Economic Research, Mexico

April inflation – Some pressures at the core are confirmed, although rate cuts will continue

- Headline inflation (April): 0.33% m/m; Banorte: 0.32%; consensus: 0.30% (range: 0.22% to 0.40%); previous: 0.31%
- Core inflation (April): 0.49% m/m; Banorte: 0.50%; consensus: 0.48% (range: 0.42% to 0.50%); previous: 0.43%
- The result was somewhat high after accounting for seasonal effects inside. Starting with the non-core (-0.21%), electricity fell 12.2% due to summer discounts, which we already knew in the 1st fortnight. Other energy items were more stable, with LP gas at 0.0% and low-grade gasoline falling 0.6%. Agricultural items advanced 1.6%, driven by fruits and vegetables (3.8%). At the core, goods accelerated 0.7%, highlighting 'others' (0.8%). In services (0.3%), 'others' picked up 0.4%, with tourism moderating in the 2nd half. Finally, housing was relatively contained at 0.3%
- Thus, annual inflation accelerated to 3.93% from 3.80% in March. The core was also higher at 3.93% (previous: 3.64%), with the latter skewed in part by the Easter holiday
- Banxico will continue with the rate cutting cycle despite the slight rebound in annual metrics, anticipating -50bps in next week's meeting

Inflation of 0.33% m/m in April. Results inside were strongly influenced by seasonal effects, opposing each other to a certain extent. Considering this and starting with the non-core (-0.21%), electricity fell 12.2% due to the entry into force of the first tranche of the summer discounts, as we already knew since the 1st fortnight. In the rest of energy, LP gas remained unchanged (0.0%) with low-grade gasoline lower (-0.6%). Agricultural items (1.6%) were driven by fruits and vegetables at 3.8% —with increases in tomatoes and avocadoes. Meat and egg were more restrained at 0.2%, with the increase in beef largely offset by lower egg and pork prices. Moving to the core (0.49%), goods accelerated to 0.7%, with the adjustment mainly explained by 'others' at 0.8%. While the category usually has a seasonal skew to the upside, pressures were larger than anticipated, noting personal care items and certain household chemicals. Processed food was also somewhat high at 0.6%. In services (0.3%), 'others' advanced 0.4%, with the effects of increases in tourism items moderating given downward adjustments after the holiday in the 2nd fortnight. Finally, housing remained relatively contained at 0.3%.

April inflation: Goods and services with the largest changes

Monthly incidence in basis points; % m/m

Goods and services with the largest positive contribution	Incidence	% m/m
Tomatoes	8.9	22.1
Beef	3.9	2.1
Housing	3.7	0.3
Dining away from home	2.7	0.5
Avocadoes	1.9	10.9
Goods and services with the largest negative contribution		
Electricity	-20.0	-12.2
Eggs	-2.7	-2.5
Low-grade gasoline	-2.7	-0.6
Onions	-2.1	-11.3
Cinema	-1.4	-9.8

May 8, 2025



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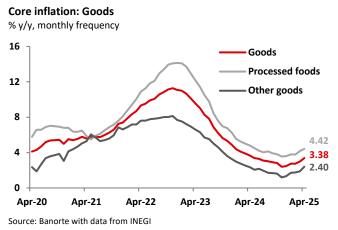


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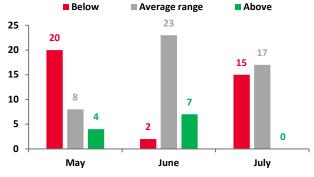
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Acceleration in the annual comparison for both headline and core inflation. With these results, the headline came in at 3.93% from 3.80% y/y in March. Meanwhile, the core accelerated to 3.93% (previous: 3.64%), largely driven by the difference in the timing of the Easter holiday -in April- relative to 2024 -in March. Thus, the most unfavorable comparison was in services, rising to 4.6% mostly on the back of tourism categories within 'others'. Considering that the distortion is transitory, this uptick should fade away in the next fortnights. However, we will be watching more closely the behavior of goods, which came in at 3.4% their highest since May of last year. Processed foods had already shown greater pressures in previous fortnights, a situation that extended to 'others' at the beginning of the month –with an adverse seasonality boosting results further to the upside. Reviewing some of the categories with the most relevant increases, we note certain goods related to personal care and housing cleaning products, so it will be important to see if these adjustments are immediate or become more persistent. We cannot rule out that part of these revisions were driven by the accumulated depreciation of the Mexican peso over the last 12 months. But neither on the possibility of an impact from expectations about the imposition of tariffs. Nevertheless, it is a reality that the base effect for overall goods will remain challenging for the rest of the year (see chart below, left). On the other hand, the non-core moderated to 3.76% (previous: 4.16%). Downside risks are concentrated in energy, which kept declining and is now at 2.5%. In these, government actions have played a key role in limiting prices in previous fortnights, possibly benefitting further from price declines in international benchmarks, with the latest catalyst being the increase in crude oil supply by OPEC+. On the other hand, we maintain some concerns in agricultural items despite moderating to 4.1%. For fruits and vegetables, we remain attentive to weather conditions in the northwest of the country, which is facing high drought conditions. In this context, precipitation forecasts are relatively mixed for the next three months (see chart below, right).



CONAGUA's rainfall forecasts* % of rainfall relative to the 1991 to 2020 baseline Below Average range



*Using May's updated figures.
Source: Banorte with data from CONAGUA

We believe Banxico will remain dovish despite higher in inflation at the margin, cutting the rate by 50bps next week. While inflationary conditions have become more challenging at the margin, we believe the outlook remains tilted towards the continuation of the rate cutting cycle, just as was discussed yesterday by Deputy Governor Jonathan Heath on our podcast, *Norte Económico* (available only in Spanish). In addition, the economic environment is still very complex, with uncertainty on trade weighing on activity at least through 2Q25. Taking this into account, we believe the monetary authority will validate the forward guidance in the <u>last statement</u> with a 50bps cut to the reference rate to 8.50% at its May 15th meeting.



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We, Alejandro Padilla Santana, Juan Carlos Alderete Macal, Alejandro Cervantes Llamas, Marissa Garza Ostos, Katia Celina Goya Ostos, Francisco José Flores Serrano, José Luis García Casales, Santiago Leal Singer, Víctor Hugo Cortes Castro, Leslie Thalía Orozco Vélez, Hugo Armando Gómez Solís, Carlos Hernández García, Yazmín Selene Pérez Enríquez, Cintia Gisela Nava Roa, José De Jesús Ramírez Martínez, Daniel Sebastián Sosa Aguilar, Gerardo Daniel Valle Trujillo, Luis Leopoldo López Salinas, Marcos Saúl García Hernandez, Juan Carlos Mercado Garduño, Ana Gabriela Martínez Mosqueda, Ana Laura Zaragoza Félix, Jazmin Daniela Cuautencos Mora, Andrea Muñoz Sánchez and Paula Lozoya Valadez, certify that the points of view expressed in this document are a faithful reflection of our personal opinion on the company (s) or firm (s) within this report, along with its affiliates and/or securities issued. Moreover, we also state that we have not received, nor receive, or will receive compensation other than that of Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. of C.V for the provision of our services.

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