

Credit Report

Your reference : XX XXXXXX INDÚSTRIA XXXXX E EXPORTAÇÃO XXXXX

Total number of pages : 16

Subscriber No : HK1434
Our reference No : 982678 SK
Type of report : Standard

Enquiry on : XX XXXXXX INDÚSTRIA XXXXX E EXPORTAÇÃO XXXXX

XXX José Dias Bicaio X.XXX XXXXX Industrial

XXXXX 87507-138 Umuarama Brazil

Brazil

Report Date : April 04, 2023

REPORT ON : X X XXXXXX - INDUSTRIA, XXXXXXX E EXPORTAÇÃO XXXXX

XXX Jose Dias Bicaio, XXXX - XXXXXX Industrial XXXXX Sebastião De Mendonca 87507-XXX - Umuarama/Pr

Brazil

Remarks: The correct name is stated at the caption. The correct address is stated at the caption.

Score: X (out of 10)

Score Explanation:

It is a financial rating which assesses the probability of companies defaulting within one year.

The assessments are presented over ten distinct positions, each reflecting an average default rate in the coming year: the lower a company's credit score is, the riskier its situation is; the higher its score is, the less risky its situation is.

Different levels and description:

Default	Vei	ry high r	isk	Medium high risk Low risk			Low risk			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

10: Insolvency/preliminary/debt regulation proceedings

1: Extremely high risk of insolvency

2: Very high risk of insolvency

3: High risk

4: Significant risk

5: Medium high risk

6: Acceptable risk

7: Moderate risk

8: Low risk

9: Very low risk

10 : Excellent risk

CREDIT RECOMMENDATION WITHOUT OBLIGATION

Recommended maximum credit: USD 1.000.000,00

SUMMARY:

Founded : 20XX

Legal form : Limited Liability Proprietorship

Registration date : 02/06/20XX

Activity : Manufacture of upholsteries and mattresses.

Staff : 400

Share capital : R\$ 10.334.300,00

Annual revenue : 86.029.606,26 Figures Are in REAIS (year 2019) Total assets : 74.348.573,89 Figures Are in REAIS (year 2019)

Payments : No Complaints

Litigation record : Clear

All figures are shown in R\$ unless otherwise stated.

IDENTIFICATION

X X XXXXXX - INDUSTRIA, XXXXXXX E EXPORTAÇÃO XXXXX Company name

> XXX Jose Dias Bicaio. XXXX - XXXXXX Industrial XXXXX Sebastião De Mendonca 87507-XXX - Umuarama/Pr

Brazil

Tel. 44 2031-XXXX

Fax N/A

walter.XXXXX@XXXXXX.com.br Email

www.XXXXX.com.br Website

Registered address XXX Jose Dias Bicaio.

> XXXX - XXXXXX Industrial XXXXX Sebastião De Mendonca 87507-XXX - Umuarama/Pr

Brazil

LEGAL FORM

Subject is established as Limited Liability Proprietorship on June 02, 20XX

Incorporation Date: 02/06/20XX 02/06/20XX Register Date: 31/12

Balance Sheet Filing Date:

Tax Contributor Number(Cnpj): 05.689.380/00XX-XX

State Register: 902818XX-XX

NATURE OF BUSINESS

Manufacture of upholsteries and mattresses.

CAPITAL

Share Capital: R\$ 10.334.300,00 Last Register Of Capital: 04/01/2019

SHAREHOLDER

XXXX BICAIO HOLDING XXX XXXXXXXX LTDA 100,00%

XXXX BICAIO HOLDING XXX XXXXXXXXX LTDA: Registration # CNPJ: 32.072.544/00XX-XX And Nire: 4120893XXXX. Headquartered At XXXX Jose Dias Bicaio, XXXX, XXX XX, Parque Industrial XXXXX Sebastiao De Mendonca Xavier Ribeiro, Umuarama/Pr, Zip Code: 87507-XXX.

DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

XXXXX XXXX Bicaio Manager XXXX XXX Bicaio Manager XXXXX XXXXX Bicaio Manager

AUTHORIZED USE OF SIGNATURE

The managers are authorized to sign on behalf of the company.

MANAGEMENT

XXXX Palma XXX: Brazilian, Married, Residential Address At XXX Jose XXXXX Ramos, XXX, Zona Ii, Apt. XXX - Umuarama/Pr, Holder Of Documents Rg 1.945.XXX-0 Ssp/Pr And Cpf 349.279.XXXX-04;

XXXX Dias XXXX: Brazilian, Single, Residential Address At XXXXX Getulio XXXXX, 5520, XXX lii - Umuarama/Pr, Holder Of Documents Rg 5.270.XXX-X Ssp/Pr And Cpf 611.XXXX.149-XXX.

XXXX Dias XXXX: Brazilian, Single, Residential Address At XXXX Rolandia, XXXX, Zona li - Umuarama/Pr, Holder Of Documents Cnh 00343867XXX/Detran/Pr And Cpf 668.404.XXX-XX.

Further Details Are So Far Not Known.

HISTORY

COMPANY'S BACKGROUND

The Subject Was Established On June 02, 20XX As "XXXXXX & Katayama Ltda" Mefurther Details Are So Far Not Known. Later It Adopted The Above The Name "X. X. XXXXXXX & Cia Ltda - Me". On January 04, 20XX It Changed To The X X Bicaio - Industria, XXXXX E Exportacao Ltda. On July 11, 20XX It Adopted The Above-Mentioned Name And Up To Date It Is Still Operating Within The General Scene Reported Herein.

Trade Name: "XXXXX Estofados X Colchoes".

The City Hall Has Changed The Street Nomenclature From (XXX X 1404, XXXXX Industrial, 87507-011, Umuarama/Pr) To The Present Registered One.

On January 04, 20XX The Company Went Through A Partial Split-Off With The Transference Of Its Assets To The Company "XXXXXX Transporte X Logistica Ltda" Cnpj: 32.416.215/XXXX-XX

ACTIVITY

Manufacture of upholsteries and mattresses.

IMPORT AND EXPORT

IMPORTS FROM

Japan, China, South Korea, Turkey, Italy, Hungary, England, Paraguay, Bolivia, Uruguay, United States And Panama.

EXPORTS TO

Uruguay, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay.

43 3432-1XXX

MAIN CLIENTS

Domestic Clients:		
XXXXX Eletrodomésticos Ltda		
XXXX São Jorge - XXX Imp Exportação Ltda	Porto Ferreira/Sp	19 3589-XXXX
XX S/A Com. De XXXX E Eletrodomésticos		
XXXXX Utilidades Ltda		
XXXXXX Moveis E Eletrodomésticos Ltda	XXXX Do Rio Verde/Mt	65 3549-XXXX
XXXX S/A.		64 3442-XXXX
J. XXXX Ltda	S. XXXX Do Rio Preto/Sp	17 3233-XXXX
XXXX House XXX Ltda - Epp		11 3854-XXXX
XXXX Cem S/A	XXXX/Sp	11 4028-XXXX
XXXX Colombo S/A	XXXXXX/Rs	54 3268-XXXX
XXXX Salfer S/A		
XXXX Luiza S/A	XXX/Sp	16 3711-XXXX
XXXXX - XXXXX Moveis E Eletrodomestico Ltda		65 3549-XXXX
XXX Eletrosom Ltda	XXXX Carmelo/Mg	34 3849-XXXX
XXXXX Moveis E Eletrodomesticos Ltda	XXXX/Sc	49 3319-XXXX
XXXX E Oliveira Ltda		
XXX Comercial Ltda	XXXX/Sp	16 3712-XXXX
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<u>CONCEPT AND FULFILMENT</u>
The Subject Is A Family-Owned Company, Operating Since 20XX. So Far It Has A Clear Trade History And Very Good Payment Behavior.

The Company Has Trade Relations With Some Suppliers In Brazil. The Suppliers Extend Credit Facilities To The Subject In Terms And Amounts According To The Company's Needs And So Far No Payment Problems Are Noted.

XXXX Madeiras Ltda.

MAIN SUPPLIERS		
Domestic Suppliers:		
XXXXXXX Argi Ltda		
Cia. XXXXX De Poliuretanos		
XXXXX Camargo Ltda		
XXXXX Pereira X Freitas Ltda		
XXXXX Ind. E Com. XX Polimeros Ltda		11 2133-XXXX
XXX Brasil Industria E XXXX XX Produtos Quim	icos	0800-047XXX
Ltda		
XXX Brasil XXXXX Indl Ltda.		0800-047XXX
XX Maringa Ltda		
XXXX Ind E XXXXX Ltda	XXXXXXX/Pr	44 9972-5XXX
XXX Sul Ind E XXX De Grampos Ltda		
XXXXXXX - Ind E Com De XXXXXX Ltda	XXXXXXX/Pr	43 3276-3XXX
X X Lima X Cia Ltda		
XXXXXX E Souza Com XXXXX Alimenticios Ltd	la	
XXXXXX Ind E Com XX Metais Ltda		
XXXX Comercial XXXXX Ltda		
XXXXX Madeiras	XXXXXX Do Sul/Pr	43 3432-1XXX

XXXXX Beretta XXXXX Ltda Sta. XXXX D´Oeste/Sp 19 3455-XXXX Têxtil J. Serrano Ltda XXXX Grande Paulista/Sp 11 4158-XXXX X XXXX Importadora Industria X Comercio Ltda 19 3406-XXXX

VEHICLES

Owned Vehicles Are Valued At R\$ 3.774.733,62

MACHINES

Owned Machines And Equipments Are Valued At R\$ 5.601.929,98

INSURANCE

Not available.

PREMISES BRANCHES

Address: XXXXX Para Umuarama, S/N, XXX XX,XX F-X Da Gleba XX XXXX,

Barracao X X X - Nucleo Cruzeiro

Zip Code/City: 87501-000 Umuarama/Pa CNPJ: 05.689.380/XXXX-XX

REAL ESTATE

Owned Premises Are Valued At R\$ 1.913.304,10

<u>STAFF</u>

The number of staff is given to be 400

PARENT COMPANY

XXXX BICAIO HOLDING XXX XXXXXXXX LTDA

AFFILIATES / SUBSIDIARIES

A scan through outside sources showed the subject and/or directors has/have the following unconfirmed holdings:

XXXX KOMFORT INDUSTRIA XXXX E XXXXX XXXX INDUSTRIA XXXX E XXXXX X&X BICAIO XXXXXXXXX DE BENS XXXX XXXXX TRANSPORTES E XXXXXX LTDA

FINANCE FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

General Balance Sheets As Of 31/12/2019, 31/12/2018 And 31/12/2017. (Figures Are In Reais).

Assets			
Current:	31/12/2019	31/12/2018	31/12/2017
Cash And Banks	8.540.089,04	10.880.645,72	3.835.630,20
Clients	28.737.195,03	26.549.382,50	23.707.794,62
Discounted Notes			-1,62
Collection Cheques	579.674,36	590.646,74	347.008,48
Advances	3.871.552,82	1.038.792,29	1.419.960,03
Recoverable Taxes	541.808,30	371.634,21	419.106,47
Pre Paid Expenses	72.634,66	2.705.308,43	2.101.995,06
Inventory	14.094.891,91	8.999.146,17	8.850.315,49
Current Accounts	3.164.520,53	1.667.019,44	60.306,63
Other	-32.491,49	-13.015,13	-12.442,68
Total Current Assets	59.569.875,16	52.789.560,37	40.729.672,68
Fixed Assets:			
Investments	391.985,58	352.969,83	352.969,83
Fixed Assets	14.125.045,58	14.067.892,19	14.186.766,59
Intangible	261.667,57	208.137,57	137.445,94
Total Fixed Assets	14.778.698,73	14.628.999,59 =================================	14.677.182,36
Total Assets	74.348.573,89	67.418.559,96	55.406.855,04
Liabilities:			
Current:	31/12/2019	31/12/2018	31/12/2017
Suppliers	15.625.063,33	15.088.387,91	14.217.785,47
Loans And Financing	10.396.067,14	10.683.492,76	4.204.226,82
Social / Labor Obligations	2.267.973,24	2.026.397,71	1.939.808,77
Tributary Obligations	2.254.831,22	1.551.619,15	1.458.414,91
Advance From Clients	3.597.326,00	3.358.422,51	2.167.851,94
Provisions	223.508,61	859.467,84	359.877,09
Checks To Compensate	1.964.234,20		12.344,00
Accounts Payable	2.194.927,45	373.578,88	316.565,54
Total Current Liabilities	38.523.931,19	33.941.366,76	24.676.874,54

Long Term Lia	ab	il	iti	es:
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Loans And Financing	6.554.290,62	2.944.630,10	3.510.905,10
Installments Taxes Payable	1.210.036,56	1.638.320,75	1.513.340,57
Total Long Term Liabilities	7.764.327,18	4.582.950,85	5.024.245,67
Net Equity:			
Share Capital	10.334.300,00	10.634.300,00	10.634.300,00
Accrued Profit (Loss)	12.282.051,42	16.646.638,25	13.458.130,73
Legal Reserves	5.443.964,10	1.613.304,10	1.613.304,10
Total Net Equity	28.060.315,52	28.894.242,35	25.705.734,83
	==========	=======================================	============
Total Liabilities	74.348.573,89	67.418.559,96	55.406.855,04

Profit And Loss Accounts As Of 31/12/2019, 31/12/2018 And 31/12/2017. (Figures Are In Reais).

	31/12/2019	31/12/2018	31/12/2017
Gross Sales	112.141.169,96	113.220.155,09	92.213.225,85
(-) Taxes On Sales	26.111.563,70	28.332.257,68	23.484.014,30
Net Sales	86.029.606,26	84.887.897,41	68.729.211,55
(-) Cost Of Sold Goods	54.937.825,85	61.179.102,81	49.898.606,88
Gross Profit	31.091.780,41	23.708.794,60	18.830.604,67
Operating Revenue (Expense)	-23.533.368,41	-16.921.921,23	-15.358.451,10
Financial Revenue(Expense)	-3.458.596,11	-364.035,15	-263.482,30
Operational Profit (Loss)	4.099.815,89	6.422.838,22	3.208.671,27
Non-Operating Result	22.574,27	583.344,71	36.680,91
Contribution/Income Tax	-439.346,45	-2.309.966,44	-1.088.942,95
Net Profit (Loss)	3.683.043,71	4.696.216,49	2.156.409,23
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Monthly Sales

	2020	2019
January	R\$ 14.087.340,36	R\$ 9.482.376,80
February	R\$ 11.955.421,63	R\$ 9.253.542,10
March	R\$ 8.631.264,40	R\$ 6.606.386,27
April	R\$ 1.981.819,42	R\$ 8.552.576,43
May	R\$ 9.083.252,99	R\$ 9.666.653,99
June		R\$ 7.914.089,35
July		R\$ 9.010.330,54
August		R\$ 8.968.944,58

September		R\$ 8.506.113,15
October		R\$ 10.103.788,89
November		R\$ 13.623.108,16
December		R\$ 11.320.597,56
Total	R\$ 45.739.098,80	R\$ 113.008.507,82

Ratios:		31/12/2019		31/12/2018	;	31/12/2017
Quick Ratio	1,18		1,29		1,29	
Current Ratio	1,55		1,56		1,65	
Accounts Receivable Turnover	2,99	Times	3,20	Times	2,90	Times
Days' Sales In Receivables	120,25	Days	112,59	Days	124,18	Days
Inventory Turnover	3,90	Times	6,80	Times	5,64	Times
Accounts Payable Period	102,39	Days	88,79	Days	102,58	Days
Return On Assets	1,16	Times	1,26	Times	1,24	Times
Sales Turnover On Net Equity	3,07	Times	2,94	Times	2,67	Times
Net Worth Tie-Up	,50		,49		,55	
Indebtedness	1,65		1,33		1,16	
Equity Ratio	37,74	%	42,86	%	46,39	%
Working Capital Ratio	54,63	%	55,53	%	65,05	%
General Solvency	1,61		1,75		1,87	
Return On Net Equity	13,13	%	16,25	%	8,39	%
Return On Sales (Profit Margin)	4,28	%	5,53	%	3,14	%
Gross Profit Margin	36,14	%	27,93	%	27,40	%
Operational Result	4,77	%	7,57	%	4,67	%
Sales Turnover On Liabilities	2,23	Times	2,50	Times	2,79	Times
Foreign Currency On Assets						
Foreign Currency On Liabilities						

Foreign Currency On Liabilities

EXCHANGE RATE:

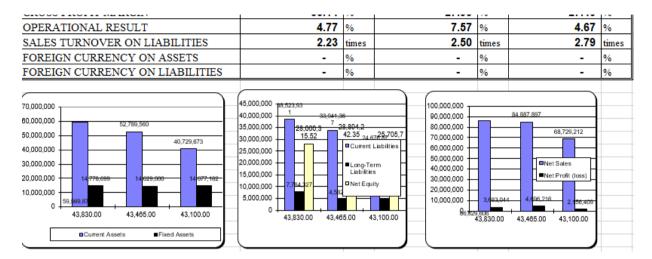
US\$ 1,00 = R\$ 5,35	- OFFICIAL RATE ON 17/07/2020
US\$ 1,00 = R\$ 4,03	- OFFICIAL RATE ON 31/12/2019
US\$ 1,00 = R\$ 3,87	- OFFICIAL RATE ON 31/12/2018
US\$ 1,00 = R\$ 3,30	- OFFICIAL RATE ON 31/12/2017

COMMENTS ON THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Follows Attached Worksheet With Main Financial Ratios

The Figures Available Show A Satisfactory Financial Standing. The Level Of Indebtedness Is High But It Has Good Liquidity Ratios And Positive Working Capital, Considered Sufficient To Cover The Short Term Debts. In Addition It Is Noted Drop In Sales But Posted Profit.

Z P BICAIO - INDUSTRIA, COMERCIO E EXPORT	ACAO EIRELI					
BALANCE SHEET ANALYSIS	FIGURES ARE IN REAIS					
	12/31/2019		12/31/2018		12/31/2017	
ASSETS		%		%		%
Current Assets	\$ 59,569,875	80.12	\$ 52,789,560	78.30	\$ 40,729,673	73.51
Fixed Assets	\$ 14,778,699	19.88	\$ 14,629,000	21.70	\$ 14,677,182	26.49
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 74,348,574	100.00	\$ 67,418,560	100.00	\$ 55,406,855	100.00
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities	\$ 38,523,931	51.82	\$ 33,941,367	50.34	\$ 24,676,875	44.54
Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 7,764,327	10.44	\$ 4,582,951	6.80	\$ 5,024,246	9.07
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 46,288,258	62.26	\$ 38,524,318	57.14	\$ 29,701,120	53.61
Deferred Income	* :	0.00	5	0.00	\$ -	0.00
Net Equity	\$ 28,060,316	37.74	\$ 28,894,242	42.86	\$ 25,705,735	46.39
TOTAL LIABILITIES + NET EQUITY	\$ 74,348,574	100.00	\$ 67,418,560	100.00	\$ 55,406,855	100.00
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS						
Net Sales	\$ 86,029,606	100.00	\$ 84,887,897	100.00	\$ 68,729,212	100.00
Costs	\$ 54,937,826	63.86	\$ 61,179,103	72.07	\$ 49,898,607	72.60
Gross Profit	\$ 31,091,780	36.14		27.93	1.	27.40
Operating expenses	\$ (23,533,368)	-27.35	\$ (16,921,921)	-19.93	\$ (15,358,451)	-22.35
operational Result	\$ 4,099,816	4.77		7.57	1,	4.67
Net Profit (loss)	\$ 3,683,044	4.28	\$ 4,696,216	5.53		3.14
COMPLEMENTARY DATA						
Inventory	\$ 14,094,892		\$ 8,999,146		\$ 8,850,315	
Accounts receivable	\$ 28,737,195		\$ 26,549,383		\$ 23,707,795	
	high his his hid de	:			It de le	
A	Section 4 Section 2		6 45 000 200	i	\$ 14,217,785	:1
Accounts Payable	\$ 15,625,063 \$ 14,125,046		\$ 15,088,388			
Property, plant and equipment	1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -		\$ 14,067,892		\$ 14,186,767	_
Purchases	\$ 14,778,699		\$ 14,629,000		\$ 14,677,182	
Financial Expenses	\$ (3,458,596)		\$ (364,035)	1	\$ (263,482)	!
Foreign Currency Assets		:				:
Foreign Currency Liabilities	* 04.045.044	1	¢ 40.040.404		¢ 40.050.700	<u> </u>
Working Capital	\$ 21,045,944		\$ 18,848,194		\$ 16,052,798	-
RATIOS:	1.18		1.29		4.00	-
QUICK RATIO CURRENT RATIO	1.18		1.29		1.29	
					 	_
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE TURNOVER	2.99	_	3.20	times		times
DAYS' SALES IN RECEIVABLES	120.25		112.59	days	124.18 5.64	
INVENTORY TURNOVER	3.90	times	6.80	times		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE PERIOD	102.39	_	88.79		102.58	_
RETURN ON ASSETS		times		times		times
SALES TURNOVER ON NET EQUIY		times		times		times
NET WORTH TIE-UP	0.50	_	0.49	-	0.55	_
ENDEBTEDNESS	1.65		1.33	_	1.16	
EQUITY RATIO	37.74	_	42.86		46.39	_
WORKING CAPITAL RATIO	54.63	%	55.53		65.05	_
GENERAL SOLVENCY	1.61		1.75		1.87	_
RETURN ON NET EQUITY	13.13	_	16.25	_	8.39	_
RETURN ON SALES (PROFIT MARGIN)	4.28		5.53		3.14	
GROSS PROFIT MARGIN	36.14	%	27.93	%	27.40	%



PAYMENT

Suppliers Reported Payments: Total Amount: R\$ 792.000,00

Amount Of Invoices Paid: 70 Total Of Prompt Payments: 88,0% Total Of Delayed Payments: 12,0%

MORTGAGE RECORD

N/A

LITIGATION

Clear

PUBLIC RECORDS INFORMATION:

NO DETRIMENTAL FILES WERE FOUND.

(RESEARCH DATE: 17/07/2020)

BANKER

BANKING REFERENCES

BRANCH/PHONE:

 Banco XXX S/A
 XXXX / 44 2102-XXXX

 Banco XXXXXX S/A
 XXXX-5 / 44 3361-XXXX

 Banco XX XXXX S/A
 XXXX-6 / 44 3221-XXXX

 XXXX XXXXX Do Piquiri
 XXXX / 44 3624-XXXX

Remarks: In Brazil The Banks Are Prohibited By Law To Provide Information Or Any Kind Of Comments About Their Clients. Due To This Law Prohibition We Are Unable To Provide Any Banking Details.

According To The Central Bank Of Brazil Official Report, The Company Has No Returned Checks Up To Date. (In The Terms Of "Circular 1682 Brazilian Central Bank"). Date Researched July 17, 20XX.

<u>CREDIT OPINION WITHOUT OBLIGATION</u>
Based On The General Information Available It Is Believed That Good Trade Relations May Be Established. Credit Facilities May Be Extended Within Terms And Amounts Adequate To The Company's Financial Strength.

An Initial Credit Limit Of USD 1.000.000,00 May Be Considered.

MAJOR MACRO ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF BRAZIL*

COUNTRY RISK ASSESSMENT*

Country Risk Assessment: C

MAJOR MACRO ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	2017	2018	2019 (e)	2020 (f)
GDP growth (%)	1.1	1.1	0.9	-6.5
Inflation (yearly average, %)	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.5
Budget balance (% GDP)	-7.8	-7.1	-6.1	-5.5
Current account balance (% GDP)	-0.7	-2.2	-3.2	-3.3
Public debt (% GDP)	74.1	77.2	78.9	79.8

(e): Estimate. (f): Forecast.

STRENGTHS

- Varied mineral resources and agricultural harvests
- Large population (estimated at 210 million)
- Well-diversified industry
- Strong foreign exchange reserves (import coverage of roughly 25 months)
- Net creditor in foreign currency

WEAKNESSES

- Sensitive fiscal position
- Infrastructure bottlenecks
- Low level of investment (roughly 16% of GDP)
- Relatively closed to foreign trade (exports represents only 13% of GDP)
- High cost of production (wages, energy, logistics, credit) harming competitiveness
- Shortage of qualified labour; inadequate education system

RISK ASSESSMENT

Economic momentum should marginally improve

Activity registered another year of weak growth in 2019, when it was mainly led by household consumption and private investments (albeit still at low levels). Meanwhile government expenditure remained limited by tight fiscal budget and exports felt the headwinds coming from decelerating global activity (notably the recession in Argentina). This year GDP should register a relatively stronger economic

momentum. Consumption should be favoured by some improvement on the job market, low inflation and by the current expansionary monetary policy (interest rate stands at historical minimum). Meanwhile, private investment is likely to benefit from relatively higher business confidence (following the approval of the social security reform and the expected progress in pro-business reforms) and the lower lending rate. Contrarily, exports should remain at weak levels, as the recession in Argentina is not likely to ease this year and global GDP should continue to decelerate. Finally, mining activity should report some rebound in production, following the normalization of iron ore production, which has been affected by the Brumadinho dam accident in January 2019. The main risks to the economic scenario are related with a possible stronger than anticipated global economic deceleration and a strong escalation of political polarization in the country (as it has been seen recently in other neighbouring economies).

Sound external position continues to diverge from fiscal outcome

Current account deficit widened in 2019, mainly driven by a lower trade balance surplus as the general slowdown in global activity took its toll on exports. Meanwhile, the deficit in services (1.9% of GDP) and the primary income imbalance of around 2.7% of GDP remained wide (mainly due to high profits and dividends remittances). In 2020, the current account deficit is expected to further widen, given the decelerating global economy and considering the scenario where the Brazilian economy gains some traction (increasing imports). Despite that, the strong foreign direct investment inflow (of roughly of 4% of GDP) and foreign reserves position will assure an adequate external position. Finally, the country remains a net creditor in foreign currency, with total external debt at roughly 18% of GDP (24% of the total debt is owed by the public sector and 38% by each non-financial and financial sectors).

The fiscal deficit marginally improved in 2019, driven by lower interest payment (because of the decline in policy rate Selic – three quarters of Brazilian debt is indexed to it) and the state owned development bank BNDES reimbursements to the Treasury. Moreover, in October 2019 the congress approved the much needed and long awaited social security reform, which is expected to save BRL 738 billion over ten years (roughly USD 180 billion or 10% of the 2019 GDP estimated value). However, this amount does not include savings of subnational entities, which are still under discussion in the Congress (their total adherence could add estimated BRL 350 billion to the 10-year savings). Finally yet importantly, the government expects to spare an extra BRL 240 billion in the same period thanks to the combat of fraud in social security benefits. Despite the relatively brighter outlook for public balance, the gains are more in the long term. In the short term, as will be the case of this year, the fiscal imbalance will remain high. In order to smoothen the high rigidity of public expenditure (at present, about 95% of public spending is compulsory), policymakers were sent to Congress in November 2019 to propose economic reforms, which aim, among other things, to decentralize the public budget and increase its flexibility.

A first year in office marked by controversies

The far-right President Jair Bolsonaro has completed one year in office in early January 2020, after a year marked by controversies, even with members of his own party (prompting to his exit of the Social Liberal party in late 2019). Although his government was able to get the much-needed social security reform approved, it was more the outcome of a broad political consensus on the matter, than a merit of the ruling government alone. With the latter reform now approved, policymakers will focus on passing other important measures (such as reforming taxes, granting official independence to the central bank and selling public assets). That said, to move forward with the pro-business agenda, the executive will need to assure a cohesive political base (a point to be monitored, given the recurrent needless political noise between the executive and legislative powers). Indeed political risk has recently escalated, which could jeopardize the progress of the executive agenda in the legislative. This deterioration was triggered by the release from prison of the former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (2003/2010) from the leftwing Labour party (PT) in early November 2019 (after 18 months in jail for money laundering and corruption). His release followed the Supreme Court vote that a person can be imprisoned only after all appeals to higher courts have been exhausted. Since this episode, political polarization has gained further momentum.

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