



MONTHLY REPORT

ECONOMIC VARIABLES EXPECTATIONS – EVE*

Survey

March 2016

*Spanish version prevails



Economic Variables Expectations (EVE)

One of the fundamental objectives of the Central Bank of Paraguay (BCP for its Spanish acronym) is to preserve and ensure the stability of the currency. To accomplish this, the BCP implements an “Inflation Targeting” scheme since 2011, which is aimed to maintain expectations of the economic agents around the inflation target. Therefore, building indicators capable of measuring and synthesizing expectations of the economic agents will complement the necessary information for the effective implementation of the monetary policy.

In this regard, the BCP, following the best practices of central banks, monthly prepares the “Economic Variables Expectations (EVE)” survey, which allows knowing the forecast of the economic agents about the evolution of the main macroeconomic variables. The information is collected in a monthly basis since 2006, and it is based on a panel of respondents who are representatives of the most important economic sectors.

What is EVE survey?

It is a survey made by the BCP that summarizes expectations of the economic agents regarding main economic variables for different time periods: the end of the current month and following month; the current and following year and 2 years ahead.

Which are the surveyed economic variables?

Survey questions are divided into four main groups including inflation, US dollar nominal exchange rate, GDP growth and monetary policy interest rate.

Who are the respondents?

The survey is carried out to a representative panel of the main economic sectors such as banks, financial institutions, credit rating agencies, brokerage firms, consulting firms, independents analysts and economic organizations.

What are the results used for?

The results allow the BCP to collect expectations of the main economic agents. These reflect the degree of confidence in the economy and the implemented monetary policy. Also, the results complement a set of information analyzed in the monetary-policy decision-making process.



Economic Variables Expectations Survey (EVE)

March 2016

Current month results

VARIABLES	March Expectations
Inflation (CPI Percentage Change)	
Monthly (March 2016)	0,4%
Following month (April 2016)	0,3%
Year 2016	4,7%
Year 2017	4,5%
Monetary Policy Horizon (March 2018)	4,5%
Nominal Exchange Rate G/USD	
Monthly (March 2016)	5,720
Following month (April 2016)	5,730
Year 2016	6,050
Year 2017	6,150
GDP (Percentage Change)	
Year 2016	3.0%
Year 2017	3.8%
Monetary Policy Rate (MPR)	
Monthly (March 2016)	6.00%
Following month (April 2016)	6.00%
Year 2016	6.25%
Year 2017	6.00%

Source: BCP based on EVE survey.



According to March EVE survey results, economic agents expect the inflation to be **4.7%** by the end of 2016. For 2017 and for the Monetary Policy Horizon (around 18 and 24 months), agents expect inflation to be **4.5%**. It is important to mention that the inflation target in the medium term is **4.5%**.

For the current month, the median monthly inflation expectation rate is **0.4%**, which is greater than the expectations registered on the same month of the previous year (**0.3%**) and lower to the previous month result (**0.5%**). The agents expect a monthly inflation of **0.3%** for March 2016.

As of March 2016, the average monthly inflation expectation is **0.5%**, which is greater than the expectations registered on the same month of the previous year (**0.4%**). Hence, the annualized inflation for 2016, based on the average monthly inflation expectation, would be **5.4%**.

Regarding the exchange rate **G/USD** evolution, the economic agents expectations

for February is **G/USD 5,720** (below **G/USD 5,885** reported the previous month for the current month). As of April 2016, the nominal exchange rate is expected to be **G/USD 5,730**. By the end of 2016 and 2017 the economic agents expect the exchange rate to be **G/USD 6,050** and **G/USD 6,150**, respectively.

Moreover, the respondents expect for 2015 and 2016 an economic growth of **3%** and **3.8%**, respectively.

Regarding the **Monetary Policy Rate (MPR)**, economic agents expect it to be **6.00%** for March and April 2016. Identically, it is expected that the MPR would reach **6.25%** for 2016, and **6.00%** for 2017.

According to MPR results, economic agents do not expect stronger inflation pressures in the monetary policy horizon. Hence, monetary policy target rate is expected to remain unchanged.