

Mexico Economic Profile

Sixth Bimester of 2020

Timely Macroeconomic Report for Decision Making

Economic Profile of Mexico 6th Bimonthly Report of 2020



At the end of 2020, in Mexico a dim light begins to appear at the end of the tunnel. With enormous difficulties, in the second part of the year, the economy seemed to emerge very slowly from the abyss into which it fell in the second quarter. The lockdown easing from June opened spaces, first narrow and then wider, to the economic reopening. This and the recent approval of the first anti-Covid-19 vaccines have resulted in moderate optimism around the world. However, this war is not over. The new outbreaks of Covid-19 threaten a new economic shutdown and the challenges posed by the mass production and distribution of vaccines are enormous. Especially in countries like Mexico, where ideology outweighs the most elementary logic, the private sector is seen as the enemy and elections are the highest priority. Faced with this, the scenario is not very encouraging: the death of human beings, jobs and companies will continue to dominate the news in 2021.

Collapse of Economic Growth.- In 2020, a GDP decline of -8.5% is reported, the largest drop since the Great Depression of 1929. Therefore, expectations point to growth of around + 3.5% by 2021. According to these forecasts, the recovery it would take at least 3 years. Faced with a sharp decline in supply and aggregate demand, derived from Covid-19, much more is required than a government with its arms crossed, to impose a rapid recovery in production and employment.

Inflation under Control.- Due to lockdown, inflation experienced a bubble: it accelerated from 2.2% in April to 4.1% in October, but closed the year at 3.2%. It is essentially an inflation via costs and not via demand. which reflects the impact of the rise in the exchange rate, in the price of energy, as well as the restrictions imposed by Covid-19. As economic activity normalizes, the inflation rate is returning to its historical levels (2-3%) and meets the institutional goal (of 3% +/-1%).

Job losses are shortened.- The enormous loss of formal jobs, of 1.1 million, that took place between March and July, was shortened in the rest of the year to close at **64**8 thousand. As a consequence, the unemployment rate also fell (from 5.5% in June to **4.4%** in November). There was, however, a significant real increase in minimum wages (16.8%), which has somewhat offset the hardships of the working class, but has not been enough to improve the wage bill and strengthen consumption.

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Strong Pressures on Government Finances.- In 2020, government revenues totaled **23.2**% of GDP, expenditures **26.1**% of GDP, and this resulted in a negative balance of -2.9% of GDP. The government has done all kinds of juggling to maintain fiscal discipline (e.g. greater collection efficiency, appropriation of trusts, non-tax revenues); however, the deficit tends to spiral out of control and public debt has increased from **45.5** to **53**% of GDP.

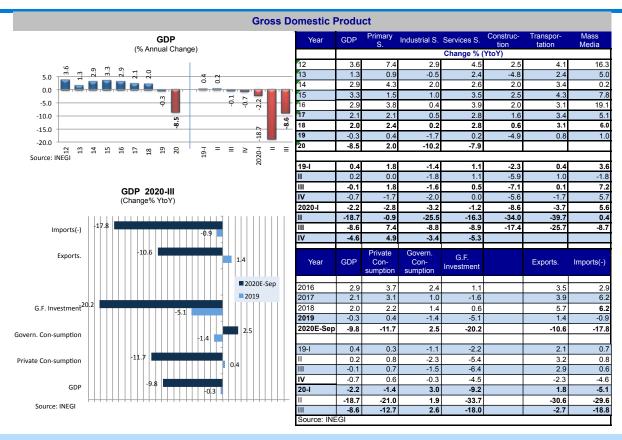
Financing to the Private Sector continues to weaken.- After three years of low dynamism (2017 to 2019), financing to the private sector has been promoted to alleviate the effects of the crisis. In fact, in 2020-III it reported an annual growth of 1.1%, supported by financing to companies (4.1%); In contrast, the one destined for housing is holding up with difficulty (2.1%) and that destined for consumption is declining (-14.1%). This takes place in a context of frankly declining interest rates: from levels above 7% at the beginning of 2020, they fell to levels just above 4% in December; meanwhile, the stock market moves amid ups and downs and had a strong rise at the end of the year (17%).

Covid-19 collapses the world economy. The US economy also suffered a severe collapse due to Covid-19 (-31.4% in 2020-II). However, in 2020-III there is already a frank recovery in GDP (+ 33.4%) and in the industrial sector (+ 42.5%). Consequently, unemployment shot up in April (14.7%) and then fell to 6.7% at the end of the year. This favorable performance is largely explained by aggressive counter-cyclical measures that have moderated the effect of the crisis and are helping a speedy recovery. Still, uncertainty prevails. A worsening in the outbreak of Covid-19, the pressures in favor of economic reopening and the support packages are factors that can drastically change the economic outlook in the US and modify forecasts.

Uncertain Economic Outlook.- Expectations for 2020 are not very encouraging in Mexico and the US. An economic decline of around -9% for Mexico and -3.8% for the US is expected. For 2021, a moderate recovery is expected: + 3.5% for Mexico and around + 3.8% for the US. Still, forecasts are continually being adjusted and uncertainty remains the sign of our time.

In 2020, GDP decreased -8.5% at an annual rate (and -4.6% in the fourth quarter), the worst fall since the Great Depression of 1929.

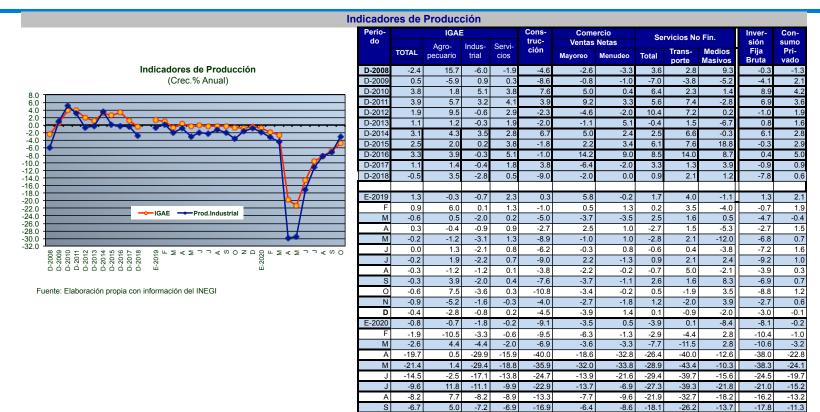




- After the collapse of the economy in the second quarter (-18.7), the lockdown easing and the reopening of economic activity led to a more moderate drop in the economy as of the third (-8.6%) and fourth quarter (-4.6%). The steep decline is attributable to the pandemic and the inaction of the authorities.
- In 2020, a strong deterioration is observed in the main sectors: the industrial sector contracted -10.2%, the services sector fell -7.9%, which contrasts with positive growth in the agricultural sector (2%).
- For their part, the drivers of demand register very low levels of activity, although they have also been gradually reactivated as of the third quarter.

The IGAE bottomed out in May and from then on there has been a slow and gradual recovery in economic activity.





- The IGAE (Global Indicator of Economic Activity), after a substantial decline in the second quarter (-18.7%), has shown a gradual reactivation since June that has lasted until the end of the year.
- In the third quarter, the greatest decline was registered in the industrial sector and in the service sector, with the agricultural sector being the least affected.
- On the demand side, although very high negative annual rates continue to be reported, they tend to be more and more moderate.

-2.0

-4.0

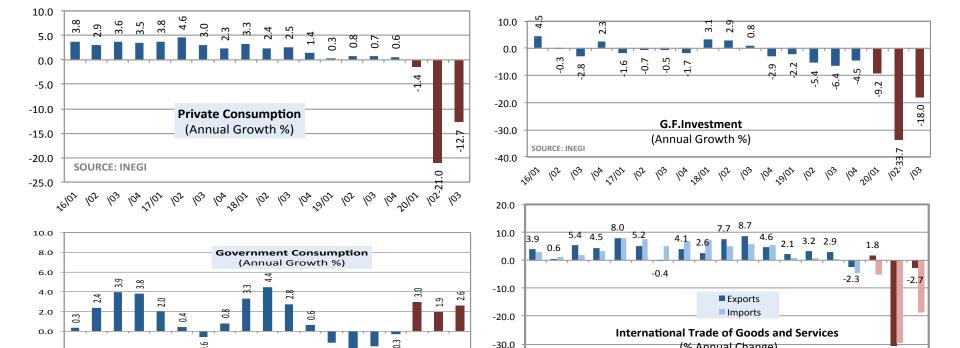
In the third quarter of 2020, the main drivers of demand - consumption and investment - are beginning to dynamize very slowly.



-30.6

(% Annual Change)

/04 18/01 /02 /03 /04 19/01 /02 /03 /04 20/01 /02 /03



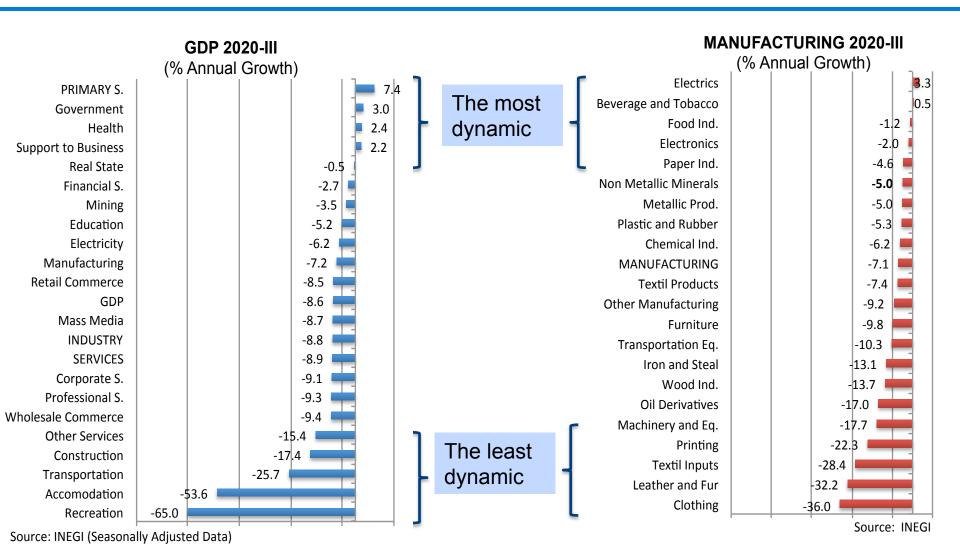
Private consumption, with the greatest weight in demand (2/3 of GDP), observed in the third guarter, an annual decline of -12.7%, lower than the previous -21%; in contrast, public consumption, very small by nature, reported positive growth.

SOURCE: INEG

- Investment, which was already declining throughout 2019, contracted -33.7% in the second guarter of 2020 and only fell -18% in the third.
- Exports of goods and services also had a collapse in the second quarter (-30.6%), but for the third quarter the fall was much smaller (-2.7%).

In the third quarter of 2020, practically all economic branches collapse (except some of them), but show more and more moderate declines

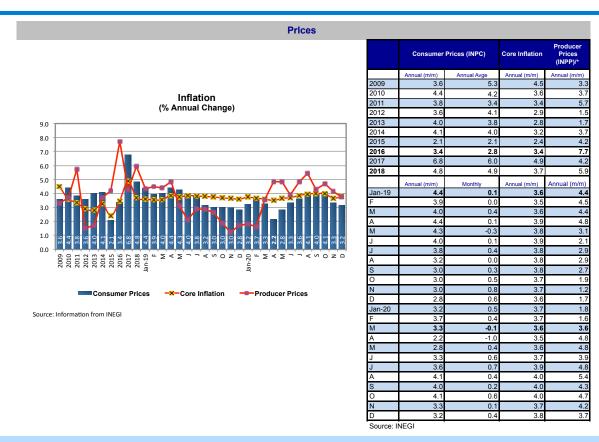




Prices

At the end of 2020, inflation was at 3.2%, within the institutional goal of 3% (+/- 1%) and in line with low productive activity.



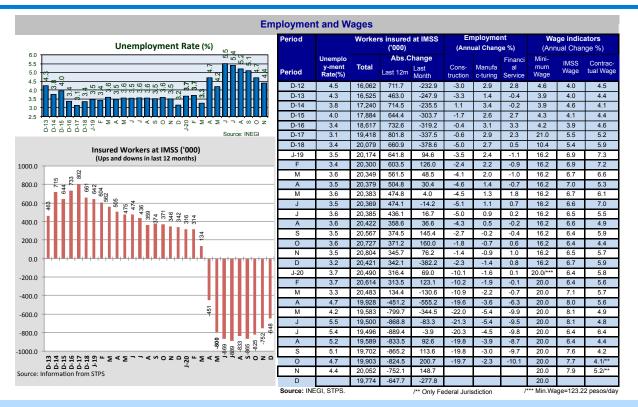


- After a recent past of moderate inflation, an inflationary bubble was experienced in the second and third quarters; Fortunately, it was temporary and inflation closed the year at 3.2%, within the institutional goal and in line with the general decline in demand.
- Although the pandemic and the closure of productive activities encouraged inflationary pressures, the gradual reopening of economic activity has returned inflation to historical parameters.
- However, inflationary pressures have not completely dissipated: they come more from the cost side (especially the exchange rate and energy) than from the demand side.

Laboral Sector

The labor situation improves slightly: unemployment is contracting (4.4% in November), the same as the annual loss of jobs (648 thousand in 2020).





- The unemployment rate reported a significant rise from 3.3% in March to 5.5% in June and then gradually decreased to 4.4% in November.
- For its part, the loss of formal jobs has been very substantial and very accelerated. Between March and June, 1.1 million formal jobs were lost and at the end of the year the loss had been cut to 648 thousand jobs.
- Real gain in the three main salary indicators in October: 16.8% in the minimum, 4.7% in the IMSS salary and 2% gain in the contractual salary. This is due to the annual adjustments to the minimum wage. However, the loss of jobs has resulted in a substantial decline in the wage bill.

Public Finances

In 2020, government revenues totaled 23.2% of GDP and expenditures 26.1% of GDP, resulting in a deficit of -2.9% of GDP.



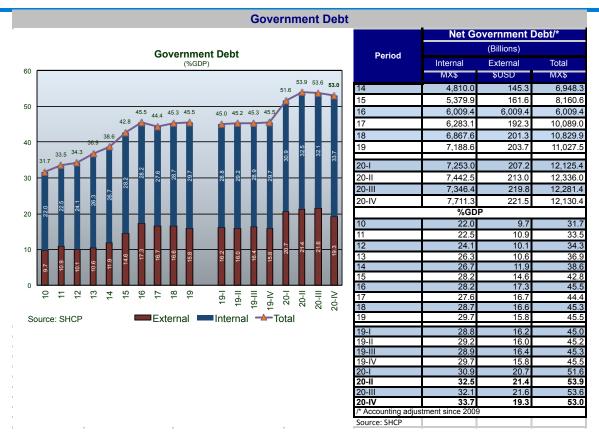
							Publi	c Financ	се					
Public Finance (% GDP)			Public Sector Revenues (MX Pesos Billions) Net Expenditu								e (MX Pesc	Public		
		Period	TOTAL	Oil	Non oil	Taxes	Non Taxes	Enterprise	TOTAL	Prog.	Current	Capital	No Prog.	Balance
3E 4 m v m m v 2: 12 m v m m	_	15	4267	843	3424	2361	404		4893	3827	2891	936	1066	-638
	2 26.:	16	4841	790	4051	716	542	793	5344	4160	2978	1182	1183	-504
	mi	17	4947	827	4120	2855	545	720	5178	3852	3060	793	1325	-239
22. 23. 23. 23. 23. 24. 45. 25. 23. 23. 23. 23. 23. 23. 23. 23. 23. 23	21.5	18	5115	978	4137	3062	268	807	5589	4065	3341	723	1525	-495
20 -	2	19	5384	955	4429	3203	372	855	5786	4227	3495	731	1560	-398
	-	20J-December	5.340	606	4.734	3.339	551	844	6.000	4.455	3.663	792	1.545	-674.2
			-,-		, ,	-,			-,	,	-,		,	
15 -		20-PEF/*	5,226	573	4,654	3,351	455	848	6,033	4,415	3,665	751	1,617	-806.4
Expediture		% GDP												
		10	22.4	7.4	15	9.9	1.3		25.2	19.8	14.9	4.9	5.4	-2.8
		11	22.3	7.5	14.8 14.7	9.8 9.6	1.2		24.8 24.8	19.5 19.6	14.7	4.8	5.3 5.2	-2.4 -2.5
		12	23.4	7.5 7.7	14.7	10.1	1.4	3.8	25.7	20.4	14.9 15	5.4	5.2	-2.5
	-	14	22.8	6.9	15.6	10.1	1.7	3.7	25.7	20.4	15.4	5.4	5.4	-2.3
		15	23.0	4.5	18.5	12.7	2.2	3.7	26.4	20.6	15.4	5.0	5.7	-3.4
		16	24.1	3.9	20.1	13.5	2.7	3.9	26.6	20.7	14.8	5.9	5.9	-2.5
	4	17	22.6	3.8	18.8	13.0	2.5	3.3	23.6	17.6	14.0	3.6	6	-1.1
	ider DEFL	18	21.8	4.2	17.6	13.0	1.1	3.4	23.8	17.3	14.2	3.1	6.5	-2.1
	19	22.2	3.9	18.3	13.2	1.5	3.5	23.9	17.4	14.4	3.0	6.4	-1.6	
■ Revenue														
Source: SHCP /* Information from PEF 2020		20J-December	23.2	2.6	20.6	14.5	2.4	3.7	26.1	19.4	15.9	3.4	6.7	-2.9
		20-PEF/*	21.5	2.4	19.1	13.8	1.9	3.5	24.8	18.1	15.0	3.1	6.6	-3.3
		January-December (Mx Pesos Billions)												
		19J-December	5,385	956	4,429	3,203	372	855	5,793	4,233	3,502	731	1,560	
		20J-December	5,340	606	4,734	3,339	551	844	6,000	4,455	3,663	792	1,545	- 674
		%Change	-0.8	-36.6	6.9	4.3	48.4	-1.3	3.6	5.3	4.6	8.3	-1.0	n.s.
		% Real Change	-4.1	-38.7	3.4	0.8	43.5	-4.6	0.2	1.8	1.2	4.8	-4.2	n.s.
		Source: SHCP						/* PEF 2020	(Federal Budg	et 2020)				

- Despite the pandemic, in 2020 the budget evolved according to schedule, except for the notable collapse in oil revenues (-38.7%), which was partially offset by non-tax revenues (43.5%).
- On the one hand, the stability of tax income stands out, despite the collapse in production, which is attributed to the strengthening of collection efficiency (pressure on large taxpayers) and the appropriation of trusts; on the other hand, the discipline in spending and the cut in non-programmable spending (-4.2%) stand out, reflecting the absence of an active fiscal policy.
- In 2020, a fiscal deficit of -2.9% of GDP is reported, very close to the original forecasts (-3.3%). All in all, the pressures for lower income and higher expenses remain.

Public Debt

Government debt jumped in 2020: it went from 45.5% of GDP at the end of 2019 to 53% of GDP at the end of 2020.



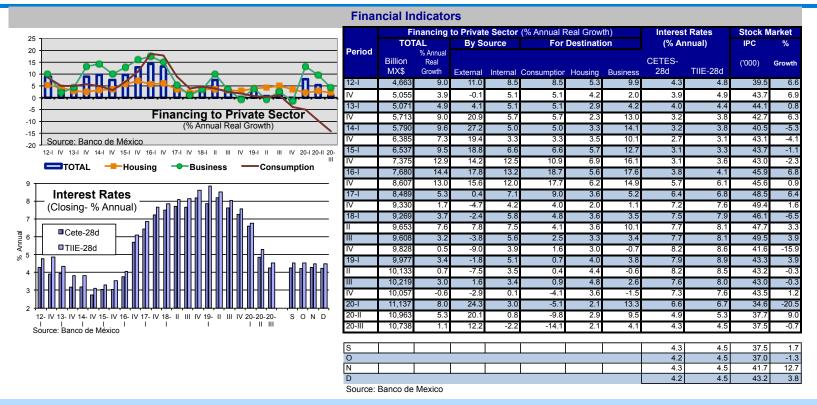


- In the world comparison, Mexico's public debt is relatively moderate: in 2020 it exceeded 50% of GDP, but the country is not among the most indebted countries.
- Despite the promise of 4T not to increase government debt, it has increased by 7.5 points of GDP in 2020; the explanation: increased debt, exchange rate adjustments and the contraction of the economy.
- Certainly, the fiscal deficit has been kept under fragile control until now; but adjustments in key variables (debt, GDP, exchange rate) have triggered public debt as a proportion of GDP.

Financial sector

In the third quarter of 2020, financing to the private sector had little significant growth: 1.1% (vs. 5.3% previously), while interest rates continue to fall to just above 4% at the end of 2020.



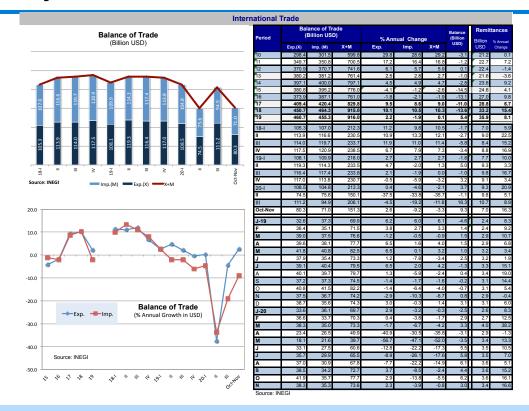


- In 2020, financing to the private sector continued its deceleration process, reporting in the third quarter a growth of only 1.1% (vs. 5.3% previously); this despite the impulse given by the authorities to avoid the collapse of productive activity.
- The most dynamic is financing for companies (4.1%); in contrast, the one destined for consumption (-14.1) suffered a sharp decline and the one destined for housing (2.1%) remains afloat.
- In 2020 low interest rates were promoted to support financing and economic reactivation. In fact, rates fell to levels above 7% at the end of 2019 to levels close to 4% at the end of 2020. Meanwhile, the Stock Market continues with ups and downs, reporting important gains in the last two months (17%).

International Trade

In October-November 2020, foreign trade in goods shows a rapid recovery: annual decline of -3.3% (vs -11.8% in the previous quarter), under the impulse of the US economy.



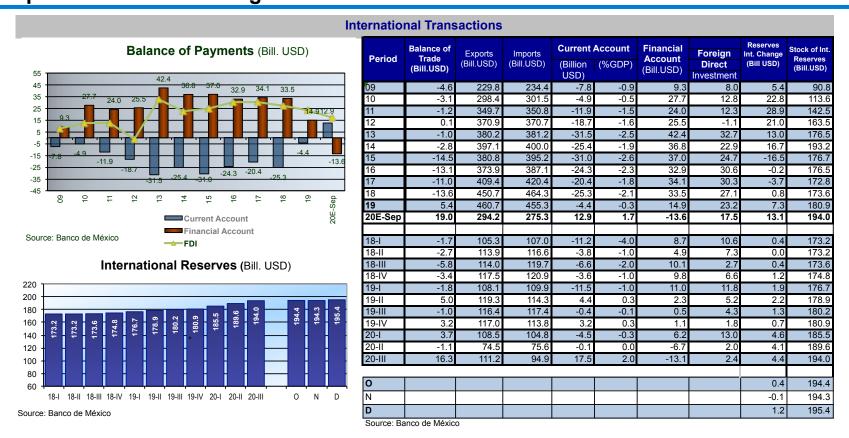


- International merchandise trade shows a rapid recovery in the third and fourth quarters of the year: after the resounding fall due to Covid-19 in the second quarter, trade flows begin to strengthen, largely driven by the recovery of the US economy.
- Imports are recovering much more slowly, due to the slow recovery of the Mexican economy and the decline in the domestic market.
- For their part, remittances continue to show significant growth, despite the pandemic. In October-November, they showed a growth of 16% and it is probable that this year remittances will add up to more than 40 USD Bn.

External Sector

In January-September 2020, the balance of payments shows a current account surplus of 12.9 USD Bn and a financial account deficit of 13.6 USD Bn, despite the fact that Foreign Direct Investment added 17.5 USD Bn



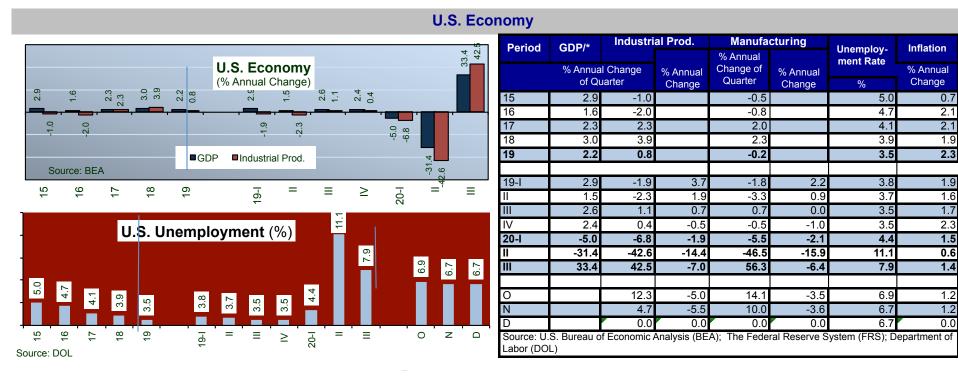


- For the first time in decades there is a current account surplus (+12.9 Bn) and a deficit in financial account (-13.6 Bn), despite the fact that Foreign Direct Investment remains solid (17.5 Bn). This accounts for a country that is less and less attractive to foreign investors.
- Throughout 2020, international reserves went from 180.9 Bn at the end of 2019 to 195.5 Bn at the end of 2020, which represents an advance of almost 15 Bn in the year.
- Concerns persist about the decline in confidence in the country by foreign investors and the slowdown in net capital inflows, which is already a fact.

International economy

In the third quarter of 2020, the US economy had a rise of 33.4% in GDP (vs. -31.4% previously) and 42.5% in the industrial sector; meanwhile, unemployment confirms its downward trend (6.7% in December)



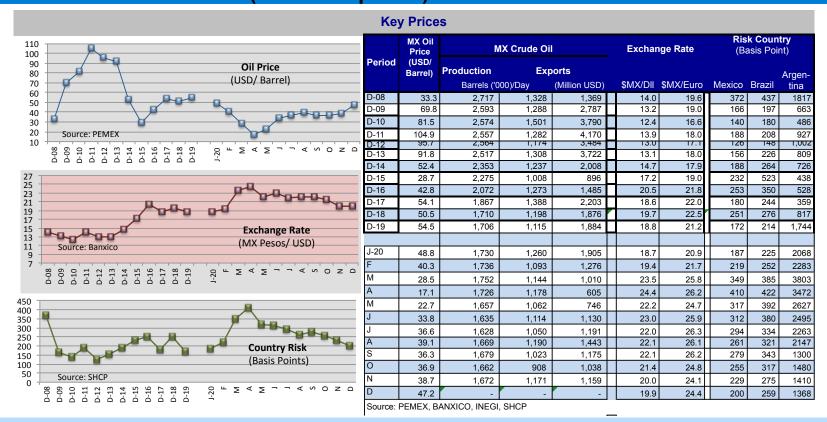


- The US economy is recovering rapidly: in the third quarter of 2020 it increased 33.4% in GDP and 42.5% in the industrial sector. Consequently, unemployment is decreasing although it remains high: 6.7% in December. Everything points to a faster-than-expected recovery that will be consolidated in 2021.
- For 2020, negative growth is expected in the US no greater than -4% but for 2021 a return to positive growth rates is already expected. This is due to the fact that countercyclical measures have been implemented in the United States and the road to recovery is being paved by various means.

Key Prices

In the fourth quarter of 2020, the price of crude oil (47.2 DPB) and the exchange rate (19.8 PPD) have strengthened, while the country risk reaffirms its downward trend (200 basis points)





- The price of crude oil, after its collapse in the first quarter of 2020, recovered rapidly in the second quarter and then remained relatively stable in the second part of the year and closed at 47.3 DPB.
- Due to the effect of the pandemic, the exchange rate was adjusted to 24 PPD, but the price has been moderating and is already at 19.8 PPD at the end of the year.
- Country risk reached a new maximum of 410 basis points in April (practically double its historical level) but it
 has been declining and has already returned to 200 basis points at the end of 2020.

Macroeconomic Framework of Mexico

Growth expectations for 2020-2021 (especially 2020) practically collapsed (\approx -9%) while inflation expectations have remained within manageable



(p) Projected

ranges (≈ 3-4%)

		Macroeco	nomic	Framev	vork								
			Hist	orical					CGF	PE/*	EEE	SP/**	
GDP			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2020 (p)	2021 (p)
(% Annual Change)		GDP											
6 -	3.5	% Annual Growth	1.4	2.8	3.3	2.9	2.1	2.1	-0.1	-8.0	4.6	-9.0	3.5
4 2.8 3.3 2.9 2.1 2.1	3.3	GDP Current (MX Billions)	16,277	17,471	18,537	20,100	21,912	23,492	24,239	23,103	24,987	22,942	24,467
2		GDP Deflator	1.5	4.4	2.7	5.4	6.7	5	3.3	3.6	3.4	4.0	3.0
0	-	Inflation											
-2 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2 019 2020	2021 (p)	Dec/ Dec	4	4.1	2.1	3.4	6.8	4.8	2.8	3.5	3	3.4	3.6
-4	(p)	Exchange Rate											
-6 -8		Average	12.9	0	16	18.7	18.9	0	0	22	22.1		
10		Closing	0	14.7	17.2	20.6	19.7	19.7	18.8	22.3	21.9	20.1	20.7
-9.0		Interest Rate (Cete 28d)											
Source: INEGI. EEEE-SP		Average	3.7	0	3	4.3	6.9	7.8	0	5.3	4		
		Closing	3.5	2.7	3.1	5.7	7.2	8.2	7.3	4	4	4.2	4.0
Inflation (%)		Current Account											
8 1 6.8		Billions USD	-22.3	-26.6	-32.4	-33.1	-22.7	-22.2	-2.4	-6.7	-22.8	14.3	0.3
7		% GDP	-1.7	-2.1	-2.8	-3.4	-1.6	-1.9	-0.2	-0.6	-2.0	1.3	0.0
6 4.8		Public Balance											
5 4.0 4.1 3.4 3.4	3.6	% GDP	-2.3	-3.1	-3.4	-2.5	-1.1	-2.1	-1.6	-2.4	-2.9	-3.9	-3.4
2.8		USA											
		GDP (%Annual Growth)	1.9	2.4	2.4	1.6	2.3	2.9	2.3	-5.0	3.8	-3.8	3.8
		MX Crude Oil											
		Avg. Price (USD/ Barrel)	98.6	86	43.7	35.4	46.3	61.4	55.5	34.6	42.1		
2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020		Exports ('000 barrels/day)	1,189	1,142	1,282	1,195	1,175	1,186	1105,6	973	870		
(p)	(p)	Production ('000 barrels/day)	2,522	2,429	2,290	2,154	1,944	1,813	1,678	1,744	1,857		
Source: INEGI, EEEE-SP	/* CGPE-(Criterios Generales de Po	lítica Econón	nica 2021) - I	Basis Docume	ent for Macros	economic Pol	CV			(n) Pro	piected		

[■] For 2020-2021, private experts foresee a collapse in growth in 2020 and a slow recovery from 2021: -9.0 and + 3.5% for both years.

/* CGPE-(Criterios Generales de Política Económica 2021).- Basis Document for Macroeconomic Policy

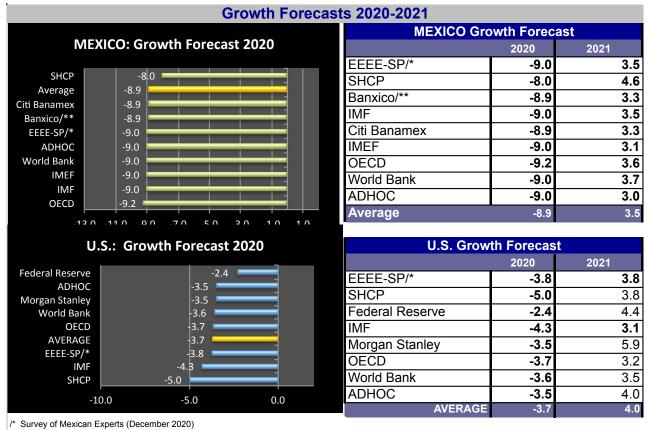
/** Encuesta de Expectivas de Expertos en Economía del Sector Privado-EEEE-SP/ Survey of Mexican Experts (December 2020)

- An inflation rate is estimated above 3% but within the institutional goal: 3.4 and 3.6% for the biennium.
- According to forecasts, the fundamental balances will remain under relative control, but it is estimated that the
 fiscal deficit could go out of range in both years (-3.9% and -3.4% of GDP), but not the current account deficit,
 which will be positive in 2020 and will not exceed 1% of GDP in 2021.
- According to their forecasts, the US economy will also suffer a deterioration in 2020 (-3.8%) and a rapid recovery in 2021 (3.8%).

Growth Forecasts 2020-2021

According to specialized agencies, the expected growth for 2020 is -8.9% for Mexico and -3.7% for the US. For 2021 the forecast is 3.5% for Mexico and 4% for the US.





- /* Survey of Mexican Experts (December 2020)
 Source: Organizations, as indicated
- For Mexico, the forecasts of nine specialized organizations fluctuate between -8% and -9.2% in 2020, with an average of -8.9%. For 2021, the average forecast is 3.5%.
- For the USA, the forecasts of eight specialized organizations fluctuate between -2.4 and -5.0% for 2020, with an average of -3.7%. For 2021, the average forecast is 4.0%.
- As can be seen, both economies are advancing in parallel, but the US economy is emerging with a better economic performance in the biennium.

Mexico Economic Profile December 2020



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