Latin America: Recent
Performance and main challenges
Comments to OECD's Latin American
Economic Outlook 2010

Jorge Sicilia
BBVA Research Department

April 2010



Main messages

• The economic performance of LATAM during the Global Recession is a clear break from the past, reflects the structural changes of economic reforms and will have long lasting effects on country risks



• Better initial conditions – due to a good management of previous bonanza – allowed for effective counter - cyclical policies and a quick return to economic growth



• Sound financial systems and effective responses by monetary authorities helped the region to resist the liquidity squeeze with no bank bailouts.



• Notwithstanding the previous improvements, the region still faces substantial institutional shortcomings: education, low financial development and the business environment are among the most important.



•Looking forward we expect the region to resume growth, but it will have to switch from labor intensive growth to one more intensive in capital accumulation and productivity enhancement



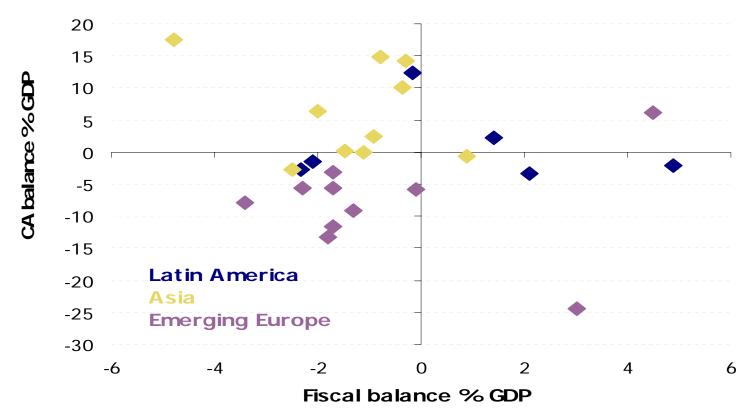


Main topics

- Recent Economic Performance: a break from the past
 - The Crisis: better initial conditions
 - The Financial Sector: a break from the past
 - Better fundamentals allowed for better policy reactions
 - Exchange flexibility and price stability
 - The recovery is underway

A break from the past: Better initial conditions and resilience

Fiscal and CA Balance % GDP (2008)

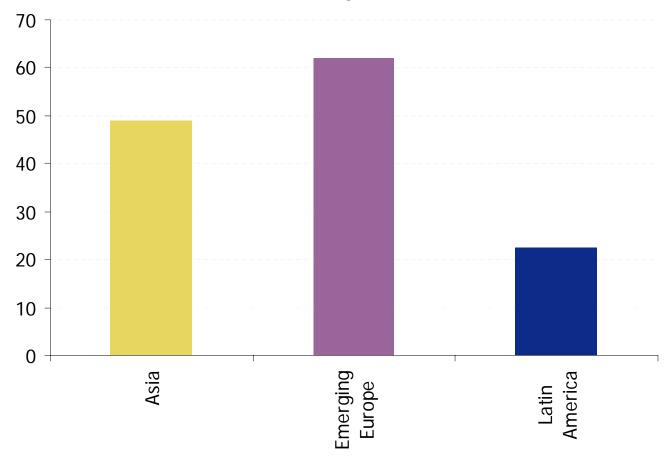


Source: WEO



A break from the past: Better initial conditions and resilience

Total Foreign Liabilities as % of GDP (Sep.2008)

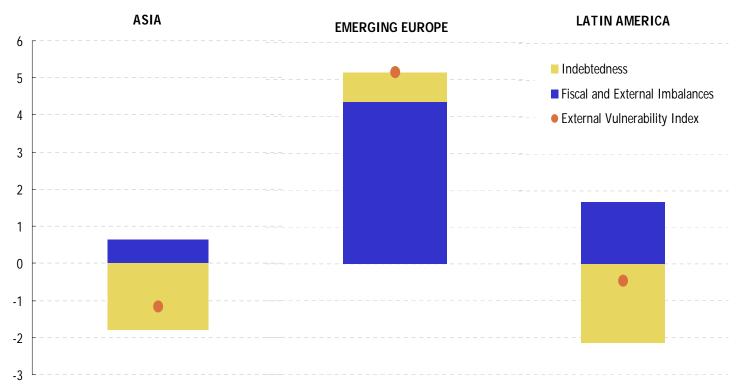


Source: BIS (Consolidated claims of reporting banks-immediate borrower basis) and BBVA.



A break from the past: Better initial conditions and resilience

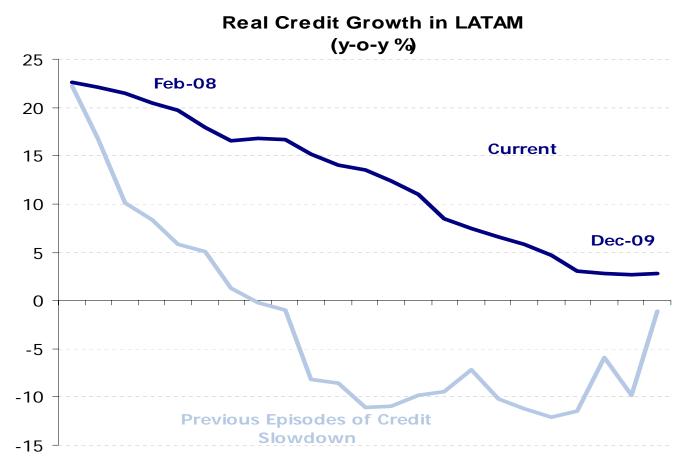
BBVA EXTERNAL VULNERABILITY INDEX



External Vulnerability Index of BBVA includes (1) Indebtedness (a) Debt as % of GDP (b) Growth in debt and (c) Short Term Debt as % of reserves and (2) Fiscal and External Imbalances (a) Current Account as % of GDP (b) Fiscal Balance as % of GDP and (c) Growth Export. Update: Dec. 2008.

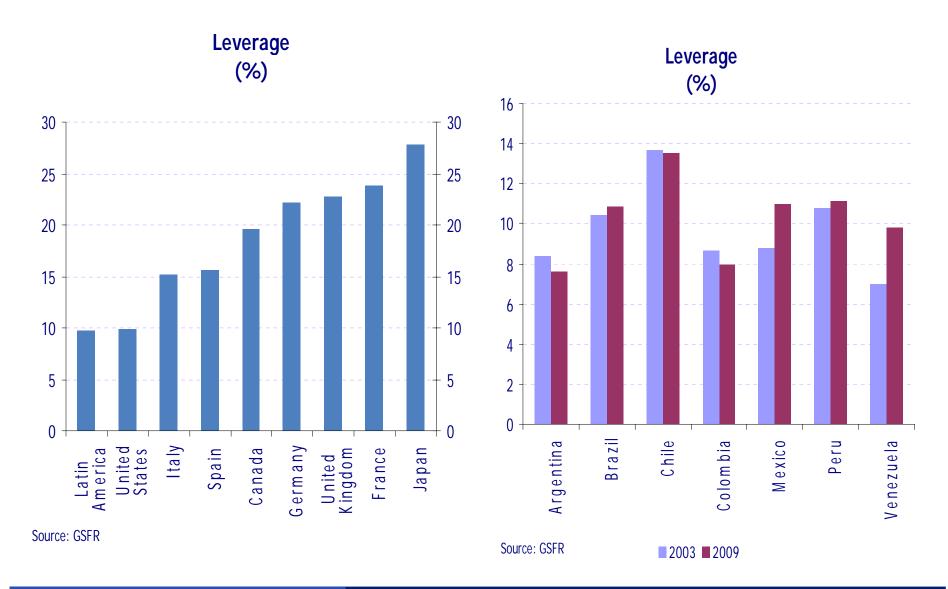
The index ranges from -10 to 10, with greater values reflecting greater vulnerability.





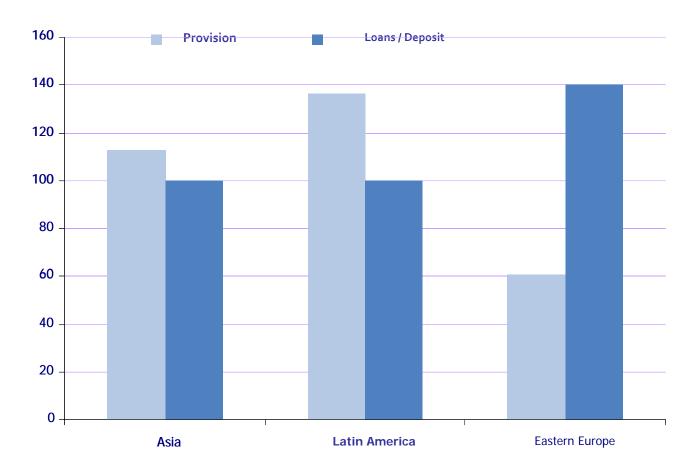
^{*} Previous: 1994-95 (ARG, BRA, MEX), 1982-1983 (CHI), 1998-99 (COL, PER) and 1992-93 (VEN). Credit to the Private Sector. Source: IFS, BBVA



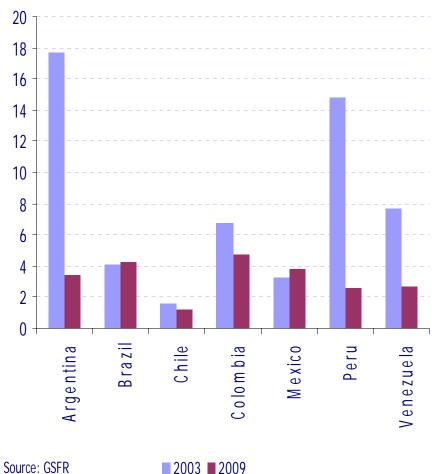




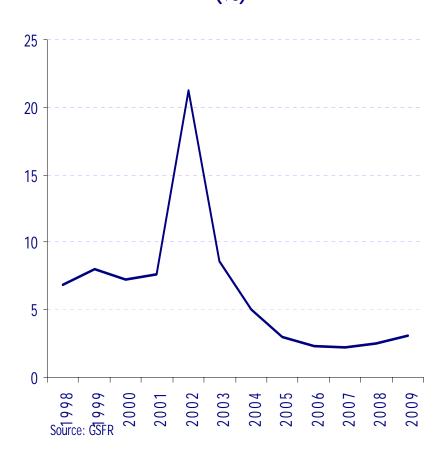
Emerging. Banking sector (2009)



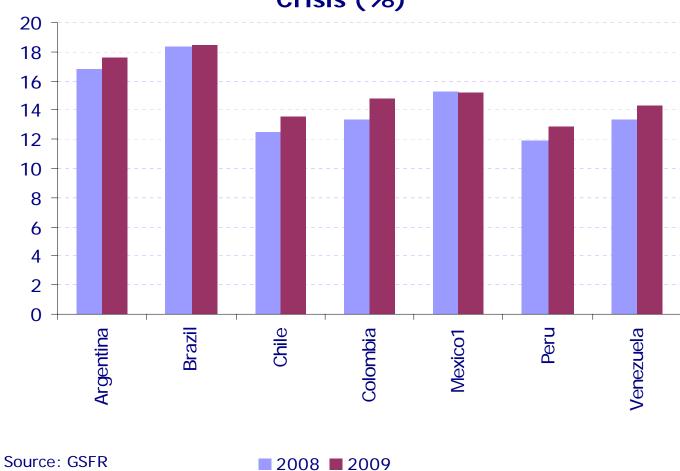




Latin America: Non Performing Loans (%)

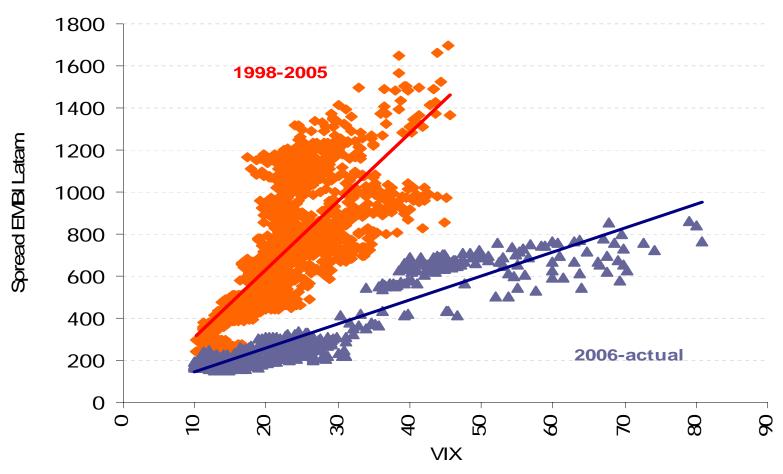






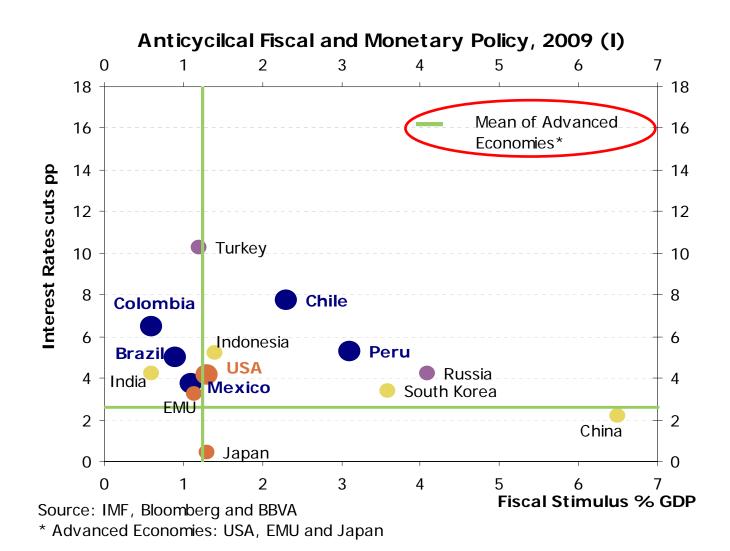
A break from the past: helped ease financial tensions...

Global Risk Aversion and EMBI+

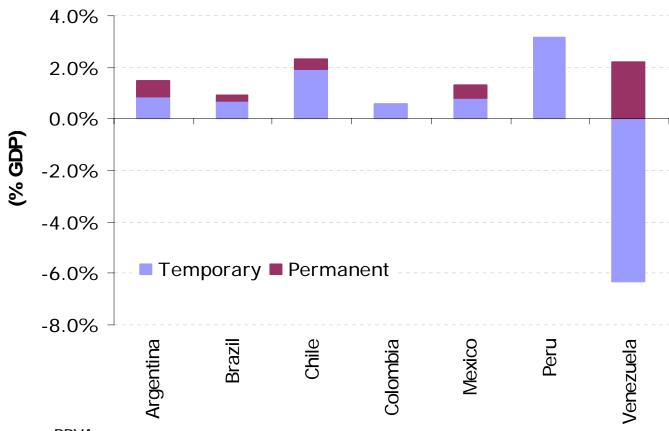




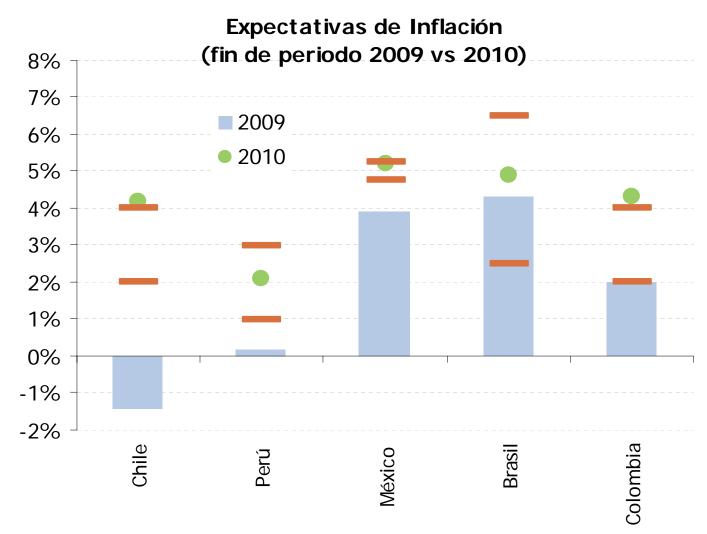
Stronger fundamentals allowed decisive policy reactions...



Latin America: Composition of the 2009 fiscal stimulus



With inflation under control new challenges arise

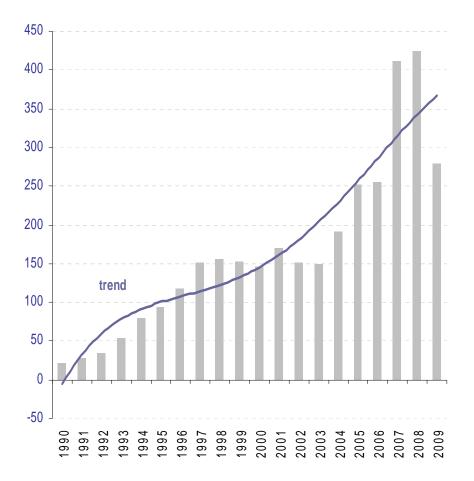


Fuente: BBVA. Las líneas rojas definen los objetivos del Banco Central para 2010

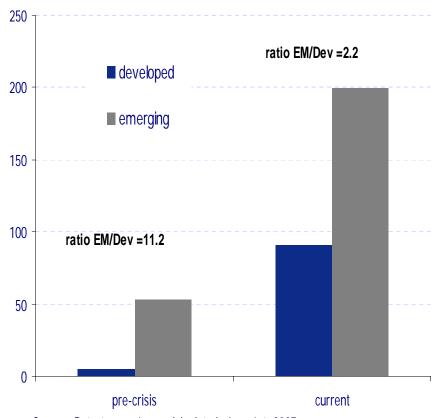


FX control: inflows and appreciations once again

Emerging Markets Capital Inflows: FDI bn USD



Developed vs Emerging CDS: pre-crisis and current spreads (bps)



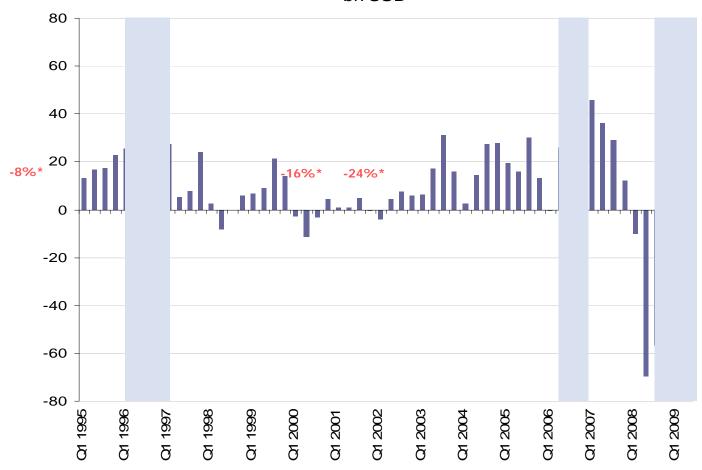
Source: Datastream. *pre-crisis date is June 1st, 2007.

Aggregates are simple avgs



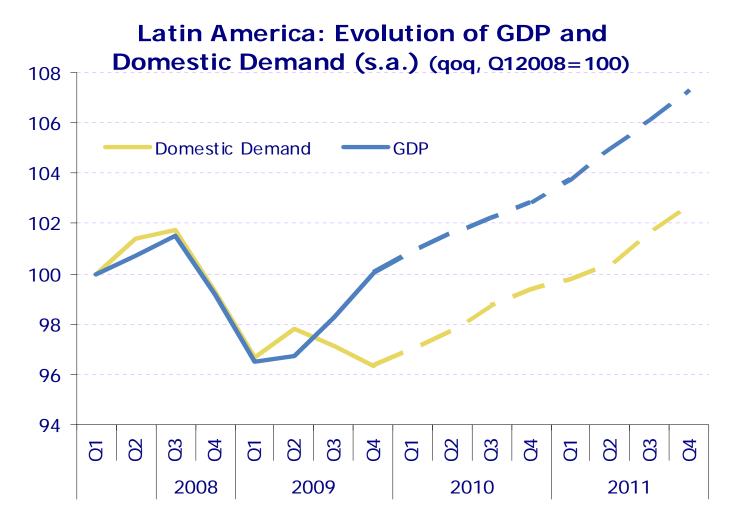
FX control: inflows and appreciations once again





Source: IFS and ERD BBVA

^{*} The value is the maximum appreciation registered during the flow surge period (simple average between key emerging countries: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Venezuela, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, Thailand, Poland, Russian and Turkey).





Main topics

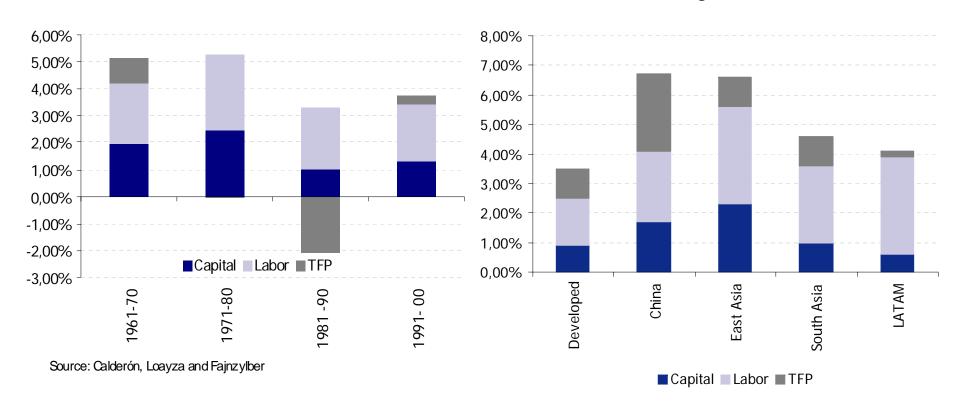
- Recent Economic Performance: a break from the past
 - The Crisis: better initial conditions
 - The Financial Sector: a break from the past
 - Better fundamentals allowed for better policy reactions
 - Exchange flexibility and price stability
 - The recovery is underway
- Main Challenges for the future
 - Labor intensive growth
 - Demographics and the labor market
 - Informality and growth
 - Investment must rise
 - Pension Reform and Capital Investment



Long Term Performance: Too much reliance on labor to grow



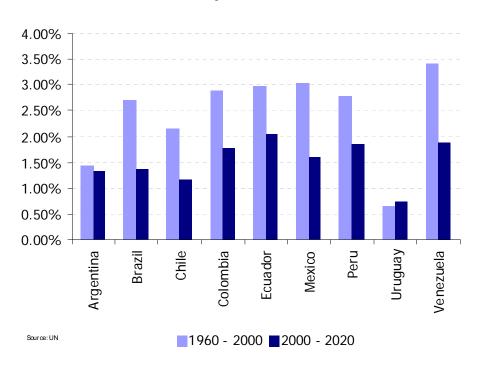
Sources of GDP growth 1960-2000



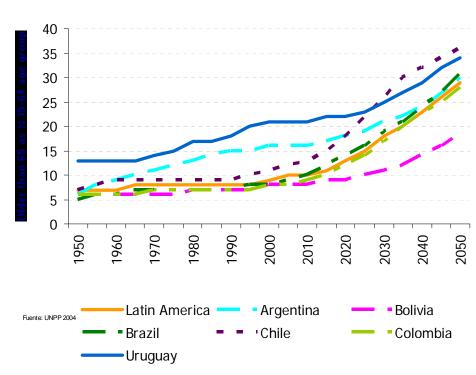


Long Term Performance: Demographics will not help in the future

Annual growth rates of Working Age Population



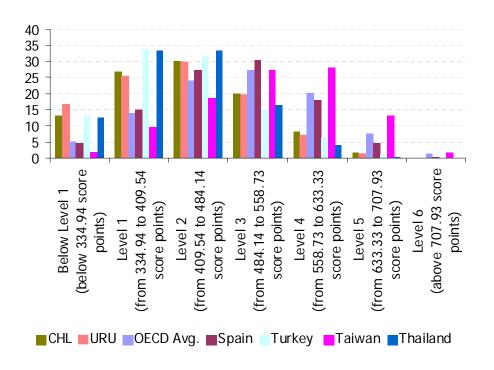
Old Age Dependency Ratios



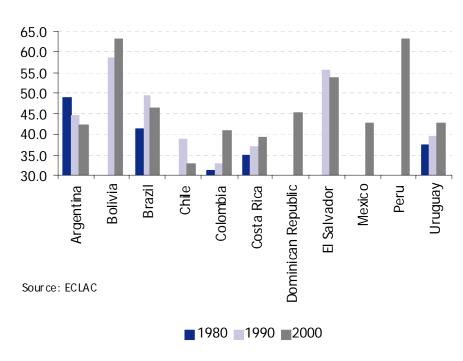


Improving Labor contributions to growth face major challenges

PISA Scores. Science, 2006. Best LATAM and reference countries

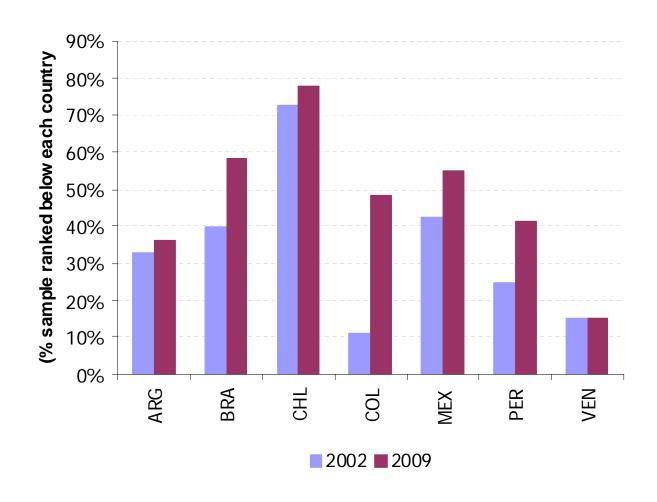


Urban Informality rates



Long Term Performance: Competitiveness is a problem

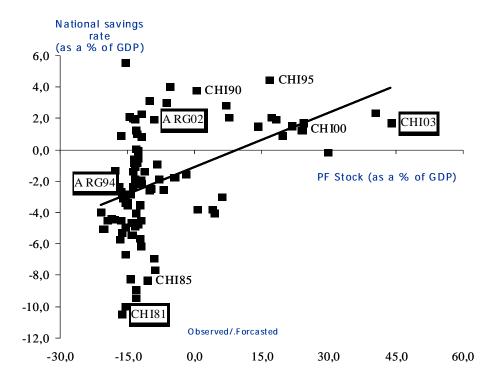
Global Competitiveness Index (WEF)



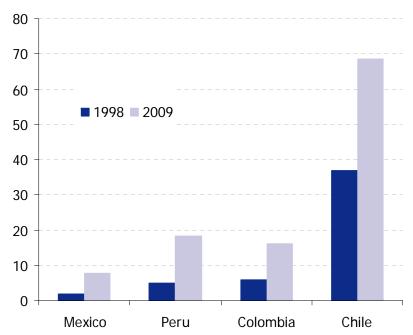


Some areas of improvement: contribution of pension funds

Pension funds and savings ratios

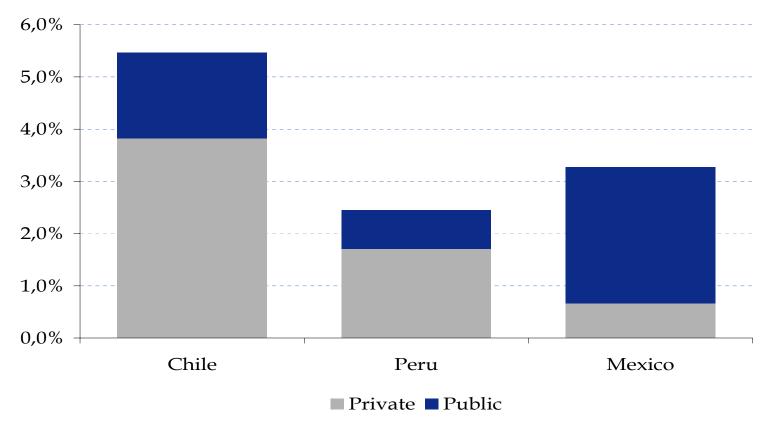


Pensions Funds Value: 1998 y 2009 (percentaje of GDP)



Some areas of improvement: contribution of pension funds

Infrastructure investment over GDP in Chile, Mexico and Peru, around 2000



Source: World Bank, official sources and BBVA

Latin America: Recent
Performance and main challenges
Comments to OECD's Latin American
Economic Outlook 2010

Jorge Sicilia
BBVA Research Department

April 2010