Ahead of the Curve

Possible hints of lower dynamism in September

- *Timely Indicator of Economic Activity* (September). This release will include the first estimate for September, as well as revised figures for August. In this latter month, industrial production was practically in line with the first estimate. Meanwhile, timely signals for services –including retail sales (see section below)– lead us to believe that the adjustment will be to the upside. Therefore, we think the monthly comparison could show a sequential increase. Going to September, signs are somewhat mixed, with positive trends from manufacturing, but with services showing a slowdown. As such, we could see a moderation in the pace of growth or even a slight contraction
- **Retail sales (August).** We forecast them at +6.6% y/y, higher than the 5.0% of the previous month, partly boosted by a more favorable base effect. More importantly, sales would have grown 0.4% m/m, building up on the 0.9% expansion of the previous month, which we believe would be quite favorable. In our view, dynamism would be driven by: (1) The consolidation of fundamentals, including remittances and employment; (2) the continuation of disbursements of social programs after the pause in the electoral season; and (3) spending related to the tail-end of the holiday period and the start of school. However, we expect the figure to remain limited by additional price pressures

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www.banorte.com @analisis_fundam

Juan Carlos Alderete, CFA Executive Director of Economic Research and Financial Markets Strategy juan.alderete.macal@banorte.com

Francisco Flores
Director of Economic Research, Mexico
francisco.flores.serrano@banorte.com

Yazmín Pérez Senior Economist, Mexico yazmin.perez.enriquez@banorte.com

Cintia Nava Senior Economist, Mexico cintia.nava.roa@banorte.com

Winners of the award for best economic forecasters for Mexico in 2021, granted by *Refinitiv*



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Mexico weekly calendar

DATE	TIME (ET)	EVENT	PERIOD	UNIT	BANORTE	CONSENSUS	PREVIOUS
Tue 18-Oct	10:00am	International reserves	Oct-14	US\$ bn			197.0
Thu 20-Oct	7:00am	Timely Indicator of Economic Activity (sa)	September	% y/y			2.9
Thu 20-Oct Thu 20-Oct	3:30pm	Citibanamex bi-weekly survey of economic expectations Deadline for the Lower House approval of the Revenue Law					
Fri 21-Oct	7:00am	Retail Sales	August	% y/y	<u>6.6</u>	5.7	5.0
		sa		% m/m	<u>0.4</u>	0.1	0.9

Source: Banorte; Bloomberg



Proceeding in chronological order...

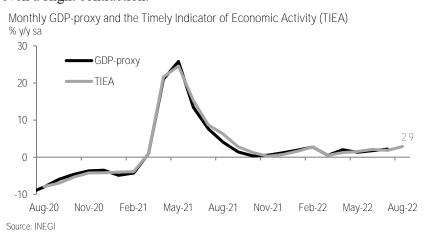
Weekly international reserves report. Last week, net international reserves increased by US\$46 million, closing at US\$197.0 billion (please refer to the following table). This was mainly explained by a positive valuation effect in institutional assets. Year-to-date, the central bank's international reserves have fallen by US\$5.4 billion.

Banxico's foreign reserve accumulation details US\$, million

	2021	Oct 7, 2022	Oct 7, 2022	Year-to-date
	Balance		Flows	
International reserves (B)-(C)	202,399	196,963	46	-5,436
(B) Gross international reserve	207,745	202,269	133	-5,476
Pemex			0	350
Federal government			-172	673
Market operations	==		0	0
Other			305	-5,499
(C) Short-term government's liabilities	5,346	5,306	88	-40

Source: Banco de México

The *Timely Indicator of Economic Activity* will likely show a deceleration in September. This release will include the first estimate for September, as well as revised figures for August. We recall that July's mid-point forecast stood at 1.8% y/y (using sa figures), lower than the 2.2% in the GDP-proxy (IGAE). In August, industrial production was practically in line with the first estimate. Meanwhile, timely signals for services –including retail sales (see section below)– lead us to believe that the adjustment will be to the upside. Therefore, we think the monthly comparison could show a sequential increase. Going to September, signs are somewhat mixed. Inflationary pressures persisted, which is consistent with a more adverse situation for domestic sectors, as suggested by ANTAD sales. Nevertheless, we could see an acceleration in external sectors, with a better performance in the US, which we believe has already favorably impacted IMEF's manufacturing PMI. As such, we could see a moderation in the pace of growth or even a slight contraction.

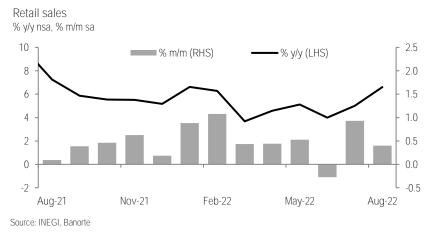




Additional progress in retail sales in August, helped by fundamentals. We forecast them at +6.6% y/y, higher than the 5.0% of the previous month, partly boosted by a more favorable base effect. More importantly, sales would have grown 0.4% m/m, building up on the 0.9% expansion of the previous month, which we believe would be quite favorable. In our view, dynamism would be driven by: (1) The consolidation of fundamentals, including remittances and employment; (2) the continuation of disbursements of social programs after the pause in the electoral season; and (3) spending related to the tail-end of the holiday period and the start of school. However, we expect the figure to remain limited by additional price pressures, with annual inflation accelerating to 8.70%.

So far, available data is somewhat mixed, but still suggesting progress. ANTAD sales lost a bit of momentum, with total stores up 4.9% y/y in real terms (previous: +5.6%) and same-stores at +2.5% (previous: +3.3%), both dragged by higher inflation. On a more positive note, auto sales jumped by 5.1% m/m to 91.1 thousand units. Gasoline sales moderated again -in line with the period's seasonality-, standing at 681kbpd from 700kbpd in July. Lastly, non-oil consumption goods imports contracted 1.1%, adding two months lower. However, considering lower transportation costs and a moderation in overall supply-chain disruptions, we believe these figures are not as negative as they seem. On fundamentals, we believe conditions are more favorable. Remittances remained strong, topping US\$5 billion (or \$100 billion in MXN) for a fourth month in a row, despite decelerating sequentially. While employment kept improving –with +177.1 thousand new positions– wages decelerated, especially when measured in real terms. Nevertheless, the latter seems to be partly offset by additional leverage from families, with consumer loans still on the upside, situation which we think is helping smooth out consumption patterns.

We consider that the result would be consistent with our view of persistent dynamism in 3Q22, continuing with the favorable trend seen in the first half of the year. Nevertheless, additional risks seem to be materializing, likely limiting an acceleration towards the end of the year.



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Analyst Certification

We, Alejandro Padilla Santana, Juan Carlos Alderete Macal, Alejandro Cervantes Llamas, Manuel Jiménez Zaldívar, Marissa Garza Ostos, Katia Celina Goya Ostos, Francisco José Flores Serrano, José Luis García Casales, Víctor Hugo Cortes Castro, José Itzamna Espitia Hernández, Carlos Hernández García, Leslie Thalía Orozco Vélez, Hugo Armando Gómez Solís, Yazmín Selene Pérez Enríquez, Cintia Gisela Nava Roa, Miguel Alejandro Calvo Domínguez, Daniela Olea Suárez, José De Jesús Ramírez Martínez, Gerardo Daniel Valle Trujillo, Luis Leopoldo López Salinas, Isaías Rodríguez Sobrino, Paola Soto Leal, Daniel Sebastián Sosa Aguilar and Salvador Austria Valencia 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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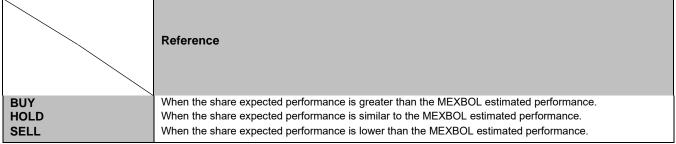
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GRUPO FINANCIERO BANORTE S.A.B. de C.V.

Alejandro Padilla Santana	Chief Economist and Head of Research	alejandro.padilla@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4043
Raquel Vázquez Godinez	Assistant	raquel.vazquez@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2967
tzel Martínez Rojas	Analyst	itzel.martinez.rojas@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2251
ourdes Calvo Fernández	Analyst (Edition)	lourdes.calvo@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000 x 261
María Fernanda Vargas Santoyo	Analyst	maria.vargas.santoyo@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000
Economic Research	Executive Director of Economic Research and Financial		
Juan Carlos Alderete Macal, CFA	Markets Strategy	juan.alderete.macal@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4046
Francisco José Flores Serrano	Director of Economic Research, Mexico	francisco.flores.serrano@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2957
Katia Celina Goya Ostos	Director of Economic Research, Global	katia.goya@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 1821
azmín Selene Pérez Enríquez	Senior Economist, Mexico	yazmin.perez.enriquez@banorte.com	(55) 5268 - 1694
Cintia Gisela Nava Roa	Senior Economist, Mexico	cintia.nava.roa@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000
Luis Leopoldo López Salinas	Manager Global Economist	luis.lopez.salinas@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000 x 270
Market Strategy Manuel Jiménez Zaldívar	Director of Market Strategy	manuel.jimenez@banorte.com	(55) 5268 - 1671
Fixed income and FX Strategy			(00) 0100
Leslie Thalía Orozco Vélez	Senior Strategist, Fixed Income and FX	leslie.orozco.velez@banorte.com	(55) 5268 - 1698
Isaías Rodríguez Sobrino	Strategist, Fixed Income, FX and Commodities	isaias.rodriguez.sobrino@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2144
Equity Strategy			
Marissa Garza Ostos	Director of Equity Strategy	marissa.garza@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 1719
José Itzamna Espitia Hernández	Senior Strategist, Equity	jose.espitia@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2249
Carlos Hernández García	Senior Strategist, Equity	carlos.hernandez.garcia@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2250
/íctor Hugo Cortes Castro Paola Soto Leal	Senior Strategist, Technical Analyst	victorh.cortes@banorte.com paola.soto.leal@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 1800 (55) 1103 - 4000 x 174
	Allalyst	paoia.soio.ieai@bariorie.com	(55) 1105 - 4000 X 174
Corporate Debt Hugo Armando Gómez Solís	Senior Analyst, Corporate Debt	hugoa.gomez@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2247
Gerardo Daniel Valle Trujillo	Analyst, Corporate Debt	gerardo.valle.trujillo@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2248
Quantitative Analysis			
Alejandro Cervantes Llamas	Executive Director of Quantitative Analysis	alejandro.cervantes@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2972
José Luis García Casales	Director of Quantitative Analysis	jose.garcia.casales@banorte.com	(55) 8510 - 4608
Daniela Olea Suárez	Senior Analyst, Quantitative Analysis	daniela.olea.suarez@banorte.com	55) 1103 - 4000
Miguel Alejandro Calvo Domínguez	Senior Analyst, Quantitative Analysis	miguel.calvo@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 2220
José De Jesús Ramírez Martínez	Senior Analyst, Quantitative Analysis	jose.ramirez.martinez@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000
Daniel Sebastián Sosa Aguilar	Analyst, Quantitative Analysis	daniel.sosa@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000
Salvador Austria Valencia	Analyst, Quantitative Analysis	salvador.austria.valencia@banorte.com	(55) 1103 - 4000
Wholesale Banking Armando Rodal Espinosa	Head of Wholesale Banking	armando.rodal@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 1889
Alejandro Aguilar Ceballos	Head of Asset Management	alejandro.aguilar.ceballos@banorte.com	(55) 5004 - 1282
Alejandro Eric Faesi Puente	Head of Global Markets and Institutional Sales	alejandro.faesi@banorte.com	(55) 5268 - 1640
•	Head of Sólida Banorte	,	
Alejandro Frigolet Vázquez Vela		alejandro.frigolet.vazquezvela@banorte.com	(55) 5268 - 1656 (55) 5004 - 5140
Arturo Monroy Ballesteros	Head of Investment Banking and Structured Finance	arturo.monroy.ballesteros@banorte.com	(55) 5004 - 5140
Carlos Alberto Arciniega Navarro	Head of Treasury Services	carlos.arciniega@banorte.com	(81) 1103 - 4091 (91) 9172 - 0127
Gerardo Zamora Nanez	Head of Transactional Banking, Leasing and Factoring	gerardo.zamora@banorte.com	(81) 8173 - 9127 (66) 6004 - 6121
orge de la Vega Grajales	Head of Government Banking	jorge.delavega@banorte.com	(55) 5004 - 5121
uis Pietrini Sheridan	Head of Private Banking	luis.pietrini@banorte.com	(55) 5249 - 6423
izza Velarde Torres	Executive Director of Wholesale Banking	lizza.velarde@banorte.com	(55) 4433 - 4676
Osvaldo Brondo Menchaca	Head of Specialized Banking Services	osvaldo.brondo@banorte.com	(55) 5004 - 1423
Raúl Alejandro Arauzo Romero	Head of Transactional Banking	alejandro.arauzo@banorte.com	(55) 5261 - 4910
René Gerardo Pimentel Ibarrola	Head of Corporate Banking	pimentelr@banorte.com	(55) 5004 - 1051
Ricardo Velázquez Rodríguez	Head of International Banking	rvelazquez@banorte.com	(55) 5004 - 5279
Víctor Antonio Roldan Ferrer	Head of Commercial Banking	victor.roldan.ferrer@banorte.com	(55) 1670 - 1899