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Brazil’s grocery inflation accelerated to 1.31% in October, widening the gap with restaurant prices

The spread between grocery and restaurant inflation widened to 0.95 percentage points, increasing pressure on Brazilian household budgets

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Eating out in Brazil became more expensive in October, but the pace of the increase slowed from the previous month, while food bought for home consumption rose faster.

According to a breakdown reported by Folha de S.Paulo on Thursday, November 12, and attributed to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, prices for food consumed away from home rose 0.36% in October under the food-away-from-home component of the IPCA, Brazil’s broad consumer price index. That was below the 0.48% monthly increase recorded in September, a slowdown of 0.12 percentage points.

The category covers spending in places such as bars, cafes and restaurants. The October reading showed that meals and other food purchases outside the home continued to get more expensive for Brazilian consumers, but at a milder monthly rate than in September.

The same report showed a different pattern for food consumed at home. Prices in that category rose 1.31% in October, up from 0.96% in September. That was an acceleration of 0.35 percentage points over one month.

The result widened the gap between the two food measures. In September, the difference between at-home food inflation and away-from-home food inflation stood at 0.48 percentage points. In October, that spread increased to 0.95 percentage points, showing a sharper divergence between grocery costs and restaurant-related spending.

The figures matter because food is one of the most visible parts of household budgets in Brazil, and the two categories can move differently depending on supply conditions, labor costs, rent, transportation and competitive pressure in the service sector. A slowdown in restaurant and cafe price increases does not mean relief across food spending if grocery prices are rising more quickly at the same time.

The data cited by Folha were attributed to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, known as IBGE, which compiles the IPCA. IBGE’s release calendar indicated a publication on Thursday, November 12, but the detailed October breakdown cited in the newspaper could not be independently verified directly from the primary table immediately available.

Even with that caveat, the reported figures point to a clear shift in October. Food outside the home remained on an upward path, but the increase lost momentum. Food at home moved in the opposite direction, gaining speed and putting more pressure on consumers who were buying groceries rather than eating in bars, cafes and restaurants.