**Economic Comment** 

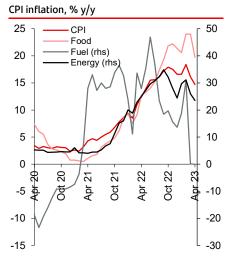
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## CPI lower, but core price momentum still high

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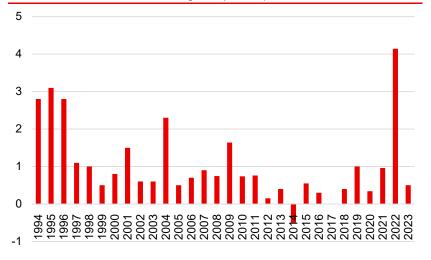
CPI inflation fell in April to 14.7% y/y, below market consensus at 15.0% y/y. Prices increased 0.7% m/m, clearly less than in the previous few months, which was to large extent due to lower fuel prices (-1.2% m/m), lower energy prices (-0.3% m/m) and quite low – by historical standards – increase in food prices (+0.5% m/m). The latter in April 2022 surged by as much as 4.1% m/m, which implies a huge "base effect" lowering CPI inflation.

According to our estimate, core inflation ex prices of food and energy fell slightly to 12.1% y/y, after a rise in core prices by 1.1% m/m, which shows that the underlying price momentum remains very strong. Since the start of the year CPI prices have already risen by 5.7% and core prices by 4.7%. Next months are very likely to see a continuing decline in y/y inflation amid relentless high base effects, but we keep the view that CPI at the end of the year will be still close to 10% y/y, which creates no room for any rate cuts this year.



Source: GUS, Santander

## Prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages in April, % m/m



Source: GUS, Santander

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