

Cooler July '26 inflation, but cheaper oil fails to shrink Indonesia's structural energy trade deficit.

CPI (Jul, YoY)	CPI (Jul, MoM)	Trade Balance (Jun)	Migas Balance (Jun)
2.88%	-0.14%	-USD0.45bn	-USD3.49bn
Cooled from 3.34% · below 3.20% consensus	First deflation since Jan · volatile food -1.68%	2nd straight deficit · narrower than May's -USD1.61bn	Flat vs May despite oil -17.7% MoM · structural

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- July CPI cooled to **2.88% year-on-year**, below the 3.20% Bloomberg consensus and down from June's 3.34%, while the monthly print swung to a **0.14% deflation, versus a +0.09% consensus and June's +0.44%** · the first monthly deflation since January. The deflation was **driven entirely by volatile food, down 1.68% and subtracting 0.28 percentage points**, as shallots, red and bird's-eye chili, eggs and tomatoes corrected lower on supply. Core inflation stayed positive at 0.14% month-on-month and 2.76% year-on-year, and administered prices rose 0.25%, so both cushioned rather than caused the fall.
- This is a benign, supply-led disinflation, not a demand signal. July deflation is not a seasonal norm · July 2025 was a +0.30% inflation · and the monthly optics were flattered by June's one-off **Pertamax RON 92 price rise of about 32% on 10 June, an administered-price shock that lifted June's base and did not repeat in July**. With core still sticky, the print does not by itself clear the way for policy easing.
- June's goods trade posted a **deficit of USD0.45 billion, the second straight**, though narrower than May's USD1.61 billion and better than the USD0.78 billion consensus, as both sides beat sharply · exports rose 8.84% year-on-year (versus a -1.15% consensus) and imports surged 34.27% (versus +23.30%). But the month-on-month improvement is misleading: of the USD1.16 billion narrowing, **77% came from a nonmigas surplus recovery, and only 23% from migas · and that migas gain was higher gas exports, not lower imports**. The energy deficit itself stayed stuck near USD3.5 billion.
- For Bank Indonesia after Warjiyo's exit, the prints pull opposite ways. Cooler, below-consensus inflation opens theoretical easing room, but **a structural energy-import deficit and a record-weak rupiah past IDR18,000 argue against it**, and neither driver of the import surge · structural energy volume and investment-linked capital and raw-material imports · is rate-sensitive. Consensus sees the current-account deficit widening to roughly 1.1 to 2.2% of GDP in 2026. **Key watch: second-quarter GDP on 5 August (consensus 5.10% yoy versus 5.61% in the first quarter) and whether the energy-import bill persists into the second half.**

June Trade Balance · Month-on-Month Decomposition (USD million)

Component	May 2026	Jun 2026	MoM Change
Migas balance	-3,756.6	-3,490.0	+266.6
Nonmigas balance	+2,146.4	+3,040.0	+893.6
Total balance	-1,610.2	-450.0	+1,160.2
<i>Memo: Migas imports</i>	4,514.7	4,560.0	+1.0%
<i>Memo: Energy price (MoM)</i>	—	-17.7%	—

Source: BPS; Aldiracita Research. Migas imports = crude + oil products; energy price = World Bank energy index via BPS.

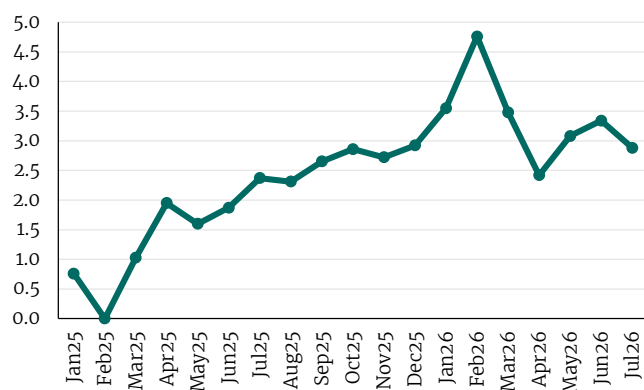
Market Implications

Dimension	Assessment	Analysis
Inflation / Rates	Neutral	July's below-consensus print is a benign, supply-led deflation with core still sticky at 2.76%; it opens theoretical easing room but does not, by itself, justify a cut while external accounts and the rupiah remain under strain.
Trade / CAD / Rupiah	Cautious	The energy deficit is structural and volume-driven, holding near USD3.5 billion a month regardless of oil prices; with consensus seeing the current-account deficit widening to roughly 1.1 to 2.2% of GDP in 2026, the rupiah stays pressured and the import surge is not rate-sensitive.
Sovereign / Growth	Watch	A widening current-account gap corroborates S&P's earlier caution, while second-quarter GDP (due 5 August, consensus 5.10% versus 5.61% in the first quarter) and a manufacturing PMI back in expansion at 50.2 will test whether import-heavy investment is translating into growth.

Source: BPS Berita Resmi Statistik (3 August 2026); Bloomberg (consensus); Aldiracita Research. For informational purposes only.

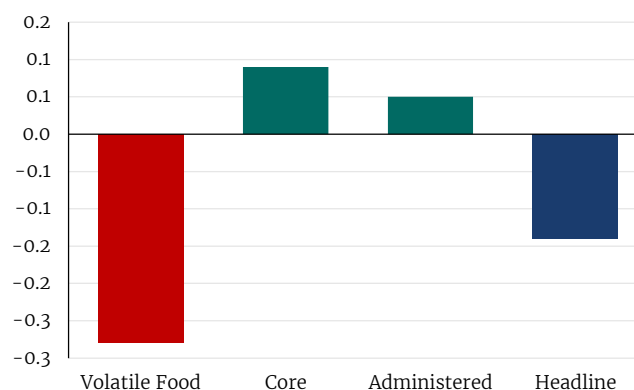
THE PRINTS IN FOUR CHARTS

Headline CPI (YoY %), Jan 2025 – Jul 2026



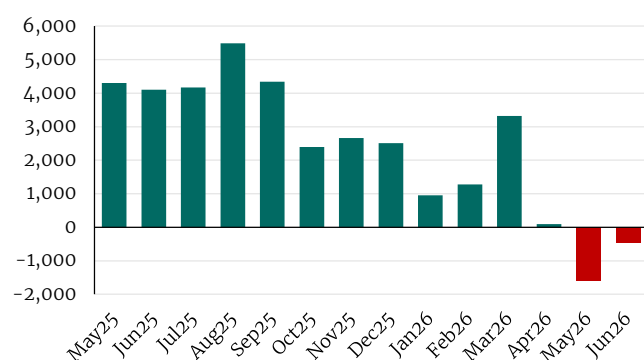
Headline inflation has cooled to 2.88% from a February peak of 4.76%, easing back below June's 3.34%. Source: BPS.

July CPI · MoM Contribution by Component



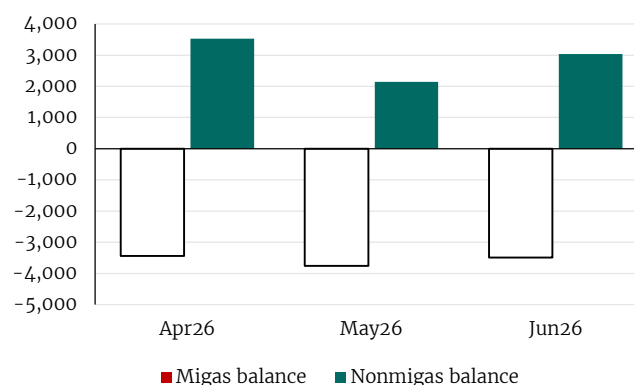
July's deflation was driven entirely by volatile food; core and administered prices stayed positive. Source: BPS.

Monthly Trade Balance, May 2025 – Jun 2026



The trade balance swung to deficit in May 2026 for the first time in over a year; June's deficit narrowed but stayed negative. Source: BPS, Aldiracita research.

Migas vs Nonmigas Balance, Apr – Jun 2026



The migas deficit has held near USD3.5 bn regardless of oil-price swings, while a volatile nonmigas surplus does the work of the headline balance. Source: BPS, Aldiracita research.

THE IMPORT PUZZLE: WHY CHEAPER OIL DID NOT SHRINK THE ENERGY DEFICIT

Oil prices fell about 17.7% month-on-month in June on the Iran ceasefire, yet Indonesia's oil-and-gas imports were essentially flat, edging from USD4.51 billion in May to USD4.56 billion in June, a rise of 1.0%. **Had this been a price story, an 18% price drop should have cut the bill by roughly USD800 million; instead the value held, implying import volume rose about 20% month-on-month to offset the price relief.**

The structure behind it has been visible since May: crude-oil exports collapsed to near zero, **oil-product imports nearly doubled year-on-year as domestic refining and lifting could not meet demand**, and crude imports stayed flat. Indonesia is buying high volumes of refined fuel regardless of price, and a cheaper barrel simply financed more of it.

This is why the month-on-month lens matters. The year-on-year figure · migas imports up 105% · overstates the shift, because June 2025 predates the energy crisis and carries an artificially low base. Read month-on-month, the energy deficit is a structural, volume-driven vulnerability that holds the migas balance near negative USD3.5 billion a month independent of short-term oil moves · feeding the subsidy bill and rupiah pressure, and a gap no interest-rate move can close.

Release Scorecard: Actual vs Bloomberg Consensus

Indicator	Actual	Consensus	Prior	Read
CPI (Jul, YoY)	2.88%	3.20%	3.34%	Cooler than expected
CPI Core (Jul, YoY)	2.76%	2.79%	2.76%	In line
CPI (Jul, MoM)	-0.14%	+0.09%	+0.44%	Surprise deflation
Exports (Jun, YoY)	+8.84%	-1.15%	-5.73%	Strong upside beat
Imports (Jun, YoY)	+34.27%	+23.30%	+22.16%	Well above forecast
Trade Balance (Jun)	-USD0.45bn	-USD0.78bn	-USD1.61bn	Narrower deficit

Source: BPS Berita Resmi Statistik (3 August 2026); Bloomberg (consensus survey).



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