

# Weekly Watch

Mexico

August 19, 2011

**Economic Analysis**

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## Next week...

Monetary policy decision: no changes in the reference rate of 4.5%

After the slight downward revision of the economic growth expectations presented by Banxico in its last Inflation Report, we expect the reference rate to remain unchanged at its meeting next Friday. The change in the tone of the central bank regarding domestic activity will be particularly important, especially in a situation in which the derivatives market appears to be ruling out a decrease in the funding rate for certain periods. In that regard, though Banxico's inflation report for the second quarter indicated that the balance of risks for domestic growth has deteriorated, we believe that a downward movement in the rate should be preceded by clear signs in its communications. At the moment, these signs have not been present in the tone of recent communications (reports, minutes and inflation report). In addition, the recent economic growth data is maintained in line with our growth forecasts for 2011. Thus, we maintain our forecast for a prolonged pause until at least June 2012.

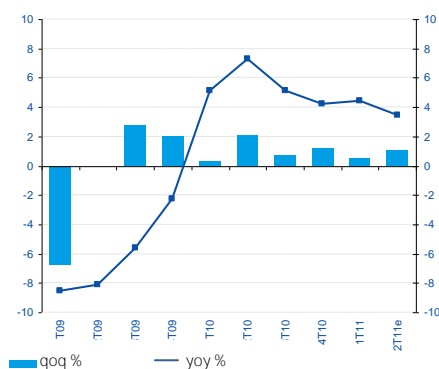
## Lack of fiscal agreements in developed economies will continue to trigger episodes of intense volatility. Markets awaiting Jackson Hole

In fixed-income, greater risk aversion predominated due to the publication of weak data for the USA that resuscitated fears of recession. Therefore, the USTs broadened their gains, with the 10-year bill at levels that have not been seen since 2008. Mexican bonds also followed this dynamic, and we believe the curve incorporates the scenario of a prolonged monetary pause and even has room for monetary easing. In the money market, the MXN will continue to be one of the currencies that is most sensitive to economic data in the US and, in particular, to Bernanke's speech at the Fed meeting in Jackson Hole on August 26th. The fluctuation ranges for the MXN this week could remain high at between 12.15 and 12.5.

**Market Analysis**

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Chart 1  
Mexico: GDP (% change y/y and q/q)



Source: BBVA Research with INEGI data

Chart 2  
10-Year Bond Performance: Mexico vs. USA (%)



Source: BBVA Research with data from Bloomberg

## Calendar: Indicators

### Economic Analysis

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### Inflation (1st two weeks of August, August 24)

Forecast: 0.16% bi-weekly (3.57% y/y)	Consensus: 0.21% bi-weekly.	Previous: 0.48% m/m (3.55% y/y)
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The inflation for the first two weeks of August will be published next week. We estimate core inflation will rise 0.12% m/m and that within this category the upward pressure will be seen in processed foods, while the rest of their components will maintain their downward trend. Furthermore, non-core inflation will lose some of the impulse presented in July as the pressures on the prices of fruits and vegetables have eased in recent weeks. For year-end, we estimate that inflation will be situated at nearly 3.6%, although we should mark a downward bias in the event of deterioration of economic activity.

### Balance of Payments (2Q11, August 25)

Current Account	Forecast: -175 md	Consensus: N.A.	Previous: -1375.9 md
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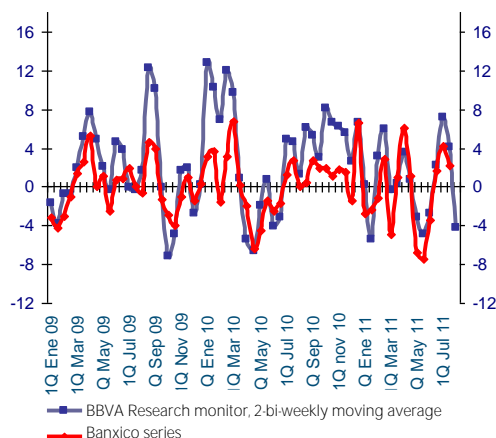
The 2Q11 balance of payments will be released next Thursday. Within this category, we estimate that the current account balance will record a slight deficit of nearly -0.1% of GDP. Throughout 2Q11, the surpluses in the balance of trade and transfers partially offset the deficits recorded in the service and income balance. The Current Account will continue to present positive performance to the extent that the dynamism of the export sector is greater than the domestic demand, which has recovered at a slower rate.

### Retail Sales Index (June, August 22)

Forecast: 0.5% m/m (3.1% y/y)	Consensus: N.A.	Previous: -2.1% m/m (1.1% y/y)
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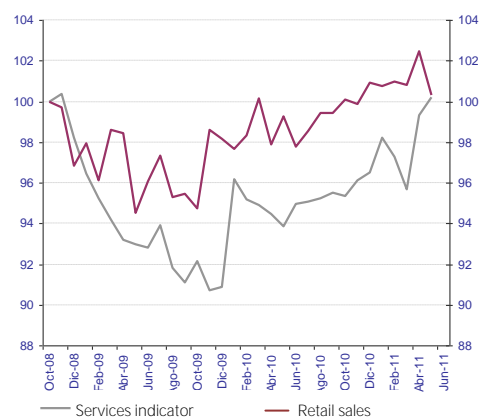
The performance of the services sector, as well as the indicator of retail sales for June will be published on Monday. For retail sales, we expect improvement following the negative surprise in the May data; in the aggregate service sector, we expect moderation since several of its components have presented a delayed reaction to external impulses, so that the positive data from May could be moderated towards June.

Chart 3  
BBVA Research monitoring of agricultural prices and Agricultural product inflation (% Change, bi-weekly)



Source: BBVA Research with INEGI data

Chart 4  
Domestic Market Indicators (Oct08=100)



Source: BBVA Research and INEGI

## Markets

### Market Analysis

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The elevated volatility of the MXN persists due to the exposure to cyclical risks in the US. Fed meeting in Jackson Hole will be key

Though the MXN closed last week near its weekly opening (12.3), the ranges of fluctuation were broad (12.14 and 2.43) with implied volatility still high. The elements of risk continue to be linked to the economic cycle in the US and the fiscal situation in the EMU. In the US, the negative surprises in the economic indicators published over the week boosted a new search for safe-haven currencies (the CHF and JPY), though this effect continues to be countered in part by the interventionist language of their central banks. With respect to the fiscal situation of the EU, the lack of clear solutions offered at the press conference following the meeting between Merkel and Sarkozy led to a fall in the euro and in general of all the currencies exposed to the region.

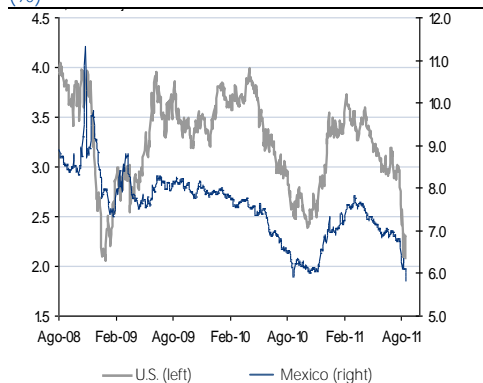
In this situation, the MXN will continue to be one of the currencies that is most sensitive to economic data in the US and, in particular, to Bernanke's speech at the Fed meeting in Jackson Hole on August 26th. The fluctuation range for the MXN this week could remain high at between 12.15 and 12.5.

Ten-year notes in the US are near 2008 levels and curves in Mexico incorporate a monetary backdrop of a more-prolonged pause and even easing

In fixed-income, greater risk aversion predominated due to the publication of weak data for the USA that resuscitated fears of recession; this was in addition to the uncertainty produced as a result of a potential lack of capital in European banks. This triggered a sale bias for assets with risk, and favored a strong demand for fixed-income instruments. Thus, the UST broadened their gains, with the 10-year bill at levels that have not been seen since 2008.

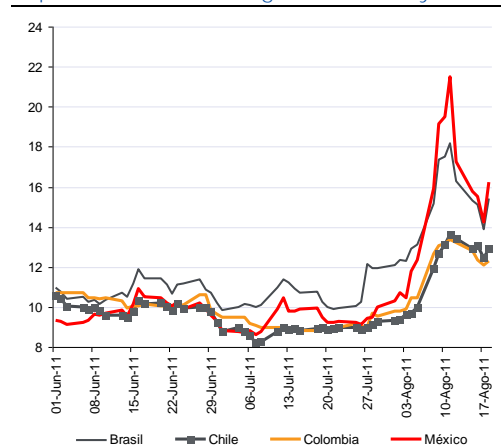
This context moved to domestic bonds, which also increased their gains over the week. We believe that the current level of the debt curve already incorporates the prolonged monetary pause scenario, and even has room for a 50bp movement of monetary easing. Thus, in spite of the fact that the context should not strongly boost the performance of the MBonds and UST curve upwards, we do believe that the level is already at its minimum and that the local curves will continue to increase their sensitivity, in line with the strong foreign demand in search of carry-trade.

Chart 5  
10-Year Bond performance: Mexico vs. USA (%)



Source: BBVA Research with data from Bloomberg

Chart 6  
Implied 1-month exchange-rate volatility (%)



Source: BBVA Research with data from Bloomberg

Market Analysis  
Equities

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## Technical Analysis CPI



An upturn of volatility in the last two sessions of the week have deteriorated the short-term forecast, opening the door for a return to the minimum levels for the month. Though the CPI has not closed under its 10-day rolling average (33,160 pts), the increase in volatility could lead to a fall to levels of between 32,000 and 31,700 pts.

The testing of those minimums will be important since it will determine if the CPI will be capable of forming a "double fund" that gives them the necessary strength for a rebound that is greater than the previous one or, otherwise, if it will mark a minimum lower than the previous one and reinforce the negative trend for the short-term.

Previous Rec: We believe that a return of this nature should be used to take up new positions, as the short-term oscillators are still far from the overbuying zones, even with this upturn.

Source: BBVA Bancomer, Bloomberg

## MXN



Though the dollar was already operating under its CPI 10-day rolling average and below the support level of MXN 12.20, the increase in volatility led it to be situated above those technical levels once again. Overbuying remains elevated and we believe that a new adjustment should come when nearing the MXN 12.50 zone.

Previous Rec: With strong resistance at MXN 12.50, we believe that it should return to the MXN 12.20 area or even MXN 12.00 before breaking this resistance.

Source: BBVA Bancomer, Bloomberg

## 3Y M BOND



3 Y M BOND: (yield): Maintaining its strong downward move and surpassing the previous minimum of 4.85%. Overbuying increases, but a bounce might encounter resistance at 4.8% and 5.06%. Only above this level would it set a change in the trend.

Previous Rec: Initial resistance at 4.92% and 5.17%.

Source: BBVA Bancomer, Bloomberg

## 10Y M BOND



10-YEAR M BOND (performance): Exceed the 2010 minimum of 6%. High overbuying but we can only consider a change in the trend if the resistance of 6.1% and 6.5% are exceeded.

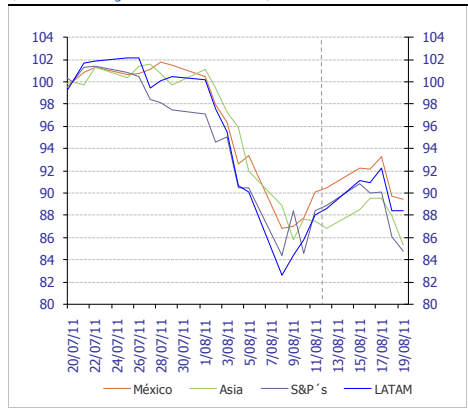
Previous Rec: Can still find levels of 6% that are equivalent to the minimums of the previous year

Source: BBVA Bancomer, Bloomberg

**Markets**

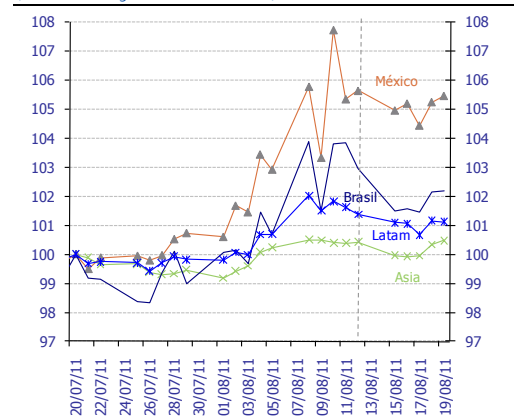
Losses and volatility in stock markets and foreign currency depreciation at the end of the week following the release of lower-than-expected U.S. job creation and manufacturing and European growth figures. Lack of definitive solutions to the debt problems in Europe increase the volatility.

Chart 7  
Stock Markets: MSCI Indices  
(Index, July 20, 2011=100)



Source: Bloomberg & BBVA Research

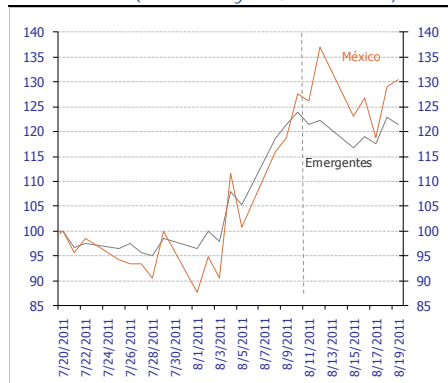
Chart 8  
Foreign exchange: dollar exchange rates  
(Index, July 20, 2011=100)



Source: Bloomberg and BBVA Research. Note: LATAM includes Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru. Asia includes the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand. Non-weighted averages

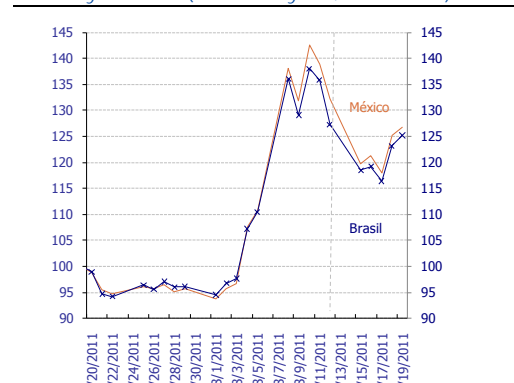
Rise in risk aversion in recent days due to the exacerbated fears of a recession in the US and the absence of agreement among European leaders to resolve their debt crisis.

Chart 9  
Risk: EMBI+ (Index July 20, 2011 =100)



Source: Bloomberg & BBVA Research

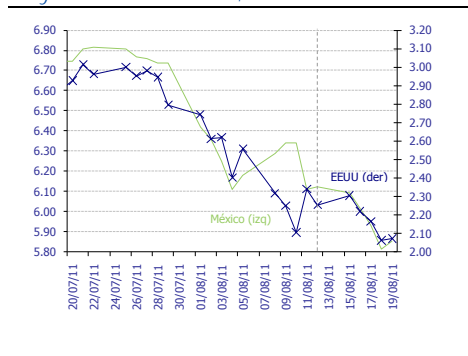
Chart 10  
Risk: 5-year CDS (Index July 20, 2011 =100)



Source: Bloomberg & BBVA Research

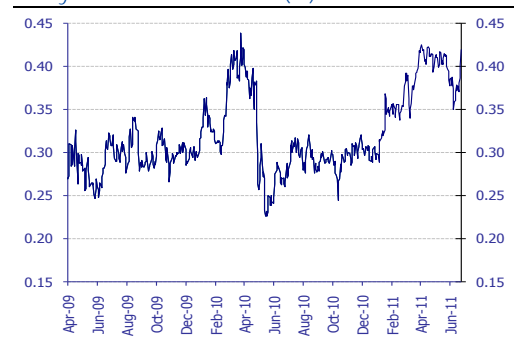
Fall in U.S. rates to historic levels in the face of demand for safe-haven assets (flight to quality). Rates in Mexico in a downward trend as a result of their correlation with US T-Bills

Chart 11  
10-year interest rates\*, last month



Source: Bloomberg & BBVA Research

Chart 12  
Carry-trade Mexico index (%)



Source: BBVA Research with data from Bloomberg

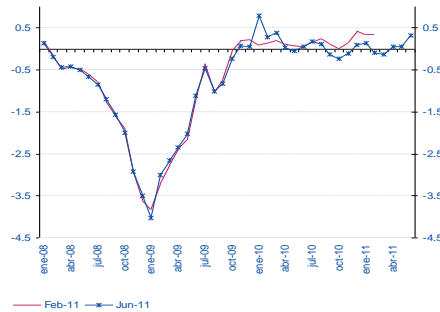
## Activity, inflation, monetary conditions

For the time being, recent output data point to moderation in April being temporary and linked to industrial output

Recent inflationary surprises have been downward, while those concerning economic activity have been mixed.

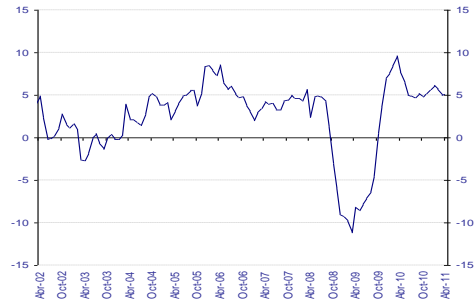
The monetary conditions have not changed and continue to be loose, with this loosening in fact increasing slightly in recent days.

Chart 13  
BBVA Research Synthetic Activity Indicator for the Mexican economy



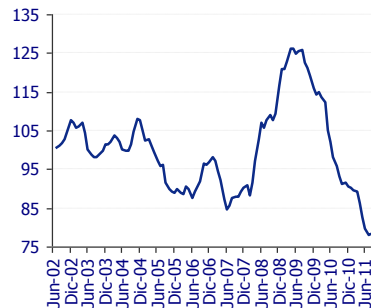
Source: BBVA Research with data from INEGI, AMIA & BEA. Weighted sum of 21 different indicators of activity, expenditure and expectation, based on trend series.

Chart 14  
Advance Indicator of Activity (% Change y/y)



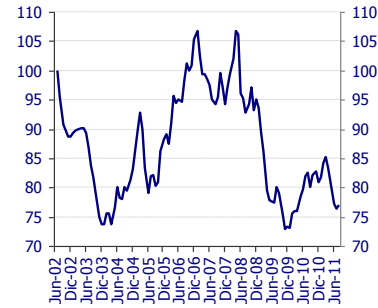
Source: INEGI

Chart 15  
Inflation Surprise Index (July 2002=100)



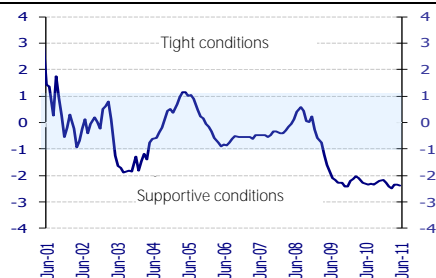
Source: BBVA Research with data from Banxico from the monthly surveys on the expectations of economic specialists in the private sector.

Chart 16  
Activity Surprise Index (2002=100)



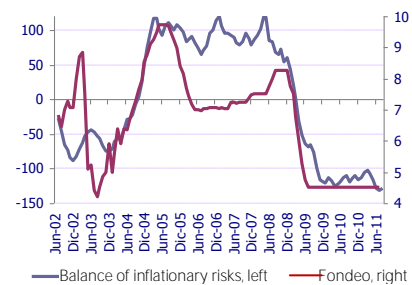
Source: BBVA Research with Bloomberg data. Difference between recorded data and the Bloomberg consensus for seven activity variables in Mexico. Standardized index. Rises (falls): positive (negative) surprises.

Chart 17  
Monetary Conditions Index



Source: BBVA Research

Chart 18  
Balance of Inflationary Risks\* and Lending Rate (standardized and %; monthly averages)



Source: BBVA Research. \*Standardized weighted index (between inflation and economic growth); uses economic indicators for activity and inflation. A rise in the index points to a greater weight of inflationary risks over growth risks and thus a greater likelihood of monetary restriction

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