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## **Brazil: "partial" Return To Price Liberalization**

*by John Neagle*

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On June 2, the Brazilian government implemented a partial return to price liberalization on industrial products with the aim of forestalling shortages. Edgar de Abreu Cardoso, the Finance Ministry's special secretary for supply and prices, said "the new system is an intermediate phase between price freezes and full price liberalization." In mid-January, the government adopted an anti-inflation plan called the "Plano Verao," which included price and wage freezes and currency reform. In that month, consumer price inflation averaged 70.28%. The new price system encompasses food and beverages, medicines, electrical appliances, cleaning products, chemicals, petrochemicals, metals, textiles and paper. The new measures were introduced following reported shortages of cosmetics, personal hygiene products, electrical appliances, blankets and fabrics, and basic foodstuffs, such as meat. (Basic data from Notimex, 06/02/89)

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