

Latam Daily Flash

13 February 2013 Economic Analysis

Madrid

Juan Ruiz

Chief Economist, South America
juan.ruiz@bbva.com
+34 913745887

Enestor dos Santos

Senior Economist, Latam
enestor.dossantos@bbva.com
+34 639827211

Mexico City

Octavio Gutierrez-Engelmann

Macro Latam Strategy
o.gutierrez3@bbva.com
+5255 5621 9245

With contributions from the BBVA
Research Latam Team:

Lima

Hugo Perea

Chief Economist, Peru
hugo.perea@bbva.com
+51 1 2112042

Bogota

Juana Tellez

Chief Economist, Colombia
juana.tellez@bbva.com
+571 3471600

Santiago

Alejandro Puente

Chief Economist, Chile
alejandropuente@bbva.com
+56 2 2939 10 92

Mexico City

Carlos Serrano

Chief Economist, Mexico
carlos.serrano@bbva.com
+ 5255 5621 4354

Mexico City

Cecilia Posadas

Senior Economist, Mexico
c.posadas@bbva.com
+ 52 55 56216442

A quiet day yesterday in Latam. The central bank survey of economists in Chile showed that no changes are expected in Thursday's monetary policy meeting. In Mexico, strategic indicators for employment showed some weakness in the labor market, despite the drop in the unemployment rate in 4Q12. Meanwhile, the consumer confidence print in Colombia remained at high levels. Today the focus will be on Banxico's inflation report and its inflation forecast, given the decline seen at the end of 2012.

Chile - Economists survey expects no change in policy rate at Thursday's meeting

The central bank economists survey for February revealed a growth forecast for the monthly economic activity index (Imacec) of 5.2% YoY by January (BBVAe: 6.0% YoY). Additionally, economists estimate inflation at 0.2% MoM for February (1.4% YoY) and no changes in the monetary policy rate at Thursday's meeting, both in line with our expectations. Finally, long-term inflation expectations remained well-anchored to the central bank target of 3%.

Mexico - Strategic indicators for employment (4Q12) showed some weakness in the labor market

Thanks to the advance release for December, we already knew that the unemployment rate was 4.9% in 4Q12 (similar to the 4.8% in 4Q11). However, yesterday's report provided complementary rates that reveal a labor market with some weakness at YE12. On the positive side, the underemployment rate decreased from 9% of the population in 4Q11 to 8% in 4Q12. Meanwhile, on the negative side, employment in "critical conditions" rose from 11% to 11.7% of the population, and the informal sector increased between 4Q11 and 4Q12.

Colombia - Consumer confidence remains stable at high levels

In January, consumer confidence stood at 23.1, slightly higher than the 21.5 reported in December 2012. Households remain very willing to buy durable goods and are also optimistic when assessing the future economic situation. The positive confidence trend confirms our scenario of a recovery in consumption in the first quarter of 2013e, also supported by the impact of the recent interest rate cuts by the central bank.

What to watch today

Chile - Central bank Financial Traders survey (first half of February, 6:30 hrs, NYT)

We expect the survey to show inflation estimates around 0.2% MoM for the current month and expectations of monetary policy at 5.0% in this week's meeting. We do not anticipate significant changes in the short-term exchange-rate estimates.

Mexico - Central Bank inflation report (4Q12, 13:00 hrs, NYT)

We think the market will be focusing on any central bank revision to its inflation forecast given the sharp decline seen in November and December 2012. We will be monitoring Banxico's assessment of some services prices (i.e. telephony and public services tariffs) since it could provide some clues about future policy actions. Regarding GDP for 2013e, we are not anticipating major changes in the current CB's range forecast (3-4%e YoY).

Calendar: Indicators

Brazil	Date	Period	Consensus	BBVAe	Actual	Prior
Economic Activity Indx MoM SA	13-20 FEB	Dec	--	--	--	0.40%
FIPE CPI - Weekly	14-Feb	Feb-11	1.07%	--	--	1.04%
CAGED Formal Job Creation	14-21 FEB	Jan	30000	--	--	-496944
FGV Inflation IGP-10 (MoM)	15-Feb	Feb	0.37%	--	--	0.42%
Chile						
Economist's survey	12-Feb	Feb	--	--	--	--
Financial Trader's Survey	13-Feb	Feb	--	--	--	--
Nominal Overnight Rate Target	14-Feb	Feb-18	5.00%	5.00%	--	5.00%
Colombia						
Consumer Confidence	12-Feb	Jan	24.30	21.5	23.1	21.5
Exports FOB - US\$ million	14-Feb	Dec	--	\$4852	--	\$4732.4
Outstanding Loans	14-20 FEB	Dec	--	--	--	\$244.1B
Mexico						
Trade Balance	11-Feb	Dec F	961.7M	961.7M	961.7M	961.7M
Industrial Production (YoY)	11-Feb	Dec	2.00%	2.60%	-1.10%	2.80%
Central Bank 4Q Inflation Report	13-Feb	--	--	--	--	--
Peru						
Unemployment	15-Feb	Jan	6.00%	--	--	5.60%
Economic Activity Indx YoY NSA	15-Feb	Dec	6.05%	--	--	6.80%

Most recent Latam reports

Date	Description
11-2-2013	➤ Mexico Flash. Negative surprise in industrial production at the end of 2012 -2.1% mom, -1.1% yoy
8-2-2013	➤ Chile Flash: Monthly inflation stood at 0.2% in January, surprising to the upside
7-2-2013	➤ Peru Flash: Central Bank keeps neutral tone for its policy rate
7-2-2013	➤ Mexico Flash: January's inflation: Monthly Inflation Surprises Upwards due to Telephone Services; However Inflation keeps Easing Annually
7-2-2013	➤ Brazil Flash: Inflation at uncomfortably high levels
5-2-2013	➤ Colombia Flash: Consumer inflation dropped to 2.0% YoY in January, standing at the lower bound of the inflation target band
5-2-2013	➤ Chile Flash: Economic activity shows moderate slowdown at the end of 2012
1-2-2013	➤ Banxico Watch: Banxico seems to be targeting a cut but the uncertainty remains: how to play it?
1-2-2013	➤ Peru Flash: Annual inflation remained within the target range
1-2-2013	➤ Chile Flash: Minutes of the January's meeting turn to a more hawkish view

Important Disclosures

The BBVA Group companies that have participated in preparing or contributed information, opinions, estimates, forecasts or recommendations to this report are identified by the location(s) of the author(s) listed on the first page as follows: 1) Madrid, London or Europe - Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, S.A., including its E.U. branches (hereinafter called 'BBVA'), 2) Mexico City - BBVA Bancomer, S.A. Institución de Banca Múltiple, Grupo Financiero BBVA Bancomer (hereinafter called 'BBVA Bancomer'); 3) New York - BBVA Securities, Inc. (hereinafter called 'BBVA Securities'); 4.) Lima - BBVA Continental S.A.; 5.) Bogata - BBVA Colombia S.A.; 6.) Santiago - BBVA Chile S.A.

For recipients in the European Union, this document is distributed by BBVA, a bank supervised by the Bank of Spain and by Spain's Stock Exchange Commission (CNMV), and registered with the Bank of Spain with number 0182.

For recipients in Mexico, this document is distributed by BBVA Bancomer, a bank supervised by the Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores de México.

For recipients in USA, this document is being distributed by BBVA Securities, a subsidiary of BBVA registered with and supervised by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. U.S. persons wishing to execute any transactions should do so only by contacting a representative of BBVA Securities in the U.S. Unless local regulations provide otherwise, non-U.S. persons should contact and execute transactions through a BBVA branch or affiliate in their home jurisdiction.

BBVA and BBVA Group companies or affiliates (art. 42 of the Royal Decree of 22 August 1885 Code of Commerce), are subject to the BBVA Group Policy on Conduct for Security Market Operations which establishes common standards for activity in these entities' markets, but also specifically for analysis and analysts. This BBVA policy is available for reference at the following web site: www.bbva.com.

Analysts residing outside the U.S. who have contributed to this report are not registered with or qualified as research analysts by FINRA or the New York Stock Exchange and may not be considered "associated persons" of BBVA Securities (as such term is construed by the rules of FINRA). As such, they are not subject to NASD Rule 2711 restrictions on communications with subject companies, public appearances and trading of securities held in research analysts' accounts.

BBVA is subject to a Code of Conduct for Security Market Operations, which details the standards of the above-mentioned overall policy for the EU. Among other regulations, it includes rules to prevent and avoid conflicts of interests with the ratings given, including information barriers. This Code of Conduct for Security Market Operations is available for reference in the 'Corporate Governance' section of the following web site: www.bbva.com.

BBVA Bancomer is subject to a Code of Conduct and to Internal Standards of Conduct for Security Market Operations, which details the standards of the above-mentioned overall policy for Mexico. Among other regulations, it includes rules to prevent and avoid conflicts of interests with the ratings given, including information barriers. This Code and the Internal Standards are available for reference in the 'Grupo BBVA Bancomer' subsection of the 'Conócenos' menu of the following web site: www.bancomer.com.

BBVA Securities is subject to a Capital Markets Code of Conduct, which details the standards of the above-mentioned overall policy for USA. Among other regulations, it includes rules to prevent and avoid conflicts of interests with the ratings given, including information barriers.

Exclusively for Recipients Resident in Mexico

BBVA Bancomer S.A. Institución de Banca Múltiple, Grupo Financiero BBVA Bancomer acts as a market maker/specialist in: MexDer Future Contracts (US dollar [DEUA], 28-day TIEs [TE28], TIE Swaps, 91-day CETES [CE91]), Bonos M, Bonos M3, Bonos M10, BMV Price and Quotations Index (IPC), Options Contracts (IPC, shares in América Móvil, Cemex, CPO, Femsa UBD, Gcarso A1, Telmex L) and Udibonos.

BBVA Bancomer, and, as applicable, its affiliates within BBVA Bancomer Financial Group, may hold from time to time investments in the securities or derivative financial instruments with underlying securities covered in this report, which represent 10% or more of its securities or investment portfolio, or 10% or more of the issue or underlying of the securities covered.

DISCLAIMER

This document and the information, opinions, estimates and recommendations expressed herein, have been prepared by Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, S.A. (hereinafter called "BBVA") to provide its customers with general information and are current as of the date of issue and subject to changes without prior notice. BBVA is not liable for giving notice of such changes or for updating the contents hereof.

This document and its contents do not constitute an offer, invitation or solicitation to purchase or subscribe to any securities or other instruments, or to undertake or divest investments. Neither shall this document nor its contents form the basis of any contract, commitment or decision of any kind.

Investors who have access to this document should be aware that the securities, instruments or investments to which it refers may not be appropriate for them due to their specific investment goals, financial positions or risk profiles, as these have not been taken into account to prepare this report. Therefore, investors should make their own investment decisions considering the said circumstances and obtaining such specialized advice as may be necessary. The contents of this document are based upon information available to the public that has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable. However, such information has not been independently verified by BBVA and therefore no warranty, either express or implicit, is given regarding its accuracy, integrity or correctness. BBVA accepts no liability of any type for any direct or indirect losses arising from the use of the document or its contents. Investors should note that the past performance of securities or instruments or the historical results of investments do not guarantee future performance.

The market prices of securities or instruments or the results of investments could fluctuate against the interests of investors. Investors should be aware that they could even face a loss of their investment. Transactions in futures, options and securities or high-yield securities can involve high risks and are not appropriate for every investor. Indeed, in the case of some investments, the potential losses may exceed the amount of initial investment and, in such circumstances; investors may be required to pay more money to support those losses. Thus, before undertaking any transaction with these instruments, investors should be aware of their operation, as well as the rights, liabilities and risks implied by the same and the underlying stocks. Investors should also be aware that secondary markets for the said instruments may be limited or even not exist.

BBVA or any of its affiliates, as well as their respective executives and employees, may have a position in any of the securities or instruments referred to, directly or indirectly, in this document, or in any other related thereto; they may trade for their own account or for third-party account in those securities, provide consulting or other services to the issuer of the aforementioned securities or instruments or to companies related thereto or to their shareholders, executives or employees, or may have interests or perform transactions in those securities or instruments or related investments before or after the publication of this report, to the extent permitted by the applicable law.

BBVA or any of its affiliates' salespeople, traders, and other professionals may provide oral or written market commentary or trading strategies to its clients that reflect opinions that are contrary to the opinions expressed herein. Furthermore, BBVA or any of its affiliates' proprietary trading and investing businesses may make investment decisions that are inconsistent with the recommendations expressed herein. No part of this document may be (i) copied, photocopied or duplicated by any other form or means (ii) redistributed or (iii) quoted, without the prior written consent of BBVA. No part of this report may be copied, conveyed, distributed or furnished to any person or entity in any country (or persons or entities in the same) in which its distribution is prohibited by law. Failure to comply with these restrictions may breach the laws of the relevant jurisdiction.

In the United Kingdom, this document is directed only at persons who (i) have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within article 19(5) of the financial services and markets act 2000 (financial promotion) order 2005 (as amended, the "financial promotion order"), (ii) are persons falling within article 49(2) (a) to (d) ("high net worth companies, unincorporated associations, etc.") Of the financial promotion order, or (iii) are persons to whom an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of section 21 of the financial services and markets act 2000) may otherwise lawfully be communicated (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). This document is directed only at relevant persons and must not be acted on or relied on by persons who are not relevant persons. Any investment or investment activity to which this document relates is available only to relevant persons and will be engaged in only with relevant persons. The remuneration system concerning the analyst/s author/s of this report is based on multiple criteria, including the revenues obtained by BBVA and, indirectly, the results of BBVA Group in the fiscal year, which, in turn, include the results generated by the investment banking business; nevertheless, they do not receive any remuneration based on revenues from any specific transaction in investment banking.

BBVA is not a member of the FINRA and is not subject to the rules of disclosure affecting such members.

BBVA is subject to the BBVA Group Code of Conduct for Security Market Operations which, among other regulations, includes rules to prevent and avoid conflicts of interests with the ratings given, including information barriers. The BBVA Group Code of Conduct for Security Market Operations is available for reference at the following web site: www.bbva.com / Corporate Governance".

BBVA is a bank supervised by the Bank of Spain and by Spain's Stock Exchange Commission (CNMV), registered with the Bank of Spain with number 0182.