COLOMBIA

1. General trends

Economic activity in Colombia grew by 2.6% in 2018, continuing a recovery process driven by domestic demand. Both consumption and investment performed strongly, offsetting the negative impact of the decline in external demand. Household and government consumption were the engines of growth, followed by investment. By contrast, the growing imbalance between exports and imports lowered GDP. The economic activities that contributed most to growth in 2018 were public administration, defence, education and health; commerce, transport and accommodation; professional, scientific and technical activities; and industry. The agricultural and real estate sectors also grew, although more slowly than in the previous year, while mining and quarrying again declined in 2018, albeit less than in the preceding years.

Economic activity in the first quarter of 2019 posted a 2.8% increase: less than predicted in official forecasts. Most of the growth between January and March 2019 came from activities relating to commerce and transport, public administration and manufacturing. The economic recovery is expected to be consolidated in the rest of the year, boosted by domestic demand, which, as in 2018, is likely to offset weak external demand and to lead to 3.1% growth in 2019.

Lower inflation and access to credit encouraged household consumption in 2018, which had dipped in 2017 following the 3-percentage-point increase in VAT. Government consumption grew by 5.6%, driven by expenditure in connection with the parliamentary elections, the two rounds of the presidential election and several inter-party consultations. Gross capital formation picked up in the second half of the year, with the resumption of road projects that had stalled at the beginning of the year due to government procurement restrictions imposed under the electoral Guarantees Act during the four months prior to elections.

By contrast, net external demand lowered GDP growth in 2018 due to the marked expansion of imports, which outweighed the increase in exports in response to attractive oil, coal and banana prices.

Inflation continued to decline in 2018, down to 3.2%, close to the authorities’ long-term target of 3.0%. This convergence of inflation down towards the official target was the result of several factors: an end to supply shocks; below-potential growth of economic activity; and monetary policy, all of which helped anchor inflationary expectations close to the target. Inflation is expected to stay close to the target range in 2019, despite pressures exerted by the depreciation of the peso, real-terms growth of the minimum wage and, to a lesser extent, the milder than initially predicted effects of the El Niño weather phenomenon.

The government executed a robust fiscal adjustment in 2018. The deficit narrowed from 3.7% of GDP in 2017 to 3.1% in 2018, which meant, after factoring in cyclical effects, that the structural deficit was equivalent to 1.9% of GDP and complied with the specific target set for 2018. The Fiscal Rule Advisory Committee therefore considered that the government had fully complied with the fiscal rule established by Law 1473 of 2011. In June, the government submitted the 2019 medium-term fiscal framework to Congress, which envisages an additional narrowing of the deficit by 0.7% of GDP this year and rules out another tax reform. The fiscal strategy for 2019 and subsequent years provides for the sale of assets, which, together with increased revenue as a result of the introduction of e-invoicing and gains in public spending efficiency, could lead to a structural deficit of 1% of GDP by 2022 that would facilitate an orderly adjustment of the public debt.

The sharp increase in migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, who numbered more than 1.3 million by mid-2019, has necessitated an immediate response from immigration and humanitarian institutions. At the same time, the additional tax burden induced by the programmes for attending to migrants' needs, which is estimated to be equivalent to 0.5% of GDP, justified invoking waivers to the fiscal rule and considering resources allocated between 2019 and 2023 as temporary stop-gap outlays.

2. Economic policy

(a) Fiscal policy

For central government, 2018 was a year of severe fiscal constraint, in which the fiscal deficit narrowed by 0.5 percentage points to end the year at the equivalent of 3.1% of GDP. The acceleration in public works by mayors and local governments that usually occurs in the second half of their mandates led to a decline in the surplus of the decentralized sector, which amounted to 0.2% of GDP in 2018 and contributed to an 0.2-percentage-point increase in the consolidated deficit of the non-financial public sector, up from 2.7% to 2.9% of GDP.

Central government revenue and expenditure both shrank as a percentage of GDP in 2018. Non-tax income fell by 0.5 percentage points compared to the figure for 2017, which was exceptionally high following a ruling in Colombia's favour in litigation with mobile telephone companies. The lower income was partially offset by increased tax revenue as a result of the 2016 tax reform, which curtailed deductions and created the tax on dividends: measures designed to mitigate the lower income tax surcharge envisaged for 2018 and the withdrawal of the wealth tax on legal entities.

Total central government spending fell by 0.9 percentage points in 2018. Interest, operating and investment expenses were lower relative to GDP than in 2017. Interest was down because of the lower domestic interest rate, which offset the increase in the United States interest rate. The decline in transfers to subnational governments and in allocations to pay pensions explains the drop in operating expenses. The segment hardest hit by the austerity policy implemented in order to comply with the fiscal rule was investment, which fell by 0.5 percentage points, mostly in the transport, justice, agriculture and social inclusion sectors

In March 2019, in response to the fiscal pressure exerted by the upsurge in migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Fiscal Rule Advisory Committee approved the government's request to treat the cost of the programmes to assist them as a temporary expense. The Committee authorized a fiscal space of 0.5% of GDP, to be reduced by 0.1 percentage points per year, reaching zero by 2023. In the medium-term fiscal framework submitted to Congress in June, the government stuck to its fiscal deficit projection of 2.4% for 2019 and ruled out another tax reform, arguing that tax instability took a heavy toll on investment.

The Financing Act, passed in late 2018, gradually lowers the tax on legal entities and exempts capital goods from VAT. The government's strategy is to reduce the corporate tax burden substantially so as to encourage investment and stimulate growth, thereby raising tax revenue. In accordance with this assertion, the government projects an increase in total income in the 2019 fiscal framework (up from 15.3% to 16.6% of GDP). Tax revenue is expected to increase by 0.4 percentage points of GDP to 14.3% of GDP by the end of the year. Capital income is predicted to increase by 0.9 GDP points to 2.1% of GDP, as a result of higher Ecopetrol dividends, equivalent to 0.5% of GDP, and revenue from the sale of national assets.

Central government expenditure is expected to increase to 19% of GDP at the end of 2019, driven mainly by a recovery in investment. With a view to accelerating the economic recovery, the government launched the Reactiva Colombia programme, which allocated resources to finance investment in employment-generating infrastructure projects.

Central government public debt, net of assets, increased from 44.9% of GDP at the end of 2017 to 48.1% in 2018. Despite the narrowing of the deficit in 2018 (down 0.5 percentage points) and that projected for 2019 (0.7 percentage points), the debt is forecast to rise to 49.3% of GDP, before starting to fall in 2020.

Risk-rating agencies acknowledged the fiscal authorities’ commitment to consolidate the trend to smaller fiscal deficits and ratified their BBB rating of the long-term foreign-currency-denominated debt. Moody’s changed its outlook from negative to stable, while Fitch Ratings changed its outlook from stable to negative.

(b) Monetary policy

The monetary policy reference rate stayed at 4.25% between May 2018 and June 2019, below the average of the past 10 years, and market expectations are that it will remain at that level for several more months. In 2018 and thus far in 2019, monetary policy has been moderately expansionary, affecting market interest rates for all types of credit.

The national-currency-denominated portfolio grew by 3.1% in real terms in 2018, slightly more than growth of the economy as a whole. By credit segment, most notable were the real-terms increases in the housing loans and consumer loans portfolios, of 8.4% and 6.2%, respectively, as of April 2019. Loans to businesses (50% of the total) remained steady, recording zero growth in real terms, after posting real terms declines in 2018 and the first quarter of 2019. Most corporate financing came from direct external credit.

The financial system completed a long process of adjusting to the shocks impacting the economy since mid-2014. The higher-risk and non-performing portfolios, which had risen steadily since the end of 2015, stabilized as from the second half of 2018 and through April 2019. Sensitivity tests suggest that liquidity and solvency indicators are likely to meet regulatory standards, even if all the risks envisaged materialize.

Surveys point to a recovery in the loan portfolio, although it will remain vulnerable due to the expected widening of the current account deficit in the Colombian economy and the latent risk of lower growth in some of Colombia’s trading partners.

(c) Exchange-rate policy

The monetary authority has not set an exchange-rate target and has allowed the peso to devalue against the dollar in 2018 and during the first six months of 2019. By May 2019, the peso had devalued by 18% since January 2018 and by 6% in the first five months of the year. While some of that devaluation is the result of the overall strengthening of the dollar against emerging economies’ currencies, the devaluation of the Colombian peso is greater than the average for Latin America, mainly because of the high demand for dollars driven by the notable increase in imports. Country risk has remained stable and has even fallen in 2019, while the interest rate differential with the United States has narrowed. That, too, explains the higher capital outflows and greater devaluation.

Due to the pronounced devaluation of the peso, on 31May 2019 the central bank suspended the international reserves accumulation programme it embarked on in September 2018.

(d) Other policies

In May 2019, Congress adopted the National Development Plan 2018-2022, "Pact for Colombia, pact for equity", which defines law, entrepreneurship and equity. as the fundamental pillars needed to guarantee opportunities for everyone.

3. The main variables

(a) The external sector

The current account deficit widened from 3.3% to 3.8% of GDP between 2017 and 2018, due to a larger trade deficit. The dollar value of exports rose by 11.7%, as a result of the greater value of external sales of oil, coal and ferronickel, due to their high prices, despite a decline in their volume, and as a result of increased external sales of industrial products, flowers, coal and other agricultural products. The buoyant sales of these products offset the reduction in exports of non-monetary gold and coffee, the higher volumes of which failed to cancel out the effect of lower prices.

Measured in dollars, the value of imports posted 11.2% growth, driven by intermediate goods (which accounted for 5.2 percentage points of that growth), capital goods (3.5 percentage points) and, to a lesser extent, consumer goods, transport equipment, and fuels and lubricants.

The factor income balance posted a deficit of US$ 11.421 billion, due to higher outflows of profits stemming from foreign direct investment (FDI). Remittances totalled US$ 6.328 billion in 2018, an increase of 14.8%, attributed to economic recovery in the countries receiving Colombian immigrants, the United States and Spain.

The share of the external imbalance financed by foreign direct investment declined in 2018. FDI amounted to 3.3% of GDP at the end of 2018, compared to 4.4% of GDP in 2017. The sectors receiving most FDI were mining and oil, financial and business services, and transport and communications. Portfolio investment also declined, from 2.5% to 0.1% of GDP between 2017 and 2018, in part due to a sizeable reduction in the placement of government debt securities (treasury bonds (TES)). Consequently, external credit financed the bulk of the deficit. International reserves increased by US$ 1.187 billion in 2018, thanks to higher returns on the investment portfolio and the purchase of US$ 400 million.

The imbalance on the balance-of-payments current account widened in the first quarter of 2019 to US$ 3.614 billion, equivalent to 4.6% of quarterly GDP, much more than in the prior-year quarter. This external imbalance was a result of the trade deficit, since imports increased by more than 9.0% in the first three months of 2019, while exports of goods fell by 1.0% (or posted a slight increase of 0.4%, if services are factored in). Non-traditional product exports increased by 1.7%: not enough to offset the decline (-2.6%) in exports of traditional products resulting from the drop in external sales of coal.

A current account deficit of 4.1% of GDP is projected for 2019 which, although large, is temporary and largely due to increased imports of capital goods, which presages increased investment and economic growth.

(b) Economic activity

The Colombian economy grew by 2.6% in 2018 and began a period of recovery following the economic slowdown that started in 2014. The sectors contributing most to growth were public administration, commerce, and professional, scientific and technical activities, which together accounted for 1.51 percentage points of GDP growth in 2018. Also notable was the upturn in industry, which grew by 1.8% and added 0.21 percentage points to the expansion of GDP. The agricultural sector grew by 2.1%, much less vigorously than in 2017, while mining and quarrying declined by 0.2%, due to lower coal and metal ores output.

Growth was driven by domestic demand in 2018. Public consumption posted the highest rate of growth, partly in connection with the dynamics of electoral cycle spending and partly due to the smarter pace of budgetary execution by local governments. Lower inflation and benign liquidity conditions boosted private consumption, especially of durable goods. Gross capital formation, which had not posted increases since 2014, expanded in 2018, driven by changes in inventories and an uptick in fixed investment in housing.

In the first quarter of 2019, GDP saw a year-on-year increase of 2.8%. The best performing sectors were financial activities (5.5%) and commerce (4.0%), along with mining and quarrying (5.3%), which rebounded thanks to a recovery in metal products and the upturn in oil output. By contrast, construction shrank (-5.6%), as a result of sluggishness in the buildings sector pending a new housing policy. Domestic demand continued to underpin Colombia's economic growth in the first months of 2019. Household consumption grew by 3.8% in the first quarter, while gross fixed capital formation rose by 2.8%, driven by investment in machinery (3.1%), while housing declined (-1.8%).

Growth of 3.1% is forecast for 2019 on the back of more robust domestic demand, the consolidation of the recovery in manufacturing and more favourable conditions for the oil industry, which in the first quarter had already attracted investments worth US$ 1.861 billion, or 82.5% of total investment in that period. Tax incentives for investment in machinery and equipment are a core feature of the government's economic growth plan.

(c) Prices, wages and employment

The consumer price index fell by almost 1 percentage point in 2018 to 3.2% by year's end, close to the target range set by the monetary authority (of 3%, with a margin of 1 percentage point on either side). The drop in inflation, after three years in which it fell outside the target range, was the result of a rapid absorption, in the first months of 2018, of the impact of the 3-percentage-point hike in VAT and of the excess installed capacity generated by lower-than-potential growth. Lower prices for commodities such as rice, oils and cereals also helped curb inflation.

Inflationary expectations are around 3.25% for 2019 and 2020. Upward pressures have mainly come from regulated prices, such as those for fuels, utilities and transport, which rose by nearly 6% as of April 2019. The inflationary pressures predicted for the next few months stem from energy price hikes, resulting from construction issues with the Hidroituango hydroelectric company, the financial plight of Electricaribe and, in general, the energy sector's investment needs. Another risk in the remaining months of 2019 is the transmission to prices of the real-terms devaluation of the peso.

The labour market did not reflect the upturn in economic growth. The national unemployment rate has increased steadily since August 2018 owing to the decline in demand for labour, particularly in rural areas, as the number of those employed in agriculture has fallen. In Colombia's 13 major metropolitan areas, the unemployment rate increased from 10.6% in 2017 to 10.8% in 2018, as informality declined slightly, from 47.2% to 46.9% over the same period.

The labour market continued to deteriorate in the first quarter of 2019. The unemployment rate in the 13 principal cities was 12.7%, that is to say, 0.7 percentage points above the rate recorded in the same quarter of 2018, although the downward trend in informality continues, as corroborated by the higher percentage of people enrolled in the pension system, which rose from 37.8% to 38.3% between those two quarters.

Table 1
COLOMBIA: MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 a/
	Annual growth rates b/								
Gross domestic product	4.3	7.4	3.9	4.6	4.7	3.0	2.1	1.4	2.6
Per capita gross domestic product	3.2	6.2	2.8	3.5	3.7	2.0	1.2	0.5	1.8
Gross domestic product, by sector									
Agriculture, livestock, hunting, forestry and fishing	0.3	1.9	2.5	7.5	2.9	4.3	2.7	5.5	2.1
Mining and quarrying	10.9	14.4	5.4	5.3	-1.3	-1.1	-2.9	-5.7	-0.2
Manufacturing	1.9	5.6	0.8	1.6	2.9	2.0	3.2	-1.8	1.7
Electricity, gas and water	4.0	3.1	2.2	3.7	3.5	-0.7	0.0	2.9	2.7
Construction	-4.2	15.4	4.7	-0.9	12.0	6.3	3.6	-1.9	0.3
Wholesale and retail commerce, restaurants and hotels	5.2	6.7	3.9	5.2	5.0	3.2	3.7	1.8	3.4
Transport, storage and communications	9.2	8.2	2.7	5.4	5.0	2.8	-0.1	1.3	3.0
Financial institutions, insurance, real estate and business services	3.9	5.0	4.4	5.1	5.3	4.7	3.3	3.8	2.4
Community, social and personal services	3.8	5.9	5.0	5.5	5.9	3.5	2.0	2.7	4.2
Gross domestic product, by type of expenditure									
Final consumption expenditure	5.2	6.6	5.2	4.8	4.6	3.4	1.6	2.4	4.0
Government consumption	5.2	6.5	4.8	8.9	4.7	4.9	1.8	3.8	5.6
Private consumption	5.1	6.6	5.3	4.0	4.6	3.1	1.6	2.1	3.6
Gross capital formation	8.7	19.0	3.4	6.1	11.8	-1.2	-0.2	-3.2	3.5
Exports (goods and services)	2.1	12.3	4.9	4.7	-0.3	1.7	-0.2	2.5	3.9
Imports (goods and services)	10.8	22.0	9.4	7.4	7.8	-1.1	-3.5	1.2	7.9
Investment and saving c/	**Percentages of GDP**								
Gross capital formation	21.1	22.2	22.2	22.5	24.0	23.8	23.2	21.6	21.2
National saving	18.1	19.3	19.2	19.2	18.8	17.4	18.9	18.3	16.9
External saving	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.3	5.2	6.3	4.2	3.3	4.3
Balance of payments	**Millions of dollars**								
Current account balance	-8 732	-9 803	-11 364	-12 500	-19 762	-18 563	-12 008	-10 341	-12 908
Goods balance	2 356	6 137	4 956	3 179	-4 641	-13 479	-9 148	-4 571	-5 209
Exports, f.o.b.	40 762	58 262	61 604	60 282	56 899	38 572	34 091	39 676	44 373
Imports, f.o.b.	38 406	52 126	56 648	57 103	61 539	52 051	43 239	44 247	49 583
Services trade balance	-4 520	-5 501	-6 145	-6 343	-7 222	-4 788	-3 530	-3 977	-3 896
Income balance	-11 228	-15 490	-15 008	-14 223	-12 521	-5 727	-5 228	-8 405	-11 421
Net current transfers	4 659	5 051	4 833	4 887	4 622	5 430	5 898	6 611	7 618
Capital and financial balance d/	11 875	13 545	16 770	19 446	24 199	18 979	12 173	10 887	14 095
Net foreign direct investment	947	6 227	15 646	8 557	12 268	7 505	9 333	10 147	6 231
Other capital movements	10 928	7 318	1 125	10 889	11 931	11 473	2 841	740	7 865
Overall balance	3 142	3 742	5 406	6 946	4 437	415	165	545	1 187
Variation in reserve assets e/	-3 142	-3 742	-5 406	-6 946	-4 437	-415	-165	-545	-1 187
Other external-sector indicators									
Real effective exchange rate (index: 2005=100) f/	79.2	79.5	76.5	80.1	84.5	104.3	108.7	105.7	97.2
Terms of trade for goods (index: 2010=100) g/	100.0	114.7	108.4	100.6	91.5	68.9	68.1	79.7	87.0
Net resource transfer (millions of dollars)	647	-1 945	1 762	5 224	11 678	13 252	6 945	2 482	2 675
Total gross external debt (millions of dollars)	64 792	75 622	78 784	92 073	101 404	111 927	120 414	124 481	132 025
Employment h/	**Average annual rates**								
Labour force participation rate	62.7	63.7	64.5	64.2	64.2	64.7	64.5	64.4	64.0
Unemployment rate i/	12.7	11.8	11.4	10.7	10.0	9.8	10.3	10.5	10.9
Open unemployment rate j/	12.0	11.1	10.8	10.0	9.4	9.2	9.7	9.9	10.3
Visible underemployment rate	10.4	11.2	12.1	11.8	10.1	10.3	9.9	9.5	8.9

Table 1 (concluded)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Prices	**Annual percentages**								
Variation in consumer prices									
(December-December)	3.2	3.7	2.4	1.9	3.7	6.8	5.7	4.1	3.2
Variation in producer prices									
(December-December)	5.8	8.7	-4.9	-0.1	6.0	5.5	2.2	2.9	2.3
Variation in nominal exchange rate									
(annual average)	-12.0	-2.7	-2.8	4.0	7.1	37.1	11.1	-3.3	0.3
Variation in average real wage	2.8	0.3	1.1	2.7	0.4	1.2	-2.2	3.1	1.1
Nominal deposit rate k/	3.7	4.2	5.4	4.2	4.1	4.6	6.8	6.0	4.7
Nominal lending rate l/	12.4	12.8	13.7	12.2	12.1	12.1	14.7	13.7	12.1
Central national government	**Percentages of GDP**								
Total revenue	13.8	15.2	16.1	16.8	16.5	16.1	14.9	15.7	15.3
Tax revenue	12.3	13.6	14.3	14.1	14.2	14.5	13.6	13.8	13.8
Total expenditure	17.7	18.1	18.4	19.1	18.9	19.1	18.9	19.3	18.4
Current expenditure	15.5	15.6	15.6	16.0	15.9	16.1	16.6	17.2	16.9
Interest	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.5
Capital expenditure	2.1	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.3	2.1	1.5
Primary balance	-1.3	-0.3	0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.8	-1.6	-1.1	-0.6
Overall balance	-3.9	-2.8	-2.3	-2.3	-2.4	-3.0	-4.0	-3.7	-3.1
Central national government debt	38.6	36.5	34.5	37.1	40.2	45.0	46.0	47.0	50.7
Domestic	27.8	26.2	25.6	27.4	28.5	28.9	30.5	31.5	33.9
External	10.8	10.3	8.9	9.6	11.8	16.1	15.5	15.5	16.8
Money and credit	**Percentages of GDP, end-of-year stocks**								
Domestic credit	41.2	43.2	46.2	48.1	51.0	54.4	55.0	56.7	58.3
To the public sector	8.8	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.6	7.5	8.0	8.6	8.3
To the private sector	32.4	35.0	37.8	39.5	42.4	46.9	47.1	48.1	50.0
Others									
Monetary base	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.6	9.2	10.3	9.8	9.7	10.0
M2	36.1	37.7	40.8	43.6	44.5	47.5	47.3	47.5	46.9

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures.
a/ Preliminary figures.
b/ Based on figures in local currency at constant 2015 prices.
c/ Based on values calculated in national currency and expressed in current dollars.
d/ Includes errors and omissions.
e/ A minus sign (-) indicates an increase in reserve assets.
f/ Annual average, weighted by the value of goods exports and imports.
g/ Economic Development Division, calculations for Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2019.
h/ Nationwide total.
i/ Municipal capitals. Includes hidden unemployment.
j/ Includes an adjustment to the figures for the economically active population for exclusion of hidden unemployment. Thirteen metropolitan areas.
k/ 90-day fixed-term certificates of deposit, weighted average.
l/ Weighted average of consumer, prime, ordinary and treasury lending rates for the working days of the month.

Table 2

COLOMBIA: MAIN QUARTERLY INDICATORS

	Q.1	Q.2	Q.3	Q.4	Q.1	Q.2	Q.3	Q.4	Q.1	Q.2 a/
Gross domestic product (variation from same quarter of preceding year) b/	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.3	2.0	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.8	...
Gross international reserves (millions of dollars)	46 973	47 115	47 547	47 486	47 683	47 538	47 530	47 889	50 329	51 754 c/
Real effective exchange rate (index: 2005=100) d/	102.2	103.2	107.8	109.7	99.4	94.0	94.7	100.7	98.0	100.8 c/
Open unemployment rate e/	11.1	9.7	9.8	9.1	11.4	10.0	10.0	9.8	12.4	...
Employment rate	57.0	59.0	58.1	59.3	56.4	58.2	58.0	58.5	56.0	...
Consumer prices (12-month percentage variation)	4.7	4.0	4.0	4.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.3 c/
Wholesale prices (12-month percentage variation)	1.1	-2.1	1.2	3.28	3.6	7.4	7.2	2.31	4.7	5.3 c/
Average nominal exchange rate (pesos per dollar)	2 920	2 922	2 973	2 985	2 856	2 840	2 961	3 171	3 135	3 234 c/
Average real wage (variation from same quarter of preceding year)	-2.2	0.1	2.0	1.8	0.7	1.8	0.9	0.9	...	...
Nominal interest rates (average annualized percentages)										
Deposit rate f/	6.8	6.2	5.6	5.4	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5 c/
Lending rate g/	15.0	14.0	13.2	12.5	12.1	12.3	12.4	11.7	12.2	12.1 c/
Interbank rate	7.4	6.6	5.5	5.0	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3 c/
Monetary policy rates	7.3	6.6	5.5	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
Sovereign bond spread, Embi + (basis points to end of period) h/	195	203	186	174	182	198	169	231	186	210 c/
Risk premiia on five-year credit default swap (basis points to end of period)	134	136	122	105	107	125	112	160	110	95
International bond issues (millions of dollars)	3 010	350	2 250	2 232	1 371	970	3 445	2 410	2 410	50
Stock price index (national index to end of period, 31 December 2005 = 100)	107	114	117	121	119	131	131	118	137	132
Domestic credit (variation from same quarter of preceding year)	7.5	8.7	10.3	12.4	10.9	8.4	10.6	7.4	8.8 i/	...

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures.
a/ Preliminary figures.
b/ Based on figures in local currency at constant 2015 prices.
c/ Figures as of May.
d/ Quarterly average, weighted by the value of goods exports and imports.
e/ Municipal capitals.
f/ 90-day fixed-term certificates of deposit, weighted average.
g/ Weighted average of consumer, prime, ordinary and treasury lending rates for the working days of the month.
h/ Measured by J.P.Morgan.
i/ Figures as of February.