

Mexico Weekly Flash

Next week...

- **Monetary policy meeting minutes: Data support a more relaxed tone although caution prevails on the Board**

This coming Friday sees the release of the minutes from the November 30 monetary policy meeting. The recent decline in inflation and the lack of evidence on second round effects currently favor the stance of those members who signaled out the temporary nature of supply shocks and the absence of knock-on effects for price setting. This fall in inflation was undoubtedly behind the more relaxed tone of the statement. Nonetheless, the fact that monetary policy remains tied to the continued downward inflation trend points to caution prevailing among board members regarding persistent recent shocks and their effects on prices and forecasts. Focus should be on statements about upward inflation risks, especially possible higher-than-expected increases in public sector prices, lower food production in Mexico and overseas, and a possible new episode of volatility in the exchange rate.

- **Scant appetite for risk that may continue**

As 2012 draws to a close, market nervousness over the outcome of the fiscal cliff has led to a negative spread in US assets in comparison with other markets, both developed and emerging. This is in addition to fewer welcome surprises on the macroeconomic front (although data continue to come in positive on the whole) which, according to different authorities and central banks, is due to the fiscal uncertainty and its effect on investments, in addition to the impact from hurricane Sandy. At the end of the week, positive job figures in the US eased some of these concerns but greater calm did not lead to higher risk appetite.

Markets do not currently see the US as likely to succumb to the problem and maintain its rise, supported by high volatility, complying with forecasts of hitting the current upper range limit for the last 3 months. Mexico again stands out in Latin American which, to many, could seem to be a contradiction given its trading links with the US. Global liquidity is a key factor for this performance although Mexico's relative strengths (growth, financial stability, fiscal discipline, low debt and scant exposure to external financing, among others) are, in our opinion, what support it. More so now that there is optimism surrounding blossoming structural reforms that could provide greater flexibility to the job market and mean the country increases its competitiveness. This performance could possibly continue until the FOMC's monetary decision on Wednesday.

Calendar: Indicators

Gross Fixed Capital Formation in September (December 10)

Forecast: 0.0% m/m, 3.8% y/y

Consensus: N.A.

Previous: -0.9%, 3.9% y/y

Goods and Services Supply and Demand, 3Q12 (Wednesday, December 14)

Forecast: 3.8% y/y

Consensus: N.A.

Previous: 4.0% y/y

With the GDP growth figure on the supply side in 3Q12 already released (0.5% q/q, 3.3% y/y seasonally-adjusted), Friday 14 sees the release of the breakdown for demand.

We estimate domestic demand components (especially investment and private consumption) will show good performance over the quarter. Relevant indicators point in that direction; retail sales and the aggregate service indicator continued to expand in terms of average monthly change for the quarter, albeit with lower growth than in the second quarter of the year. In this sense, higher employment in both the formal private sector and total employment was key, with respective annual growth at 4.7% and 4.1%. In turn, despite seeing a contraction in monthly investment on average in July and August, imports of capital goods (an indicator strongly linked to investment) saw significant growth in 3Q: from (-)1.4% m/m in the second quarter to 0.5% m/m in the third.

Further, foreign demand should show clearer signs of moderation, proof of this being the contraction in manufacturing exports performance going from average monthly growth of 0.2% in 2Q12 to a (-)0.8% decline in the third quarter of the year.

Industrial Output, October (December 12)

Forecast: 0.1% m/m, 3.9% y/y

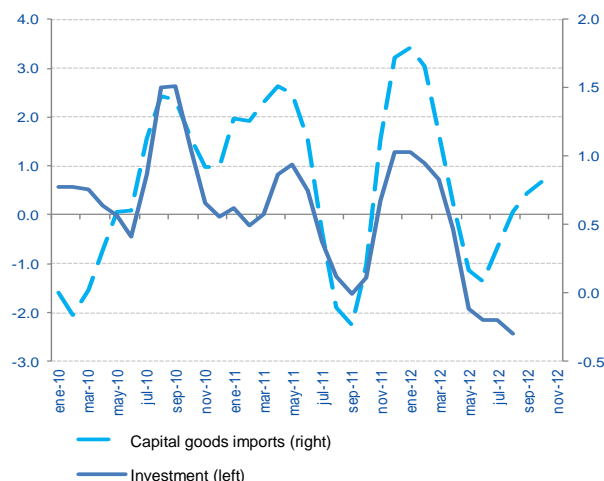
Consensus: N.A.

Previous: 0.9% m/m, 3.8% y/y

Industrial output saw excellent performance over recent months. It particularly stands out that while US manufacturing contracted by around (-)0.2% on average in 3Q12, Mexico expanded by 0.2% (4% and 4.6% on average y/y for US and Mexican manufacturing respectively). In this sense, exports, particularly manufacturing, suffered lower foreign demand as stated above. In October, US manufacturing declined 0.4% which is largely due to negative effects from hurricane Sandy in the north east of the country where output hit its lowest level for a year. According to AMIA figures, automotive output continued to expand, albeit at lower rates than in the previous month. This will continue to be a key support for domestic manufacturing. We expect output to have seen modest growth in October, confirming the slight slowdown toward the end of the year.

Chart 3

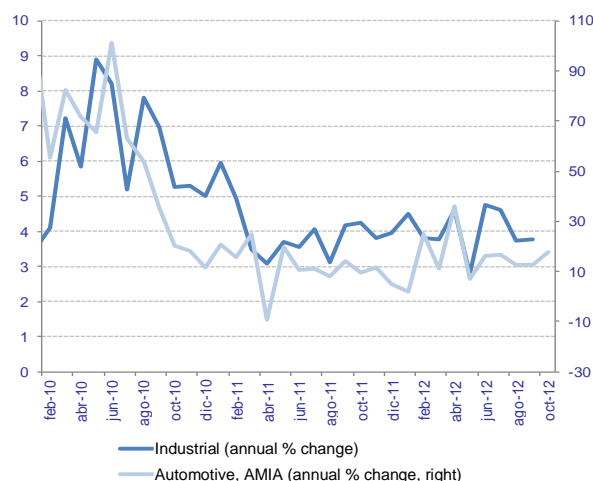
Investment and Capital Goods Imports (m/m % change, trend)



Source: BBVA Research with INEGI data

Chart 4

Industrial Output and Automotive Output (y/y % change, seasonally adjusted series)



Source: BBVA Research with data from INEGI and AMIA

Technical Analysis

IPC



The IPC ended the week just within the resistance zone under 42,700pts, an all-time-high, with the RSI oscillating indicator at 68pts, almost hitting the over-buying zone. We have been reducing our short-term positions and await the possible market reaction at the start of the week after several upward sessions. If the IPC is able to break this level and hit a new all-time-high, we could consider a short-term target of 43,500pts, corresponding to the flag pattern break level the market hit by closing above 42,000pts. Given the proximity to the over-buying zone, we prefer to wait for this break before again increasing our positions.

Previous Rec. (12/3/12): The weekly decline in the IPC means it is still in a favorable short-term technical position (flag), suggesting a return to the 42,700pts level, where the market was trading before the adjustment.

Source: BBVA, Bancomer, Bloomberg

MXN

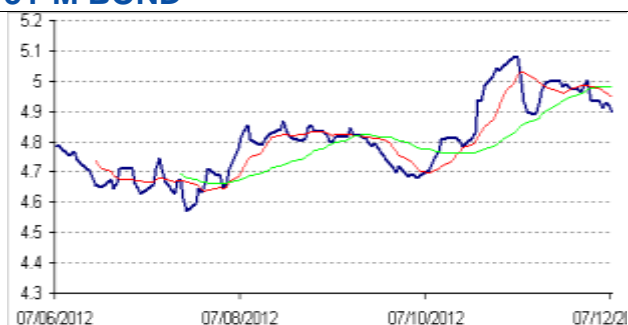


The dollar remained on a negative trend and broke two floors over the week, MXN13.00 and then MXN12.90. With the RSI already in the over-buying zone, we believe it could respect the MXN12.80 level where the floor sat during the week and seek out a technical bounce toward MXN12.90.

Previous Rec. (12/3/2012): Oscillating indicators are still at overselling levels meaning we cannot rule out a downward break through this floor.

Source: BBVA, Bancomer, Bloomberg

3Y M BOND



3Y M BOND (yield): The bond saw a negative weekly balance, closing at 4.9%. We recommend holding positions while this floor remains unbroken, awaiting a bounce toward 5.1%.

Previous Rec (12/3/12). We maintain our forecast of resistance at 5.1% and support at 4.9%.

Source: BBVA, Bancomer, Bloomberg

10Y M BOND



10Y M BOND (yield): The bond was unable to break through the 5.6% resistance level. Positions again to be taken when it hits 5.35%.

Previous Rec (12/3/12). An upward break through 5.6% is the only entry signal.

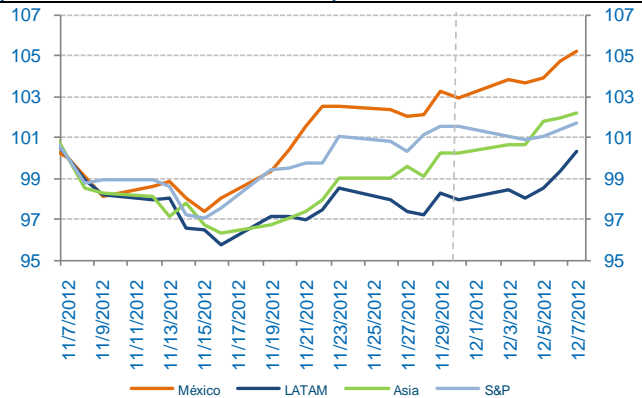
Source: BBVA, Bancomer, Bloomberg

Markets

- An above expectations increase in non-farm payroll in the US at the end of the week led to gains on stock markets and stronger emerging currencies. Nonetheless, these gains weakened after the Republican speaker in the US House of Representatives stated no progress was made in talks to avoid the "fiscal cliff".

Chart 7

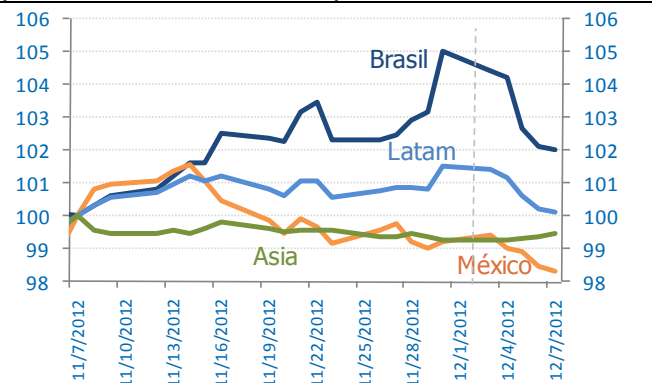
Stock Markets: MSCI indices
(November 7, 2012 index=100)



Source: Bloomberg & BBVA Research

Chart 8

Foreign exchange: dollar exchange rates
(November 7, 2012 index=100)

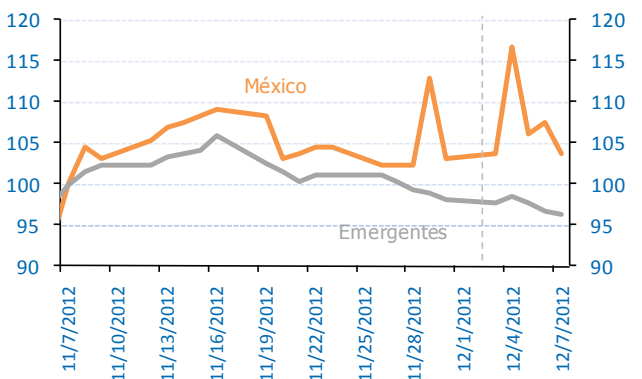


Source: Bloomberg and BBVA Research Note: LATAM includes Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru. Asia includes the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand. Non-weighted averages

- Lower risk aversion over the week due to optimism generated by the US president mid-week concerning the "fiscal cliff", as well as better-than-expected US figures for the service sector and job.

Chart 9

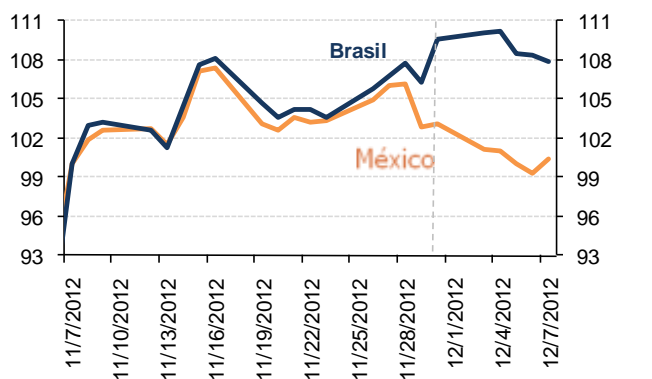
Risk: EMBI+ (November 7, 2012 index=100)



Source: Bloomberg & BBVA Research

Chart 10

Risk: 5-year CDS (November 7, 2012 index=100)

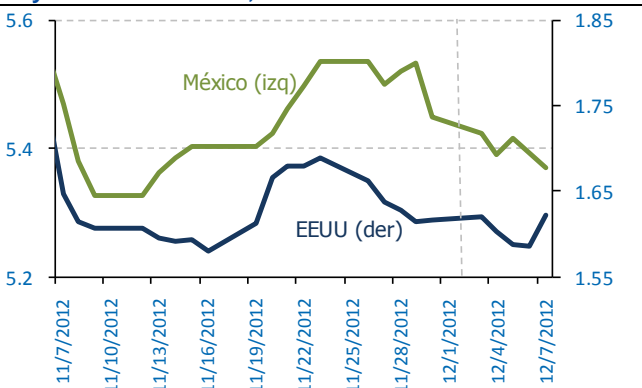


Source: Bloomberg & BBVA Research

- Rise in US interest rates due to higher risk appetite. The better-than-expected fall in inflation in Mexico impacted the slight decline in interest rates at the end of the week.

Chart 11

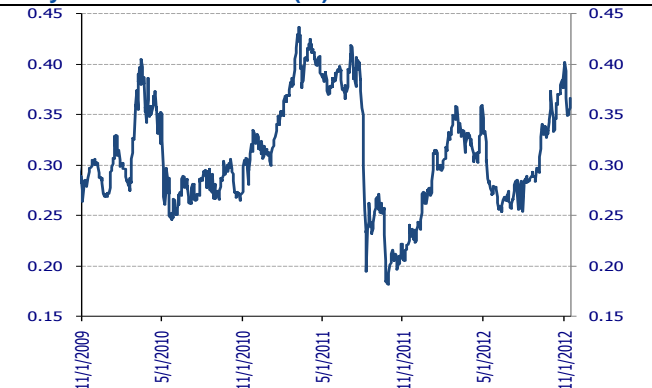
10-year interest rates*, last month



Source: Bloomberg & BBVA Research

Chart 12

Carry-trade Mexico index (%)



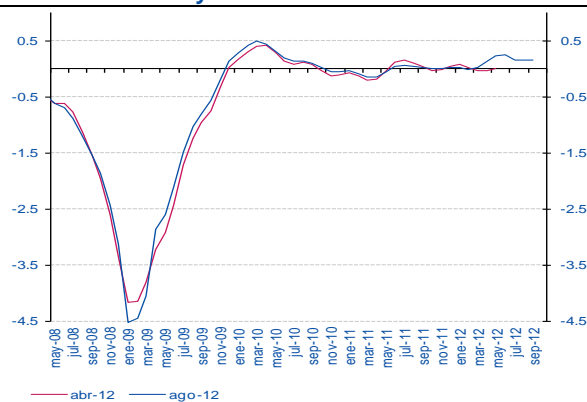
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bloomberg

Activity, inflation, monetary conditions

- Output slowed in the third quarter; timely indicators from the last quarter suggest this trend will continue with a soft slowdown

Chart 13

BBVA Research Synthetic Activity Indicator for the Mexican economy

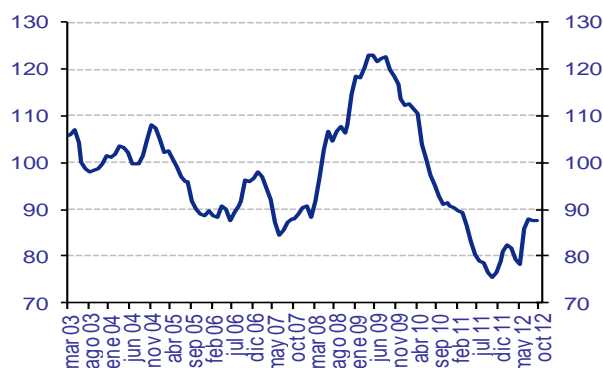


Source: BBVA Research with data from INEGI, AMIA and BEA
Weighted sum of 21 different indicators of activity, expenditure and expectation, based on trend series.

- Both output and inflation have moderated recently.

Chart 15

Inflation Surprise Index (July 2002=100)

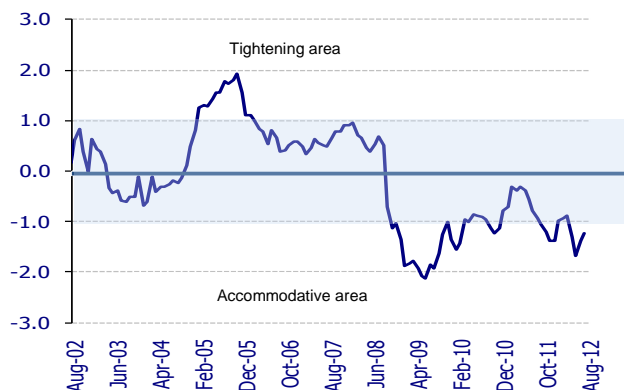


Source: BBVA Research with data from Banxico from the monthly surveys on the expectations of economic specialists in the private sector.

- Monetary conditions slightly reduced their looseness after the currency gains.

Chart 17

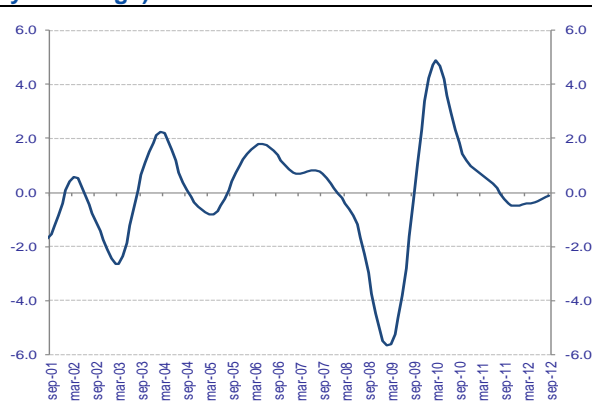
Monetary Conditions Index



Source: BBVA Research

Chart 14

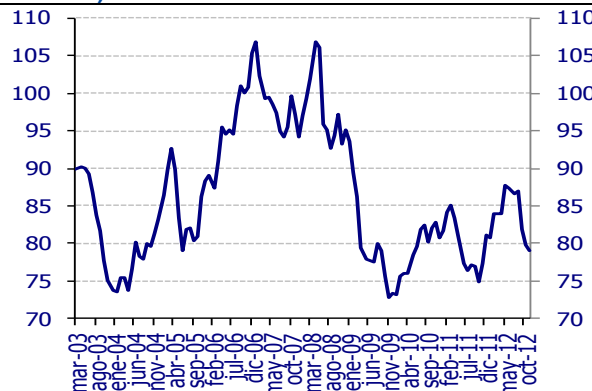
Advance Indicator of Activity, trend (y/y % change)



Source: INEGI

Chart 16

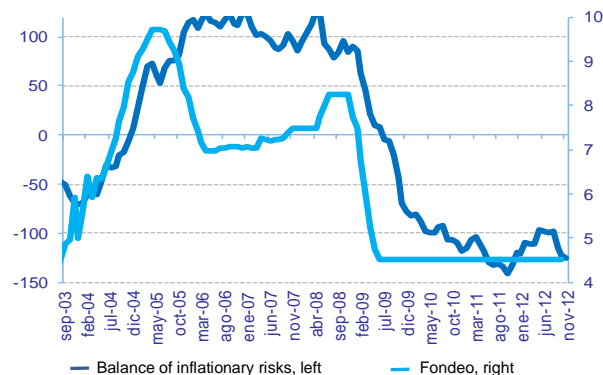
Activity Surprise Index (2002=100)



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

Chart 18

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



Source: BBVA Research. * Standardized and weighted index (of inflation and economic growth) based on economic indicators of economic activity and inflation. A rise in the IBR signals greater weight of inflationary risks over those of growth and, therefore, more likelihood of monetary restriction

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