



Mexico Economic Profile

Second Bimester of 2024

Timely Macroeconomic Report
for Decision Making

April 2024

Economic Profile of Mexico

Second Bimonthly Report de 2024



In March-April of 2024, the Mexican economy remains structurally solid with two notable elements: a clear slowdown in productive activity, which began in late 2023, and a very substantial increase in government spending with obvious electoral purposes. Both are bad news. The economic slowdown, if it deepens, will indicate that the relocation of companies (nearshoring) is still hanging on by a thread. Meanwhile, excessive spending would explain the largest public deficit (5% of GDP) in recent decades and the beginning of a serious imbalance in public finances. In the short term, the impact may be less. Everything indicates that at the end of the year the GDP will hardly grow more than 2% and that the budget imbalance will force a radical contraction of spending in 2025. But in the long term, the impact may be greater: if new drivers of productive activity are not promoted, growth will be mediocre, and if public finances are not fundamentally cleaned up, budget imbalances will continue to deteriorate the country's economic health.

Economic Slowdown in Process.- The Mexican economy experienced a new slowdown in the first quarter of 2024 (1.9% vs. 2.3% in the previous quarter). In line with this, the private sector has adjusted its forecasts downwards (2.3%), increasingly far from official forecasts (3%). But the year is just beginning and many things can happen in the following months.

Inflation continues to decline.- After two long years of anti-inflationary struggle, inflation is giving way with some ups and downs. In December, it stood at 4.7% and in April it was at the same level, which shows resistance to the downside. As we recall, inflation was the result of an explosion in global demand, imbalances in production chains due to Covid-19, and the rise in energy and food prices. In Mexico, two anti-inflationary programs and a gasoline subsidy helped contain inflation. It is expected that it will gradually return to its historical levels (2-4%) in the second half of 2024.

Job creation remains healthy.- After the huge loss of formal jobs in 2020 (-648 thousand), a rapid recovery of jobs was observed in the three subsequent years. In April 2024, annual job creation stood at 554 thousand. For its part, the unemployment rate remains low: it closed April at 2.6%. Meanwhile, minimum wages gained purchasing power, despite inflation, and this contributed to partially and temporarily improving the wage bill and boosting consumption.

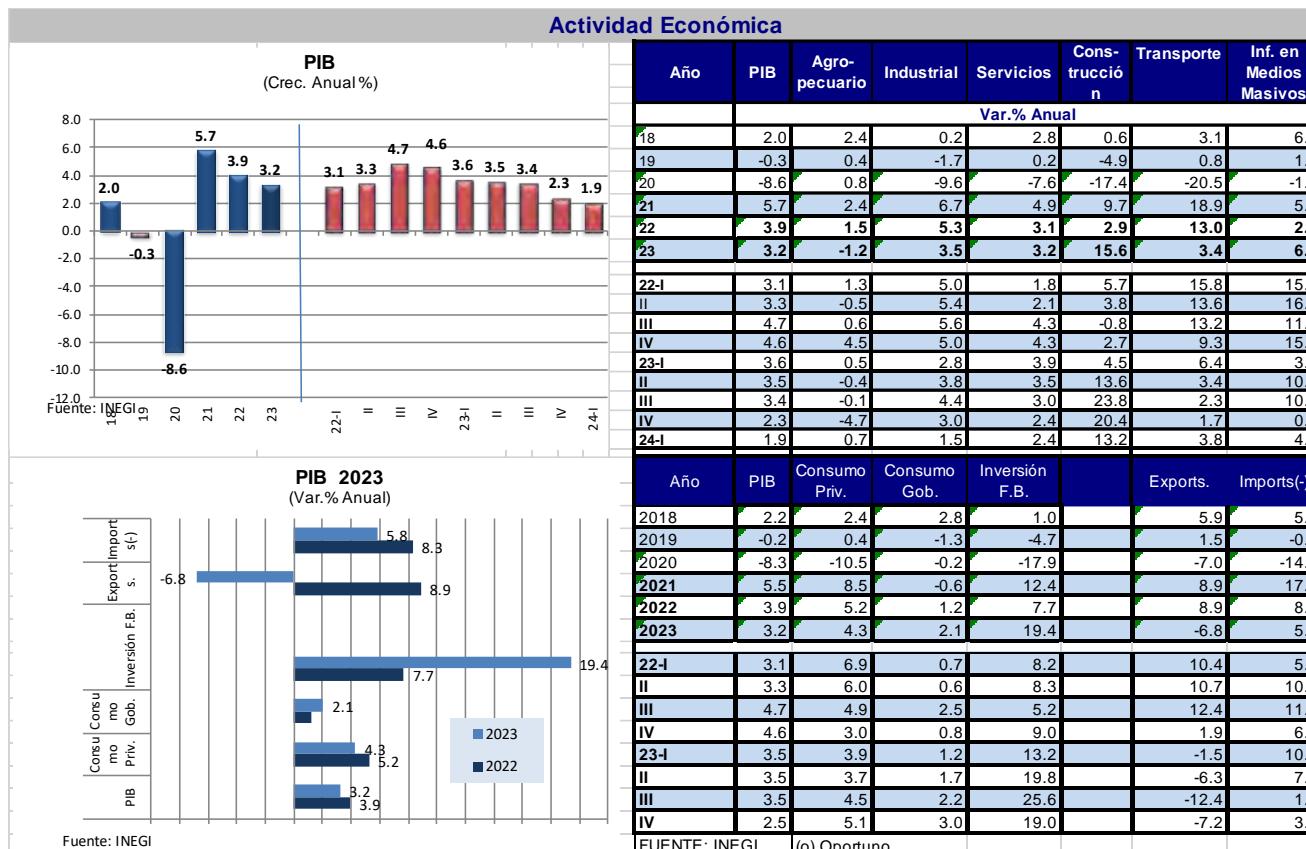
Pressure on public finances.- In January-April 2024, revenues (7.7% of GDP) and expenditures (8.8% of GDP) are reported, and therefore a deficit of 1% of GDP. Spending pressures in an election year (resources for flagship projects and for social support) lead to a move away from fiscal discipline and therefore to a higher deficit and greater debt. However, in the first four months, the debt stood at 45.6%, lower than that recorded at the end of 2023 (46.8% of GDP).

Financing to the Private Sector Continues to Be Slowed.- Despite efforts to boost it, financing to the private sector suffered a severe setback in 2021 and a more moderate one in 2022 and 2023. However, in 2024 it seems to be reactivating. In the first quarter of 2024, the annual increase (0.6%) reflects a drop in financing to companies (-2.4%) and a recovery in financing for housing (1.9%) and consumption (10.7%). All in a context of high but stable interest rates (around 11% at the beginning of 2024), which will continue to slow financing.

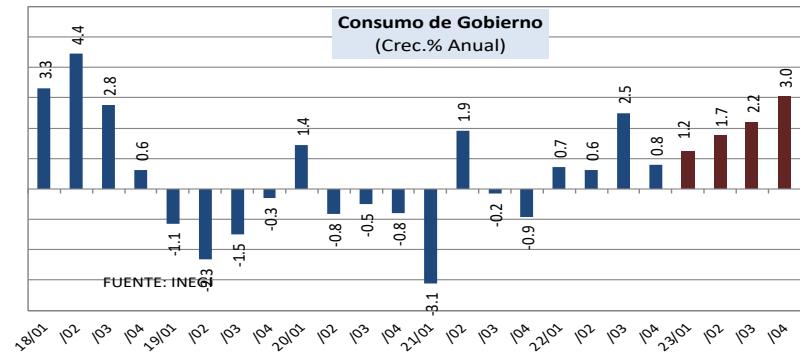
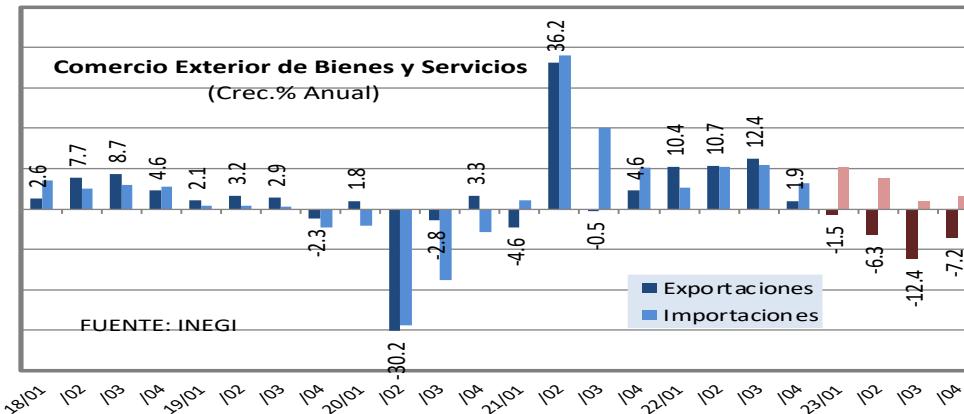
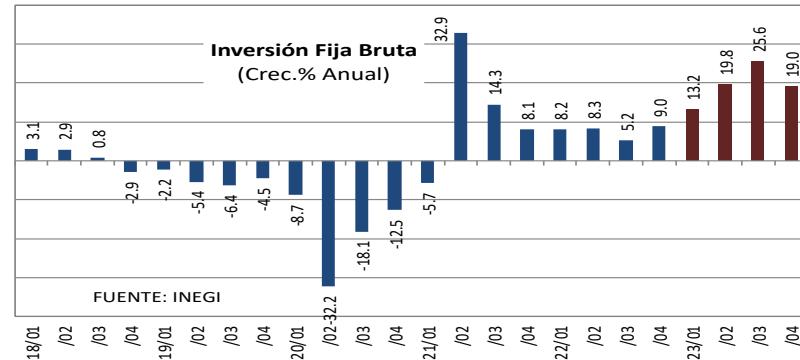
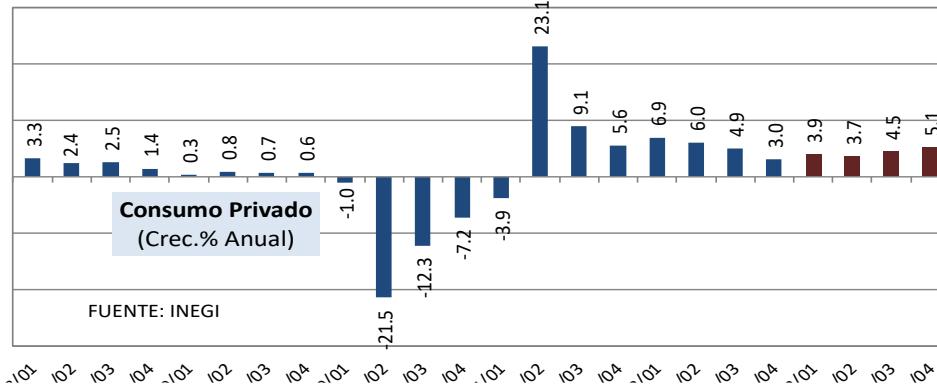
International Trade begins to reactivate. - After a year of stagnation, in 2024 there are some signs that Mexico's international trade could reactivate. This is relevant, given that export income and remittances have been consolidated as sources of foreign currency and have contributed to accumulating international reserves (they close 2023 at 212.8 MMD and reach 217.2 in April 2024). In parallel, the evolution of foreign investment – especially direct investment – has been favorable (it totaled 19.2 MMD in the first quarter of 2024) and could indicate a still moderate advance in the relocation of companies to Mexico (nearshoring).

Moderate Slowdown in the US with declining inflation.- In the first quarter of 2024, economic growth in the US was 1.3%, with stagnation in the industrial sector (-1.1%) standing out, which has a negative impact on Mexico. For 2024, the slowdown is expected to persist and therefore growth of no more than 2% is estimated. However, unemployment remains low: 3.9% in April, while inflation remains high (especially underlying inflation), but has already fallen significantly, closing in April at 3.4%.

Economic Outlook for Moderate Growth.- Growth forecasts for Mexico and the US have been on the decline. For 2024, growth of slightly more than 2% is expected for both countries and for 2025, growth of less than 2%.

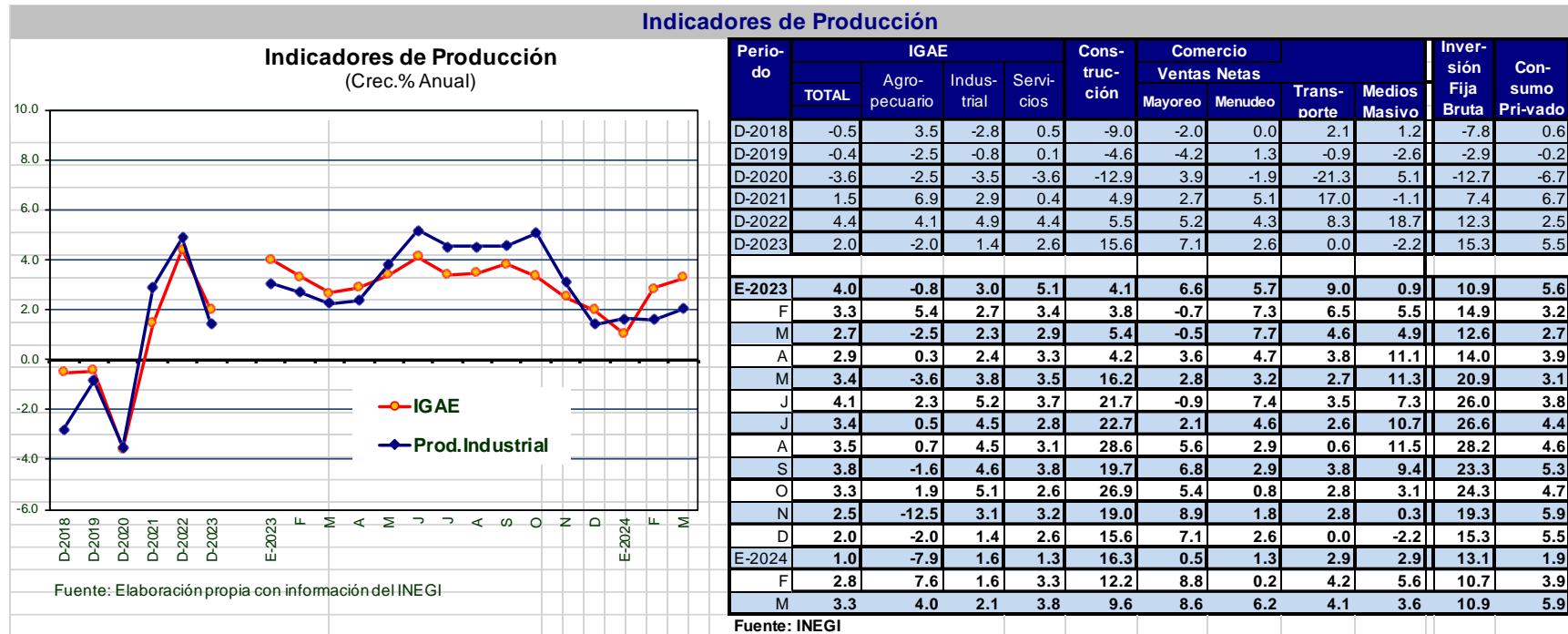


In 2023, the drivers of domestic demand remain vigorous, with investment standing out with double-digit growth.



- Private consumption, with the greatest weight in demand (2/3 of GDP), after the pandemic, has maintained the inertia of the recovery in 2022 and 2023 (5.1% in the fourth quarter).
- Investment is growing at a very fast pace in 2023; For the first time in this six-year period, investments are growing at a double-digit rate (19% in the fourth quarter).
- For their part, exports of goods and services decreased in 2023 in response to the slowdown in the US economy, but in 2024 they are showing signs of recovery.

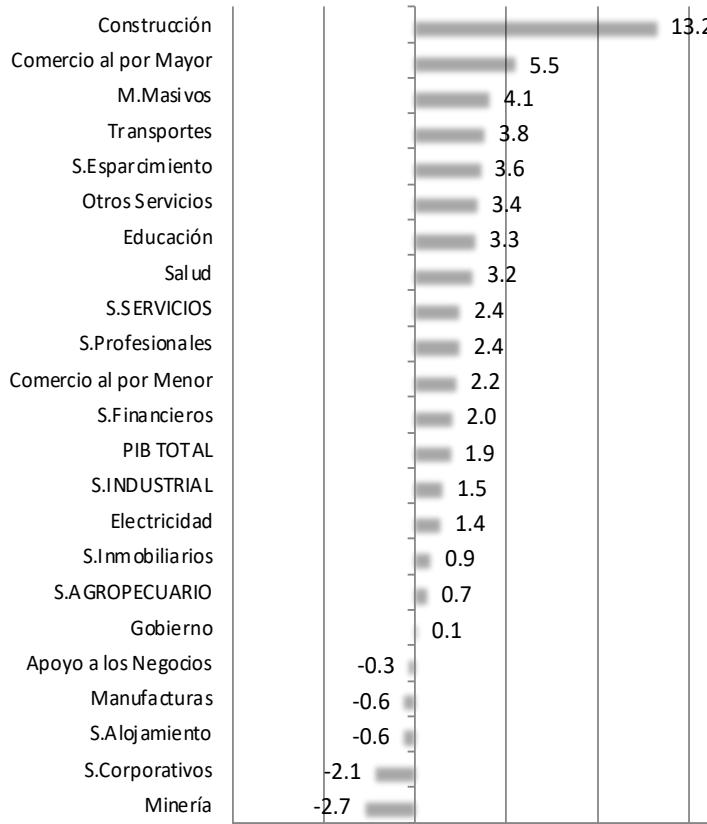
At the beginning of 2024, economic activity continues its slowdown from the end of 2023, but services are picking up again.



In 2024, a return to normality and positive and moderate growth rates are confirmed in most economic sectors, but manufacturing is not going through a good moment.

PIB TOTAL 2024-I

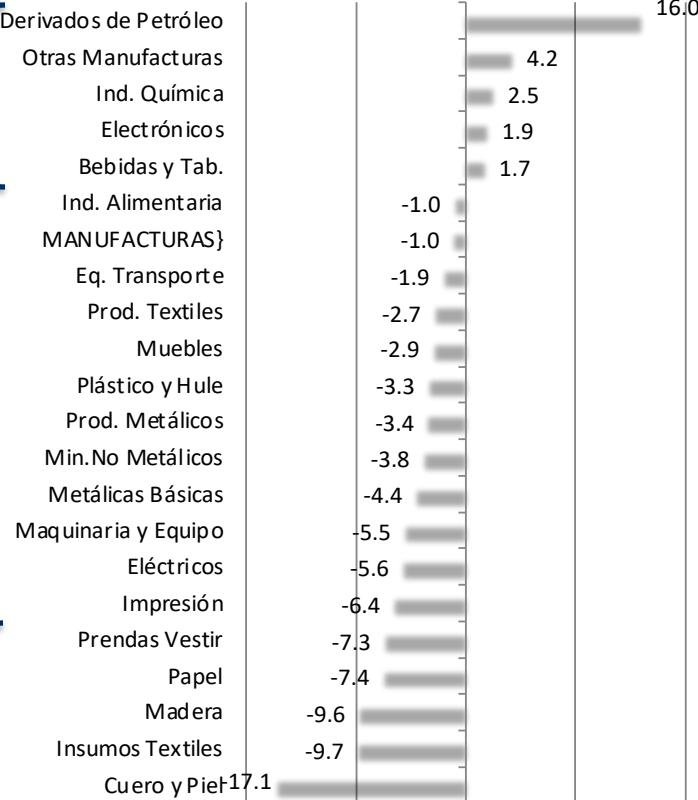
(Crec. % Anual)



Los más dinámicos

PIB MANUFACTURAS 2024-I

(Crec. % Anual)



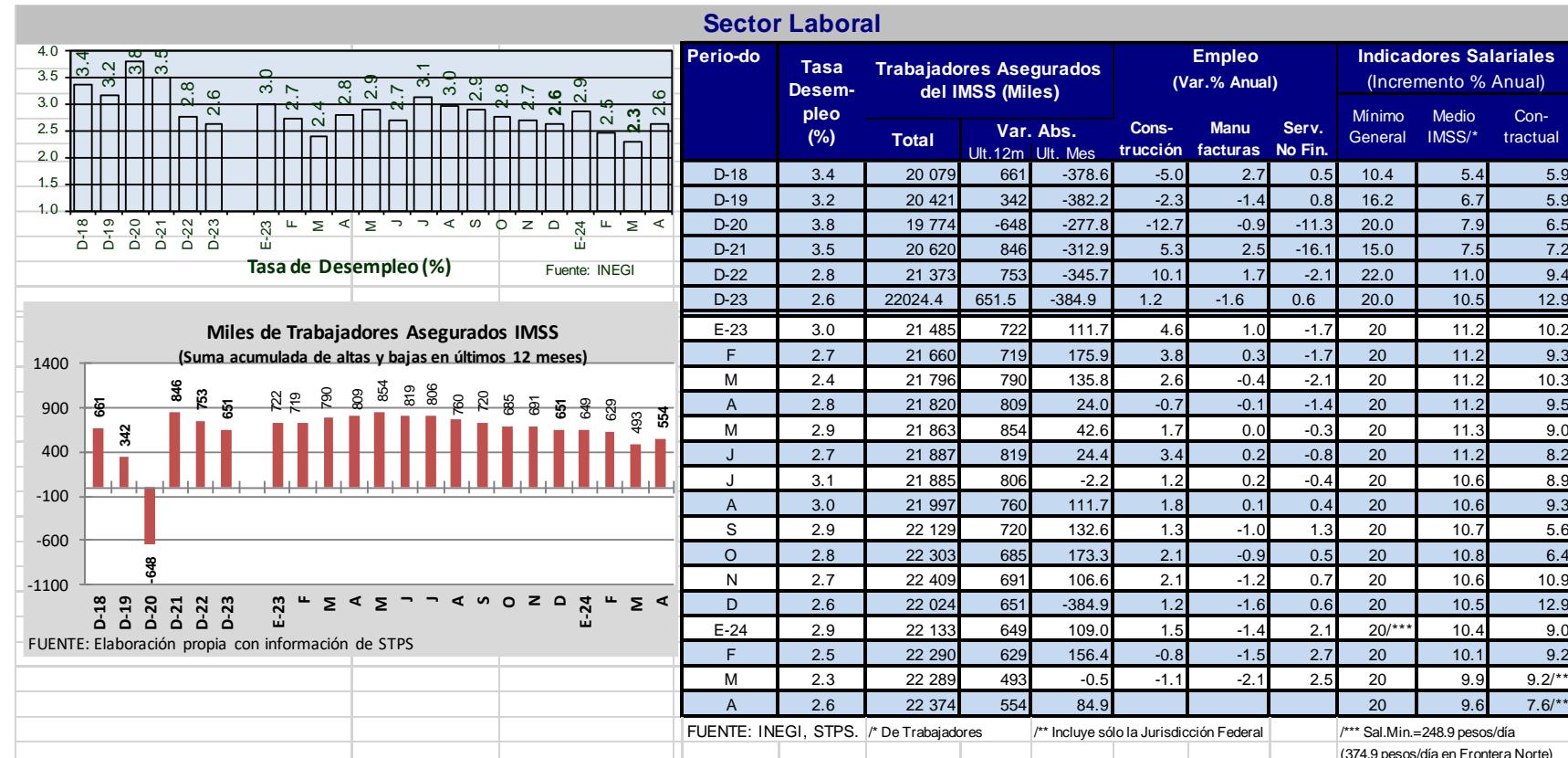
Los menos dinámicos

Fuente: INEGI (Series Desestacionalizadas)

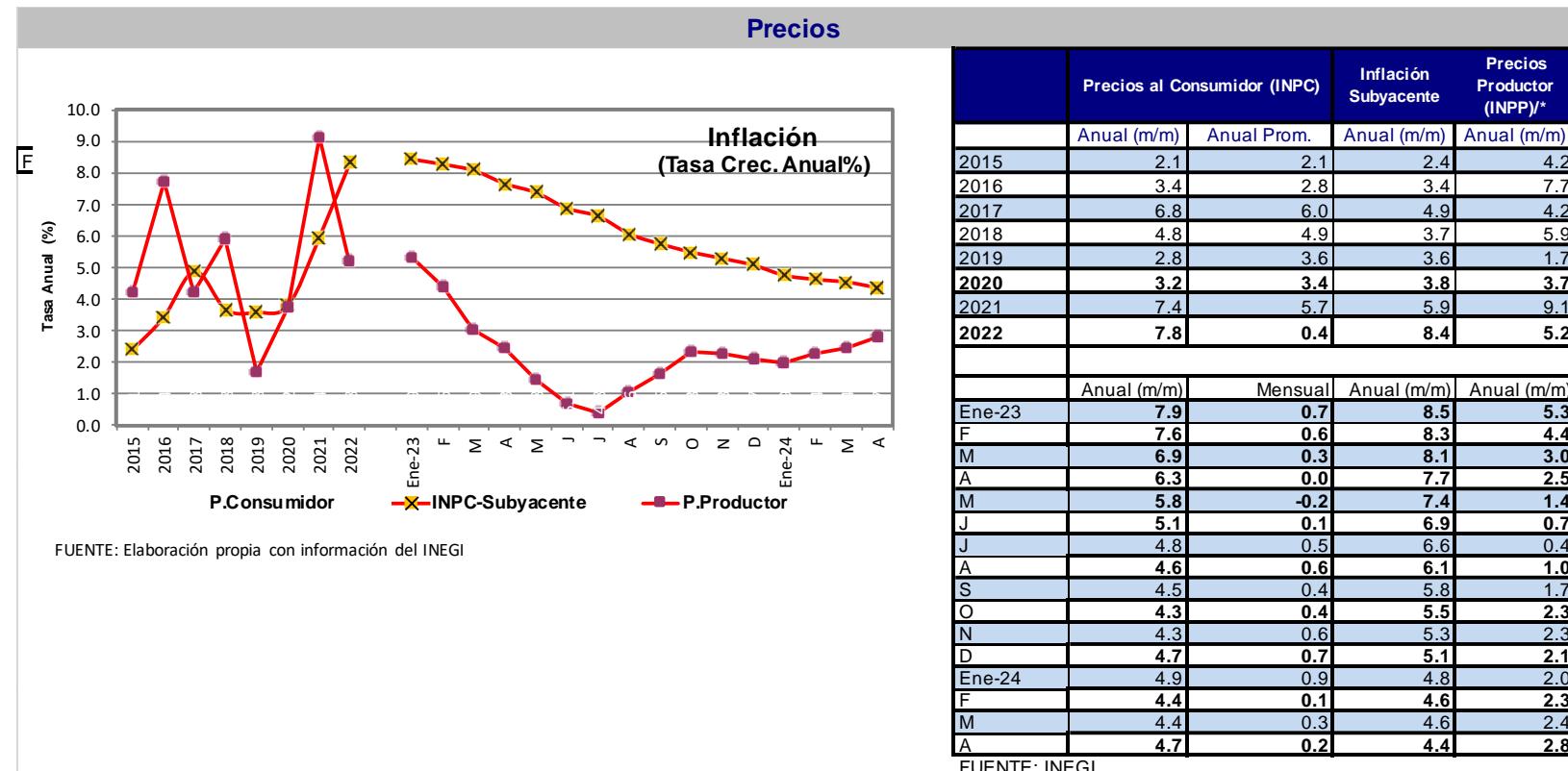
Fuente: INEGI (Series Desestacionalizadas)

Nota: Se refiere a los promedios del acumulado del año

In March-April of 2024, annual job creation is reduced (to 554 thousand), although unemployment remains low (2.6%) and real wages are improving.

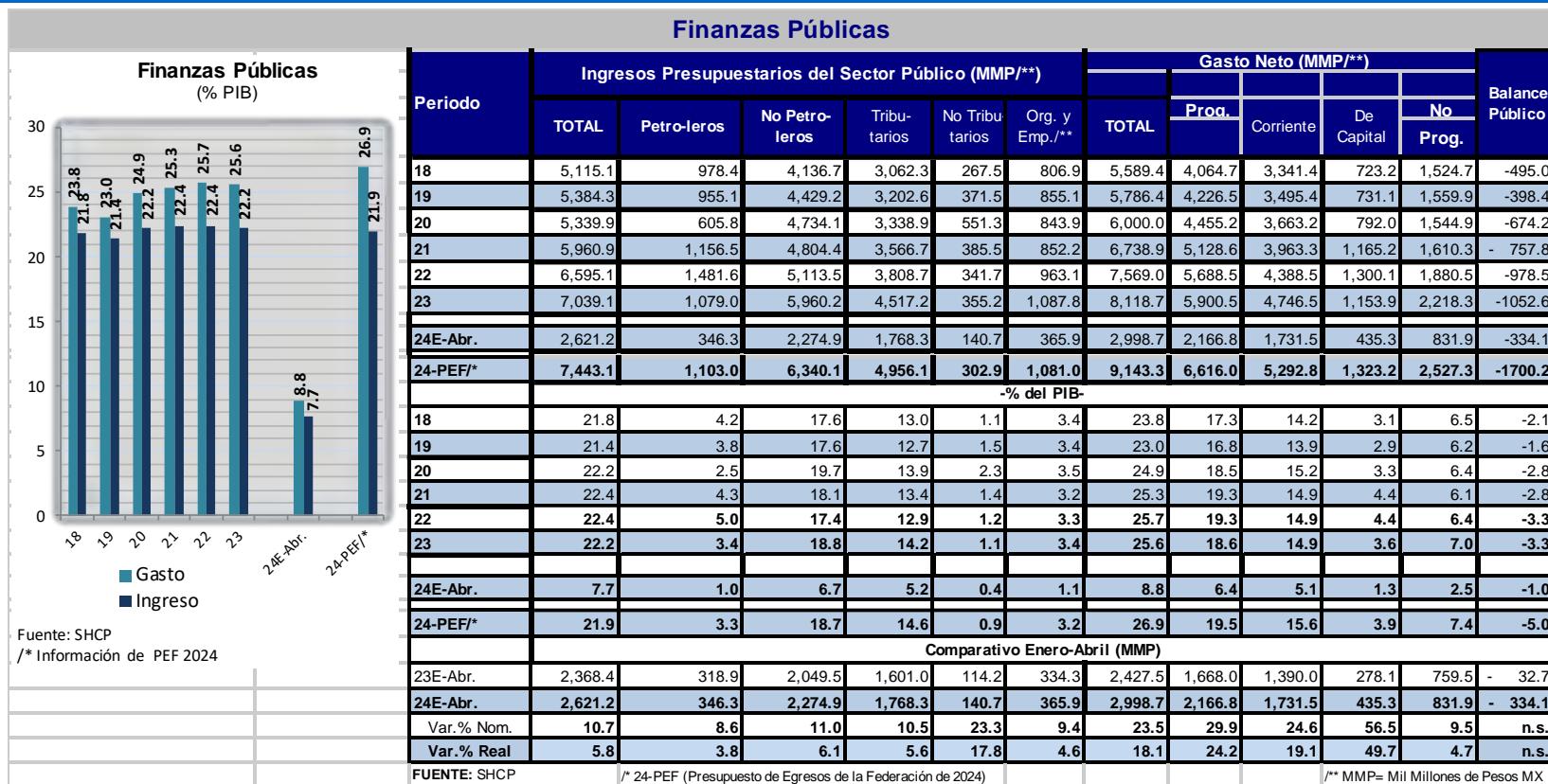


In March-April of 2024, the decline in inflation faces resistance: it stands at 4.7% in April, while the underlying inflation falls to 4.4%.



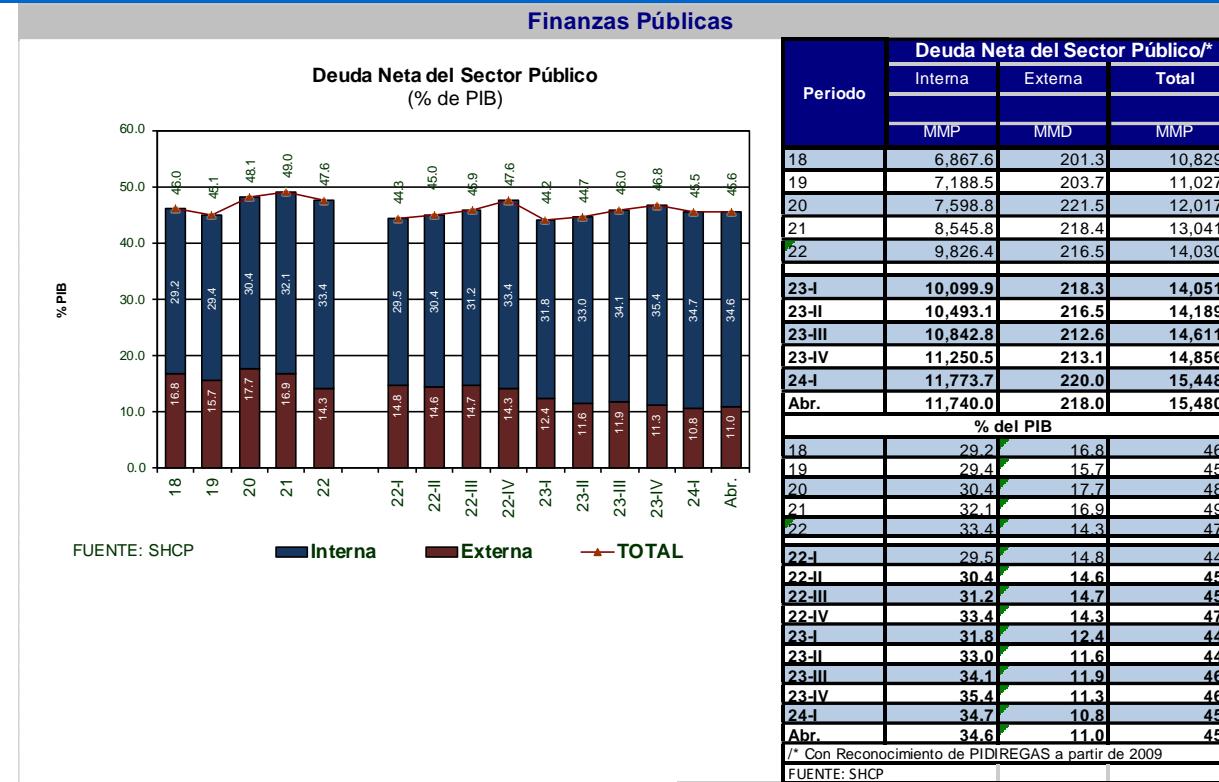
- Inflation is stagnant. It reached 4.7% in 2023 and was at the same level in April 2024. The inflationary episode is attributed to the explosion of global demand and the imbalance in production chains due to the pandemic and armed conflicts.
- The expectation is the recovery in a few months of the institutional goal of the Bank of Mexico (3% +/- 1%). The inflation of producer prices is minuscule (2.3%); The underlying deficit is not as high (4.4%), but is declining.
- If the trends are strengthened, the return to historical inflation rates is expected in a few months.

For January-April 2024, income is reported at 7.7% of GDP, expenses at 8.8% of GDP and this results in a deficit of 1% of GDP.



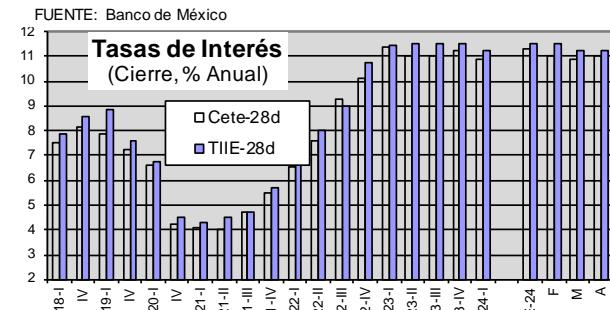
- The deficit projected for 2024 (5% of GDP) is the highest in recent decades and is unsustainable in the long term.
- On the income side, oil revenues are the least dynamic (3.8%); on the expenditure side, substantial growth is observed in current expenditure (19.1%) and investment (49.7%).
- In 2024, strong spending pressures are expected to complete flagship projects and strengthen social programs, in parallel with the weakening of oil revenues.

Public debt, as a percentage of GDP, remains under control: despite greater budgetary pressures, debt continues to contract: it fell from 46.8% of GDP in 2023 to 45.6% in April 2024.



- In the global comparison, Mexico's public debt is moderate: it closed at 46.8% of GDP in 2023 and 45.6% in April 2024. As a reference, in the USA it is around 130% of GDP and in Japan 260% of GDP.
- The current administration has kept its promise to keep debt under control. Although it has experienced ups and downs, it has remained within manageable ranges. Undoubtedly, higher inflation helped to "liquefy the debt."
- To control it, it has been essential to maintain a moderate fiscal deficit and a relatively stable exchange rate until now; but the overflow of the deficit in 2024 puts this central purpose at risk. The pressures to complete the emblematic projects and reinforce social programs can break the discipline in public finances.

In the first quarter of 2024, financing to the private sector grows for the first time in the post-pandemic era, driven by financing for private consumption.



FUENTE: Banco de México

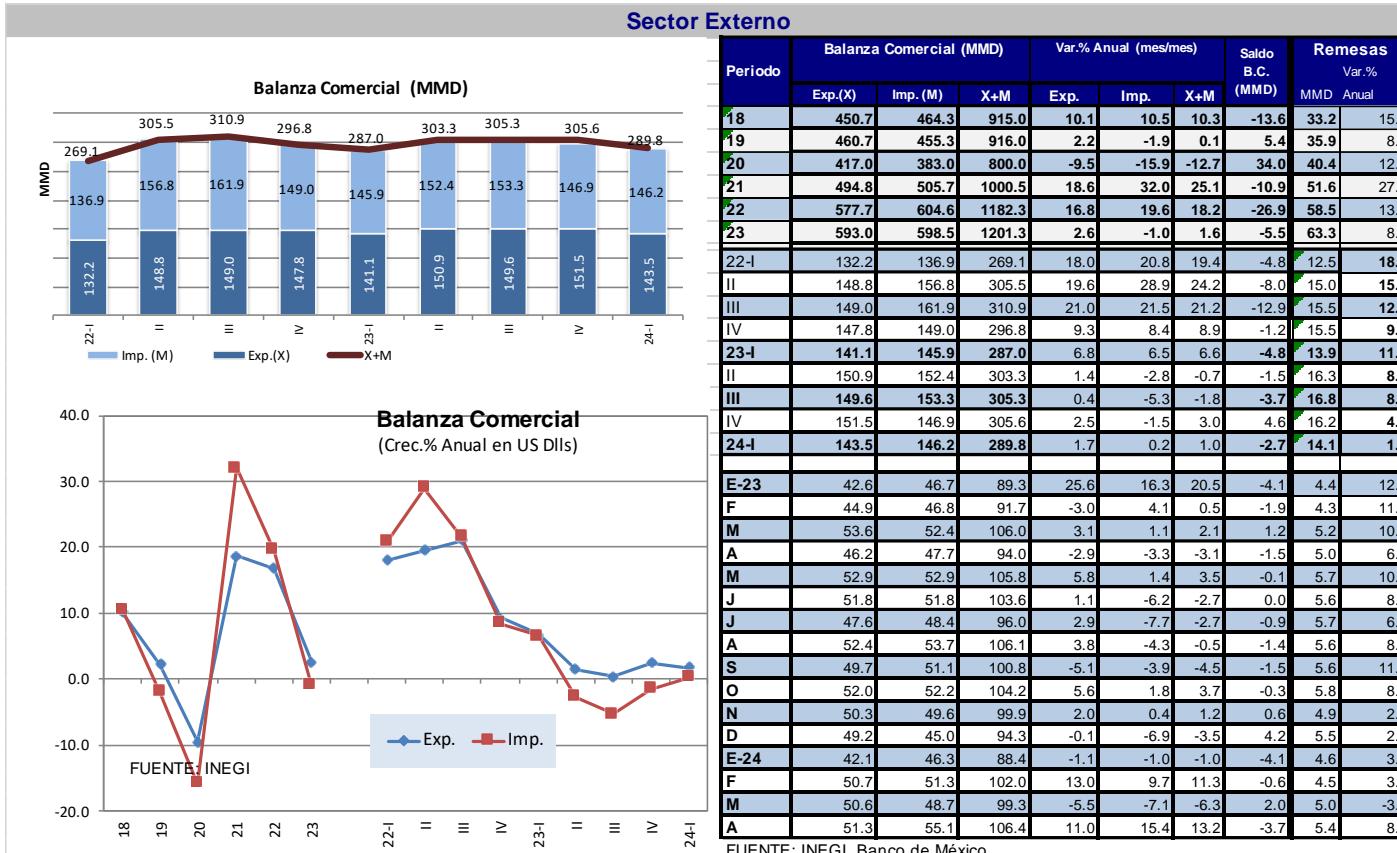
Indicadores Financieros

Período	Financiamiento a S.Privado (Var.% Anual Real)						Tasas Interés		BMV (cierra)		
	TOTAL	Por Fuentes		Por Destino			CETES-28d	TIIE-28d	IPC	Var.%	
		MMP	V%Anual Real	Externo	Interno	Consumo					
18-I	9,270	3.7	-2.4	5.8	4.8	3.6	3.5	7.5	7.9	46.1	-6.5
IV	9,828	0.5	-9.0	3.9	1.6	3.0	-0.7	8.2	8.6	41.6	-15.9
19-I	9,978	3.4	-1.8	5.1	0.7	4.0	3.8	7.9	8.9	43.3	3.9
IV	10,067	-0.5	-2.5	0.1	-4.0	3.6	-1.4	7.3	7.6	43.5	1.2
20-I	11,150	8.1	24.8	3.0	-5.1	2.1	13.5	6.6	6.7	34.6	-20.5
IV	10,309	-1.1	3.7	-2.6	-10.1	4.1	-1.3	4.2	4.5	43.2	15.5
21-I	10,371	-10.6	-18.0	-7.9	-11.5	3.3	-15.6	4.1	4.3	47.2	9.2
21-II	10,418	-10.4	-15.9	-8.4	-8.6	1.1	-15.1	4.0	4.5	50.3	6.4
21-III	10,616	-6.6	-10.6	-5.3	-4.7	1.8	-10.5	4.7	4.7	51.4	2.2
21-IV	10,744	-2.6	-2.0	-2.8	-4.0	0.4	-3.7	5.5	5.7	53.3	3.7
22-I	10,836	-2.6	-6.0	-1.5	0.5	0.6	-4.6	6.5	6.7	56.5	6.1
22-II	11,079	-1.3	-6.6	0.4	3.0	0.4	-3.0	7.6	8.0	47.5	-15.9
22-III	11,292	-2.0	-11.0	1.0	4.6	-0.9	-3.8	9.3	9.0	44.6	-6.1
22-IV	11,417	-1.6	-15.1	2.8	8.2	-0.3	-4.2	10.1	10.8	48.5	8.6
23-I	11,331	-2.7	-20.2	2.7	9.1	-0.2	-6.3	11.3	11.4	53.9	11.2
23-II	11,371	-2.9	-23.6	3.4	11.6	1.1	-7.8	11.0	11.5	53.5	-0.7
23-III	11,636	-1.5	-22.1	4.5	13.1	1.7	-6.1	11.1	11.5	50.9	-5.0
23-IV	11,816	-0.9	-19.7	4.2	11.8	1.8	-5.0	11.3	11.5	57.4	12.8
24-I	11,918	0.6	-13.9	4.1	10.7	1.9	-2.4	10.9	11.2	57.4	0.0
E-24								11.3	11.5	57.4	0.0
F								11.0	11.5	55.4	-3.4
M								10.9	11.2	57.4	3.5
A								11.0	11.2	56.7	-1.1

Fuente: Banco de México

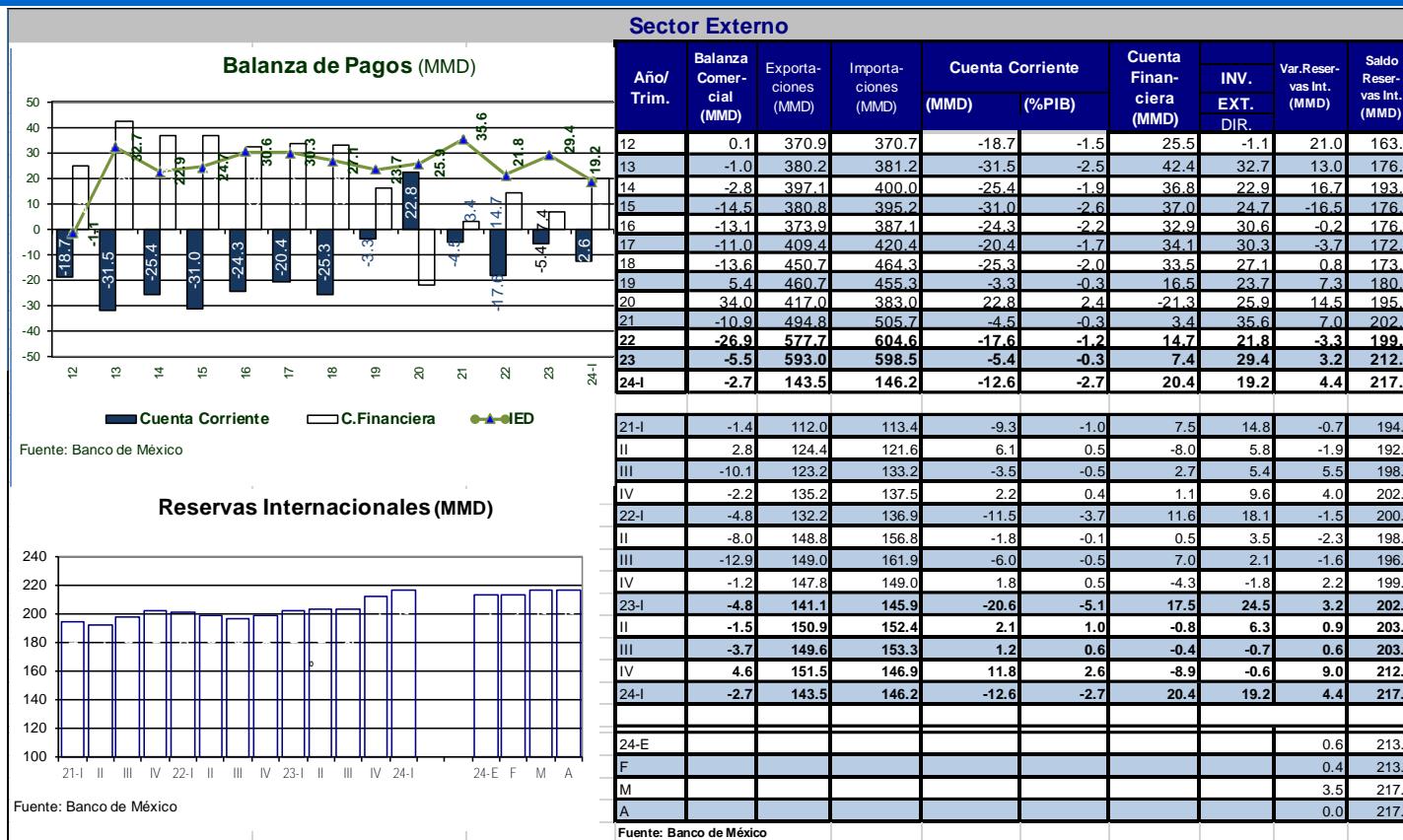
- The recent economic crisis first resulted in a slowdown in financing to the private sector (2020) and then in a decline from 2021 to 2023.
- The increase in the first quarter of 2024 (0.6%) is explained by the increase in consumer financing (10.7%), the modest increase in financing for housing (1.9%) and the decline in financing for companies (-2.4%).
- To boost financing, interest rates remained low, but they began to pick up in the second half of 2021 and in 2024 they seem to stagnate around 11%. The stock market, for its part, showed major ups and downs in recent years: in 2023 it gained 18.4% and in the first four months of 2024 it lost 1.1%.

In 2024, international trade in goods shows signs of recovery: in April it reported double-digit growth.



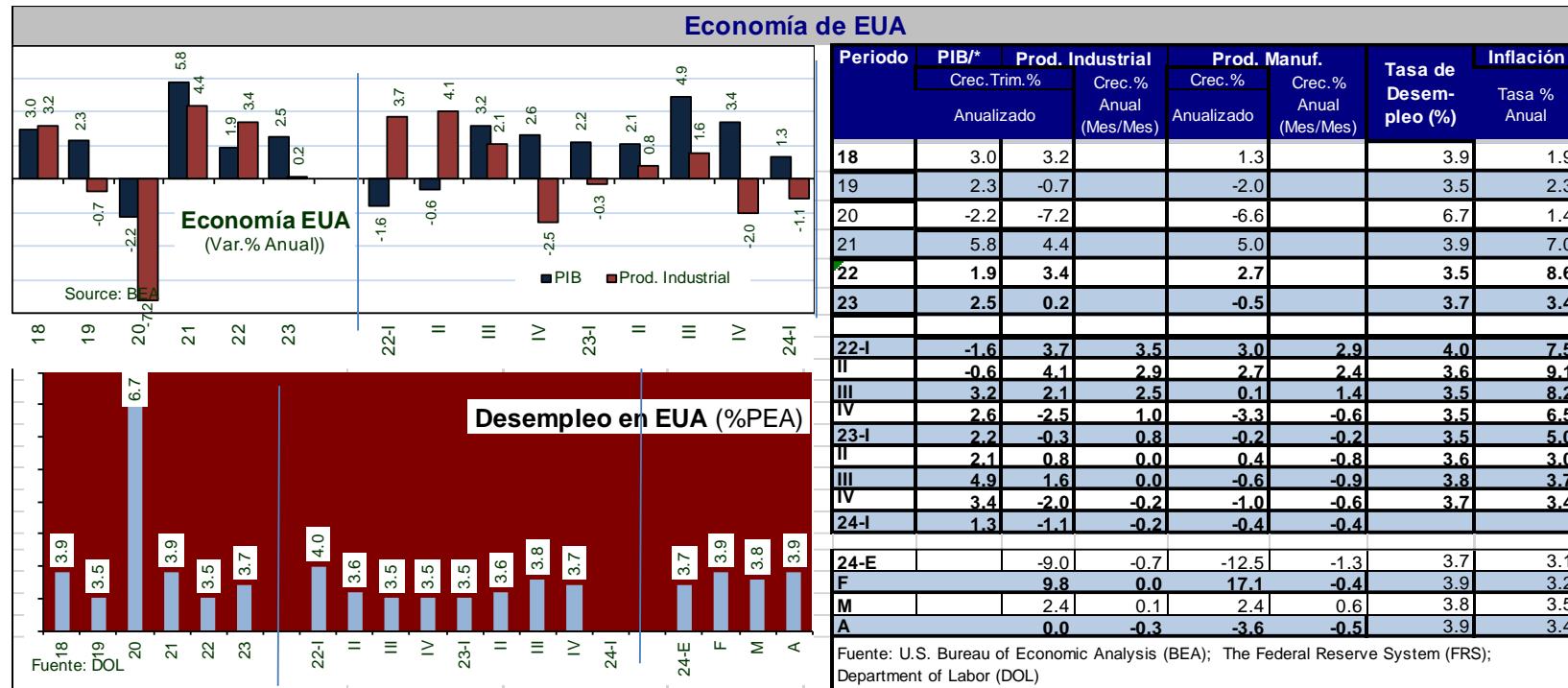
- International trade in goods stagnated in 2023 and in the first months of 2024 it seems to be reactivating.
- In 2022, the trade balance registered a deficit of 26.4 MMD and in 2023 it contracted to 5.5 MMD.
- For their part, remittances continue to grow: they totaled 14.1 MMD in the first quarter of 2024 and grew 1.1% at an annual rate.

In the first quarter of 2024, the balance of payments reflects a current account deficit (-12.6 MMD) and a surplus in the financial account (20.4 MMD), supported by Foreign Direct Investment (19.2 MMD).



- In the first quarter of 2024, the highlight is that Foreign Direct Investment (19.2 MMD) remains dynamic, initially due to the effect of nearshoring.
- As a consequence of the good performance of the financial account, international reserves remain high: they closed 2023 at 212.8 MMD and remain high in April 2024 (217.2 MMD).
- Nearshoring has sparked interest inside and outside the country. This has strengthened the inflow of capital into the country. In particular, foreign direct investment is going through a good moment.

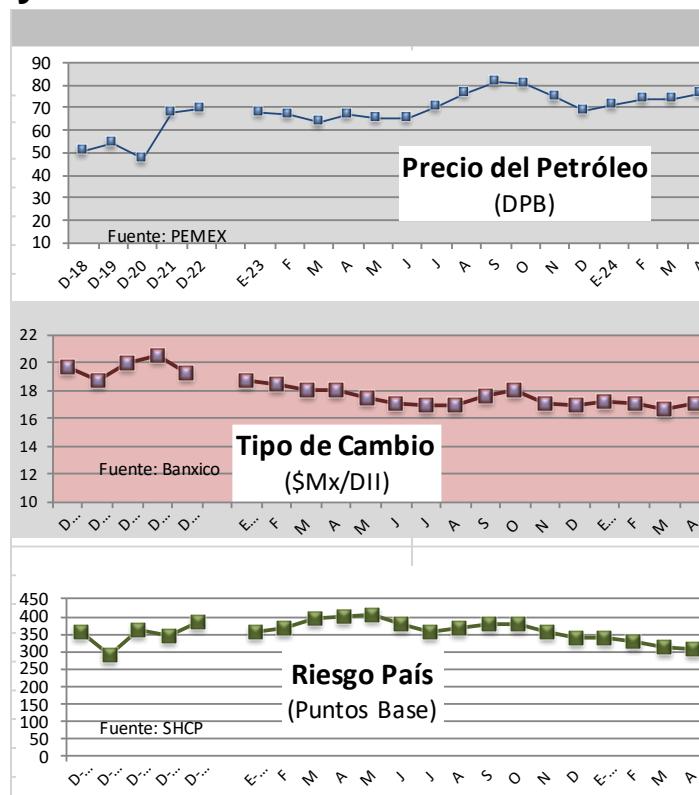
The US GDP grew 1.3% in the first quarter of 2024. For its part, the industrial sector remains weak (-1.1%), while unemployment remains low (3.9% in April 2024)



- In 2024, the US economy seems to slow down. GDP growth of only 1.3%, decline in industrial activity (-1.1%) and unemployment stagnant (3.9%).
- Inflation remains low but is now increasing: it closed 2023 at 3.4%, the same level reported for April 2024.
- The expectation for 2024 is to achieve moderate economic growth (around 2% or slightly higher) and quickly reduce underlying inflation, via a very restrictive monetary policy.

Key Prices

In March-April of 2024, the price of crude oil continues to rise and exceeded 75 DPB; while the exchange rate remains around 17 PPD and the country risk fell to its lowest level in the last two years (309 basis points).



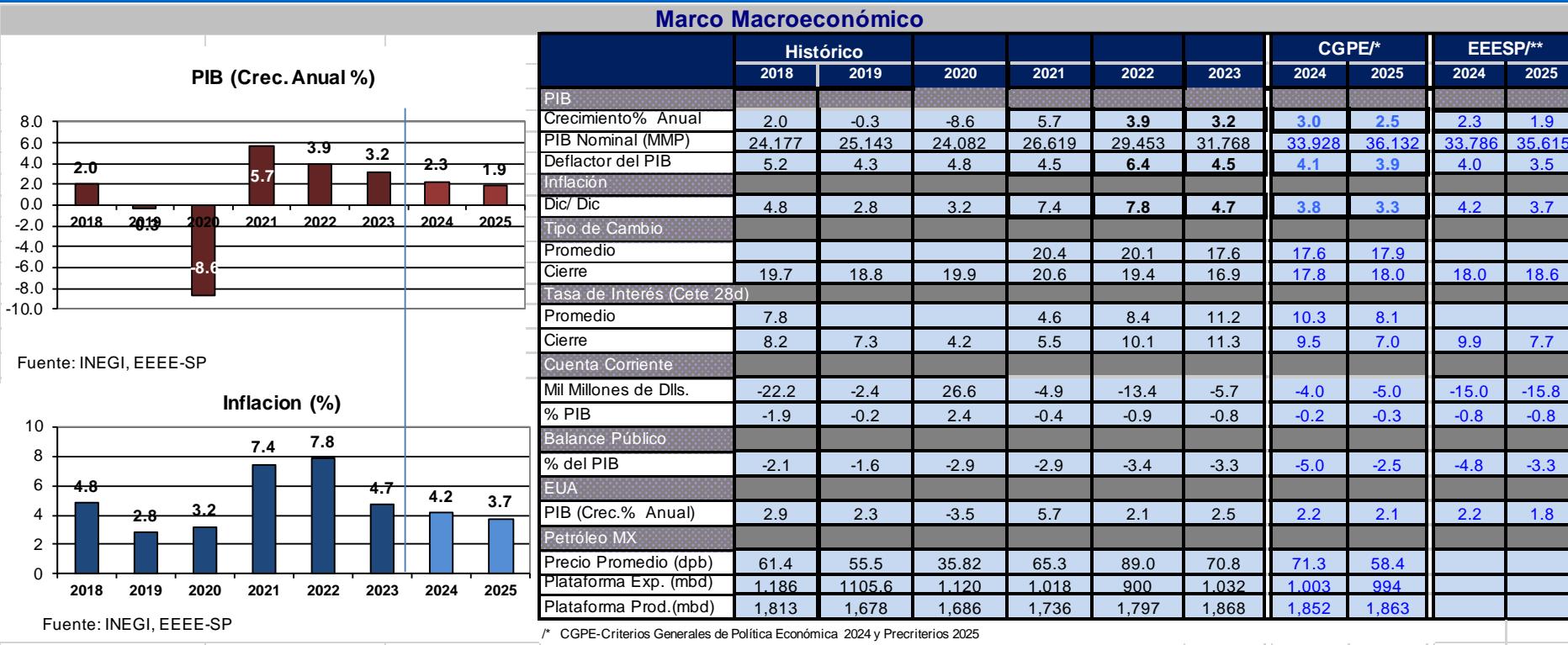
Precios Clave

Período	Precio Crudo MX (DPB)	Petroleo Crudo			Tipo de Cambio		Riesgo País/* (Ptos. Base)		
		Prod. (MBD)	Exportación (MBD)	(MDD)	US Dólar \$MX/DII/*	Euro \$MX/Euro	México	Brasil	Argentina
D-18	50.5	1,710	1,198	1,876	19.7	22.5	357	273	817
D-19	54.5	1,706	1,115	1,884	18.8	21.2	292	212	1,744
D-20	47.2	1,695	1,243	1,727	19.9	24.4	361	250	1,368
D-21	67.6	1,752	1,037	2,173	20.6	23.3	347	306	1,688
D-22	69.8	1,797	900	1,947	19.4	20.8	386	258	2,196
E-23	67.4	1,870	980	2,048	18.8	20.4	357	257	1,822
F	67.0	1,869	949	1,781	18.4	19.5	368	244	1,960
M	63.5	1,878	971	1,911	18.1	19.6	393	254	2,302
A	67.2	1,904	989	1,994	18.1	19.9	401	258	2,684
M	65.0	1,904	1,087	2,191	17.6	18.9	406	248	2,595
J	65.6	1,899	1,203	2,366	17.1	18.7	376	229	2,061
J	70.8	1,855	1,052	2,357	16.9	18.4	354	197	1,982
A	76.7	1,879	1,076	2,559	17.0	18.4	365	211	2,097
S	81.8	1,858	1,119	2,746	17.6	18.5	378	206	2,529
O	80.6	1,842	1,053	2,630	18.1	19.2	379	200	2,576
N	74.7	1,837	883	1,978	17.1	19.0	358	196	1,984
D	69.0	1,826	1,027	2,196	16.9	18.7	340	200	1,907
E-24	70.9	1,809	951	2,091	17.2	18.6	341	224	1,964
F	73.4	1,800	940	2,002	17.1	18.5	328	202	1,702
M	74.0	1,792	687	1,575	16.7	17.9	314	201	1,452
A	76.6	1,767	681	1,566	17.2	18.3	309	202	1,215

FUENTE: PEMEX, BANXICO, INEGI, SHCP, JP Morgan, Invenómica

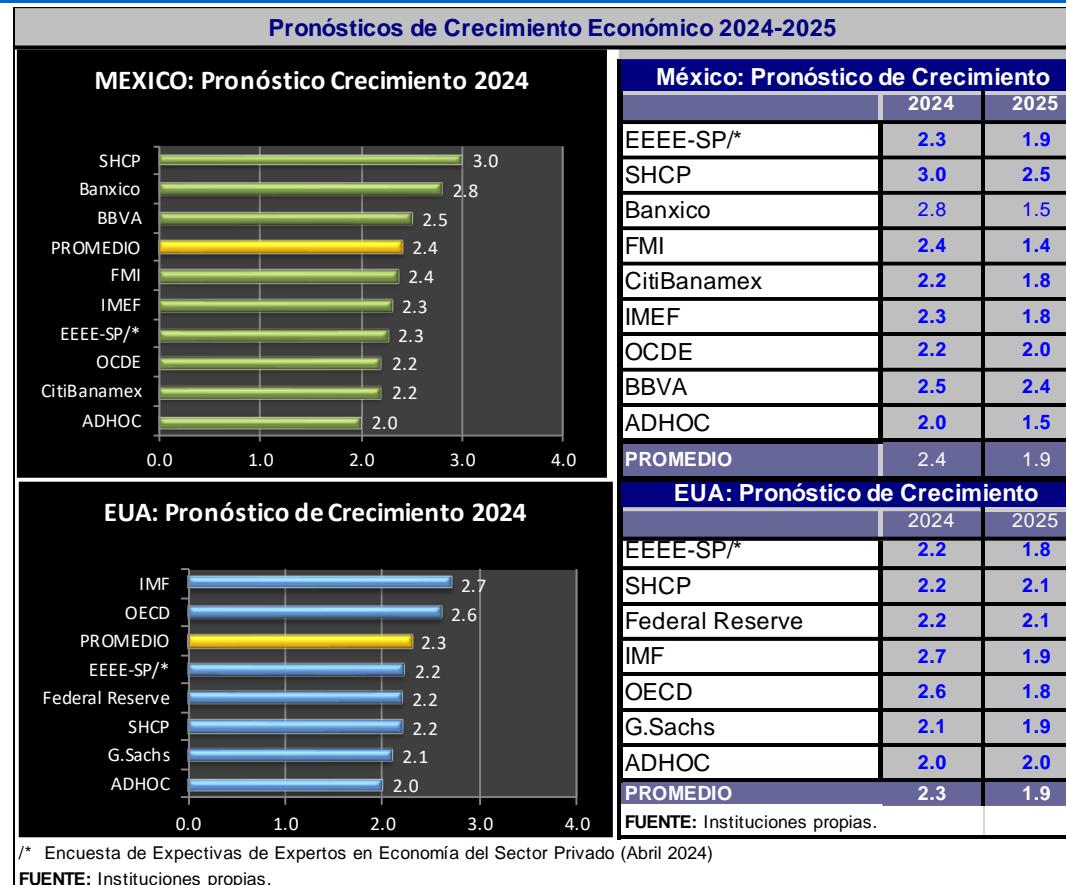
- The price of crude oil closed 2023 at around 70 DPB and in April 2024 it already exceeds 75 DPB.
- Despite the uncertainty and ups and downs of the market, the exchange rate has remained strong: it closed 2023 at 17 PPD and has remained so in the first four months of 2024.
- For its part, the country risk in the post-pandemic stage has shown ups and downs: it closed 2023 at 340 basis points and at 309 at the end of April.

According to Mexican economic experts, growth expectations for 2024-2025 are on the decline (2.3 and 1.9%), as are inflation expectations: 4.2% and 3.7%.



- For 2024-2025, experts predict moderate economic growth: 2.3% and 1.9% for the two-year period.
- The inflation rate is expected to decline, tending to converge towards the institutional target: 4.2% in 2024 and 3.7% in 2025.
- According to their forecasts, the fundamental balances will remain under control, although the fiscal deficit tends to overflow (-4.8 and -3.3% of GDP for the two-year period), while the current account balance is around 1% of GDP for both years.
- According to their forecasts, the US economy is expected to grow for two years: in 2024 (2.2%) and in 2025 (1.8%).

According to specialized agencies, expected growth for 2024 is 2.4% and 2.3% for Mexico and the US respectively. For 2025, growth of 1.9% is expected for both countries.



- For Mexico, the forecasts of nine specialized organizations fluctuate between 2% and 3% in 2024, with an average of 2.4%. For 2025, the average forecast is 1.9%.
- For the USA, forecasts from seven specialized organizations fluctuate between 2% and 2.7% for 2024, with an average of 2.3%. For 2024, the average forecast is 1.9%.
- As can be seen, both economies show moderate dynamism, but the moderation of growth is greater in the USA than in Mexico.

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