

Mexico Banking Flash

Credit to the private sector: 8.7% growth in February

In February 2014 performing loans made available by commercial banks to the private sector showed a nominal annual growth of 8.7%.¹ This growth was lower than the month before (9.2%), than that of the same month in 2013 (12.6%) and was the lowest since December 2010 (8.5%). In the first two months of the year the average growth rate was 9.0%.

- **Consumption: personal and payday loans take a bigger share than credit cards (CC) and drive portfolio growth**

In February 2014, nominal annual growth in consumer credit was 9.7%. This rate is slightly lower than January (9.8%) and considerably down on the same month in 2013 (17.8%) and also on the 2013 annual average (14.8%). The growth rate has been under 10% since December 2013; levels have not been this low since January 2011.

By segment there was positive performance in other consumer credits (OCC) which include payday and personal loans. This segment grew at a rate of 13.5%, higher than the month before (13.0%), although less than the same month in 2013 (23.7%). In this month, for the first time the OCC segment was larger than credit cards (CC) in terms of its share on the consumption portfolio (46% vs. 44%). The CC segment had a nominal annual growth rate of 7.9%, less than that of the month before (8.6%) and that of the same month in 2013 (16.2%). The credit for durable consumer goods grew by an annual nominal rate of 2.3%, with no changes over the month before, but below that recorded in February 2013 (3.7%).

The figures above may be a sign of a possible change of preferences on the part of clients (for example, from banking CC to other types of credit, such as department store CCs) or changes in the banks' business strategy, in reducing the money made available through CC and expanding the personal loan channel. Additional evidence can be found in the data published by the National Banking and Exchange Commission (CNBV) on the number of cards, which indicates that at the end of 2013 the number of banking CC was 23.4 million, while at the end of 2012 the number was 24 million. This means that the number of CC has gone down by 600,000, due in part to the possibility of clients having cancelled them but also because the banks have stopped issuing new cards.

- **Companies: continued impetus in credit to the manufacturing and services sectors**

In January 2014 credit to companies grew by a nominal annual rate of 7.2%, below the month before (8.3%) and the same month in 2013 (10.5%). Average growth so far this year is 7.7%.

By economic sector, activities showing the greatest levels of growth were manufacturing and services. Manufacturing grew at a nominal annual rate of 13.9%, and although this was lower than the month before (14.8%), it was higher than the same month of 2013 (4.2%). Credit to companies in the services sector grew a nominal annual rate of 10.7%, also less than the month before (12.6%) but higher than February 2013 (8.7%). Credit to construction continued downward: there was a 6.2% fall in February, slightly harder than the fall of the previous month (6.0%). One of the sectors which seems to be bouncing back is agriculture, which grew at a nominal annual rate of 6.7%, above the 5.7% recorded in the previous month. Although growth was lower than in February 2013 (10.5%), the upsurge this year seems to indicate that this sector may continue to grow throughout the year.

- **Housing: growth stabilises at 8.6%**

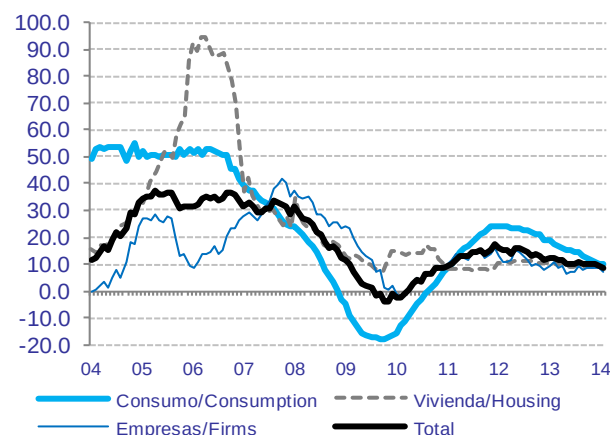
In February 2014, banking credit to housing grew at an annual nominal rate of 8.6%, with no changes over the previous month, but was less than in February 2013 (10.1%). Credit for middle-income and residential housing grew 8.4%, practically unchanged from the month before (8.3%) and less than the same month in 2013 (9.7%). Credit for social housing continued to slow down: in February 2014 it grew 9.5%, which was less than the month before (10.1%), February 2013 (12.3%) and the annual average for 2013 (13.1%).

¹ These figures include credit to non-banking financial intermediaries. Excluding this segment, growth was 8.1%

Credit: charts and statistics

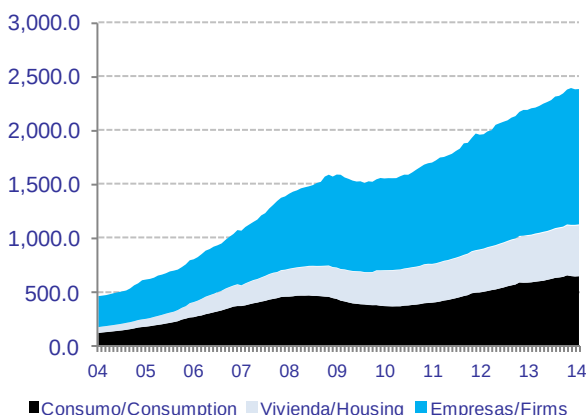
- In February 2014 the nominal annual growth rate of performing loans (PL) made available by commercial banks to the private sector was 8.7%.
- Growth in the main categories was: consumption, 9.7%; housing, 8.6%; and companies, 7.2%.
- The nominal annual growth rate of total credit made available by commercial banks to the private sector in February 2014 was lower than the month before (9.2%) and the same month in 2013 (12.6%).

Chart 1
PL by commercial banks to the private sector
Nominal annual % change



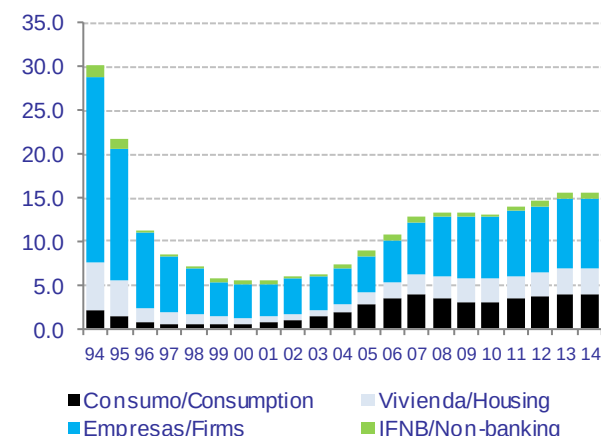
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico

Chart 2
PL by commercial banks to the private sector
Balance in billions of current pesos



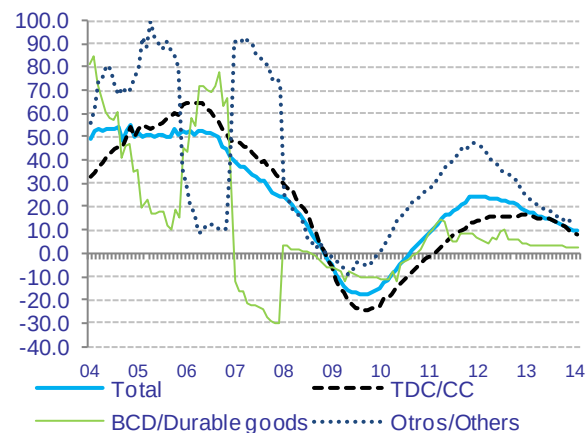
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico

Chart 3
PL by commercial banks to the private sector
% of GDP



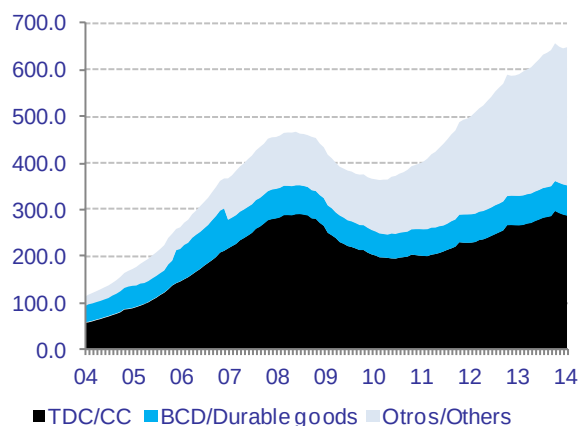
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico and INEGI

Chart 4
Consumer credit
Nominal annual % change



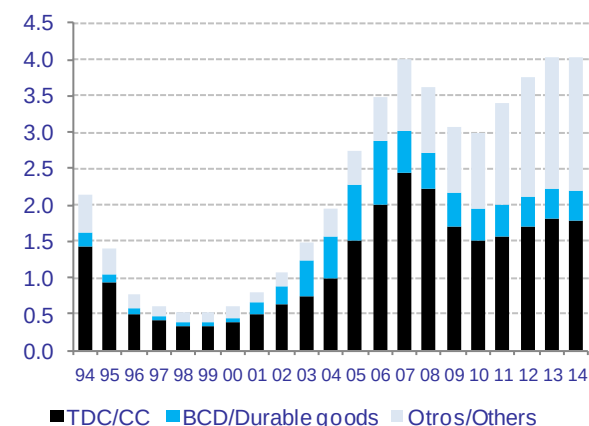
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico

Chart 5
Consumer credit
Balance in billions of current pesos



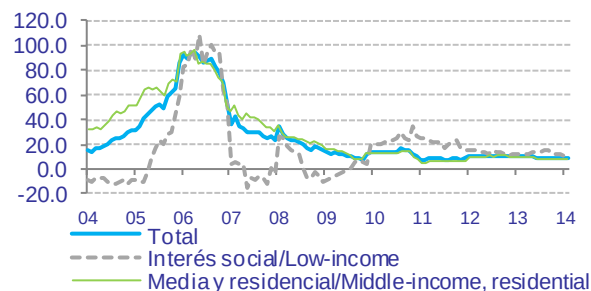
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico

Chart 6
Consumer credit
% of GDP



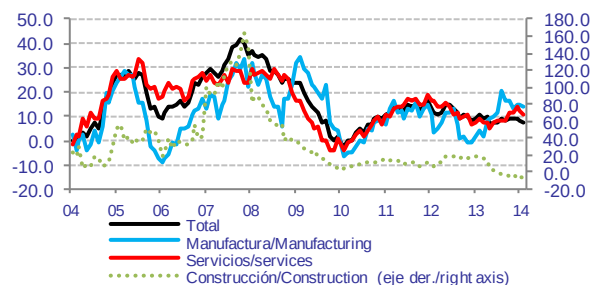
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico and INEGI

Chart 7
Housing credit
Nominal annual % change



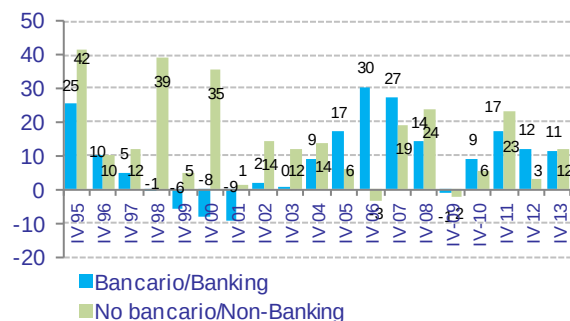
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico

Chart 10
Credit to firms
Nominal annual % change



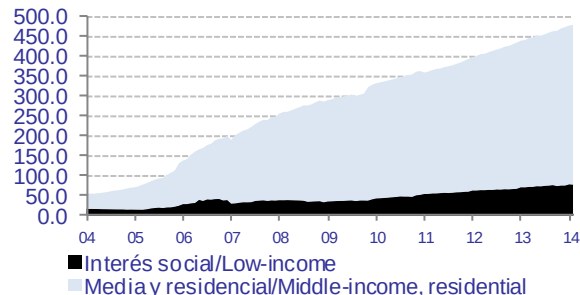
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico

Chart 13
Banking and Non-banking credit
Nominal annual % change



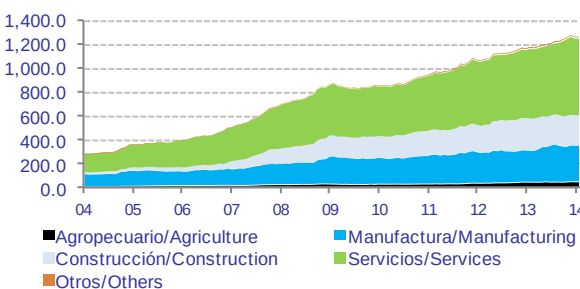
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico

Chart 8
Housing credit
Balance in billions of current pesos



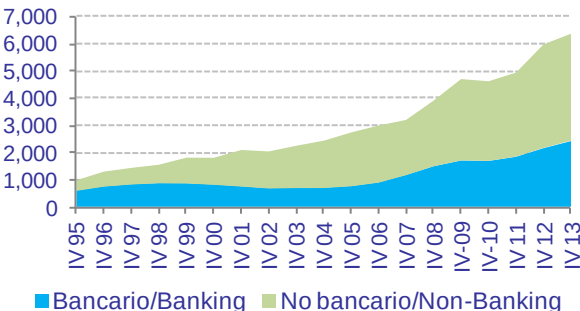
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico

Chart 11
Credit to firms
Balance in billions of current pesos



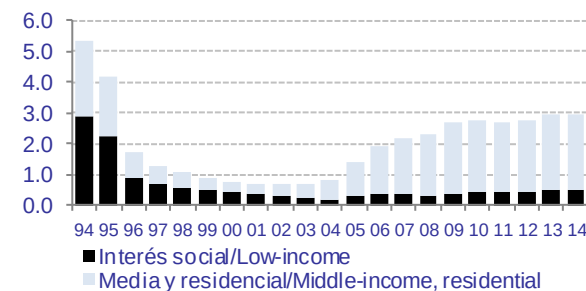
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico

Chart 14
Banking and Non-banking credit
Balance in billions of current pesos



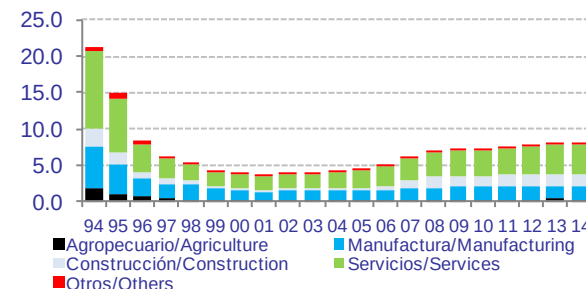
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico

Chart 9
Housing credit
% of GDP



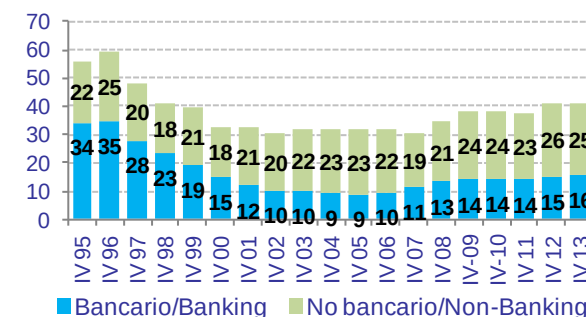
Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico and INEGI

Chart 12
Credit to firms
% GDP



Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico and INEGI

Chart 15
Banking and Non-banking credit
% GDP



Source: BBVA Research with data from Bank of Mexico and INEGI

