

BANCO CENTRAL DO BRASIL – *FOCUS*

April 06, 2001

Median of market expectations for the GDP growth remained stable at 4.20% and at 4.50% for 2001 and year 2002, respectively, as tracked by Banco Central do Brasil daily survey. Forecasts for the consumer price index IPCA increased to 0.29% from 0.28% for April and increased to 3.66% from 3.65% for year 2002. Expectations for the IGP-DI remained stable at 0.30% and at 4.00% for April and for 2002, respectively. Median of market expectations for the trade balance remained stable at a deficit of US\$1.00 billion for 2001. Forecasts for the current account deficit increased to US\$27.10 billion from US\$26.93 billion for 2001. Median of market expectations for the Over-Selic rate increased to 14.50% and to 12.84% from 14.00% and from 12.75% for 2001 and 2002, respectively. Forecasts for the exchange rate increased to R\$/US\$2.08 from R\$/US\$2.07 for 2001 and remained stable at R\$/US\$2.15 for year 2002. Expectations for other economic indicators, along with median expectations for the Top 5 forecasters are quoted in the tables and figures below

Table 1
Market Readout

Banco Central do Brasil Daily Survey on Market Expectations - Median of Market Expectations

PRICE INDICES

(% change)	March		April	
	As of March 30	As of today	As of March 30	As of today
IGP-DI	0.50	0.50	0.30	0.30
IGP-M	-	-	0.30	0.30
IPC-Fipe	0.45	-	0.25	0.25
INPC	0.33	0.35	0.28	0.29
IPCA	0.30	0.32	0.28	0.29
	2001		2002	
IGP-DI	5.40	5.50	4.00	4.00
IGP-M	5.39	5.50	4.00	4.00
IPC-Fipe	4.00	4.21	3.50	3.50
INPC	4.36	4.50	3.49	3.50
IPCA	4.30	4.44	3.65	3.66

OTHER ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	2001		2002	
	As of March 30	As of today	As of March 30	As of today
GDP growth (%)	4.20	4.20	4.50	4.50
Trade Balance (US\$ billion)	-1.00	-1.00	1.00	0.47
Current Account (US\$ billion)	-26.93	-27.10	-27.05	-27.10
Fiscal Figures (% of GDP)				
- Primary Balance	3.00	3.00	2.70	2.70
- Nominal Balance	-3.40	-3.40	-3.00	-3.00
Exchange Rate End of period (R\$/US\$)	2.07	2.08	2.15	2.15
Over-Selic End of period (% p.y.)	14.00	14.50	12.75	12.84

Table 2 Market Readout

*Banco Central do Brasil Daily Survey on Market Expectations
Top 5 Median Expectations*

	March		April	
	As of March 30	As of today	As of March 30	As of today
(% change)				
IGP-DI	0.52	0.52	0.36	0.40
IGP-M	-	-	0.46	0.49
IPC-Fipe	0.45	-	0.36	0.35
INPC	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.30
IPCA	0.30	0.35	0.17	0.29

	2001		2002	
	IGP-DI	5.10	5.30	4.00
IGP-M	5.50	5.80	4.00	4.00
IPC-Fipe	4.12	4.19	3.50	3.35
INPC	4.50	4.60	3.50	3.50
IPCA	4.20	4.50	3.50	3.50
GDP	4.20	4.00	4.20	4.40

Explanatory Note

Top 5 median expectations indices are calculated from the full sample based on the five institutions with minima penalty scores, calculated from observations on the institution's degree of forecast precision over the last four months. Each inflation figure that is released creates two penalty scores for each institution, that are the quadratic errors of the forecasts that the institution informed two and one day before the release of the actual figure. If the institution did not inform any value for those days, it receives the penalty of the worst performer in the sample for the period. The monthly penalty is calculated according to the formula below.

$$monthlypenalty = \frac{(100 \cdot (E[\pi_t | t-2] - \pi_t))^2 + (100 \cdot (E[\pi_t | t-1] - \pi_t))^2}{1000}$$

where π denotes inflation in percentage points.

Figure 1
Evolution of Median Expectations for Inflation
 Banco Central do Brasil Daily Survey on Market Expectations

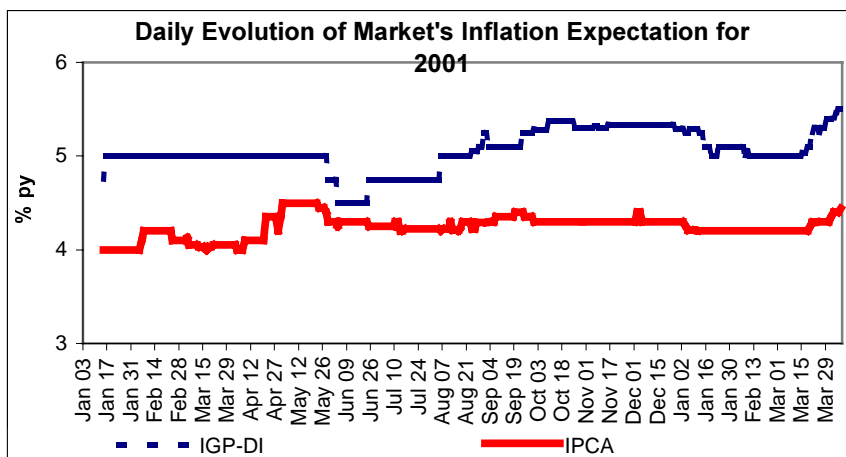
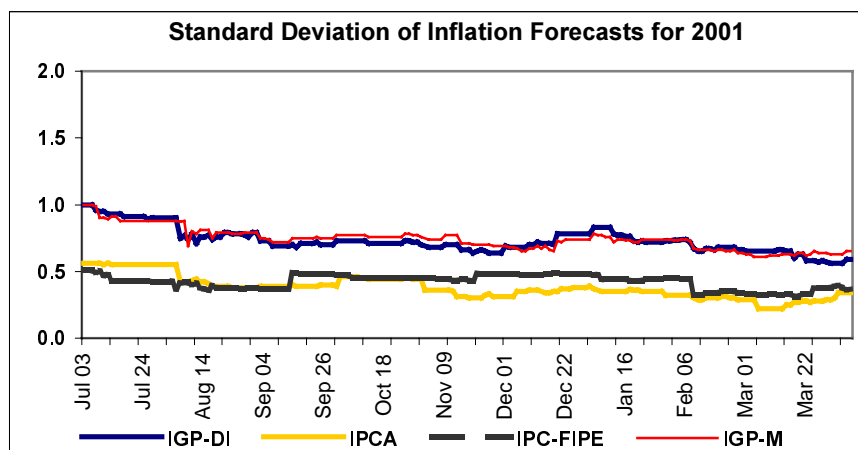


Figure 2
Dispersion of Inflation Forecasts for 2001



Information for unrestricted disclosure. It is not intended to bind Banco Central do Brasil in its monetary or foreign exchange policy actions. Contact information for e-mail distribution at gci.bacen@bcbr.gov.br