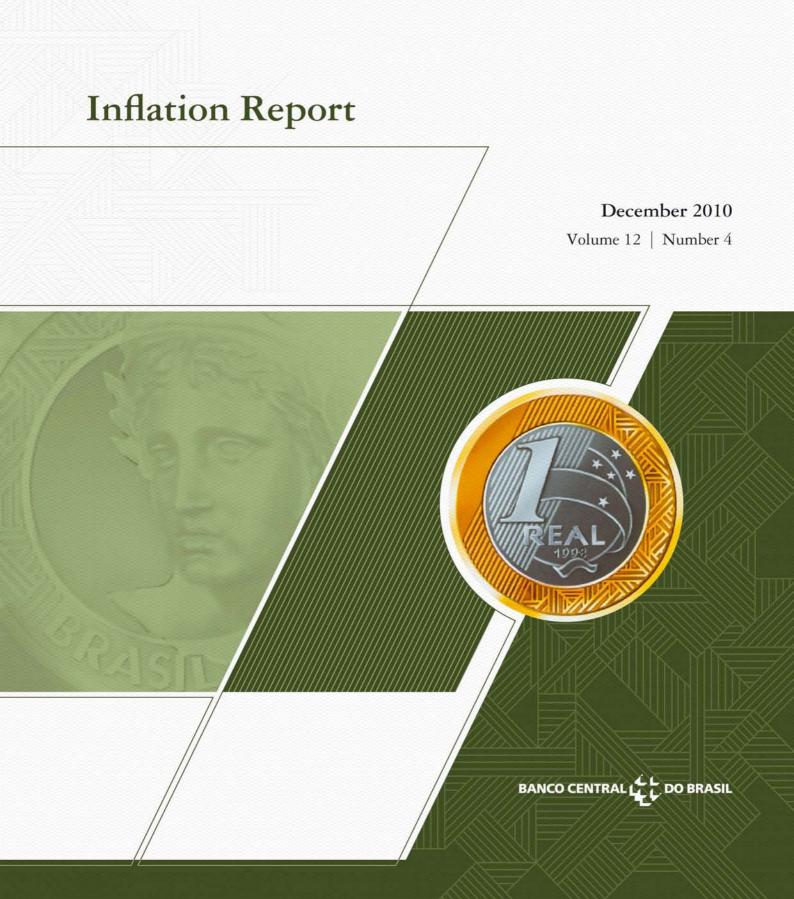
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- ... data not available.
- nil or non-existence of the event considered.
- 0 ou 0.0 less than half the final digit shown on the right.
  - \* preliminary data.

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# Contents

Foreword	5
Executive summary	7
Economic activity	11
1.1 Retails ales	11
1.2 Output	13
Industrial output	13
Services	15
Central Bank Index of Economic Activity – Brazil (IBC-Br)	15
1.3 Labor market	15
Employment	15
Income	19
1.4 Gross Domestic Product	19
1.5 Investments	23
1.6 Conclusion	24
Prices	25
2.1 General indices	25
2.2 Consumer price indices	26
Extended National Consumer Price Index	26
2.3 Regulated prices	27
2.4 Core inflation	27
2.5 Market expectations	28
2.6 Conclusion	29
Credit, monetary and fiscal policies	31
3.1 Credit	31
Earmarked credit	32
Nonearmarked credits	33
Interest rates and default	34
3.2 Monetary aggregates	34

 Real interest rates and market expectations
 35

 Capital markets
 36

 3.3 Fiscal Policy
 36

 Public sector borrowing requirements
 36

Central Bank open market operations	38
Federal securities debt	39
Public sector net debt	39
3.4 Conclusion	40

### International economy

4.1 Economic Activity	47
4.2 Monetary policy and inflation	49
4.3 International Financial Markets	51
4.4 Commodities	52
4.5 Conclusion	_54

### **External sector**

59

69

47

5.1 Exchange	59
5.2 Trade in goods	60
5.3 Services and income	61
5.4 Financial Account	62
5.5 External sustainability indicators	63
5.6 Conclusion	64

### Inflation outlook

 6.1 Inflation determinants
 70

 6.2 Main scenario: associated risks and monetary policy implementation
 77

 6.3 Inflation forecasts
 82

### Boxes

Open Unemployment in Brazil: contributions of supply and demand for labor	16
GDP Estimates: 2010 and 2011	20
Capital Structure of Public Companies in Brazil	41
Credit transactions in the Automotive Sector and Connected Activities	44
Transfer of Commodity Prices to the IPCA and Commodities Index-Brazil	55
Balance of Payment Projections	66
Projections of Administered Price	87
Annex	93

Appendix

119

## Foreword

*Inflation Report* is a quarterly publication of the Banco Central do Brasil with the objective of evaluating the performance of the inflation targeting system and providing a prospective scenario for inflation. The national and international economic conditions underlying decisions taken by the Monetary Policy Committee (Copom) concerning the monetary policy management are presented.

The *Report* is divided into six chapters: Activity level; Prices; Credit, monetary and fiscal policies; International economy; Foreign sector and Prospects for inflation. With regard to the activity level, growth in retail sales, inventories, output, labor market and investments are investigated. In the following chapter, price analysis focuses on the results obtained in the quarter as a consequence of monetary policy decisions and the real conditions of the economy outside the realm of government action. The chapter referring to the credit, monetary and fiscal policies, the analysis is centered on the behavior of credit, financial and budget operations. In the chapter dealing with the international economy, the *Report* presents an analysis of the world's major economies and seeks to identify those conditions capable of impacting the Brazilian balance of payments. Insofar as the foreign sector chapter is concerned, analysis is targeted at economicfinancial relations with the international community, with emphasis on trade results and foreign financing conditions. Finally, prospects on inflation growth are analyzed.