

Mexico Weekly Flash

Next week...

 The upturn in industrial output was a highlight this week although we maintain a downward bias, awaiting unemployment figures for June...

Industrial output came in above expectations (-0.2% m/m consensus) in May expanding 1.4% m/m (0.5% y/y). In comparison to last month, the four components saw major progress although only manufacturing expanded at an annual rate. Despite the good data for May, industrial performance in the second quarter is likely to come in below forecasts from the start of the year and, with this, GDP. The level of progress in US manufacturing, as well as a recovery in public expenditure, will be key toward the second half of the year. Based on May's figures, the industry trend seems to have experienced a slight pause in the major slowdown seen in the first four months of the year. Nonetheless, recent indicators on industry sentiment in June such as producer confidence and the IMEF indicator point to the slowdown continuing in June. The IMEF indicator has a threshold of 50 points separating optimism from pessimism and came in at 47.3 points in June, showing a decline for the fifth month in a row and in terms of trend, the lowest level since June 2009. Based on these indicators as well as automotive output in June that saw a production decline equivalent to an annual (-)0.5%, we believe the industrial slowdown is set to continue, confirming the weak progress in manufacturing and, in turn, GDP for the 2Q13. Unemployment and underemployment figures to June are released this week. Here we will see how much the slowdown in output has affected employment.

 Lower long-term interest rates this week after Bernanke attempted to underscore the message that rates will remain low for a prolonged period

After the strong US job figures in June last week leading to a major additional increase in the 10-year T-bill interest rate (+23bp last Friday, +25bp last week), the rise dropped back this week by over half (-15bp). The interest rate of the 10-year Mexican bond dropped by 28bp over the week, more than reversing the upswing from last week (17bp) and the peso strengthened 2% after falling 1.1% the previous week. These moves were in response to Bernanke's speech where he tried to separate the lower asset purchases at the start of the cycle from increases in the policy rate i.e. he sent a message that a change in unconventional monetary policies should not be taken as a sign that conventional monetary policy will change earlier than planned. Markets responded, although a permanent trend change looks difficult taking into account the change in perception of the Fed's reaction function which seems now to be more linked than before to the unemployment rate. Considering that even with moderate output growth the unemployment rate will continue to decline, and that it is now the determining factor in changes in US monetary policy, permanent trend changes in risk perception on markets that reverse the recently observed normalization look to be difficult.

Chart 1 Industrial Output: trend (January 2011 = 100)

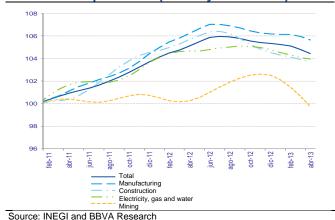
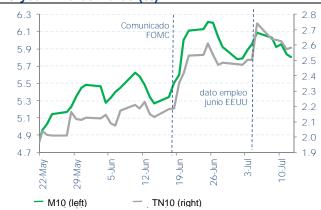


Chart 2

10-year interest rates (%)



Source: BBVA Research and Bloomberg

Markets, activity and inflation

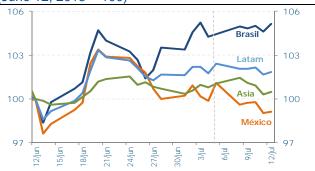
Corporate reports above-expectations and, especially, statements by the FED chairman regarding the need for a loose monetary policy in the foreseeable future led to weekly gains on stock markets and stronger LatAm currencies.

Chart 5 Stock markets: MSCI indices (June 12, 2013 = 100)



Source: BBVA Research with data from Bloomberg

Foreign exchange: dollar exchange rates (June 12, 2013 = 100)

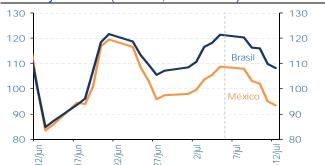


Source: BBVA Research with Bloomberg data NB: LATAM includes Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru. Asia includes the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand.

Higher demand for US government bonds after the statement by the FED chairman in a setting where Mexico's credit risk premium is trending at its average level for the last two years. Rates in Mexico declined over the week in line with US Treasury bonds

Chart 8

Risk: 5-year CDS (June 12, 2013 = 100)



Source: BBVA Research with data from Bloomberg

10-year interest rates, last month 6.4 EEUU (der) 6.2



Source: BBVA Research with data from Bloomberg

Inflation has now started to decisively drop back. Output is expected to see an improvement in the second half of 2013 after the slowdown in the first half.

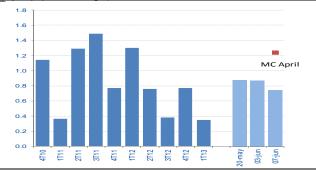
Chart 9 *Inflation Surprise Index (July 2002=100)



Source: Bloomberg and BBVA Research

*This measures the deviations in inflation in comparison to market-forecast figures, adjusting for inflation volatility. When it trends down, this implies a lower-than-expected inflationary surprise; when it trends up, this indicates a higher-than-expected inflationary surprise.

Chart 10 **Observed GDP** (y/y, q/q % change)



Source: BBVA Research

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