

ARGENTINA MACROECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES

Weekly Market Strategy Report

August 20, 2019

In order to remove uncertainties, the new Economy Minister and Central Bank President reinforced maintenance of the current policies

Economic Indicators as of 16/09					
Indicator	Value	Week	Month	Year	Outlook
Exchange Rate (ARS/USD)*	\$ 57,64	↑	↑	↑	●
Badlar Rate	57,56%	↑	↑	↑	●
7 day Leliq rate	74,97%	↑	↑	↑	●
Country Risk bps	1855	↑	↑	↑	●
GDP yoy (last Q)	-5,80%			↓	●
Inflation Indec yoy	54,40%		↑	↑	●
Industrial Production yoy (EMI)	-6,90%		↓	↓	●
Reserves (000s mill USD)	62,41	↓	↓	↑	●
Tax Revenue yoy	53,40%		↑	↑	●
Merval Index	30407	↓	↓	↑	●

*up means depreciation

Outlook: green, yellow or red signals whether the variable will have a favorable, neutral or unfavorable variation in the short run

HIGHLIGHTS

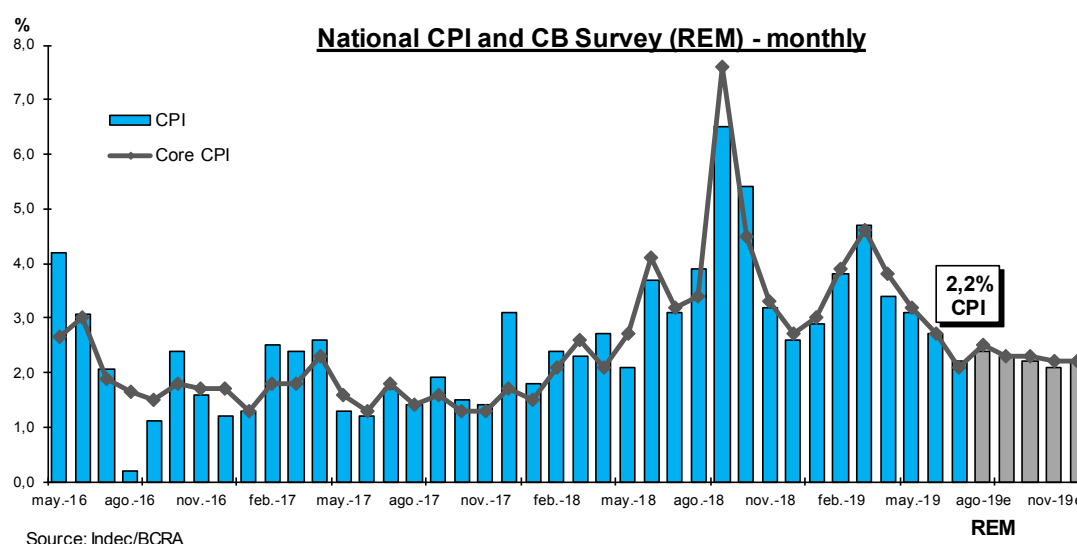
- At press conferences, the new Economy Minister, Hernan Lacunza and the CB's President, Guido Sandleris, evaluated the current scenario, highlighting the State's and bank's financial positions. Although there were no major announcements, the main goal was to show strength and determination to face volatility until October's elections.
- Lacunza remarked fiscal achievements to date, including over-meeting targets. The primary fiscal surplus year to date is at 0.2% of GDP, while the Financial result reached -1.7%, improving 0.4pp compared to last year. Furthermore, he stated the fiscal stimulus announced last week will not affect the budget and is in line with policies agreed with the IMF.

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- Economists from opposing parties were called, particularly due to Alberto Fernandez’s high chances of winning in October, for them to acknowledge that any definitions in terms of economic policies will affect the current scenario. Emphasizing the government has the double task of managing the economic scenario pre-PASO and minimizing vulnerability arising from two months of political uncertainty.
- Regarding the exchange rate, Lacunza considered it is above its equilibrium level, and reducing FX speculation is central as there are no structural reasons for the peso to continue depreciating.
- Similarly, Sandleris confirmed the maintenance of the current monetary policy frame, which is aimed at holding the exchange rate, which is already “competitive”, and reduce passthrough to prices. Following the press conferences, the CB sold USD 112 million reserves, and the exchange rate dropped 1.1%, closing within the new virtual band of ARS 57 and ARS 62.
- Although inflation decelerated to 2.2% in July, the recent peso weakening will have its effect on August’s prices. Annual inflation last month touched 54.4%, due to rising prices of Food and Regulated services, including Health and Transport.



**Argentina: Economic Indicators
From August 12th to August 16th**

Date	Indicators	Period	Cons.	Prior	Actual
Thu 15	National CPI y/y	Jul	--	55.80%	54.4%
	National CPI m/m	Jul	2.40%	2.70%	2.2%
Fri 16	7-day Leliq base rate - BCRA	16 aug	--	63.71%	74.97%

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Argentina: Economic indicators This week

Date	Indicators	Period	Cons.	Previous
Wed 21	Construction costs m/m	Jul	--	1.7%
	Wholesale prices m/m	Jul	--	1.7%
	Trade balance	Jul	--	USD1.061m
Thu 22	Economic activity m/m	Jun	--	0.2%
Fri 23	Consumer confidence – UTDT	Aug	--	8.9%
	7-day Leliq base rate – BCRA	23 aug	--	74.97%

Argentina						
Long Run Economic Indicators						
Indicator	Exante - July 2019			EconViews - August 2019		
	2018	2019E	2020E	2018	2019E	2020E
Real GDP - yoy	-2,5%	-1,8%	1,4%	-2,5%	-2,7%	-1,0%
Investments - yoy	-5,8%	-17,2%	3,8%	-5,8%	-15,0%	3,5%
Consumption - yoy	-2,4%	-4,1%	0,6%	-2,4%	-6,5%	-1,5%
Reference Rate BCRA	59,30%	--	--	59,30%	55,00%	36,00%
International Reserves - USD bill	65,8	58,1	64,0	65,8	45,3	46,4
Current Account - % GDP	-5,4%	-2,1%	-2,0%	-5,6%	-0,6%	-0,4%
CPI - yoy	47,6%	45,4%	23,8%	47,6%	52,5%	40,0%
Exchange Rate - ARS/USD	37,81	54,50	57,60	37,81	65,00	83,00
Debt National Gov. - % GDP*	86,0%	90,3%	79,8%	42,2%	54,4%	57,1%
Imports - CIF USD bill.	65,4	51,6	54,3	65,7	51,0	56,2
Exports - FOB USD bill.	61,2	65,1	68,5	61,2	63,0	68,1
Unemployment Rate - year average**	9,1%	10,4%	9,4%	9,1%	10,5%	10,9%
Primary Fiscal Deficit - % GDP	-2,6%	-0,6%	--	-2,6%	0,0%	0,0%

*Econviews: excludes intra gov. Debt, and includes GDP coupons and holdouts

**Exante: real, endo of year

Source: CMA based on Econviews and Exante

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