IMEF's PMI surveys – Both sectors in contraction territory in November

- *IMEF* Manufacturing PMI (November, sa): 48.5pts; Banorte: 48.6pts; consensus: 50.7pts; previous: 49.6pts
- *IMEF* Non-manufacturing PMI (November, sa): 49.5pts; Banorte: 48.4pts; consensus: 48.4pts; previous: 48.0pts
- The decline in the manufacturing sector was driven by weakness in 'new orders', 'inventories' and 'production'. In our opinion this suggests some impact from renewed social-distancing measures, as well as railway blockades
- Meanwhile, the non-manufacturing indicator rose sharply, pushed by a broad recovery, led by 'production' and 'new orders' which we believe is mainly associated to favorable effects from *El Buen Fin*
- We believe these results confirm some of our concerns that activity lost some dynamism towards the end of the year. Nevertheless, given some distortions in the data, we are still waiting for more information

IMEF's **PMI's are once again mixed in November.** The manufacturing indicator stood at 48.5pts, lower than consensus but practically in line with our 48.6pts estimate. This represents a 1.1pts decrease relative to October, which was revised lower, to 49.6pts (previous: 50.1pts). Meanwhile, the non-manufacturing indicator stood at 49.5pts, higher than our estimate and consensus at 48.4pts. This implies a 1.5pts expansion relative to the previous month's revised data –at 48.0pts from 47.7pts originally–. Overall, results were mostly in line with our expectations. We believe that the period started to show an impact form the deterioration in epidemiological conditions, which was evident in the manufacturing index. Nevertheless, the non-manufacturing sector was much better, with renewed activity from *El Buen Fin* (Mexico's Black Friday) driving up the figure. Despite of this, both indicators remain below the 50pts threshold, suggesting weakness in activity prevails.

Manufacturing shows a modest decline. We believe there are several factors driving the headline figure down, including: (1) Some payback after last month's considerable increase; (2) distortions on shipments due to railway blockades in Michoacán; and (3) the deterioration in epidemiological conditions, as previously mentioned. In addition, dynamism in external demand also seems to have taken a hit, albeit more modestly, with the ISM manufacturing declining to 57.5pts (previous: 59.3pts). Within the report, 'employment' and 'new orders' were some of the most impacted, possibly suggesting a further deceleration going forward. Performance within subcomponents was consistent with the latter, with 'new orders' (-3.1pts), 'inventories' (-1.9pts), and 'production' (-1.8pts) taking the brunt of the decline. However, we also highlight the modest 1.3pts decline in 'employment', but only after a 2.9pts increase in the previous month, fact that was reflected in the <u>latest employment report</u>. Lastly, and somewhat surprising, 'deliveries' rose by 1.3pts, being the only component above the expansion threshold.

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Winners of the award for best economic forecasters for Mexico in 2019, given by *Refinitiv*



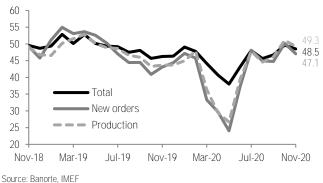
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IMEF's manufacturing indicator Seasonally adjusted figures

Seasonally adjusted fig	Seasonally adjusted figures			
	Nov-20	Oct-20	Difference	⁶⁰]
Manufacturing	48.5	49.6	-1.1	
New orders	47.1	50.2	-3.1	45 -
Production	49.3	51.1	-1.8	40 - 35 - — Total
Employment	48.5	49.7	-1.3	30 - New (
Deliveries	51.5	50.2	1.3	25 - Produ
Inventories	44.0	45.9	-1.9	Nov-18 Mar-19 Ju
Source: IMEE				Source: Paperte, IMEE

IMEF's PMI manufacturing indicator



Source: IMEF

The non-manufacturing indicator bounces back. Despite mostly negative signals for activity, this component posted a relevant 1.5pts increase, just 0.5pts shy from the expansion threshold. In our view, and as previewed earlier, the main driver for the sector was related to *El Buen Fin* promotions. In this context, preliminary results suggest that sales outperformed levels seen in the previous year, which would be very positive considering the still weak point the economy is in. Nevertheless, we should exercise some concern, considering the discount period was expanded, as well as the inclusion of other categories that were not accounted for in the program previously. Inside, all four subcomponents were better, with 'production' –which in this case could be related to sales– leading gains at +2.2pts, followed closely by 'new orders' (+1.8pts) and 'employment' (+1.4pts). Finally, 'deliveries' were more muted (+0.1pts), albeit also being the only sector above 50pts.

IMEF's non-manufacturing indicato	r
Seasonally adjusted figures	

Nov-20	Oct-20	Difference
49.5	48.0	1.5
48.6	46.9	1.8
49.4	47.2	2.2
47.0	45.6	1.4
52.3	52.2	0.1
	49.5 48.6 49.4 47.0	49.5 48.0 48.6 46.9 49.4 47.2 47.0 45.6

Signals of a slowdown prevailing in 4Q20. We believe today's results are still consistent with signs of a deceleration in the pace of the recovery. This would be broadly consistent with the deterioration in epidemiological conditions, mainly new cases, which have shown an upward trend since early October. Considering this, some states have reintroduced stricter social-distancing measures. For example, Mexico City imposed a tighter curfew on gyms, cinemas, restaurants and other non-essential stores on November 23rd. We have seen this type of actions extend to other states. This would be detrimental for services, especially recreation, which have been among the most impacted by the pandemic. In commerce, the upward boost from *El Buen Fin* might fade away relatively fast, with the possibility of some payback in December, as consumers might have brought forward spending. Nevertheless, it is still too soon to confirm this, probably having to wait until IGAE or retail sales for the Deecember. We expect sectors more dependent on social interactions, as well as those tourism-related, to remain a drag until a vaccine is widely available.

Turning to manufacturing, we might be starting to see some signals of the lack of fiscal stimulus in the US, as portrayed by that country's ISM manufacturing. This is slightly concerning as a package will probably wait at least until the new administration takes office, on January 20th. There is also the possibility of further delays, with two races on hold for the final composition of the Senate to be known. Turning to the domestic factors, railway blockades in Michoacán were finally lifted yesterday, which should help normalize the flow of goods in the Lázaro Cárdenas port. In turn, this could help ease some backlogs in imports and exports. Moreover, we will be waiting for updates on the epidemiological 'traffic-light' indicator, expected on December 6th. This will be very relevant, considering that there is a possibility of more states going back to 'orange' or 'red'. Despite positive news regarding a vaccine, we believe current limits on personnel and other restrictions will limit activity from showing a more vigorous performance.

All in all, we think these results are still consistent with our forecast of a 0.5% q/q expansion in 4Q20 (-7.2% y/y). Contrary to today's report, strength will once again be concentrated in manufacturing –albeit to a lesser extent than in 3Q20–. Moreover, the outlook for services is filled with more unknowns, although in our view with more downside risks, especially as domestic demand remains muted. Considering this, we maintain our forecast of a 9.0% y/y contraction in full-year 2020, followed by a 4.1% expansion in 2021.

Analyst Certification

We, Gabriel Casillas Olvera, Alejandro Padilla Santana, Delia María Paredes Mier, Juan Carlos Alderete Macal, Manuel Jiménez Zaldívar, Marissa Garza Ostos, Tania Abdul Massih Jacobo, Francisco José Flores Serrano, Katia Celina Goya Ostos, Santiago Leal Singer, José Itzamna Espitia Hernández, Valentín III Mendoza Balderas, Víctor Hugo Cortes Castro, Hugo Armando Gómez Solís, Miguel Alejandro Calvo Domínguez, Luis Leopoldo López Salinas, Leslie Thalía Orozco Vélez, Gerardo Daniel Valle Trujillo, Eridani Ruibal Ortega and Juan Barbier Arizmendi, certify that the points of view expressed in this document are a faithful reflection of our personal opinion on the company (s) or firm (s) within this report, along with its affiliates and/or securities issued. Moreover, we also state that we have not received, nor receive, or will receive compensation other than that of Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. of C.V for the provision of our services.

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