Flash

Brazil

BBVA

Industrial production declined 0.2%m/m in August

In yearly terms, industrial production grew 1.8%y/y. Perspectives of lower growth in mature economies add to the competitiveness problems already faced by the industrial sector in Brazil.

 Industrial production is now close to levels observed 3 years ago, right before the Lehman crisis hit the country

Industrial production dropped 0.2% in August, in line with market expectations (-0.2%m/m). The drop compares negatively to the 0.2%m/m average expansion in the year up to now and to the 0.3% average monthly growth in 2010. The industrial production index is now 0.9% lower than in September of 2008, when international turbulences related to the international crisis started to impact the country. At that time industrial production lost 17% in few months and then started to recover following series of tax incentives set by the government.

· Outlook for the sector is not favorable

Even tough the recent depreciation of the Real and the recently announced industrial policy package can provide some support to the industrial activity, the perspectives for the sector are not very favorable as a more negative global outlook will add to a domestic environment in which demand was already in the middle of a moderation process. This view is supported by recently released confidence data which shows that the concerns with lower growth in developed economies are already impacting the country. All in all, the performance of industrial production is in line with our estimates that show that GDP will grow not more than 0.7%q/q in the third quarter.

For more on Brazil, click here.

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