

1H-May inflation – Surprise to the downside, with good news broadening in scope

- **Headline inflation (1H-May): -0.32% 2w/2w; Banorte: -0.20%; consensus: -0.20% (range: -0.28% to -0.15%); previous: 0.21%**
- **Core inflation (1H-May): 0.18% 2w/2w; Banorte: 0.19%; consensus: 0.21% (range: 0.16% to 0.29%); previous: 0.12%**
- **The decline was explained by energy (-4.4%), especially due to summer discounts in electricity tariffs (-21.2%), albeit with LP gas also lower (-0.7%). Agricultural goods (-0.5%) surprised to the downside. At the core, goods remained with signs of lower pressures (0.2%) and services (0.2%) were also relatively contained despite an uptick in airfares**
- **In bi-weekly terms, annual inflation fell to 6.00% from 6.27% –after inching up in the previous fortnight. The core came in at 7.45% from 7.59%, adding seven periods to the downside**
- **The result is consistent with our call of a gradual decline in inflation for the rest of the year. Given the extension of declines at the non-core, risks to the downside to our year-end forecast of 4.8% have increased**
- **In fixed income, we still favor nominal vs. real rates**

Inflation at -0.32% 2w/2w, surprising heavily to the downside. At the non-core (-1.85%), the decline was driven by energy (-4.4%), with electricity tariffs at -21.2% on the start of the second tranche of summer discounts. In addition, LP gas backtracked 0.7%, and gasolines inched lower (low-grade fuel: -0.4%) despite the decline in fiscal subsidies to excise taxes. Agricultural goods surprised us quite positively (-0.5%), both in fruits and vegetables (-0.4%) and meat and egg (-0.6%). In terms of lower prices, highlights included lemons, chicken, eggs, and husk tomatoes. Within the core (0.18%), goods showed signs of lower pressures again at 0.2%. In processed foods (0.3%) we have identified higher increases in the first fortnight relative to the second, explaining its slight acceleration. ‘Others’ were barely unchanged, helping the most to the category likely aided by MXN strength. In services (0.2%), housing has been very stable (0.2%) in recent fortnights. Within ‘others’, we note a slight rebound in airfares (4.6%), while ‘dining away from home’ remains mixed.

1H-May inflation: Goods and services with the largest contributions
% 2w/2w: bi-weekly incidence in basis points

Goods and services with the largest positive contribution	Incidence	% 2w/2w
Potatoes	3.0	7.0
Dining away from home	2.0	0.4
Housing	1.7	0.2
Restaurants	1.5	0.5
Airfares	0.9	4.6
Goods and services with the largest negative contribution		
Electricity	-37.4	-21.2
Lemon	-3.2	-16.6
Chicken	-2.8	-1.5
Low-grade gasoline	-1.7	-0.4
LP Gas	-1.1	-0.7

Source: INEGI

May 24, 2023

www.banorte.com
@analisis_fundam

Alejandro Padilla Santana
Chief Economist and Head of Research
alejandropadilla@banorte.com

Juan Carlos Alderete Macal, CFA
Executive Director of Economic Research
and Financial Markets Strategy
juan.alderete.macal@banorte.com

Francisco José Flores Serrano
Director of Economic Research, Mexico
francisco.flores.serrano@banorte.com

Yazmín Selene Pérez Enríquez
Senior Economist, Mexico
yazmin.perez.enriquez@banorte.com

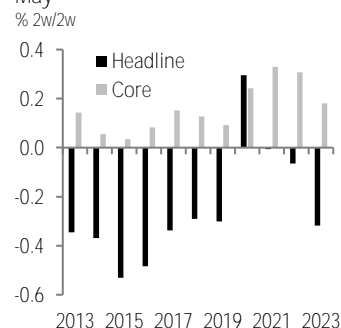
Cintia Gisela Nava Roa
Senior Economist, Mexico
cintia.nava.roa@banorte.com

Fixed income and FX Strategy

Manuel Jiménez Zaldívar
Director of Market Strategy
manuel.jimenez@banorte.com

Leslie Thalía Orozco Vélez
Senior Strategist, Fixed Income and FX
leslie.orozco.velez@banorte.com

Headline and core inflation in 1H-May



Source: INEGI

Document for distribution among the general public

Annual inflation continues to moderate, with the job not yet done on the core.

In bi-weekly frequency, the headline declined to 6.00% from 6.27% in the 2nd half of April –which increased at the margin after six consecutive prints down. The core reached 7.45% (previous: 7.59%), with the non-core at 1.70% (previous: 2.42%), the latter at its lowest since late 2020. The strong difference between each component remains a concern, particularly as the core is the one that remains elevated. Despite of this, goods are already showing better signs of consolidating to the downside at 9.2% y/y –from a high of 11.5% in 2H-November–, but services hover near their highs at 5.4% –from 5.7% in 2H-March. On the former, the combination of lower input costs, supply chain improvements, and a stronger exchange rate have helped. In the latter, our attention remains on labor costs, considering legal changes and the accumulated increase of the minimum wage in a context of full employment. Going to the non-core, energy has led the decline, reaching -5.0%, with agricultural items still somewhat high at 5.6%. Risks to the former appear to have been contained after prices reacted modestly to OPEC+’s production cut, with recession fears likely dampening the impact and still influencing in short-term dynamics. Looking ahead, estimates of a prolonged and extended drought imply important risks for the latter, so we will be monitoring them closely in coming months and maintains us somewhat cautious. Nevertheless, given the recent performance of the non-core (and especially, the role that energy may have on input costs for a plethora of categories), we believe that risks to our year-end estimate of 4.8% are skewing to the downside.

Banxico has ended its hiking cycle, gradually changing its rhetoric on inflation for the better. We think today's result supports further the central bank's view in its [latest statement](#) that “...the economy has started to undergo a disinflationary process given that many pressures have eased...”. Given this, we do not see additional hikes in this restrictive cycle, with the rate already at its terminal point of 11.25%. With this, the focus has shifted to the possible moment of rate cuts. Consistent with our concerns about the core, we think these will take time to materialize, in line with the forward guidance that the rate will remain at its current level for “...an extended period...”. On the latter, we will look for additional insights in the next *Quarterly Report* (to be published on May 31st) and the related minutes (June 1st). Therefore, we reiterate our call that the rate will end the year at the current level (11.25%), with cuts beginning until 1Q24.

From our fixed income and FX strategy team

In fixed income, we still favor nominal vs. real rates. Considering the latest downside inflation surprises and our view that prices will keep moderating, we reiterate our preference for nominal vs. real rates. So far in May, yields on CPI-linked bonds (Udibonos) have declined 9bps, while for Mbonos they have picked up 11bps on average. As a result, breakevens have increased modestly for all maturities. Broadly speaking, appetite for real rates has been markedly weak, with bid-to-cover ratios in primary auctions held during April and May remaining below 2.0x. Based on this metric, the least attractive benchmarks have been at the 10- and 30-year tenors, with average demand of 1.5x.

Analyst Certification

We, Alejandro Padilla Santana, Juan Carlos Alderete Macal, Alejandro Cervantes Llamas, Manuel Jiménez Zaldívar, Marissa Garza Ostos, Katia Celina Goya Ostos, Francisco José Flores Serrano, José Luis García Casales, Víctor Hugo Cortes Castro, José Itzamna Espitia Hernández, Carlos Hernández García, Leslie Thalía Orozco Vélez, Hugo Armando Gómez Solís, Yazmín Selene Pérez Enríquez, Cintia Gisela Nava Roa, Miguel Alejandro Calvo Domínguez, José De Jesús Ramírez Martínez, Gerardo Daniel Valle Trujillo, Luis Leopoldo López Salinas, Isaías Rodríguez Sobrino, Paola Soto Leal, Daniel Sebastián Sosa Aguilar and Andrea Muñoz Sánchez, 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.

Relevant statements.

In accordance with current laws and internal procedures manuals, analysts are allowed to hold long or short positions in shares or securities issued by companies that are listed on the Mexican Stock Exchange and may be the subject of this report; nonetheless, equity analysts have to adhere to certain rules that regulate their participation in the market in order to prevent, among other things, the use of private information for their benefit and to avoid conflicts of interest. Analysts shall refrain from investing and holding transactions with securities or derivative instruments directly or through an intermediary person, with Securities subject to research reports, from 30 calendar days prior to the issuance date of the report in question, and up to 10 calendar days after its distribution date.

Compensation of Analysts.

Analysts' compensation is based on activities and services that are aimed at benefiting the investment clients of Casa de Bolsa Banorte and its subsidiaries. Such compensation is determined based on the general profitability of the Brokerage House and the Financial Group and on the individual performance of each analyst. However, investors should note that analysts do not receive direct payment or compensation for any specific transaction in investment banking or in other business areas.

Last-twelve-month activities of the business areas.

Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. de C.V., through its business areas, provides services that include, among others, those corresponding to investment banking and corporate banking, to a large number of companies in Mexico and abroad. It may have provided, is providing or, in the future, will provide a service such as those mentioned to the companies or firms that are the subject of this report. Casa de Bolsa Banorte or its affiliates receive compensation from such corporations in consideration of the aforementioned services.

Over the course of the last twelve months, Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. C.V., has not obtained compensation for services rendered by the investment bank or by any of its other business areas of the following companies or their subsidiaries, some of which could be analyzed within this report.

Activities of the business areas during the next three months.

Casa de Bolsa Banorte, Grupo Financiero Banorte or its subsidiaries expect to receive or intend to obtain revenue from the services provided by investment banking or any other of its business areas, by issuers or their subsidiaries, some of which could be analyzed in this report.

Securities holdings and other disclosures.

As of the end of last quarter, Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. of C.V. has not held investments, directly or indirectly, in securities or derivative financial instruments, whose underlying securities are the subject of recommendations, representing 1% or more of its investment portfolio of outstanding securities or 1 % of the issuance or underlying of the securities issued.

None of the members of the Board of Grupo Financiero Banorte and Casa de Bolsa Banorte, along general managers and executives of an immediately below level, have any charges in the issuers that may be analyzed in this document.

The Analysts of Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. of C.V. do not maintain direct investments or through an intermediary person, in the securities or derivative instruments object of this analysis report.

Guide for investment recommendations.

	Reference
BUY	When the share expected performance is greater than the MEXBOL estimated performance.
HOLD	When the share expected performance is similar to the MEXBOL estimated performance.
SELL	When the share expected performance is lower than the MEXBOL estimated performance.

Even though this document offers a general criterion of investment, we urge readers to seek advice from their own Consultants or Financial Advisors, in order to consider whether any of the values mentioned in this report are in line with their investment goals, risk and financial position.

Determination of Target Prices

For the calculation of estimated target prices for securities, analysts use a combination of methodologies generally accepted among financial analysts, including, but not limited to, multiples analysis, discounted cash flows, sum-of-the-parts or any other method that could be applicable in each specific case according to the current regulation. No guarantee can be given that the target prices calculated for the securities will be achieved by the analysts of Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. C.V. since this depends on a large number of various endogenous and exogenous factors that affect the performance of the issuing company, the environment in which it performs, along with the influence of trends of the stock market, in which it is listed. Moreover, the investor must consider that the price of the securities or instruments can fluctuate against their interest and cause the partial and even total loss of the invested capital.

The information contained hereby has been obtained from sources that we consider to be reliable, but we make no representation as to its accuracy or completeness. The information, estimations and recommendations included in this document are valid as of the issue date but are subject to modifications and changes without prior notice; Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. of C.V. does not commit to communicate the changes and also to keep the content of this document updated. Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. of C.V. takes no responsibility for any loss arising from the use of this report or its content. This document may not be photocopied, quoted, disclosed, used, or reproduced in whole or in part without prior written authorization from Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. of C.V.

GRUPO FINANCIERO BANORTE S.A.B. de C.V.

Research and Strategy			
Alejandro Padilla Santana	Chief Economist and Head of Research	alejandro.padilla@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4043
Raquel Vázquez Godínez	Assistant	raquel.vazquez@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2967
Itzel Martínez Rojas	Analyst	itzel.martinez.rojas@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2251
Lourdes Calvo Fernández	Analyst (Edition)	lourdes.calvo@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000 x 2611
María Fernanda Vargas Santoyo	Analyst	maria.vargas.santoyo@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000
Economic Research			
Juan Carlos Alderete Macal, CFA	Executive Director of Economic Research and Financial Markets Strategy	juan.alderete.macal@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4046
Francisco José Flores Serrano	Director of Economic Research, Mexico	francisco.flores.serrano@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2957
Katia Celina Goya Ostos	Director of Economic Research, Global	katia.goya@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 1821
Yazmin Selene Pérez Enríquez	Senior Economist, Mexico	yazmin.perez.enriquez@banorte.com	(55) 5268 - 1694
Cintia Gisela Nava Roa	Senior Economist, Mexico	cintia.nava.roa@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000
Luis Leopoldo López Salinas	Manager Global Economist	luis.lopez.salinas@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000 x 2707
Market Strategy			
Manuel Jiménez Zaldívar	Director of Market Strategy	manuel.jimenez@banorte.com	(55) 5268 - 1671
Fixed income and FX Strategy			
Leslie Thalia Orozco Vélez	Senior Strategist, Fixed Income and FX	leslie.orozco.velez@banorte.com	(55) 5268 - 1698
Isaías Rodríguez Sobrino	Strategist, Fixed Income, FX and Commodities	isaias.rodriguez.sobrino@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2144
Equity Strategy			
Marissa Garza Ostos	Director of Equity Strategy	marissa.garza@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 1719
José Itzamna Espitia Hernández	Senior Strategist, Equity	jose.espitia@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2249
Carlos Hernández García	Senior Strategist, Equity	carlos.hernandez.garcia@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2250
Víctor Hugo Cortes Castro	Senior Strategist, Technical	victorh.cortes@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 1800
Paola Soto Leal	Strategist, Equity	paola.soto.leal@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000 x 1746
Corporate Debt			
Hugo Armando Gómez Solís	Senior Analyst, Corporate Debt	hugo.gomez@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2247
Gerardo Daniel Valle Trujillo	Analyst, Corporate Debt	gerardo.valle.trujillo@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2248
Quantitative Analysis			
Alejandro Cervantes Llamas	Executive Director of Quantitative Analysis	alejandro.cervantes@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2972
José Luis García Casales	Director of Quantitative Analysis	jose.garcia.casales@banorte.com	(55) 8510 - 4608
Miguel Alejandro Calvo Domínguez	Senior Analyst, Quantitative Analysis	miguel.calvo@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2220
José De Jesús Ramírez Martínez	Senior Analyst, Quantitative Analysis	jose.ramirez.martinez@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000
Daniel Sebastián Sosa Aguilar	Analyst, Quantitative Analysis	daniel.sosa@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000
Andrea Muñoz Sánchez	Analyst, Quantitative Analysis	andrea.munoz.sanchez@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000
Wholesale Banking			
Armando Rodal Espinosa	Head of Wholesale Banking	armando.rodal@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 1889
Alejandro Aguilar Ceballos	Head of Asset Management	alejandro.aguilar.cebillos@banorte.com	(55) 5004 - 1282
Alejandro Eric Faesi Puente	Head of Global Markets and Institutional Sales	alejandro.faesi@banorte.com	(55) 5268 - 1640
Alejandro Frigolet Vázquez Vela	Head of Sólida Banorte	alejandro.frigolet.vazquezvela@banorte.com	(55) 5268 - 1656
Arturo Monroy Ballesteros	Head of Investment Banking and Structured Finance	arturo.monroy.ballesteros@banorte.com	(55) 5004 - 5140
Carlos Alberto Arciniega Navarro	Head of Treasury Services	carlos.arciniega@banorte.com	(81) 1103 - 4091
Gerardo Zamora Nanez	Head of Transactional Banking, Leasing and Factoring	gerardo.zamora@banorte.com	(81) 8173 - 9127
Jorge de la Vega Grajales	Head of Government Banking	jorge.delavega@banorte.com	(55) 5004 - 5121
Luis Pietrini Sheridan	Head of Private Banking	luis.pietrini@banorte.com	(55) 5249 - 6423
Lizza Velarde Torres	Executive Director of Wholesale Banking	lizza.velarde@banorte.com	(55) 4433 - 4676
Osvaldo Brondo Menchaca	Head of Specialized Banking Services	osvaldo.brondo@banorte.com	(55) 5004 - 1423
Raúl Alejandro Arauzo Romero	Head of Transactional Banking	alejandro.arauzo@banorte.com	(55) 5261 - 4910
René Gerardo Pimentel Ibarrola	Head of Corporate Banking	pimentelr@banorte.com	(55) 5004 - 1051
Ricardo Velázquez Rodríguez	Head of International Banking	rvelazquez@banorte.com	(55) 5004 - 5279
Víctor Antonio Roldán Ferrer	Head of Commercial Banking	victor.rolan.ferrer@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 1899