jul), Dallas Fed Manf. Activity (Aug) Tue: Philly Fed Non-Manf Activity (Aug), Richmond Fed Manf. Index (Aug), Dallas Fed Services Activity (Aug), Durable/Cap Goods Orders (Jul P) Wed: -Nil- Thu: GDP (2Q S), Core PCE (2Q S) Fri: Personal Income/Spending (Jul), Core PCE Price Index (Jul), MNI Chicago PMI (Aug)
EURUSD	S: 1.12; R: 1.18	Mon: -Nil- Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: Money Supply (Jul), Consumer/Economic/Industrial/Services Confidence (Aug) Fri: 1Y/3Y ECB CPI Expectations (Jul)
AUDUSD	S: 0.6100; R: 0.6600	Mon: -Nil- Tue: RBA Minutes (Aug) Wed: CPI (Jul), Westpac Leading Index (Jul) Thu: Private Capital Expenditure (2Q) Fri: Private Sector Credit (Jul)
NZDUSD	S: 0.57; R: 0.6175	Mon: Retail Sales (2Q) Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: Filled Jobs (Jul), ANZ Activity Outlook/Business Confidence (Aug) Fri: ANZ Consumer Confidence (Aug)
GBPUSD	S: 1.30; R: 1.38	Mon: -Nil- Tue: BRC Shop Price Index (Aug) Wed: CBI Retail Sales (Aug) Thu: -Nil- Fri: Lloyds Business Barometer/Own Price Expectations (Aug)
USDCAD	S: 1.34; R: 1.40	Mon: -Nil- Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: Payroll Employment Change - SEPH (Jun), Current Account Balance (2Q) Fri: GDP (2Q, Jun)
USDJPY	S: 135; R: 150	Mon: Leading Index (Jun), Coincident Index (Jun), Department Store Sales (Jul) Tue: PPI Services (Jul) Wed: -Nil- Thu: -Nil- Fri: Jobless Rate (Jul), Tokyo CPI (Aug), Industrial Production (Jul P), Retail Sales (Jul), Housing Starts (Jul)
USDCNH	S: 7.15; R: 7.25	Mon: -Nil- Tue: -Nil- Wed: Industrial Profits (Jul) Thu: -Nil- Fri: -Nil-
USDTWD	S: 28.00; R: 30.70	Mon: -Nil- Tue: Industrial Production (Jul) Wed: -Nil- Thu: Monitoring Indicator (Jul) Fri: -Nil-
USDKRW	S: 1300; R: 1400	Mon: -Nil- Tue: Consumer Confidence (Aug) Wed: Business Survey Manf/Non-Manf (Aug), Retail Sales (Jul) Thu: BOK Policy Decision Fri: Industrial Production (Jul), Cyclical Leading Index Change (Jul)

Currency	Support/Resistance	Key Data and Events
USDMYR	S: 4.10; R: 4.30	Mon: -Nil- Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: -Nil- Fri: -Nil-
USDSGD	S: 1.25; R: 1.30	Mon: CPI (Jul) Tue: Industrial Production (Jul) Wed: -Nil- Thu: -Nil- Fri: Money Supply (Jul)
USDPHP	S: 55.50; R: 58.50	Mon: -Nil- Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: BSP Policy Decision, Budget Balance (Jul) Fri: Exports/Imports/Trade Balance (Jul)
USDIDR	S: 16000; R: 17000	Mon: -Nil- Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: -Nil- Fri: -Nil-
USDTHB	S: 32.00; R: 33.50	Mon: Customs Exports/Imports/Trade Balance (Jul) Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: Mfg Production Index, Capacity Utilization (Jul) Fri: BoP CA Balance (Jul), Exports/Imports/Trade Balance (Jul)

G7 FX Views

Currency	Stories of the Week
	<i>Ranged With Downside Risks</i> DXY remained within the 97.00 - 100.00 range over the week but the index finds support toward the lower end of the range. Markets remain focused on evaluating the depth and pace of Fed rate cuts, amid mixed signals from inflation and growth. Powell's Jackson Hole speech drove a sell-off as rate cut expectations repriced but reiterated the considerable uncertainty and challenges that the Fed will face. Up next on the data docket for the week will be 2Q US GDP and Core PCE, two important releases that could further shape the Fed's Sep decision. DXY Index We see that downside risks are growing for the DXY. Possibly really only a global recession or a geopolitical scenario can support the dollar. However, stagflation or Fed easing (aggressive or gradual) - which can risk both being the more likely scenarios, would weigh on the dollar. With such strong dollar selloff in 1H 2025, markets looked to have taken a breather starting 2H 2025. However, we think that downward momentum is increasingly looking to pick up again. Support levels are at 97.00 and 96.40. Resistance at 100.00 and 102.00.
	<i>Bullish Bias, Political Risks</i> EUR/USD EURUSD continues to have a bullish bias although political risks from a French government shutdown could weigh. With the ECB likely done with its easing cycle and the Eurozone getting a rather competitive tariff deal relative to other trading partners of the US, the EURUSD may continue to remain supported and a breakout of the 1.1600-1.1750 range could see this pair trade within wider 1.1430-1.1830 range. ECB speak continues to dampen expectations for a near-term cut.
	<i>Bullish Bias</i> GBP/USD GBPUSD maintains a bullish bias and was last seen at 1.3488 levels, but risks from Autumn budget linger. The BoE-Fed divergence remains supportive of cable. While the Fed is expected to cut target rate by 25bps, stronger-than-expected data releases of late had continue to pare expectations of further easing by the BoE. BoE had delivered a 25bps cut earlier in Aug to bring down the policy rate to 4.00%, in line with expectations. The vote split was more hawkish than expected with a recast of vote that landed with a 5-4 outcome after the 4-4-1 on the first vote. That reduced the expectation for any further easing this year. The MPC noted that the "timing and pace of future reductions in the restrictiveness of policy will depend on the extent to which underlying disinflationary pressures continue to ease". Back on the GBPUSD chart, we see two-way trades within the 1.3370-1.3630 range. Momentum indicators are bullish bias but entering overbought conditions.
	<i>Downside Risks</i> USDJPY Pair remained within the 145.00 - 150.00 range this week with the pair largely moving sideways. Downside risks for the dollar could provide grounds for USDJPY to move lower. Technically, the BOJ is actually still on a tightening cycle whilst it is unclear if there was any currency terms set in the trade agreement between the US and Japan. Nonetheless, the comments is still giving the JPY short term support. These developments we believe are looking to outweigh the concerns related to the political uncertainty. The latter we see is also going to fade in time. Downside risks for the USDJPY pair with support at 145.00 and 142.00. Resistance at 150.00 and 152.00.
	<i>Two-Way Risks.</i> AUD/USD AUDUSD was last seen higher at 0.6490 levels, with post-Jackson Hole USD weakness providing some support despite earlier bearish developments. With the channel broken, there is some bearish risks towards 0.6350 but we continue to view pullbacks as opportunities to buy, especially after the last

policy meeting earlier in Aug. Last seen at 0.6490. Minutes of the RBA meeting last Tue was released this morning and it is arguably less dovish than expected, spurring some relative gains for the AUD - the RBA expects to ease policy settings further but the pace remains highly dependent on economic data. The key rate at 3.60% is still considered “somewhat restrictive” and inherently implies more room for cuts. That said, there are uncertainties about the neutral rate and private demand is showing signs of recovering. Our view that RBA may only cut once more in this cycle was validated further by solid Jul labour report. In addition, we hold a sanguine outlook for the global economy. According to Nikkei, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent made known that most US trade talks will be largely done by October and that would also signal that much of the US trade conflict should be coming to some form of closure as well. With greater clarity from here, central banks and governments around the world would be able to provide the monetary and fiscal support should their respective economies require. The recovery of the AUDUSD in 2H of 2025 would reflect the global recovery - gradual and cautious. A move towards the 0.67-figure cannot be ruled out. Key Support is seen around 0.6470 (100-dma), tested multiple times and back as a support. Break-out below risk a move towards 0.6350 where the AUDUSD is likely to bottom. Interim resistance is seen around 0.6520. Week ahead has Jul CPI due on Wed. 2Q CAPEX is due on Thu before private sector credit for Jul is out on Fri.

Sideways

NZD/USD

NZDUSD was similarly seen higher at 0.5850 following post-Jackson Hole USD weakness and renewed pressure on the USD after Trump fired Fed Governor Cook - she allegedly falsified documents for mortgage applications. Dovish RBNZ cut could continue to weigh. Given that growth recovery is still lacking momentum, inflation potentially easing (including food prices), there is a good chance for RBNZ to cut the OCR another 25bps in Nov. RBNZ has lowered its average OCR projection to 2.55% by 1Q 2026 vs. the trough of 2.85% seen in the May MPS. The “Orr era” of bold decisions still linger given that a 50bps cut was even considered. However, Chief Economist Conway noted that the key rate is “not restrictive” anymore and Hawkesby also cautioned that RBNZ has done enough of rapid policy easing and could “start feeling our way”. In addition, Assistant Governor Karen Silk also noted that the central bank is investigating into the slow transmission of the monetary policy easing thus far. This could suggest that the new few cuts may not come in succession and highly dependent on data. RBNZ may want to pause in Oct before another 25bps cut in Nov and then a final one to take it to the trough of 2.50% in Feb. In addition, the statement did see emphasis on the “upside and downside risks to around the central projections being broadly balanced”. There is also an alternative scenario that “economic recovery could accelerate as the full effects of interest rate reductions flow through the economy”. We think that the pace of easing will be well deliberated given the slowness in the transmission mechanism and there could be a pause for RBNZ to assess the cumulative impact of earlier cuts that could bring the recovery back into traction. Back on the NZDUSD, OIS suggests that the deeper easing cycle of the RBNZ is already priced. The next leg lower for the NZDUSD depends on Powell’s speech and NZ data. We suspect a bottom likely to be formed around 0.5700 and recovery to take hold. Prefer to buy dips. AUDNZD had risen to 1.1080, but we continue to see potential for the AUDNZD to fall from here amid peak RBA-RBNZ policy divergence.

Technical Chart Picks:

USDSGD Daily Chart - Downside Risks



Pair remains within recent range of 1.2800 - 1.3000, trading sideways in line with broad USD. The latter is likely to stay as the main driving factor for the USDSGD pair. Given that we see increasing downside risks for the DXY, we similarly also see a rising possibility that the USDSGD can break decisively below its trading range. Support at 1.2800 and 1.2700.

USDMYR Daily Chart - Downside Risks



USDMYR hovers close to the 4.20 support and was last sighted at 4.2185. The drive down was in line with increasing market expectations of a Fed cut coming soon and the dollar edging lower. As we are seeing more downside risks with the dollar, we also similarly expect that USDMYR is facing an increasing possibility of a decisive break below the 4.2000 mark. The next support level after that is at 4.1000. Resistance is at 4.3000 and 4.3600.

SGDMYR Daily Chart - Downside Risks



SGDMYR should exhibit some downside risks and we think the cross can edge down further with some soft limits. SGD is still likely to perform quite well in the softer dollar environment even if MYR outperforms it. Support at 3.2700 and 3.2500. Resistance at 3.3000 and 3.3200.

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