

Un sector público más digital para una América Latina más productiva

Category: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Digitalisation, Digitalisation, Latin America, Mexico, Peru, Posts in Spanish
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La última edición de las *Perspectivas Económicas de la OCDE* ofrece un diagnóstico realista pero esperanzador sobre las economías latinoamericanas. Aunque el entorno global sigue siendo complejo, marcado por tensiones comerciales y geopolíticas, la región tiene oportunidades claras para fortalecer el crecimiento económico a través de las reformas estructurales. Una de las más prometedoras: la transformación digital del sector público para simplificar trámites, reducir costos y mejorar la eficiencia regulatoria.

América Latina muestra resiliencia pero con desafíos persistentes

En línea con la evolución de la economía global, tras un crecimiento proyectado del 2.3% en 2025, se prevé una ligera

desaceleración al 1.9% en 2026, antes de repuntar al 2.4% en 2027 en las siete principales economías de la región. Factores como la consolidación fiscal en muchos países de la región, necesaria pero restrictiva, y una elevada incertidumbre política y económica seguirán afectando la demanda interna, la inversión y las exportaciones, principalmente en 2026.

Cuadro. Perspectivas económicas para los países de América Latina

	2025	2026	2027		2025	2026	2027
PIB variación, %				Inflación general, %			
 Argentina	4.2	3.0	3.9	 Argentina	41.7	17.6	10.0
 Brasil	2.4	1.7	2.2	 Brasil	5.1	4.2	3.8
 Chile	2.4	2.2	2.2	 Chile	4.4	3.4	3.0
 Colombia	2.8	2.8	2.9	 Colombia	5.1	4.6	3.8
 Costa Rica	4.2	3.5	3.4	 Costa Rica	-0.1	0.8	2.1
 México	0.7	1.2	1.7	 México	3.8	3.3	2.9
 Perú	3.1	2.8	2.7	 Perú	1.5	1.7	2.0
América Latina-7	2.3	1.9	2.4	América Latina-6 (sin Argentina)	3.3	3.0	2.9
OCDE	1.7	1.7	1.8	OCDE	4.0	3.4	2.6
Mundo	3.2	2.9	3.1				

Nota: América Latina 7 es la media ponderada por el PIB a valores de paridad del poder de compra de los 7 países en la tabla para el PIB. América Latina 6 es la media simple de los países incluidos en el cuadro para la inflación excluyendo a Argentina.

Fuente: OCDE Perspectivas Económicas No. 118, diciembre de 2025.

La inflación en los últimos meses ha sido más persistente de lo esperado. En la mayoría de los países se prevé que en 2025 la inflación se mantenga por encima de las metas de los bancos centrales, convergiendo gradualmente hacia las metas en 2026 y 2027. Excepciones son Perú, donde la inflación está controlada hace un año, Costa Rica, que mantiene una inflación negativa

en 2025, y Argentina, en donde la elevada inflación seguirá reduciéndose gracias a una combinación de consolidación fiscal y política monetaria restrictiva. La mayoría de los países tendría que mantener una política monetaria prudente basada en datos y orientada a devolver la inflación a sus metas sin generar presiones innecesarias sobre la actividad. En este contexto, los bancos centrales deben mantenerse atentos a la evolución del comercio global, las condiciones financieras, las expectativas de inflación y la orientación de la política fiscal. Al mismo tiempo, será clave que la consolidación fiscal siga avanzando con medidas concretas y más ambiciosas, dada la elevada deuda pública y la necesidad de asegurar su sustentabilidad en un entorno externo incierto y con elevados costos de financiamiento.

Los riesgos económicos están sesgados a la baja:

- **Incertidumbre global derivada de tensiones comerciales y geopolíticas**, junto con la incertidumbre política en algunos países de la región asociada al ciclo electoral u otros factores internos, podría afectar negativamente a la inversión y las exportaciones, con repercusiones adversas sobre el crecimiento económico.
- **Desviaciones fiscales** podrían subir el coste del servicio de la deuda, socavar la confianza, frenar la inversión y generar presiones inflacionarias.
- **Persistencias inflacionarias** limitarían el espacio para reducir las tasas de interés, afectando las condiciones financieras y desincentivando el consumo y la inversión.

Sin embargo, también hay riesgos al alza: una reducción de las barreras comerciales o redirección del comercio hacia la región y una menor incertidumbre geopolítica podrían fortalecer el consumo, la inversión y el consumo.

Aprovechar la revolución digital para avanzar hacia marcos regulatorios más simples y eficientes

El capítulo especial de las perspectivas económicas subraya la necesidad de avanzar hacia marcos regulatorios más simples y eficientes. En este contexto, la transformación digital del sector público emerge como una herramienta clave para facilitar esta simplificación regulatoria, reduciendo la carga administrativa y modernizando procesos normativos. Una implementación eficiente de la gobernanza digital representa una gran oportunidad para América Latina, tanto para mejorar la eficiencia del gasto público y la transparencia, como mejorar el crecimiento económico al impulsar la productividad de las empresas, históricamente baja. Un gobierno digital bien implementado permite:

- Ofrecer servicios públicos más rápidos, sencillos e inclusivos.
- Reducir costos administrativos y simplificar trámites gubernamentales, mejorando el entorno de negocios, lo que cual se puede traducir en ganancias significativas de eficiencia al reducir costos y tiempos de espera, ampliar la cobertura y fomentar la competitividad de las empresas.
- Fortalecer la transparencia y rendición de cuentas facilitando el acceso ciudadano a la información, la detección de irregularidades, contribuyendo a prevenir el fraude.

Los indicadores de la OCDE muestran que países como Colombia y Brasil lideran el gobierno digital en la región. Colombia ha avanzado significativamente con la puesta en marcha de

plataformas en línea, aplicaciones móviles para trámites gubernamentales y datos abiertos, mientras que Brasil ha sido pionero en servicios como el voto electrónico, las declaraciones de impuestos digitales, y más recientemente la centralización del acceso a cientos de servicios y la identificación digital. No obstante, muchos otros países siguen rezagados (Figure 1).

¿Qué se necesita para una transformación digital exitosa del sector público?

Para lograr una transformación digital exitosa en el sector público, los gobiernos de América Latina aún enfrentan retos importantes y requieren redoblar esfuerzos para lograr:

- **Infraestructura digital robusta** con cobertura suficiente y sistemas interoperables entre niveles de gobierno para garantizar que todos puedan acceder a los servicios digitales.
- **Coordinación efectiva entre gobiernos centrales y locales.** En muchos países de la región, existe una gran brecha en el uso de herramientas digitales entre las instituciones públicas centrales y las locales.
- **Autoridad política clara para liderar la transformación.** El reciente impulso a la agenda digital en México, incluida la creación de la Agencia de Transformación Digital y Tecnológica, es un ejemplo destacado de cómo dotar de liderazgo institucional a estos procesos
- **Regulación ágil y flexible para tecnologías** emergentes como la inteligencia artificial.
- **Confianza ciudadana.** Garantizar la privacidad y la seguridad de los datos es esencial para que los ciudadanos confíen y utilicen los servicios públicos digitales, aprovechando así al máximo el potencial de la

digitalización. Además, publicar datos en formatos reutilizables facilitaría el acceso a información pública completa y confiable, mientras que impulsar la colaboración entre gobiernos, sociedad civil, universidades y empresas, aceleraría la experimentación y mejoraría el impacto de la gobernanza digital.

Casos exitosos como el de Estonia demuestran que una gobernanza digital bien implementada puede generar ahorros al gobierno equivalentes al 2 % del PIB anual.

Digitalizar para transformar

La digitalización del sector público no solo mejora la eficiencia del gasto público. También genera beneficios que se extienden a toda la economía, al elevar la productividad, reducir cargas administrativas para ciudadanos y empresas, facilitar la formalización y mejorar el acceso a servicios esenciales, todos desafíos de larga data en la región. Pero para que la gobernanza digital tenga legitimidad y pueda realmente desplegar todo su potencial, es necesario que todos se conviertan en “ciudadanos digitales”. Esto implica centrarse en las necesidades reales de la población y crear las condiciones para que todos tengan acceso a conexión a internet, dispositivos adecuados y las habilidades necesarias para navegar con seguridad. La transformación digital debe ser ambiciosa. Solo así la región podrá aprovechar todo su potencial y construir un futuro más próspero.

Para más información:

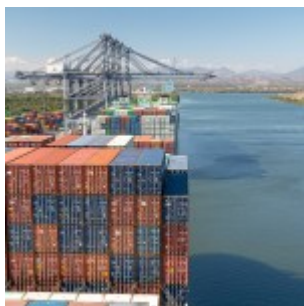
OECD (2025), OECD Economic Outlook, Volume 2025 Issue 2, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9f653ca1-en> – Reporte completo en inglés con las proyecciones macroeconómicas, los principales desafíos estructurales e información detallada por país.

Perspectivas económicas de la OCDE para países de América Latina

Información detallada por país: Argentina | Brasil | Chile | Colombia | Costa Rica | México | Perú

Convertir la incertidumbre global en oportunidad: Una agenda de competitividad para América Latina

Category: Argentina, Brazil, chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Latin America, Mexico, Peru, Posts in Spanish
written by oecdecoscope | December 2, 2025



Por Jens Arnold, Aida Caldera, Priscilla Fialho, Paula Garda, Alberto González Pandiella, Michael Koelle, Alessandro Maravalle, Dimitris Mavridis, Claudia Ramírez y Adolfo Rodríguez-Vargas, OCDE.

El contexto global, marcado por una alta incertidumbre política y fragmentación, plantea nuevos desafíos para América Latina, pero también abre nuevas oportunidades para fortalecer su competitividad y reducir vulnerabilidades.

Se espera que el PIB en América Latina crecerá 2.1% en 2025 y 2% en 2026, lo que refleja una desaceleración generalizada en la región. Estas cifras son más bajas que las previstas a fines del año pasado y se sitúan por debajo del promedio de otras economías emergentes. Aunque se espera una fuerte recuperación en Argentina, el crecimiento se mantiene débil en la mayoría de los países, con revisiones a la baja para Brasil, México y Colombia (Tabla), en un contexto generalizado de una débil demanda externa y la alta incertidumbre.

Cuadro. Perspectivas económicas para los países de América Latina

	2024	2025	2026		2024	2025	2026
PIB variación, %				Inflación general, %			
 Argentina	-1.7	5.2	4.3	 Argentina	219.9	36.6	14.9
 Brasil	3.4	2.1	1.6	 Brasil	4.4	5.7	5.0
 Chile	2.4	2.4	2.4	 Chile	4.3	4.5	3.3
 Colombia	1.6	2.5	2.6	 Colombia	6.6	4.7	4.0
 Costa Rica	4.3	3.1	3.1	 Costa Rica	-0.4	1.8	2.5
 México	1.5	0.4	1.1	 México	4.7	3.4	3.2
 Perú	3.3	2.8	2.6	 Perú	2.4	1.8	2.1
América Latina-7	2.0	2.1	2.0	América Latina 6 (sin Argentina)	3.7	3.7	3.3
OCDE	1.8	1.4	1.5	OCDE	5.2	4.2	3.2
Mundo	3.3	2.9	2.9				

Nota: América Latina 7 es la media ponderada por el PIB a valores de paridad del poder de compra de los 7 países en la tabla para el PIB. América Latina 6 es la media simple de los países incluidos en el cuadro para la inflación excluyendo a Argentina.

Fuente: OCDE Perspectivas Económicas No. 117, junio de 2025.

La desinflación avanza, pero persisten las presiones inflacionarias. La inflación se mantiene por encima del objetivo en muchos países. En cambio, Argentina ha logrado avances significativos gracias a una combinación de consolidación fiscal y una política monetaria más restrictiva. Con la excepción de Argentina y Brasil, los bancos centrales

de la región deberían continuar con su flexibilización monetaria prudente y gradual para asegurarse que la inflación se acerque al objetivo, manteniéndose alerta ante riesgos de salidas de capitales y nuevas presiones inflacionarias.

Los riesgos para las perspectivas son a la baja. Un aumento de los aranceles comerciales y menor dinamismo al previsto en socios comerciales clave podría debilitar aún más las exportaciones y presionar a la baja los precios de las materias primas. Los costos comerciales podrían ralentizar más de lo esperado la desinflación en las economías avanzadas y prolongar tasas de interés globales más altas. Una elevada deuda pública y unas condiciones financieras globales más restrictivas de lo previsto, podrían retrasar la tan necesaria inversión. Si se intensifican las salidas de capital, los bancos centrales podrían tener menos margen de maniobra para flexibilizar la política monetaria.

Una agenda de competitividad para tiempos inciertos

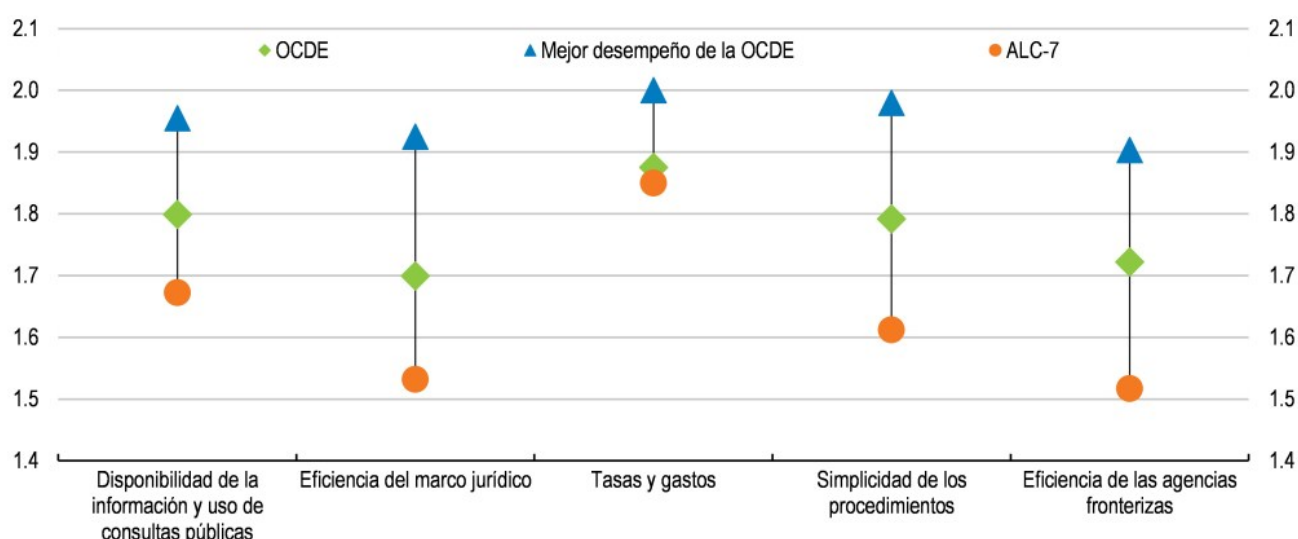
En este complejo entorno global, la región necesita más que nunca mejorar sus políticas domésticas. Un área donde es posible avanzar, y urgentemente necesario, es en competitividad, comercio e inversión. Estas no son prioridades nuevas, pero los cambios globales en el comercio, las cadenas de suministro y la transición hacia economías más sostenibles aumentan su relevancia estratégica. Los países que ofrezcan estabilidad institucional, apertura y baja carga administrativa estarán mejor posicionados para atraer inversión y expandir sus mercados.

Mejorar los procedimientos aduaneros representa una oportunidad clara. Según los Indicadores de Facilitación del Comercio de la OCDE, América Latina aún enfrenta altos costos comerciales debido a procedimientos aduaneros complejos, inspecciones redundantes y poca coordinación entre agencias fronterizas (Figura). Hay amplio margen para mejorar el procesamiento, levante y despacho de mercancías, en particular

mediante una mayor automatización y una mejor coordinación entre las agencias aduaneras, sanitarias, tributarias y otras agencias fronterizas. Medidas prácticas como la cooperación entre agencias de distintos países en la frontera, la agilización de los procesos judiciales y una mayor digitalización pueden beneficiar a los exportadores, especialmente a las pequeñas empresas, y atraer inversión. Además, estas medidas reducen los costos de operar formalmente, lo que incentiva a más empresas a salir de la informalidad.

Figura. Las políticas de facilitación del comercio pueden mejorarse en América Latina

2 = Mejor desempeño



Nota: Disponibilidad de la información y uso de consultas públicas es la media de los indicadores de la facilitación del comercio (TFI, por sus siglas en inglés) A y B. Eficiencia del marco jurídico es la media de los indicadores TFI C y D. Simplicidad de los procedimientos es la media de los indicadores TFI F, G y H. Eficacia de las agencias fronterizas es la media de los indicadores TFI I, J y K. ALC-7 es la media de Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, México y Perú.

Fuente: Estadísticas sobre los Indicadores de Facilitación del Comercio de la OCDE (TFI, por sus siglas en inglés).

La facilitación del comercio debe ir acompañada de reformas más amplias que fomenten la productividad. Impulsar la competitividad de las exportaciones y la productividad empresarial también requiere un entorno empresarial más dinámico, una mayor competencia doméstica, un mejor acceso a la financiación, más capacitación y capacidad de innovación. Estas reformas se refuerzan mutuamente: las empresas más productivas tienen mayor probabilidad de exportar, invertir y formalizarse.

El fortalecimiento de la integración regional sigue siendo relevante en América Latina, especialmente en un mundo donde las cadenas de valor están cambiando y los centros regionales cobran mayor importancia. El enfoque debe centrarse en la cooperación: mejorar la cooperación entre organismos fronterizos, el reconocimiento mutuo de normas, el intercambio de datos, los sistemas interoperables y el reconocimiento de estándares técnicos comunes. La región también cuenta con un potencial sin explotar en el comercio de servicios, gracias a idiomas compartidos y husos horarios similares; sin embargo, el comercio interregional de servicios sigue siendo bajo en comparación con los estándares mundiales.

América Latina debe adoptar una visión más orientada hacia el exterior. Acuerdos comerciales como el de la UE-Mercosur, y la participación en marcos plurilaterales como la Alianza del Pacífico o el CPTPP pueden ayudar a diversificar mercados de exportación, atraer inversión, fortalecer la participación en las cadenas globales de valor y aprovechar nuevas tecnologías. Sin embargo, para aprovechar al máximo los beneficios de estas iniciativas, los países deben mejorar su capacidad de implementación y garantizar la coherencia entre las políticas comerciales, de inversión y regulatorias.

América Latina cuenta con ventajas reales: vastas reservas de minerales críticos, abundante energía renovable, una fuerza laboral joven y cada vez más cualificada, y proximidad a mercados clave. Al impulsar reformas concretas que mejoren la

competitividad, reduzcan las barreras comerciales y atraigan inversión de calidad, la región puede convertir los desafíos actuales en oportunidades y sentar las bases para un crecimiento más sólido y resiliente.

Referencias:

OECD (2025), OECD Economic Outlook, Volume 2025 Issue 1, OECD Publishing, Paris, doi – Reporte completo en inglés con las proyecciones macroeconómicas, los principales desafíos estructurales e información detallada por país.

Perspectivas económicas de la OCDE para países de América Latina, Junio 2025.

Información detallada por país: Argentina | Brasil | Chile | Colombia | Costa Rica | México | Perú

Mexico and the benefits of global value chains

Category: international trade, Mexico, Uncategorized
written by oecdecoscope | December 2, 2025



By Elena Vidal and Alberto González Pandiella, OECD Economics Department

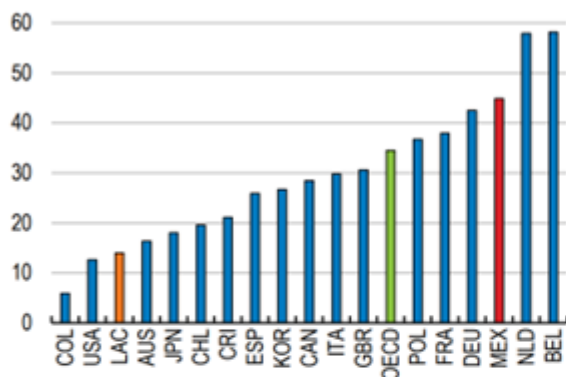
At the beginning of the 1990s, Querétaro, a state in central

Mexico, was primarily known for its agriculture and small-scale industries. Many residents migrated to larger cities or the United States in search of better prospects. Today, Querétaro is a recognized hub for the aerospace industry. Thousands of jobs were created, and local talent has thrived thanks to partnerships between companies and local universities and technical schools.

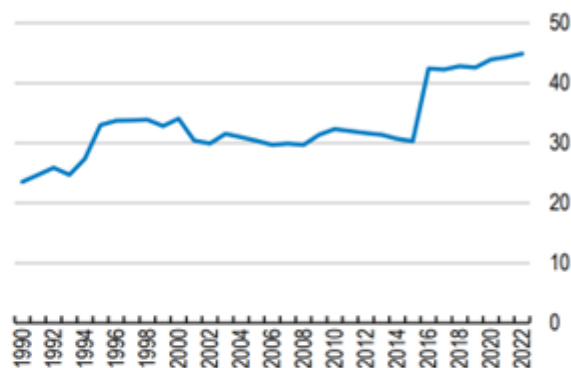
The 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was crucial in this success story and triggered a transformation of the Mexican economy, which became deeply integrated into global value chains (GVCs), with exports as a share of GDP tripling between 1994 and 2023. This success story is not without shadows and significant challenges remain. Not all the states in Mexico benefited from the trade agreement equally, and Southern states lagged, contributing to the high inequalities seen in Mexico today (OECD, 2024). Disentangling backward and forward linkages shows also that Mexico's GVC participation is mainly driven by backward linkages to GVCs, i.e., the share of foreign value added in Mexico's total exports is large (Vidal and González-Pandiella, 2024). Conversely, Mexico's forward participation, i.e., the share of Mexican value added embodied in foreign countries' exports, is relatively low, (Figure 1). This reflects a strong specialisation in assembling processes and Mexico being a prime exporter of final goods assembled for the US manufacturing sector. Moving up in the value chain and developing stronger forward linkages would boost productivity and promote more and better remunerated formal jobs.

Figure 1. Mexico's backward participation in global value chains is high and increasing while forward participation remains low

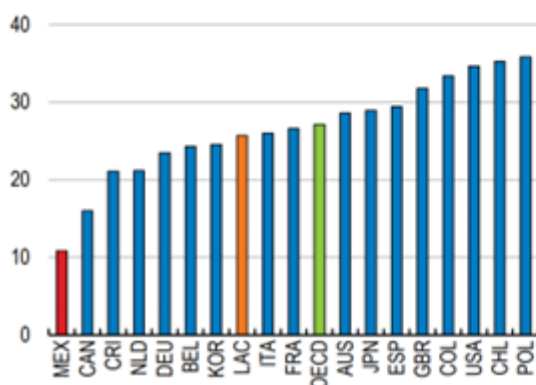
Mexican backward participation in GVCs is among the highest in the OECD
% of total exports, 2022



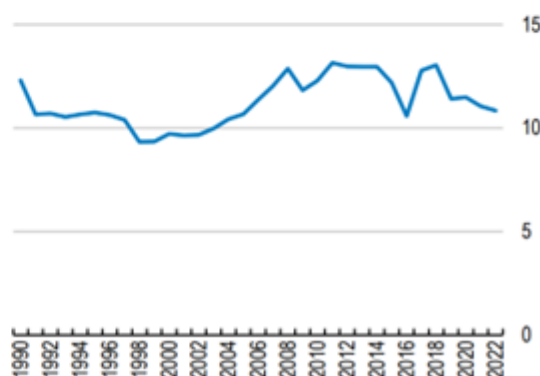
Mexican backward participation in GVCs has increased
Foreign value-added embodied in Mexican exports, % of total exports



Mexico's forward participation in GVCs remains very below the OECD average
%, 2022



Mexican forward participation in GVCs shows limited progress
Mexican value-added in other countries' exports, %



Note: LAC is an unweighted average of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Argentina, Brazil, and Peru. Backward GVC participation corresponds to the foreign value added which is embodied in a country's exports as a share of this country's total exports. Source: UNCTAD-Eora Multi-Region Input-Output tables (MRI0) (1990-2017); and estimations (2018-2022).

Ongoing nearshoring trends provide historic opportunities to spread the benefits of integration into GVC to other regions in Mexico (González Pandiella and Maravalle, 2024). Nearshoring also holds the promise to improve supply chain linkages, shifting from low-cost assembling processes to higher value-added functions being carried out in Mexico. Identifying which public policies can help to grasp these opportunities is of utmost relevance at the current juncture, with a new government taking office in September 2024.

According to our recent paper (Vidal and González-Pandiella, 2024), the following 5 public policies would help :

- 1. Keep free trade agreements and maintain low tariffs.**
Mexico's current trade policy stance of maintaining wide trade agreements and low trade tariffs is conducive to GVC participation. Seeking new trade agreements, especially in services, and enhancing trade integration with Latin America would also help to increase GVC participation.
- 2. Improve infrastructure, logistics, and connectivity.**
This would particularly increase most remoted regions chances to integrate into GVCs.
- 3. Increase investment in research and development (R&D).**
This would boost firms' local innovation activities and facilitate that higher value-added activities can also take place in Mexico.
- 4. Improve the rule of law and the business environment.**
This is essential for attracting foreign investment and encourage domestic entrepreneurship, as it reduces risks, uncertainties and costs associated with cross-border transactions.
- 5. Increase female labour participation and enhance educational outcomes.**
Higher female labour market participation increases the pool of available talent and skills, allowing firms to tap into a more diverse workforce. This diversity can lead to a wider range of perspective and ideas, boosting firms' innovation and adaptability and their ability to move to more sophisticated sectors and activities. By having a larger workforce equipped with relevant skills, companies can better manage risks associated with labour shortages or disruptions, enhancing the resilience of supply chains.

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González Pandiella, A. and A. Maravalle (2024), “Harnessing nearshoring opportunities in Mexico by boosting productivity and fighting climate change”, *OECD Economics Department Working Papers*, No. 1799, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/0ca7fc0a-en>.

Vidal, E. and A. González Pandiella (2024), “A review of Mexico’s participation in global value chains”, *OECD Economics Department Working Papers*, No. 1802, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/1ab1e52e-en>.

From Playgrounds to Growth: Bolstering early education in Mexico

Category: Mexico

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by Alberto González Pandiella and Alessandro Maravalle, OECD Economics Department, Mexico Desk

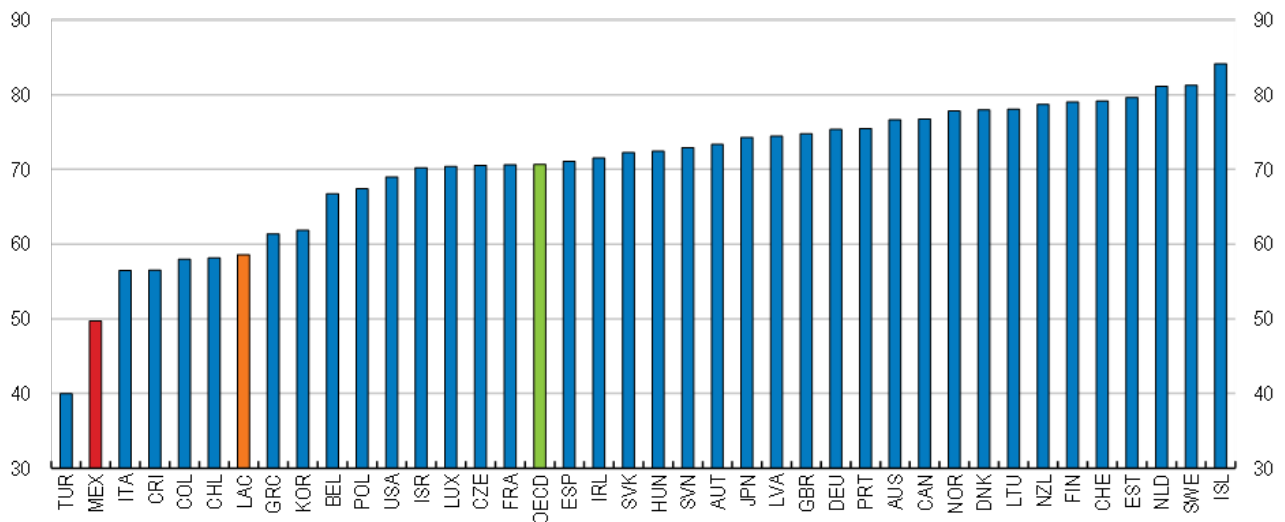
Thanks to sound macroeconomic policies, the Mexican economy has been stable and resilient over the last decades. Yet, growth has been elusive, despite Mexico’s large growth

potential. Over the last two decades, Mexico's GDP grew by around 9% while Chile grew by 68% or Dynamic Asian economies grew by 110%[1]. The ongoing redrawing of global value chains makes Mexico an attractive nearshoring destination and opens new growth opportunities. Grasping these opportunities requires several reforms, such as advancing digitalization, reducing regulatory burden or shifting to renewable energies, as detailed in the recently published 2024 Economic Survey of Mexico (OECD, 2024). But there is one reform that will have a particularly large growth pay-off: setting a comprehensive early childhood and education network. This reform would simultaneously and cost-effectively renew two growth engines: female labour participation and skills.

Early childhood education and care is key to facilitate that Mexican women can pursue employment opportunities, as domestic and care responsibilities fall disproportionately on them, hampering their prospects to complete education or be in the labour force. At a moment when Mexican firms report difficulties to retain and find workers with the appropriate skills, tapping on Mexico's female talent would significantly boost Mexico's growth. Female labour market participation has recently increased to 50%, its historical high, but is still the second lowest participation rate in the OECD (Figure).

Figure: Female labour force participation is low

% of female population aged 15-64, 2022



Note: LAC is a simple average of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Argentina, and Brazil. Data for Argentina refer to the year 2021.

Source: OECD Labour Force Statistics.

Enhancing early childhood education and care coverage would also improve education outcomes at a moment when skills availability is becoming more central in firms' decisions about where to invest. Mexico has a relatively young population, with significant potential to adapt to global trends that are reshaping skill needs, such as digitalization or decarbonization. But it also has two substantial challenges. First, still too many students leave the education system without completing secondary education. Second, there is room to increase education quality. Boosting early childhood education would help with both challenges by mitigating the impact of socioeconomic disparities on educational outcomes. Positive results will materialise in the medium-term, facilitating that more Mexicans gain the necessary skills to access formal jobs, widening the talent pool from which domestic and foreign firms can draw.

An early education network that would cover all children under 6 years old throughout Mexico would only cost 1.2% of GDP annually, a bit more than double what Mexico spends today (0.5% of GDP). Mexico will need to find extra revenues to finance this reform, but the 2024 OECD Economic Survey (OECD,

2024) suggests that there are viable options, such as enhancing the collection of taxes on immovable property and of those related to the purchase, ownership and use of vehicles.

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[1] Growth in real PPP-adjusted GDP per capita from 2000 to 2022. Source: World Bank World Development Indicators. Dynamic Asia includes India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Reactivar la inversión: un reto pendiente para México

Category: Mexico, Posts in Spanish

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**Por Alberto González Pandiella y Alessandro Maravalle,
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México se está recuperando gradualmente de la recesión inducida por la pandemia. Se espera que la economía crezca un 2,3 % este año y un 2,6 % en 2023. Las exportaciones seguirán beneficiándose del fuerte crecimiento de Estados Unidos. Con

una proporción cada vez mayor de la población vacunada y la mejora gradual en el mercado laboral, el consumo también será un motor clave del crecimiento. Sin embargo, un desafío clave pendiente para México es reactivar la inversión. La inversión ha estado apagada desde 2015 y en caída desde 2019 (Gráfico 1).

Gráfico 1. La inversión ha sido débil

Formación bruta de capital fijo, índice, 2015-1T = 100



Fuente: OCDE, base de datos de Perspectivas Económicas.

El último **Estudio Económico de México** argumenta que hay espacio para crear mejores condiciones tanto para la inversión pública como para la privada. México ha sido fiscalmente prudente a lo largo de los años, cumpliendo sus objetivos fiscales y asegurando la sostenibilidad fiscal a pesar de tener la relación impuestos/PIB más baja de la OCDE, con solo el 16 % del PIB. Pero esto se ha logrado en gran medida recortando el gasto, en particular la inversión pública. La pandemia ha exacerbado las necesidades de inversión pública, ya que los sistemas de salud y educación están bajo presión. Las brechas en la infraestructura también siguen siendo significativas. Por ejemplo, el aumento de la inversión pública necesaria para cerrar la brecha de infraestructura en México se estimó en 1.3 puntos porcentuales del PIB al año

(Woetzel et al., 2017). Un aumento gradual de los ingresos tributarios ayudaría a responder a las necesidades de inversión pública y fortalecer la recuperación, manteniendo el compromiso con la sostenibilidad fiscal. Efectuar análisis costo-beneficio rigurosos y transparentes aseguraría una buena selección de proyectos y ayudaría a responder a las necesidades de inversión pública de manera costo-efectiva.

La inversión privada se ha visto obstaculizada por la gran incertidumbre sobre la configuración de las políticas internas. La incertidumbre aumentó especialmente tras las propuestas de reforma del mercado eléctrico. El potencial para que la inversión se reactive vigorosamente es alto, impulsado por el acuerdo comercial actualizado y la fuerte recuperación en los Estados Unidos. Las tendencias de *nearshoring*, mediante las cuales es probable que las empresas busquen reducir los riesgos de interrupciones en la cadena de suministro ubicándose más cerca de sus mercados finales, también brindan a México oportunidades históricas. Convertir estas oportunidades en realidad requerirá brindar a los inversores, tanto nacionales como extranjeros, certeza sobre los contratos existentes y estabilidad regulatoria. Mejorar las regulaciones empresariales a nivel estatal y municipal, que en algunos casos siguen siendo costosas y complejas, también ayudaría a facilitar la creación y el crecimiento de empresas.

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Reviving investment: A pending challenge for Mexico

Category: Mexico, Posts in Spanish
written by oecdecoscope | December 2, 2025

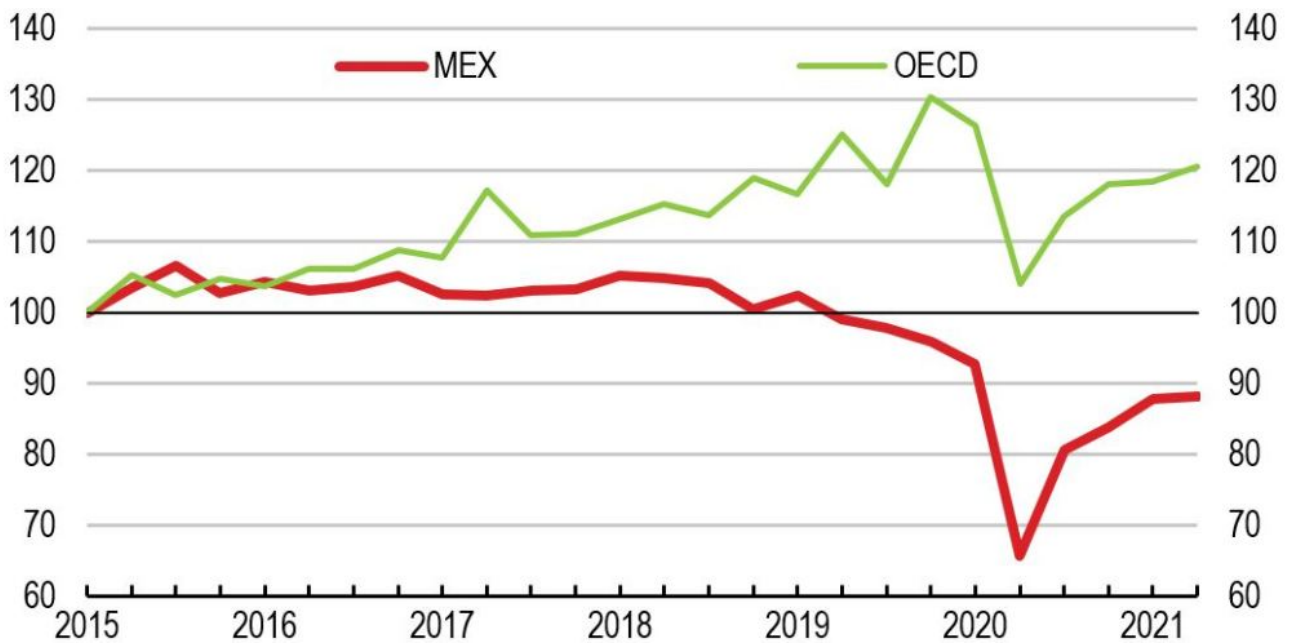


By Alberto González Pandiella and Alessandro Maravalle, OECD
Economics Department

Mexico is gradually recovering from the pandemic-induced recession. The economy is expected to grow by 2.3% this year and by 2.6% in 2023. Exports will continue to benefit from strong growth in the United States. With an increasing share of the population vaccinated and the gradual improvement in the labour market, consumption will also be a key growth driver. However, a key pending challenge for Mexico is to revive investment. Investment has been muted since 2015 and falling since 2019 (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Investment has been weak

Gross fixed capital formation, index, 2015Q1 = 100



Source: OECD Economic Outlook database

The new **Economic Survey of Mexico** argues that there is room to create better conditions for both public and private investment. Mexico has been fiscally prudent over the years, broadly meeting its fiscal targets and ensuring fiscal sustainability despite having the lowest tax-to-GDP ratio in the OECD, at only 16% of GDP. But this has been largely achieved by cutting spending, particularly public investment. The pandemic has exacerbated public investment needs, as the health and education systems are strained. Gaps in infrastructure remain also significant. For example, the increase in public investment needed to close the infrastructure gap in Mexico was estimated to be 1.3 percentage points of GDP a year ((Woetzel et al., 2017). A gradual increase in tax revenues would help to respond to public investment needs and strengthen the recovery, while maintaining the commitment with fiscal sustainability. Conducting rigorous and transparent cost-benefit analysis would ensure sound project selection and help to respond to public investment needs in a cost-effective manner.

Private investment has been hindered by high uncertainty about domestic policy settings. Uncertainty particularly increased following proposals to reform the electricity market. The potential for investment to restart vigorously is high,

spurred by the updated trade agreement and the strong recovery in the United States. Nearshoring trends, by which companies are likely to seek reducing supply chain disruptions risks by locating closer to their final markets, also provide Mexico with historic opportunities. Turning these opportunities into realities would require providing investors, both domestic and foreign, with certainty about existing contracts and with regulatory stability. Improving business regulations at state and municipal, which in some instances remain costly and complex, would also help by facilitating firms creation and growth.

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Financial inclusion: challenges in OECD countries

Category: Costa Rica, Mexico, Uncategorized, United States

written by oecdecoscope | December 2, 2025

By Fozan Fareed, Patrick Lenain, Enes Sunel and Douglas Sutherland, OECD Economics Department

Access to financial services is taken for granted by most people. Amenities such as bank accounts, credit cards, cash dispensers, consumer credit and mortgage loans – all essential to our daily lives – are widely available in OECD countries. When individuals face financial hardship, having access to

savings set aside in a bank, or obtaining a consumer credit, is particularly useful. Also, digital payments have proved essential during the COVID-19 pandemic to observe safe distancing rules.

However, not everybody enjoys this kind of financial access. Worldwide, about 1.7 billion people did not have access to basic formal financial services in 2017. In OECD countries, many vulnerable people have insufficient knowledge to go beyond rudimentary transactions or are unable to accumulate savings. Not having access to money management can be a serious problem. People facing emergencies, like a large healthcare bill, may not be able to come up with the funds and remain untreated for their illness. Being unable to make online payments and contactless transactions will be a growing problem in the post-pandemic world. Governments often use electronic payments to make rapid social transfers during recessions (Duenwald et al., 2020), such as the US\$1,200 payment sent to all U.S. citizens during the first wave of COVID-19, but may be unable to reach some people. The literature finds that financial inclusion matters for access to employment and income generation (Bruhn and Love, 2014), entrepreneurship creation (Fareed et al., 2017) and women empowerment (Karlan et al. 2017; Pitt et al. 2006). This blogpost highlights several insights from our recent research on three countries: Costa Rica [\[1\]](#) (Sunel, 2020), Mexico (Fareed et al, 2017) and the United States (Azzopardi et al. 2019).

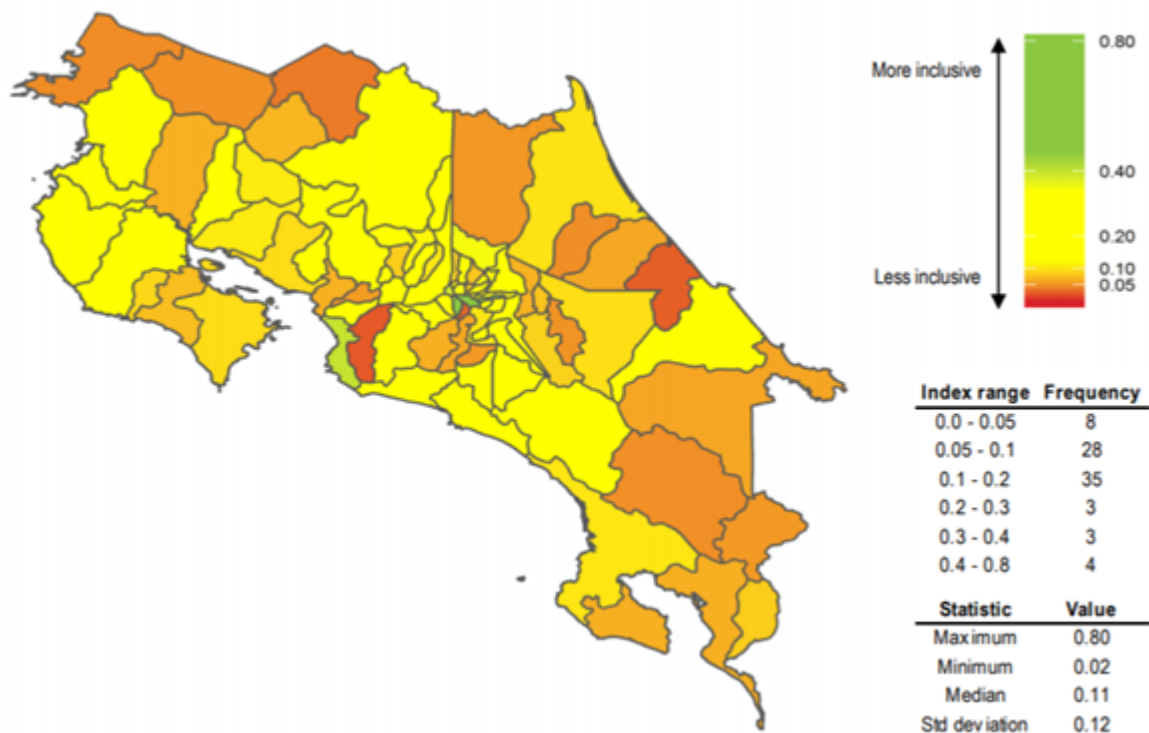
Costa Rica: almost one third of adults without financial access

Despite progress made during the past decade, more than 30% of Costa Ricans aged over 15 do not have an account with a financial institution. Insurance penetration is also very limited and stagnant. This low level of financial access is partly explained by the high cost of banking services, which

act like a tax on financial transactions. The lack of competition between banks has impaired the reduction of banking costs and intermediation margins seen in other countries, and Fintech have not been allowed to operate fully to provide low-cost solutions to (especially underbanked) consumers.

To get a sense of regional disparities, we built an index summarising the prevalence, at the level of counties, of financial access points, credit operations, bank accounts and financial transactions (Figure 1). Access to financial services is typically low in counties where the population is not dense, but some highly-populated counties, such as Alajuelita and Desamparados in the province of San José and San Rafael and San Pablo in the province of Heredia, also display very low financial inclusion scores. For micro-entrepreneurs, this makes business operations very challenging, especially for women entrepreneurs. Priority groups such as Indigenous people also suffer more than others from financial exclusion. In response, the authorities have launched a National Financial Education Strategy to boost financial literacy of vulnerable populations and linked conditional cash transfer programme beneficiary accounts to debit card accounts to increase financial account ownership.

Figure 1: Financial inclusion disparities in Costa Rica



Source: Banco Central de Costa Rica; Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos; and Superintendencia General de Entidades Financieras.

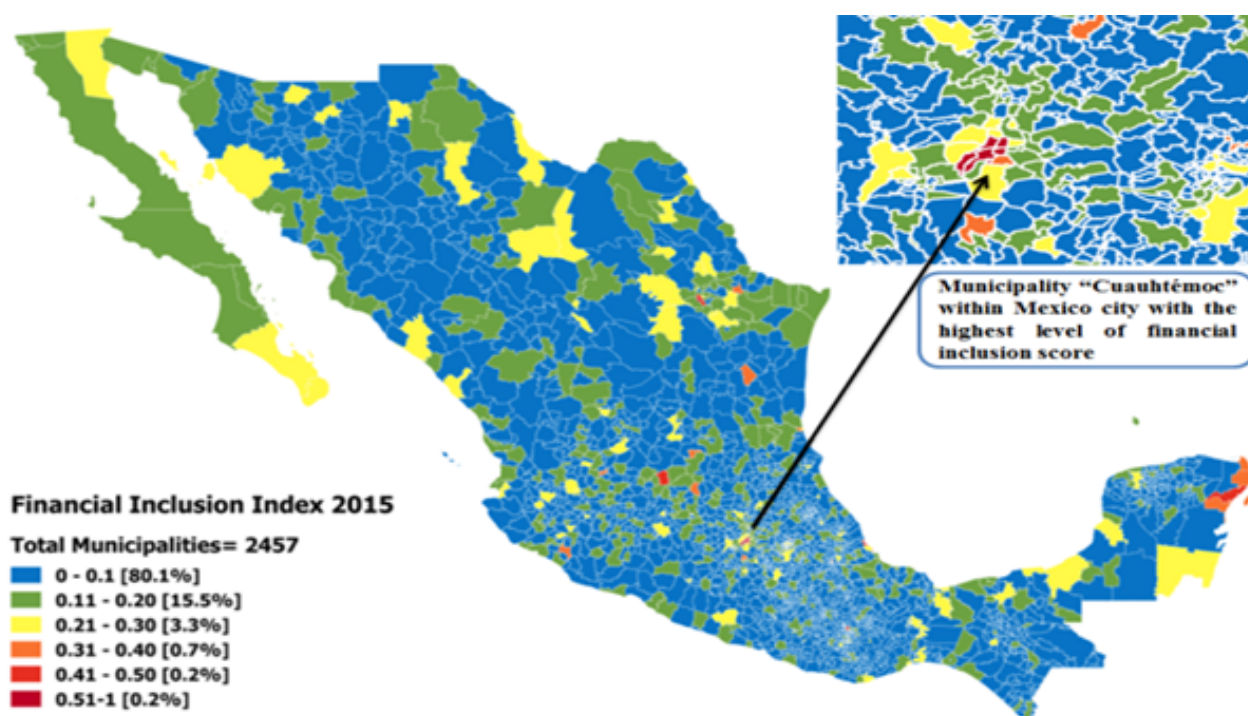
Mexico: over half of Mexicans without a formal bank account

Financial inclusion is even lower in Mexico: more than half of Mexicans aged 15 and over do not have a formal bank account. The penetration of credit, insurance and mobile banking also remains low as compared to regional peers. About 7 million people (6% of the country's population) live more than 4 miles from the nearest financial access point such as a bank or an ATM according to the financial regulator CNBV. Outside large urban areas, access to financial services is limited and there are prominent regional disparities as highlighted by our financial inclusion index (Figure 2). This is a particular problem for women, who lack access to the banking system and therefore face challenges to launch an entrepreneurship project.

Lack of trust in banks, financial literacy and product design

are significant barriers for the many unbanked in Mexico. High commissions and interest rates and poor financial infrastructure are highlighted as some of the main reasons that impede financial inclusion. Addressing these challenges would enable Mexicans, especially women entrepreneurs, to gain access to formal financial services and therefore benefit from new economic opportunities. The authorities have launched a number of actions to address these challenges, for instance the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) provides a roadmap to accelerate access to financial services for the currently unbanked segment of the population.

Figure 2: Financial inclusion disparities in Mexico



Source: Author's Calculations based on CNBV's data at the municipality level.

Note: Financial inclusion index ranges from 0 (low) to 1 (high). See Fareed et al. (2017) for details.

United States: 28% of Americans are financially vulnerable

Although financial inclusion is high in the United States,

financial vulnerability remains a severe problem for many people, especially low-income households, racial groups, and remote locations. Instead of using an arbitrary definition of financial vulnerability or a single indicator, such as indebtedness, we apply a hierarchical ascending clustering (HAC) and K-means clustering analysis to the Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finance. The analysis identifies clusters of households with high financial vulnerability: about 28% of the households in 2016 can be classified as financially vulnerable.

Our econometric estimates show that Black and African Americans and Hispanics are financially more vulnerable than non-Hispanic white Americans, after controlling for other characteristics. A higher education level of the household head also appears to be statistically significant and is negatively linked with financial vulnerability. On average, having a college degree decreases the probability of being financially vulnerable. Financial literacy is also an area of concern: only 57% of adults in the United States can be considered financially literate according to the Global Financial Literacy Survey. Moreover, an increase in the age of the household head decreases the chances of being financially vulnerable. Such large differences among clusters of households reflect on the social disparities that affect the U.S. population.

Conclusion

Financial inclusion disparities exacerbate existing wealth inequalities and make it extremely difficult for the financially vulnerable to catch up, threatening social cohesion. Our research on Costa Rica and Mexico shows that access to financial services remains a challenge for many people, while large groups of U.S. households can be characterized as financially vulnerable. Since our research was conducted, it is possible that the COVID-19 pandemic has

worsened these difficulties: many households have lost their jobs and micro-entrepreneurs have been impacted by government shutdown orders, increasing their financial difficulties. Because low-income households are being hit the hardest, it is more important than ever to facilitate access to financial instruments and encourage money management skills. Our findings suggest that the focus needs to be on closing gender and racial gaps, improving financial literacy, using Fintech responsibly to reach out to financially excluded people, and conducting further research to understand why some households are more at risk than others.

[1] Costa Rica was invited to join the OECD as its 38th member in May 2020.

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Reaching out to informal workers in Latin America: Lessons from COVID-19

Category: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, COVID-19, Latin America, Mexico

written by oecdecoscope | December 2, 2025

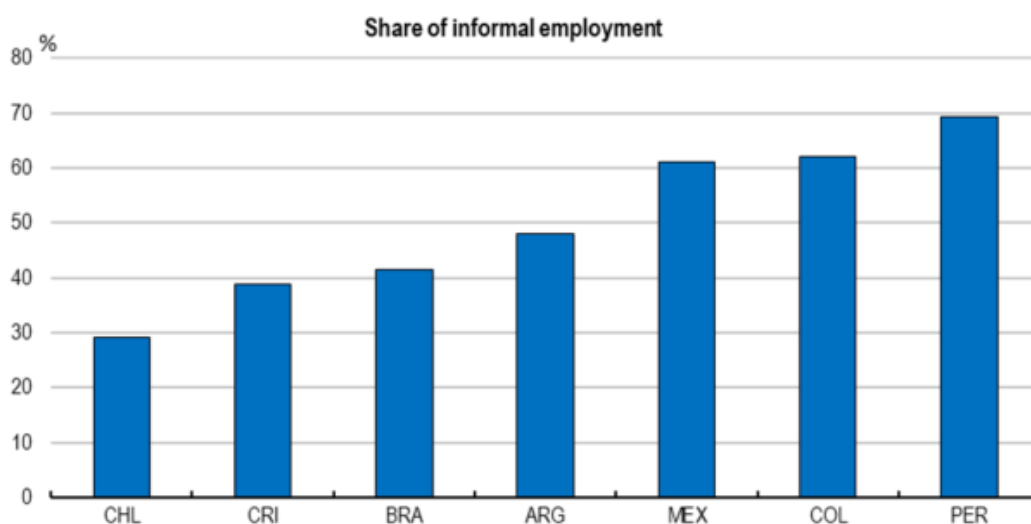
By Jens Arnold, Paula Garda, Alberto Gonzalez-Pandiella, OECD Economics Department

Social distancing has led to sharp declines in mobility and activity across Latin America. Widespread informality creates particular challenges for the livelihoods of many workers. As their activities are shut down to contain the spread of COVID-19, informal workers or small entrepreneurs are usually not covered by social protection. Largely out of reach of the public sector, they easily fall through the cracks of

emergency income support measures. This has highlighted a major need to rethink and strengthen social protection mechanisms in Latin America. Providing more complete social safety nets that are not tied to formal employment and that can react rapidly to income losses would be one solution. In many countries in the region, such safety nets could be built on the basis of existing conditional cash transfer programmes.

Informal workers and small entrepreneurs account for a significant share of the workforce across Latin America (Figure 1). Most of them have no access to social protection, and almost no savings to carry them through the trough. Informal employees were the first to lose their jobs, while self-employed entrepreneurs such as street sellers and small service providers were left with no source of income as streets became empty. Working from home may be a solution for educated middle-class workers, but it is out of reach for the most vulnerable (Mongey and Weinberg, 2020).

Figure 1. Labour informality is widespread in Latin America



Note: Informal workers include own-account workers outside the formal sector, contributing family workers, employers and members of producers' cooperatives in the informal sector, and employees without formal contracts. Data refer to 2019 or latest available year.
Source: ILOstat, IBGE, OECD. Data refer to 2019 or latest available year.

The crisis has exposed shortcomings in

existing social protection mechanisms

Governments in Latin America responded swiftly to the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19. Many countries designed temporary support measures, building on existing instruments such as formal-sector unemployment insurance and cash transfers. Formal-sector employees benefitted from more flexible access to unemployment benefits, for example in Brazil and Chile, while temporary short-time work schemes, wage subsidies or lower labour contributions helped to preserve formal labour contracts Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and several Mexican states. Cash transfer schemes targeted to low-income households play important roles in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay, among others. These cash transfer schemes are typically based on large locally-maintained registries of low-income households that can consider both formal and informal incomes. Providing additional resources to these schemes allowed to raise benefit levels and/or expand coverage, including by eliminating previous enrolment waiting lists, as in the cases of Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru.

The COVID-19 policy response, however, has also exposed significant gaps in existing social safety networks. Amid policy support for formal workers and for the poor, vulnerable households whose livelihoods depend on informal activities are often left without any social protection mechanism to fall on. Before the pandemic, many of these had successfully escaped poverty and gained incomes above the threshold where they would qualify for cash transfers, but without gaining access to the kind of social protection in place for formal employees. As distancing measures led to unprecedented declines in demand, many of these households were left without any income.

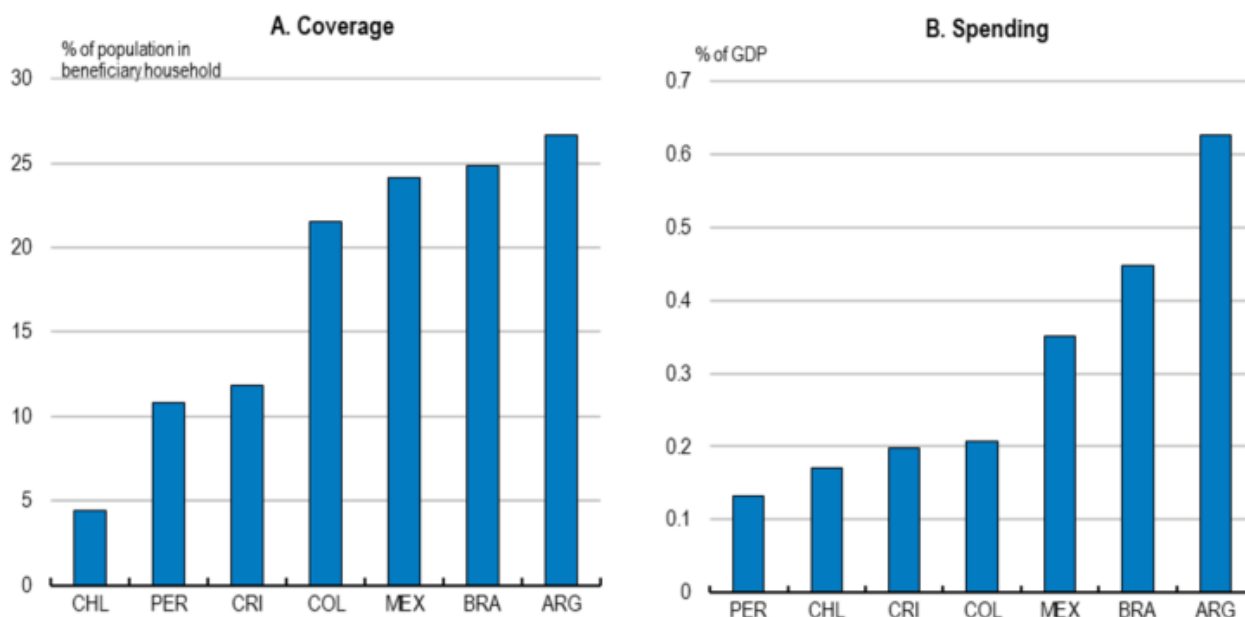
Reaching informal workers is a challenge for public policies and has required innovative ideas. Beyond the grasp of income

tax systems, and with no access to social benefits, many informal workers have traditionally been outside the radar of the state. In addition, they often lack access to banking services, so governments had to respond creatively and ensure the creation of basic bank accounts for emergency benefit recipients. More than 50 million Brazilians used a smartphone application to receive an emergency benefit established after the outbreak. Colombia has been similarly successful, paying out benefits to 1.5 million households previously not covered by social benefits, and including free digital banking products. Chile is supporting more than 2 million vulnerable and informal households through different cash transfers, handing out debit cards to those without a bank account. Costa Rica's new cash transfer also offers the creation of a bank account. Such programmes have replaced significant shares of pre-crisis incomes for low-income households (Busso et al., 2020).

Lessons for the future

Building more effective universal social safety nets that include informal workers and entrepreneurs emerges as one of the main lessons from the COVID-19 crisis and the social unrest during 2019. Given their wide reach in many countries, existing cash-transfer programmes would be the most straightforward basis for effective social safety nets (Figure 2, Panel A). In several countries, eligibility is in principle universal, but in practice, enrolment processes are too slow or cumbersome to help people in the face of sudden income losses. An important step would therefore be to make cash transfer programmes more agile, so that they can disburse quickly when people lose their livelihoods, following the examples of the UK's Universal Credit or Malaysia's BSH programme. More universal social safety nets based on means-tested cash transfers could also help to reduce the widespread fragmentation of social programmes, and strengthen their effectiveness.

Figure 2. Conditional cash transfer programmes achieve significant coverage at low fiscal costs



Note: Data refer to 2017 for Colombia and 2018 for all remaining countries. Source: OECD calculations based on ECLAC: Database of non-contributory social protection programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, available at <http://dds.cepal.org/bdptc/>.

Financing universal social safety nets will require additional resources, but building on existing programmes may make the cost manageable. Cash transfer schemes are among the most cost-efficient social expenditure programmes, and they cost relatively little (Figure 2, Panel B). Brazil's successful Bolsa Família programme, for example, currently only costs 0.5% of GDP, compared with 12% spent on formal social security schemes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, additional spending of 0.04% of GDP was enough to eliminate an accumulated queue of 1 million benefit applicants. Building on existing citizen identification systems and digital technologies could further reduce costs.

Social protection for informal workers should go along with efforts to foster formalisation. Reviewing non-wage labour costs can help to reduce informality, as illustrated by Colombia's 2012 tax reform. Costly and complex business regulations, including those for starting a formal business, also hamper the formalisation of firms and jobs. Expanding the use of one-stop shops for business regulations would be one way forward. Social programmes could increasingly integrate training and lifelong learning for informal workers. This

could create a virtuous circle between formal employment, growth and equity.

Informality and weak competition – a deadly cocktail for growth and equity in emerging Latin America

Category: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Latin America, Mexico, Uncategorized

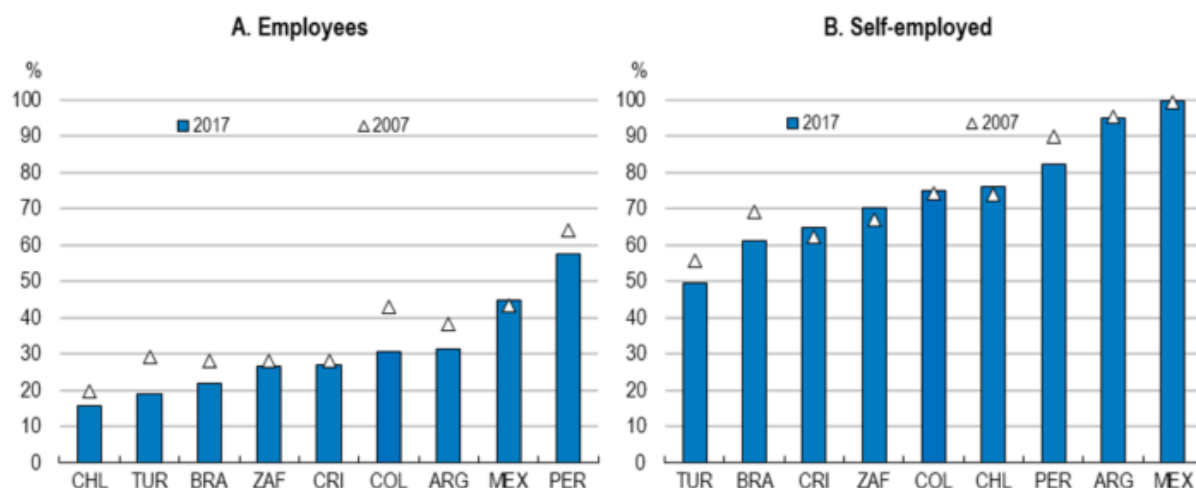
written by oecdecoscope | December 2, 2025

By Piritta Sorsa, Jens Arnold and Paula Garda, OECD Economics Department

Why is growth persistently low and so unevenly distributed in emerging Latin America compared to emerging Asia despite a huge potential? Potential growth is ranging around 2-3% in the region. Some refer to dependence on commodities, poor education, weak business environments or corruption as possible causes. But the question is deeper and more complex. A crucial factor for Latin America is low productivity, often related to a poor use of available resources. Across the region, many workers and significant amounts of capital are stuck in activities that are not efficient. The reasons for this are many, but two important forces stand out: high informality and weak competition.

Figure 1. Persistently high levels of informality characterise the LAC region

Informal workers in each category as % of employment



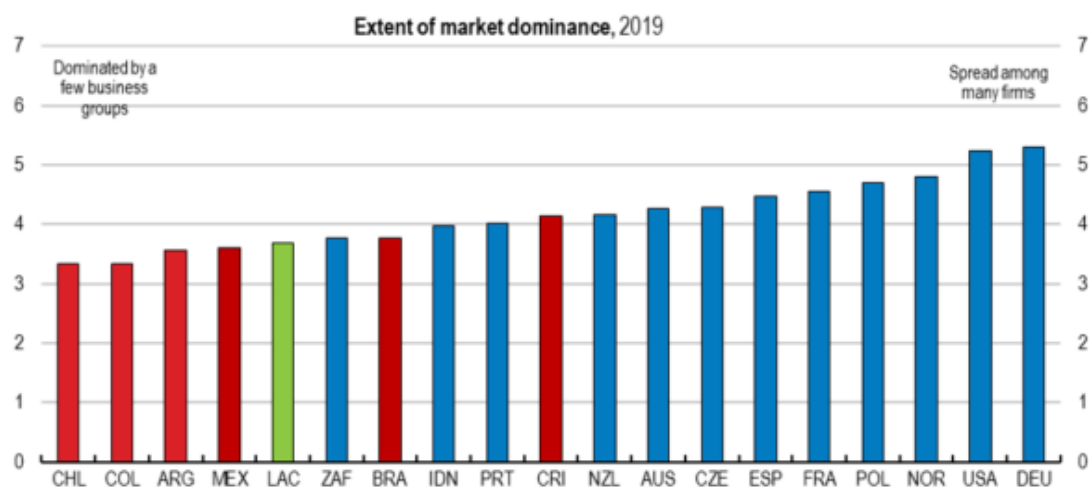
Note: Informality is defined to include: i) employees who do not pay health contributions; and ii) self-employed who do not pay social security contributions (Brazil, Chile and Turkey), or whose business is not registered (Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru and South Africa). Data for Turkey refer to persons aged 15 and more. Data for Argentina refer to selected urban areas (according to the National Statistical Authority (INDEC), LFS series published after the first quarter of 2007 and until the fourth quarter of 2015 must be considered with caution).

Source: OECD calculations based on the EPH for Argentina, the PNAD for Brazil, the CASEN for Chile, the GEIH for Colombia, the ECE for Costa Rica, the ENOE for Mexico, the ENAHO for Peru, the QLFS for South Africa and the HLFS for Turkey.

High and persistent informality in the region leaves workers more vulnerable and deprives them from social protection, thus contributing to inequality. For example, old age poverty in Colombia is high as low-skilled workers spend much of their working lives in informal employment, without pension contributions (OECD, 2019[1]). In Brazil and Argentina, informal workers retire later than others for the same reason, until they eventually reach the age to benefit from a non-contributory pension (OECD, 2019[2]; OECD, 2018[3]). In Mexico, poverty and informality are highly correlated among regions (OECD, 2019[4]). Informality also tends to maintain companies small with often low productivity as growing would face high costs of formalisation. Indeed, informal-sector productivity in the average LAC country is only between 25 and 75 percent of total labour productivity, and productivity decreases as informality rises (Loayza, 2018[5]). Informality also reduces the tax base for corporate and personal income taxes, reducing the capacity of the public sector to boost productivity and reduce inequality, and requires a higher tax burden on larger formal companies.

Weak competition is a second reason behind low productivity and is often reflected in high concentration (Figure 2). Entry barriers can protect existing activities that have little future growth potential at the cost of new dynamic and productive firms. Weak competition creates rents and lowers the share of wages in value-added worsening income distribution. Higher prices for consumers reduce purchasing power, affecting disproportionately low-income households.

Figure 2. Competition perceptions are low in LAC



Source: World Economic Forum, [The Global Competitiveness Index 4.0](#).

Reducing informality for productivity and equity

The causes of informality are multiple. Informality is often a consequence of high costs of hiring formal workers, both wage and non-wage, especially in relation to labour productivity, given low educational outcomes.

Where high informality and weak competition coincide, as is the case in many Latin American countries, the consequences for both growth and equity can be particularly severe. For emerging Latin America to grow stronger and better share the fruits of growth, dealing with informality and competition should be priority.

Labour informality is often caused by rigid labour regulation. High firing costs of workers can discourage formal-sector hiring and promote inequality (Loayza, 2018[5]; OECD, 2018[6];

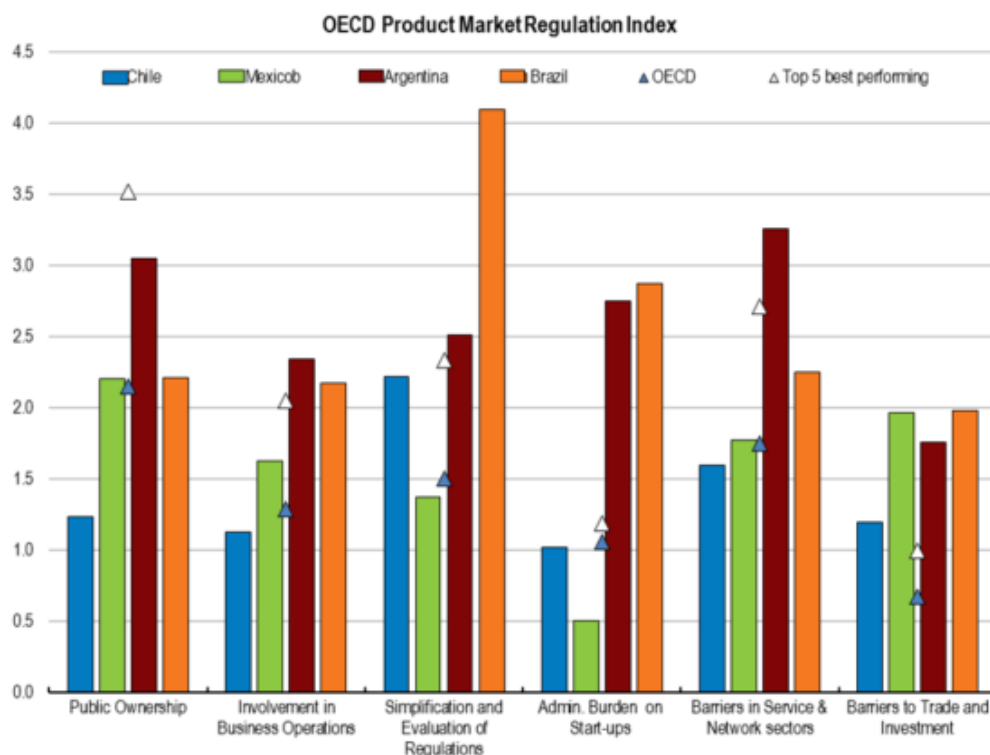
Heckman and Pages, 2000[7]). In Mexico, a labour reform in 2012 reduced hiring and firing costs, introduced different models of contracting and brought changes to the resolution of labour conflicts. Formal salaried jobs increased in the aftermath (OECD, 2019[4]). Minimum wages can be high compared to productivity or average wages keeping most workers informal. In Colombia, the minimum wage is close to the median wage and two thirds of workers earn less than that (OECD, 2019[1]). High payroll taxes can also have a detrimental effect on informality rates (Bobba, Flabbi and Levy, 2018[8]). Antón and Rastaletti (2018[9]) show how lowering employer social security contributions could lead to a substantial increase of labour formalisation. At a minimum, lower employer contributions could be offered temporarily for hiring low-skilled workers that enter the formal sector for the first time (OECD, 2017[10]). Lowering payroll taxes in Colombia helped reduce informality after the 2012 reform (Kugler et al., 2017[11]; Morales and Medina, 2016[12]; Fernández and Villar, 2016[13]; Bernal et al., 2017[14]). While incentives are crucial, better enforcement also needs to be part of any formalisation strategy.

Cumbersome administrative barriers and high taxes can keep companies informal. Latin America stands out in this respect (Figure 3). The tax burden on formal companies is also high compared to the OECD and positively associated to informality rates (Figure 4). To promote formalisation, regulatory and tax systems should be simple, with gradual increases in the tax burden as firms grow, so as not to discourage growth, and keep marginal tax rates as low as possible (Loayza, 2018[5]). These characteristics are crucial to encourage investment and employment in growing and larger companies.

Many countries in the region have implemented simplified schemes and reduced costs for small taxpayers with the aim of reducing informality. For example, Mexico introduced a special simplified regime for SMEs (Regimén de Incorporación Fiscal,

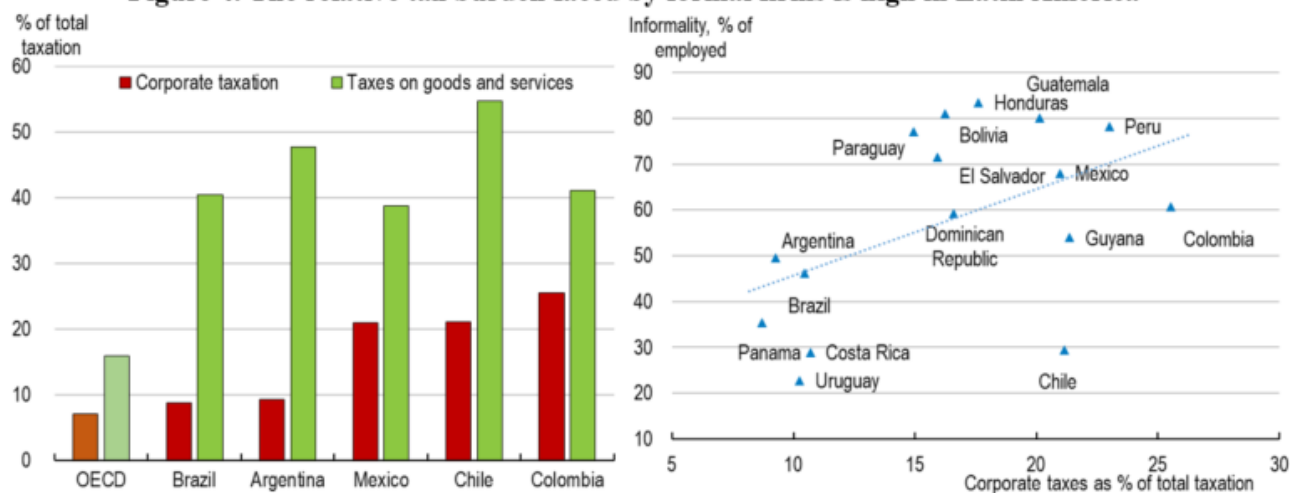
RIF) in 2014, which induced 1.5 million informal firms to join the tax system (OECD, 2018[15]). In Brazil, a special tax regime for microenterprises (Microempreendedor Individual, MEI) reduced the cost of formalisation and contributions to social security as of 2008. This regime helps explain the rising formalisation of the self-employed, including of women (OECD, 2012[16]). In Argentina, a simplified tax regime called Monotributo helped formalise self-employed workers. In Colombia, the tax reform in 2018 introduced a new simplified tax scheme (Simple) for small firms, and there are signs of positive impact on firm formalisation during 2019. At the same time, these regimes have to be designed carefully. When participation thresholds for special SME tax regimes are set too high, the effectiveness for formalisation declines while fiscal cost and threshold effects rise, as in the case of Brazil's Simples Nacional (OECD, 2018[3]). At times, simplifying the general tax regime may be preferable over creating exceptions.

Figure 3. Regulation burden is high in Latin American countries



Source: OECD, 2018 PMR database

Figure 4. The relative tax burden faced by formal firms is high in Latin America



Note: Informality is defined as those not contributing to pension system.

Source: OECD Revenue Statistics Latin American countries and IADB SIMS database

Education and skill levels are also linked with informality.

Countries with lowest informality rates tend to have significantly higher levels of human capital (Docquier, Müller and Naval, 2017[17]). It is not a coincidence that the decrease in informality over recent decades in Latin America went hand in hand with steady progress towards universal education. Evidence shows that improvements in education have been an important driving force behind falling informality in Colombia and Brazil (International Monetary Fund, 2018[18]; OECD, 2018[3]).

Increasing competition for productivity and equity

In Latin America, the same complex rules that discourage formal job creation often coincide with overly strict regulations that stifle competition. Competition is affected by how easily firms can enter or exit markets, by the extent of license requirements for starting or expanding a business and by competitive pressures from imports. Relatively high trade protection adds to this in a number Latin American countries, shielding domestic producers from international competition (OECD, 2018[3]). All of this tends to raise prices for consumers and keep resources in low-productivity activities where informality is widespread, for both workers and firms.

These circular relationships suggest that it is important for the public sector to take stock of burdens that even well-intended regulations and codes can impose on private activity. Disincentives for firms to go formal will inevitably preclude workers from the benefits of formal jobs, while unnecessary barriers to competition will keep more jobs in activities with limited potential for productivity and wage growth. To foster formal job creation, all parts of a country's regulatory framework should be simple and clear, promote competition, and facilitate both market entry and exit of firms (Loayza, Oviedo and Serven, 2005[19]).

Getting there

A comprehensive strategy is needed to deal with both informality and competition. It involves simplifying labour regulations, keeping administrative burdens and license requirements for companies as easy as possible, facilitating market entry and reducing trade barriers. Bringing more workers and firms into the formal sector would bring about broader social and labour protection, fairer wages, a more even tax burden and higher potential growth. Many of these policies are politically difficult as they involve dealing with vested interests and require appropriate sequencing. But that is not an excuse for inaction. These reforms should be accompanied with training and other active labour market policies for affected workers, as the informal sector often fulfils the function of absorbing excess labour supply, especially during transitions or economic recessions. Reforms to improve quality and relevance of education to raise worker productivity and policies that can raise investment and boost firm productivity should be also part of the strategy.

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Fortalecer las instituciones para mejorar la prosperidad de los mexicanos

Category: Mexico, Posts in Spanish, Uncategorized

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Por Sonia Araujo y Lisa Meehan, sección para México, Departamento de Economía de la OCDE

¿Por

qué algunos países son más ricos que otros? Es cada vez más reconocida la importancia

de las instituciones fuertes y eficaces para el éxito económico de las naciones

(ver, por ejemplo, Acemoglu y Robinson, 2012). Las instituciones proporcionan

un marco que da forma a los incentivos económicos, lo que influye en las

decisiones en una multitud de áreas, tales como educarse, iniciar un negocio,

invertir, etc. El éxito de las reformas políticas en todas las áreas depende,

por lo tanto, de la capacidad de las instituciones para crear los incentivos

adecuados. Las instituciones de calidad también crean certidumbre y un campo de

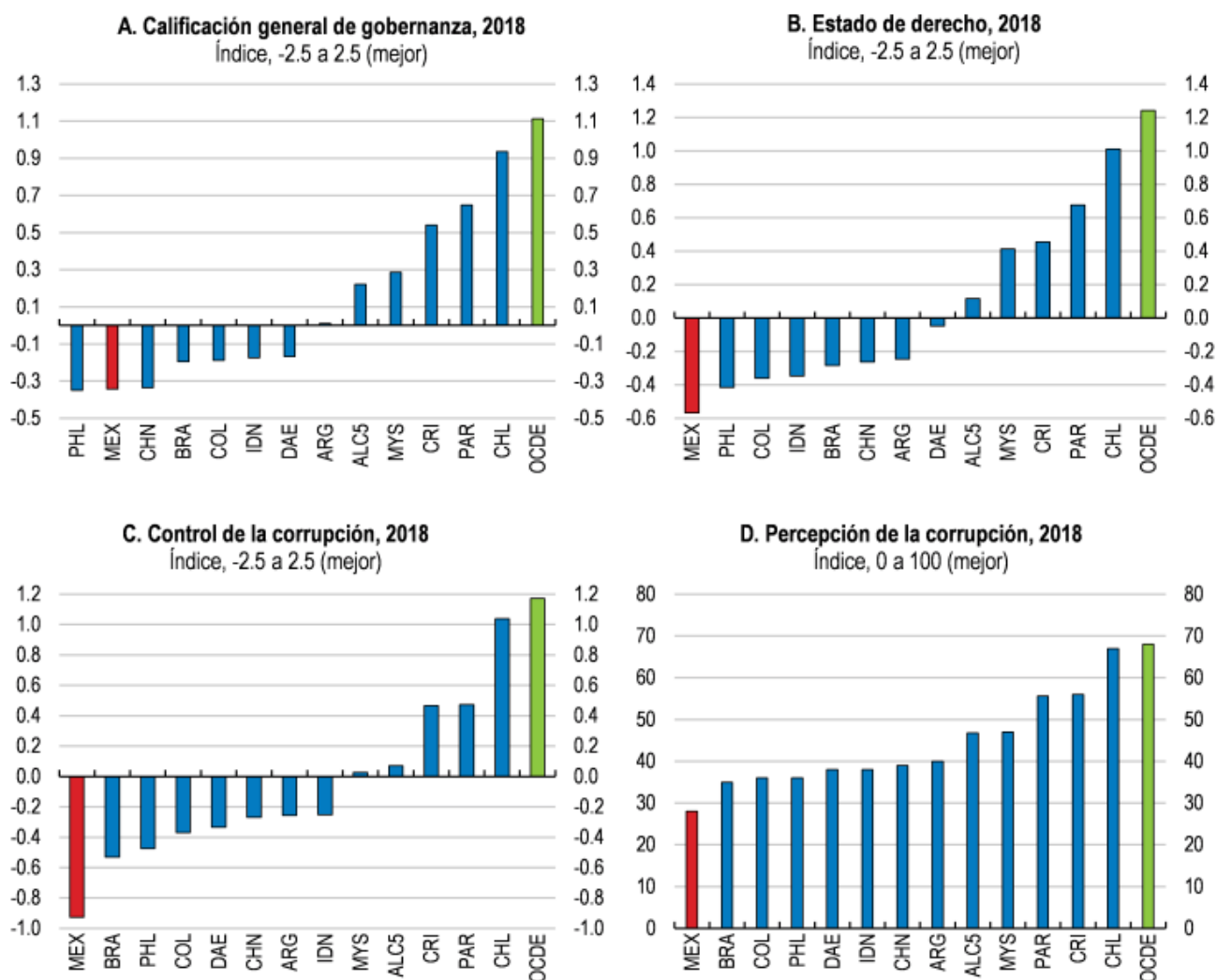
juego nivelado en el que las personas pueden construir, brindando así más

equidad y mayor acceso a las oportunidades. En general, las instituciones de

calidad son de importancia fundamental para los resultados económicos.

Por lo tanto, es preocupante que numerosos indicadores sugieran que la calidad institucional es baja y está disminuyendo en México (Figura 1). Por ejemplo, sintomático de instituciones débiles, la corrupción percibida es la más alta en la OCDE y no ha mejorado con el tiempo. También son preocupantes los niveles ya altos de crimen y violencia y que han todavía aumentado. México tiene la tasa de homicidios más alta en la OCDE, y el número de asesinatos ha aumentado considerablemente en la última década (OCDE, 2019; Figura 2). La impunidad también es alta, con más del 90% de los delitos no denunciados y solo una pequeña fracción de los casos denunciados llegan al sistema judicial (Le Clercq y Rodríguez Sánchez Lara, 2016).

La calidad de las instituciones mexicanas es baja



Nota: Panel A: Promedio simple de los seis subindicadores de Gobernanza Mundial: control de corrupción, eficacia gubernamental, estabilidad política y ausencia de violencia/terrorismo, calidad regulatoria, Estado de derecho y voz y rendición de cuentas. PAR se refiere al promedio simple de los 10 países de la OCDE no latinoamericanos con el más bajo PIB per cápita ajustado a la PPA: Eslovenia, Estonia, Grecia, Hungría, Letonia, Lituania, Polonia, Portugal, República Eslovaca y Turquía. ALC5 se refiere al promedio simple de Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia y Costa Rica. DAE es el promedio simple de la República Popular China, Indonesia, Malasia, Filipinas, Tailandia y Vietnam.

Fuente: World Bank World Governance Indicators; Transparency International Corruptions Perception Index.

La corrupción es un serio obstáculo para la prosperidad de todos los mexicanos y su abordaje ocupa un lugar destacado en la agenda del nuevo gobierno. La corrupción es una fuga de los recursos fiscales, socava la capacidad de prestar servicios públicos y también tiene un efecto adverso en la estabilidad política, el entorno empresarial, la inversión privada y el crecimiento

inclusivo. El Estudio Económico de México 2019 de la OCDE destaca que mejorar la calidad institucional tendría los mayores beneficios en términos de crecimiento económico entre todas las reformas estructurales y también facilitaría la implementación efectiva de todas las demás reformas de políticas. Para combatir la corrupción y mejorar la transparencia, en 2016 se promulgó el ambicioso Sistema Nacional Anticorrupción (SNA) de México (OCDE, 2019). Además de establecer un sistema federal anticorrupción, requiere que los estados creen sistemas locales anticorrupción. Sin embargo, la implementación está retrasada. Por ejemplo, se suponía que los sistemas locales anticorrupción debían estar implementados a mediados de 2017, y aunque se han logrado importantes avances, no todos los estados han completado este proceso. La administración actual se compromete a acelerar la implementación del (SNA) y ha tomado medidas inmediatas. Por ejemplo, ahora se están llenando puestos clave, en particular, el primer Fiscal Especial Anticorrupción fue nombrado recientemente.

Las experiencias de otros países resaltan que es un gran desafío abordar con éxito la corrupción de una manera sistemática e integral. Hacia adelante, será importante monitorear y evaluar los resultados de SNA, y abordar las

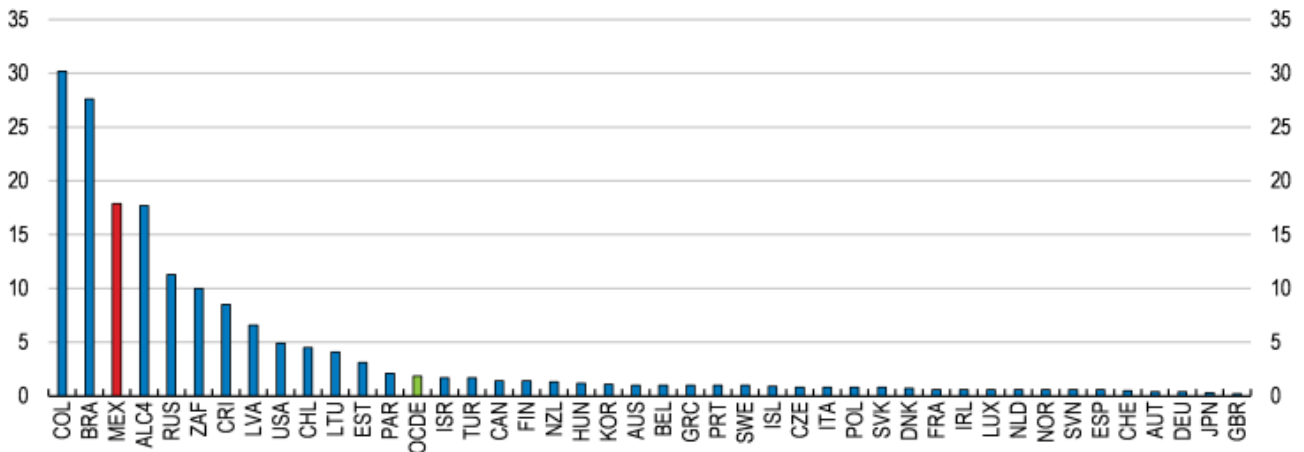
debilidades identificadas, especialmente a nivel regional, para evitar exacerbar las disparidades geográficas ya marcadas, y tomar medidas adicionales si es necesario.

México

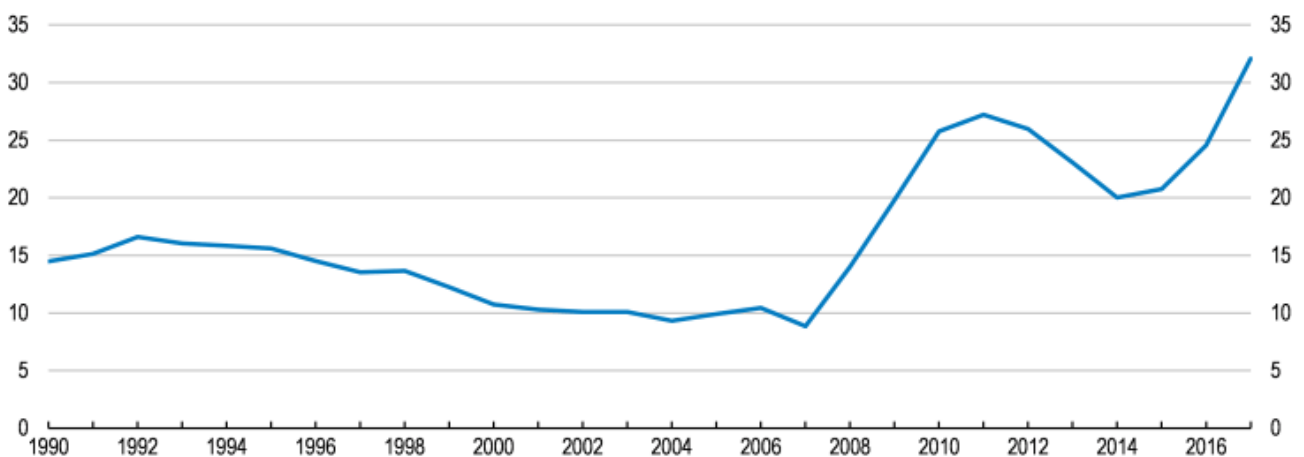
también ha emprendido otras reformas en los últimos años para llevar la calidad de las instituciones y la supervisión económica hacia las mejores prácticas internacionales. Esto incluyó la creación de nuevos reguladores sectoriales independientes que se crearon como parte de las reformas energéticas de 2013 y dos nuevas autoridades de competencia autónomas y tribunales de competencia especializados establecidos en 2014. Asegurar la independencia y los recursos adecuados de estas entidades autónomas serán cruciales para el fortalecimiento continuo de la competencia en México.

Los altos niveles de delincuencia y violencia siguen creciendo

A. Tasa de homicidios normalizada por edad por cada 100 000 habitantes 2014 o último año disponible



B. Número de homicidios Miles



Nota: Panel A: OCDE es un promedio de los países miembros ponderado por la población. PAR se refiere al promedio ponderado de los 10 países de la OCDE no latinoamericanos con el más bajo PIB per cápita ajustado a la PPA: Eslovenia, Estonia, Grecia, Hungría, Letonia, Lituania, Polonia, Portugal, República Eslovaca y Turquía. ALC5 se refiere al promedio ponderado de Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia y Costa Rica.

Fuente: OECD Better Life Index (Tu Índice para una Vida Mejor), actualización de noviembre de 2017; INEGI.

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