



MONTHLY REPORT

ECONOMIC VARIABLES EXPECTATIONS – EVE*

Survey

March 2017¹

¹ Spanish version prevails



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 complements 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.



Current month results

VARIABLES	March Expectations
Inflation (CPI Percentage Change)	
Monthly (March 2017)	0.3%
Following month (April 2017)	0.3%
Year 2017	4.0%
Year 2018	4.1%
Monetary Policy Horizon (March 2019)	4.0%
Nominal Exchange Rate G/USD	
Monthly (March 2017)	5,450
Following month (April 2017)	5,500
Year 2017	5,750
Year 2018	5,900
GDP (Percentage Change)	
Year 2017	4.0%
Year 2018	4.0%
Monetary Policy Rate (MPR)	
Monthly (March 2017)	5.50%
Following month (April 2017)	5.50%
Year 2017	5.50%
Year 2018	5.50%

Source: BCP based on EVE survey.



According to March EVE survey results; economic agents expect the inflation to be **4.0%** by the end of 2017. For 2018 and for the Monetary Policy Horizon (around 18 and 24 months), agents expect inflation to be **4.1%** and **4.0%**, respectively².

For the current month, the median monthly inflation expectation rate is **0.3%**, which is lower than the expectations registered on the same month of the previous year and the previous month (0.4%). The agents expect a monthly inflation of **0.3%** for April 2017.

As of March 2017, the average monthly inflation expectation is **0.4%**, which is lower than the expectations registered on the same month of 2016 (0.5%). Hence, the annualized inflation for 2017, based on the average monthly inflation expectation, would be **4.8%**.

Regarding the exchange rate G/USD evolution, the economic agent expectations for March is G/USD **5,450** (lower than G/USD 5,722 reported the previous month for the current month). As of April 2017, the nominal exchange rate is expected to be G/USD **5,500**. By the end of 2017 and 2018 the economic agents expect the exchange rate to be G/USD **5,750** and G/USD **5,900**, respectively.

With regard to economic growth rate the respondents expect for 2017 and 2018 a rate of **4.0%** each.

Regarding the **Monetary Policy Rate (MPR)**, economic agents expect it to be **5.50%** for all periods requested.

² The mid-term inflation target is 4.0%