



BRAZIL MACRO

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DATA ANALYSIS - INFLATION

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Favorable Composition at the Margin

- The IPCA rose 0.23% MoM in May, below the consensus estimate (0.33%) and our forecast (0.35%). The
 YoY change decelerated to 3.9% (from 4.2% in April), the lowest reading since October 2020. The
 headline trend (3MMA-saar) decelerated to 5.4% (from 6.6%), still a high level.
- The downward surprise was concentrated in food-at-home (-9 bps), a volatile group, though its trend accelerated to 2.5% 3MMA-saar (from 0.9%).
- Broad qualitative measures were better than expected, although in absolute terms they remain high.
- All in all, despite still high core inflation measures, our take is that at the margin this print had definitely
 a more favorable composition than the previous ones. We revised our IPCA 2023 tracking downward
 once again, now at 5.2% (from 5.4%), still with downward risks, while our IPCA 2024 tracking was kept
 unchanged, at 3.9% (an already below-consensus call).
- As for the main risk we are seeing the de-anchoring of inflation expectations, we believe the more favorable current inflation dynamics will help lead to further downward revisions in short-term inflation expectations.

The IPCA rose 0.23% MoM in May, below the consensus estimate (0.33%) and our forecast (0.35%). The YoY change decelerated to 3.9% (from 4.2% in April), the lowest reading since October 2020. The headline trend (3MMA-saar) decelerated to 5.4% (from 6.6%), still a high level.

The downward surprise was concentrated in food-at-home (-9 bps), a volatile group, though its trend accelerated to 2.5% 3MMA-saar (from 0.9%). Regulated prices also surprised to the downside (-4bps), as well as services (-1 bp). Services trend saw a trend deceleration to 5.8% The services core gauge (which excludes volatile items) saw a marginal deceleration in trend terms to 5.8% 3MMA-saar (from 5.9%). On the other hand, industrial goods surprised to the upside (+2 bps), but with both its headline and core trends decelerating.

Broad qualitative measures were better than expected, although in absolute terms they remain high. The five main core gauges followed by the Brazilian Central Bank (BCB) decelerated at the margin (3MMA-saar), with the average of those gauges registering a deceleration to 5.0% 3MMA-saar (from 6.1%). In addition, the diffusion index fell to 57.6% s.a. (from 62.9%), with the diffusion index ex-food also with a better dynamic at the margin, falling to 57.4% s.a. (from 65.0%).

All in all, despite still high core inflation measures, our take is that at the margin this print had definitely a more favorable composition than the previous ones. Looking ahead, we are confident that there is still room for relief in volatile prices (mainly the ones related to commodity prices in BRL terms). As for stickier, more core-related prices, we also see a downward trend, but at a slower pace, as the tight job market tends to

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keep services prices high. We revised our IPCA 2023 tracking downward once again, now at 5.2% (from 5.4%), while our IPCA 2024 tracking was kept unchanged, at 3.9% (an already below-consensus call).

As for the main risk we are seeing — the de-anchoring of inflation expectations, we believe the more favorable current inflation dynamics will help lead to further downward revisions in short-term inflation expectations. Additionally, we believe this downward movement for 2023 will contribute to downward revisions in 2024 expectations, by inertia. As for long-term expectations (2025 and 2026), they are more dependent on the discussion around whether or not to raise the inflation target, but we believe that economic agents are starting to reassess their hypothesis toward a no-change scenario (instead of the ~+60 bps target change that we estimate was implicit in economists' forecasts until now), so we could begin to see downward revisions for this longer horizon too. (For more details, see our special report *How Much Could Inflation Expectations Fall If the Target Is Reaffirmed at* 3.0%?", May 23, 2023".)

¹ Santander Brazil Special Report: "How Much Could Inflation Expectations Fall if the Target is Reaffirmed at 3.0%?" – May 23, 2023 – Available on: https://bit.ly/Std-special-052323

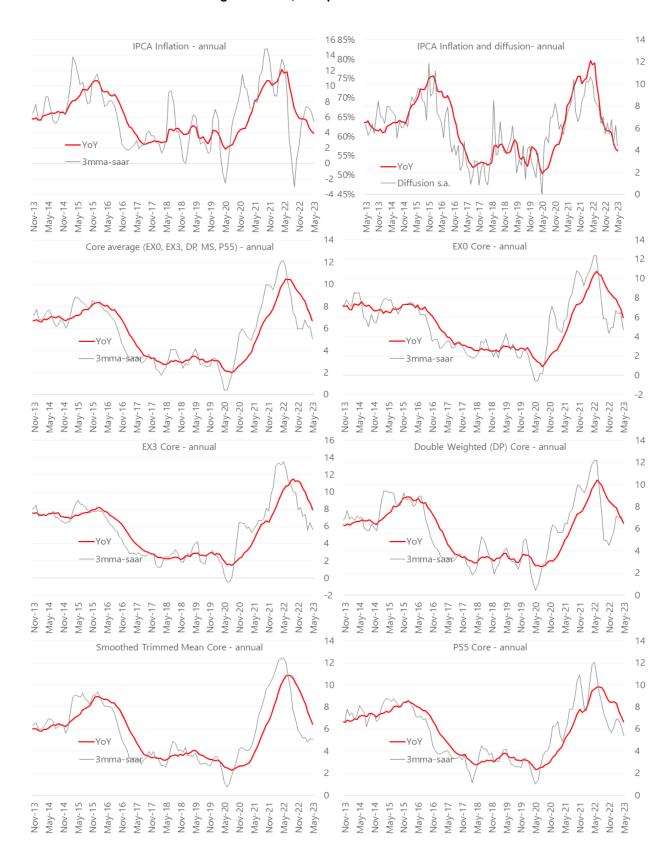


Figure 1. May's IPCA Details (%)

	МоМ			YoY		3MMA-saar	
	May-23	Santander	Desv.	Apr-23	May-23	Apr-23	May-23
IPCA	0.23	0.35	-0.12	4.2	3.9	6.6	5.4
Food and bevera	0.16	0.62	-0.10	5.9	5.5		
Food-at-home	0.00	0.57	-0.09	5.1	4.6	0.9	2.5
Food service	0.58	0.75	-0.01	8.0	8.0		
Housing	0.67	0.62	0.01	1.6	4.0		
Electrical energy	0.91	0.73	0.01	-10.0	-1.3		
Household article	-0.23	-0.23	0.00	2.7	1.8		
Apparel	0.47	0.47	0.00	12.9	11.1		
Transportation	-0.57	-0.43	-0.03	-2.9	-4.8		
Airline tickets	-17.73	-17.26	0.00	50.0	4.3		
Gasoline	-1.93	-1.60	-0.02	-24.4	-26.5		
Health and persc	0.93	0.91	0.00	11.7	11.6		
Personal spendin	0.64	0.79	-0.01	7.0	7.1		
Education	0.05	0.06	0.00	8.3	8.3		
Communication	0.21	0.01	0.01	1.2	0.7		
	0.74	0.00	0.04	0.1	0.0	10.0	10.7
Administered	0.71	0.89	-0.04	-2.1	-0.9	12.9	12.7
Free	0.07	0.17	-0.08	6.5	5.7		
Food-at-home	0.00	0.57	-0.09	5.1	4.6	0.9	2.5
Industrial goods	0.30	0.23	0.02	6.0	5.2	4.0	3.0
Services	-0.06	-0.04	-0.01	7.5	6.5	7.9	5.8
EX3 Core	0.44	0.40	0.01	8.7	8.0	6.5	5.5

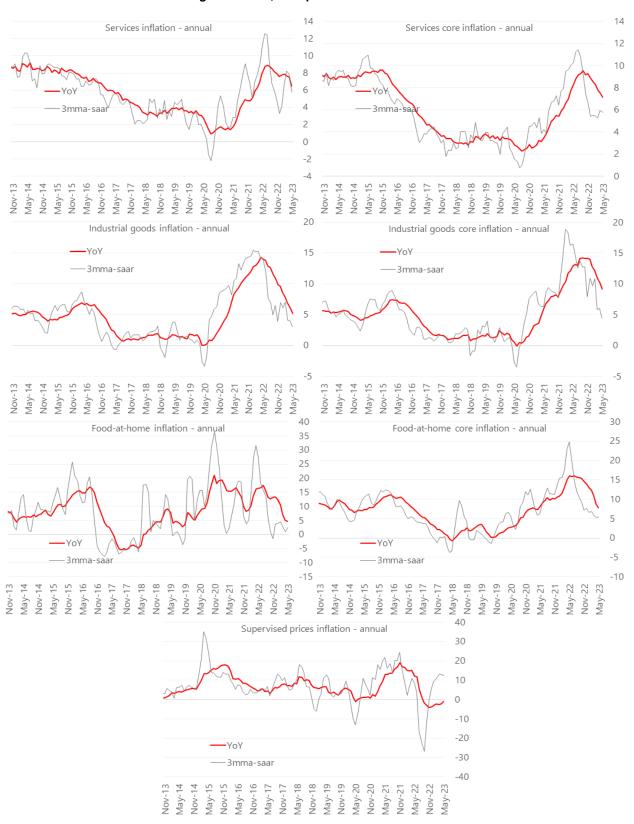
Sources: Brazilian Central Bank, IBGE, Santander.

Figure 2. IPCA, Groups and Qualitative Measures



Sources for all charts: IBGE and Santander.

Figure 3. IPCA, Groups and Qualitative Measures



Sources for all charts: IBGE and Santander.



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