

COLOMBIA

1. General trends

In combination with a large drop in oil prices, the negative economic impact of the confinement measures that have been taken to cope with the health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have cut short the steady recovery of the Colombian economy. The effects have been felt very strongly in the labour market, whose results for August 2020 showed a decline of 2.4 million formal and informal jobs relative to August 2019, equivalent to 11% of all those in work, while the unemployment rate rose to 16.8%.

GDP grew by 3.3% in 2019, driven by domestic demand. This went together with a growing external deficit and very weak job creation. The branches that expanded most strongly were commerce, public administration, real estate, finance and business activities. Industry, the agricultural sector and mining grew only moderately, while construction declined.

GDP contracted by 15.7% in the second quarter of 2020 year-on-year, as the impact of the lockdown measures implemented amid the pandemic led to the collapse of production and aggregate demand. Sectoral performance varied depending on the ability to carry out activities remotely or the capacity to adapt through the use of technology. Commerce, industry and construction saw the largest contractions, declining by between 25% and 35%. Real estate and financial activities were the only branches that registered moderate growth.

At 3.8%, inflation in 2019 remained within the policy target range of 2% to 4%, although it was driven higher by events that temporarily affected supply and by a further depreciation of the peso. Inflation has slowed in 2020 and in August was up 1.88% year-on-year.

The process of adjusting the public finances continued in 2019, and the fiscal deficit was reduced, so that the fiscal rule targets were met. During 2020, a lower tax take and higher fiscal spending to address COVID-19 and support economic recovery have led the government to waive the fiscal rule for 2020 and 2021, with the unanimous approval of the Fiscal Rule Advisory Committee.

In 2019, the monetary authorities maintained a moderately expansionary stance to help consolidate the recovery. Beginning in the last week of March 2020, monetary policy was boosted by interest rate cuts, changes to legal reserve requirements and expansionary operations involving the issue of peso- and dollar-denominated securities, among other measures, to secure liquidity, support the flow of credit to businesses and households and provide relief to debtors.

The external deficit widened to 4.3% of GDP in 2019, owing mainly to the trade imbalance caused by the decline in exports, which were affected by low international hydrocarbon prices, and by the increase in imports, driven by dynamic domestic demand. Growth in tourism receipts in the services balance and a rise in remittances mitigated the negative performance of the current account. Increased FDI flows comfortably financed the current account deficit.

GDP is expected to fall by about 5.6% in 2020. After more than 100 days of mandatory confinement, construction, some branches of industry and, to a lesser extent, commerce have resumed work under strict biosecurity protocols at workplaces and distancing protocols on public transport. In the second

half of the year, the first signs of recovery were observed, particularly in labour market activity for August, industrial electricity consumption, petrol consumption and household spending.

2. Economic policy

(a) Fiscal policy

The fiscal policy commitment to continuing the gradual reduction in the central government deficit was reaffirmed in 2019, when it narrowed to 2.5% of GDP from 3.1% of GDP at the end of 2018. The decentralized sector ended the year in balance, as the regional and local government deficit (0.4% of GDP), driven up by faster spending to meet the targets of the plan in the subnational administrations' final year of government, was offset by a social security surplus of the same magnitude (0.4%). In summary, the consolidated public sector improved its performance, reducing its deficit from 2.9% of GDP in 2018 to 2.4% of GDP in 2019.

Total central government revenues were 16.2% of GDP in 2019, an increase of 0.9 percentage points. Capital income and the State share of Ecopetrol profits largely explain the increase in revenue, although the rise in tax proceeds also owed something to increased collection resulting from tax normalization for capital abroad, a measure that came into effect in 2019 under Law 1943 of 2018 (Financing Act), whose unconstitutional aspects were corrected by Law 2010 of 2019 (Economic Growth Act). Total central government expenditure, meanwhile, rose by 0.2 percentage points to 18.6% of GDP, driven by higher investment spending (0.2 percentage points) and interest payments (0.1 percentage points), while operating expenditure declined (0.2 percentage points) because some spending that was conditional on the additional revenue to be raised by the Financing Act was frozen.

Before the first quarter of 2020 was over, the health emergency and mandatory confinement measures and their effect on economic activity, together with the cost of fiscal support measures to mitigate their impact on households and businesses, changed the government's financial plan in respect of revenue, expenditure and borrowing.

At the request of the government, the Fiscal Rule Advisory Committee decided to waive the fiscal rule for 2020 and 2021 in view of the magnitude of the central government deficit (estimated at -8.2% for 2020), which exceeded the allowed deficit of -6.1%. The decision was based on the decline in tax revenues expected from the shutdown of economic activity and the relief measures and payment periods granted, in combination with the cost of measures to address the emergency and support the revival of economic activity.

Tax revenues, originally estimated at 14.3% of GDP, are expected to fall by about 2% of GDP in 2020. At the same time, the fiscal cost of the package of measures to deal with the pandemic and its economic consequences stands at 2.7% of GDP as of July 2020. These resources have been used primarily to strengthen health services, increase existing transfers to vulnerable populations, create new transfers for the population earning income from informal activities and not benefiting from existing transfers, and ease financial conditions for firms so that they can maintain employment, initially through extensive loan guarantees and later through direct financing worth 1.6 times the minimum wage for each worker on the payroll of firms whose sales have declined by more than 20%, spread over four instalments from May to August.

To finance this set of measures, the Emergency Mitigation Fund (FOME) was created and resources were borrowed from the Oil Saving and Stabilization Fund (FAEP) (1.2% of GDP) and the Territorial

Entities National Pension Fund (FONPET) (0.27% of GDP). This was supplemented by resources from solidarity bonds, compulsory investment by lending institutions (1.0% of GDP). A compulsory contribution for four months by public sector employees of the national government with high monthly salaries, accounting for 0.3% of GDP, was declared unconstitutional and any sums already deducted will be considered advanced tax payments. Counting other minor items, the FOME has accumulated the equivalent of 2.7% of GDP. The resources allocated to credit guarantees, meanwhile, were equivalent to some 0.4% of GDP, allowing guarantees to be provided for loans up to a total value of 4.8% of GDP.

Net central government debt increased from 46.8% of GDP in the last quarter of 2018 to 48.5% in the same period of 2019, with domestic debt accounting for 33.2 percentage points of this and external debt for 15.3 percentage points. Strict compliance with the fiscal rule since 2011 and timely repayment of debt have left the country well placed to access international financing in terms of amounts, timing and cost. The government estimates that its debt will increase by about 10 percentage points of GDP in 2020. With regard to multilateral financing, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the renewal of and access to the US\$ 10.8 billion flexible credit line granted after the 2009 crisis for good macroeconomic performance and management, increasing the amount to US\$ 17.3 billion in September. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) granted a fast disbursement loan of US\$ 1.1 billion for health services and assistance to the vulnerable population, and the World Bank granted a credit of US\$ 250 million. On 1 June, Colombia issued US\$ 2.5 billion in bonds on the international markets, comprising US\$ 1.5 billion at a 31-year maturity and US\$ 1 billion at an 11-year maturity, at very favourable interest rates (4.202% and 3.125%, respectively).

The risk rating agencies have downgraded their assessment of the country's credit quality in 2020, mainly owing to the cost to the public finances of measures to mitigate the pandemic. In March, Standard & Poor's kept its rating at BBB, changing the outlook from stable to negative; in April, Fitch Rating cut its rating from BBB to BBB-. The rating agencies emphasize the soundness of the country's macroeconomic management but consider that additional adjustment measures will be needed to deal with the fall in revenues, the additional spending needs due to COVID-19 and the persistent trade deficit.

(b) Monetary policy

Monetary policy remained moderately expansionary in 2019 to allow the economic recovery to gather strength. The intervention interest rate was kept at 4.75% between March 2018 and February 2020. Starting in March 2020, the monetary authorities began a phase of strong expansion to provide the economy with plentiful liquidity and to secure the functioning of the payment system and the credit market through the use of different intervention tools.

The board of directors of the central bank reduced intervention interest rates on seven successive occasions between March and September by a cumulative 300 basis points to 1.75%. There were also reductions in the reserve requirements for current accounts (from 11% to 8%) and time deposits (from 4.5% to 3.5%), and financial institutions were required to invest these resources in solidarity bonds to fund FOME. In addition, expansion operations were carried out with peso and dollar securities, other economic agents were authorized to access monetary expansion operations, maturities were extended and other forms of collateral were allowed. The central bank estimates that these measures together expanded liquidity by the equivalent of 3.7% of GDP.

In 2019, the domestic currency loan portfolio grew by 4.2% in real terms. Consumer loans increased the most (12.4%), followed by housing loans (6.2%). Annual portfolio growth as of June 2020

was 10.0%; consumer and housing loans maintained their dynamism, growing by 12.1% and 8.2% respectively, and commercial loans increased by 9.6%, well above their average growth in 2019 (1.2%).

The non-performing loan portfolio decreased by 1.9% in 2019, driven down by an increase in the share of housing loans in this portfolio (8.9%), which was more than offset by the decrease in the share of commercial loans (-5.6%) and microcredit (-4.4%). In the first half of 2020 the risk portfolio fell by 5.7%, reflecting the decline in the consumer risk portfolio (-27.5%) and microcredit (-13.3%) and an increase in the housing risk portfolio (34.9%).

(c) Exchange-rate policy

Like other currencies in Latin America, the Colombian peso depreciated against the dollar, losing an average of 11% in 2019 as that currency strengthened internationally because of international political uncertainty, in addition to trade tensions with China and Colombia's large external deficit. As in other countries of the region, the depreciation of the peso in the last months of 2019 was related to the instability caused by social protests.

In 2020, the sharp fall in oil prices explains the further depreciation of the peso. Between June 2019 and June 2020, the exchange rate weakened from a monthly average of 3,256 to 3,693 pesos to the dollar, equivalent to a nominal depreciation of 13.4% which, corrected for the net effect of the country's prices against those of its trading partners, means a real depreciation of 10.7%.

In order to provide the market with instruments to hedge exchange-rate risk and provide dollar liquidity, in March the central bank announced the sale of dollars through delivery forward contracts worth US\$ 1 billion. Likewise in March, the central bank board of directors sold US\$ 400 million through swaps.

3. The main variables

(a) The external sector

The current account deficit widened from -3.9% to -4.3% of GDP between 2018 and 2019. The deterioration of more than US\$ 3 billion in the trade balance was the result of buoyant domestic demand driving up imports, lower export prices and economic weakness in Colombia's trading partners. The dollar value of goods exports fell by 4.6% in 2019. Lower values were recorded for exports of coal, oil and industrial products. The dollar value of imports rose by 2.5%, owing to increased external purchases of fuel, transport equipment and consumer goods. Conversely, the value of imported inputs and capital goods was lower.

In 2019, the main destinations for goods and services exports were the United States (29.2%), China (11.6%) and Panama (6%); China was the fastest-growing destination, with an annual rate of increase of 9.4%, while Panama decreased by 19.8%.

Several factors mitigated the deficit on the goods account in 2019. First, the dynamism of business services exports, particularly call centres, and of sales of travel and transport services because of an upsurge in tourism reduced the deficit on the services balance. Second, a decrease in the profits of foreign companies operating in hydrocarbon activities resulted in lower profit remittances and thus a smaller factor income deficit. Lastly, increased remittances from Colombian workers abroad contributed to the rise in current transfers.

The increase in the current deficit was financed largely by higher foreign direct investment (FDI) flows and, to a lesser extent, by long-term and portfolio borrowing. FDI totalled US\$ 14.493 billion in 2019, or about 4.5% of GDP, a rise of more than 25% on the previous year. The destinations of these investment flows were: mining and oil (31.9%), financial and business services (20.6%), commerce and hotels (14.7%), manufacturing (10.7%), transport and communications (8.6%), electricity (2.1%) and other sectors (11.4%).

The strategy of accumulating international reserves implemented several years ago by the central bank has proved its worth in the new context of the global economic crisis. At the end of 2019, international reserves stood at US\$ 53.167 billion, an increase of US\$ 4.774 billion over the year.

Exports and imports fell sharply in the early months of 2020. In July, external sales were down by 21.7% compared to July 2019. Exports of fuels and mining products contracted (-44.8%), as did manufactures (-21.4%), while agricultural products, food and beverages and coffee, in particular, increased (16.5%). Purchases abroad of fuels, products from the extractive and manufacturing industries and agricultural products also decreased (-58.9%, -17.3% and -7.0%, respectively). Overall, imports were down by 20.1% in July 2020 from the same month the previous year.

(b) Economic activity

The Colombian economy grew by 3.3% in 2019, showing a sustained recovery following growth of 1.8% in 2017 and 2.5% in 2018. Domestic demand led the way with increases in household consumption (4.5%), government consumption (4.3%) and investment in machinery and equipment (4.3%). These results contrast with weak export growth (2.6%) and stronger imports (8.1%).

The branches of activity with the strongest growth in 2019 were financial activities (5.7%), public administration (4.9%), commerce (4.8%) and professional activities (3.7%), which contributed 2.1 percentage points to the total growth of the economy. The still modest growth of industry was driven by the wood products (3.1%) and food (2.9%) subsectors; coffee led the way with an improved performance (10.5%) in the agricultural sector, and the growth in oil extraction (2.4%) reversed the downward trend in the extractive sector. Construction was the only sector to experience a decline in 2019, mainly because of the poor performance of residential construction owing to a surplus of housing stock for middle- and high-income households.

GDP growth in the first quarter of 2020 was 1.1%, which was the first sign of the economic impacts of COVID-19 and the mandatory preventive isolation measures introduced on 20 March. In the second quarter of 2020, GDP contracted by 15.7% year-on-year, reflecting the collapse of economic activity resulting from prolonged confinement to homes and the difficulty or impossibility of teleworking for some sectors. The depth of the contraction is explained by the plunge in commerce (-34.3%), construction (-31.7%) and industry (-25.4%), which account for nearly 50% of GDP. Declines were also registered in artistic and recreational activities (-37.1%), mining (-21.5%) and professional, scientific and technical activities (-10.2%), although the impact on overall performance was less pronounced as they account for a smaller share of GDP. There was moderate growth in two sectors: real estate activities (2.0%) and financial and insurance activities (1.0%). On the demand side, figures for the second quarter of 2020 showed a year-on-year drop in domestic demand (-16.9%) as a result of shrinking consumption (-12.5%) and gross capital formation (-32.2%). Household consumption contracted (-15.9%) while final government consumption remained unchanged from the previous year (2.9%). The components of fixed investment, housing, machinery and equipment, and civil works all fell sharply.

(c) **Prices, wages and employment**

The consumer price index had risen by 3.8% by the end of 2019, within the range of 2% to 4% set by the authorities, despite inflationary pressures during the year. The price effects of cyclical variations in the agricultural supply and the impact of unfavourable weather conditions drove food prices up and only weakened in the last few months of the year, the result being an annual increase of 5.8%; the alcoholic beverages and tobacco sector (5.5%) and the education sector (5.7%) also recorded above-average increases.

The impact of confinement on activity in many sectors was reflected in prices. In June 2020, the consumer price index recorded a negative change (-0.38%). The increase in food prices slowed from March (2.2%), moderating to 2.0% in April, 0.04% in May and -0.1% in June, as a result of the relief measures taken to ease the effects of confinement. The apparel group recorded the largest negative price change in June (-2.1%) because of the demand shock caused by COVID-19. There were also declines in the prices of furniture and household items (-0.58%), housing and public services (-0.53%) and transport (-0.53%). Annual inflation stood at 1.88% as of August, below the 3.0% target.

The gradual worsening of unemployment that began in 2016 accelerated in 2019; there was a drop in the numbers of employed in rural areas and changes of a more structural character involving a shift towards less labour-intensive technologies. Between the last rolling quarter of 2018 and the same period in 2019, labour force participation fell from 64.4% to 63.8%, employment fell from 58.5% to 57.7% and unemployment rose from 9.2% to 9.5%. The sectors where employment increased the most were electricity, gas and water (10.9%) and tourism (6.9%). The proportion of own-account workers fell from 43.6% to 42.3% between 2018 and 2019.

The labour market situation in May 2020 was described as catastrophic, with unemployment reaching 21.4%. The consequences of the lockdown measures on the labour market were seen in the destruction of 4.9 million jobs, reducing the numbers of employed persons in urban areas by a quarter; of those left jobless, 38% transitioned to unemployment and 62% to inactivity.

The government began to take employment protection measures in March: it prohibited the dismissal of workers in public bodies, while in the private sector it initially made this subject to review by the Ministry of Labour, and it suspended the obligation to contribute to the pension system for three months. In May, it created the Formal Employment Support Programme (PAEF), which pays all companies 40% of the minimum wage (350,000 pesos) for three months, subsequently extended to four months, for each worker kept on the payroll during this period. It is estimated that this measure will benefit 6.5 million workers and cost 0.9% of GDP. To supplement this, the government will pay each company the equivalent of 25% of the minimum wage for each formal employee to go towards the payment of the mid-year bonus for June and December 2020.

The labour market figures for August reflect an improvement. Unemployment stood at 16.8%, which is 6 percentage points higher than the year-earlier period but down from the figures registered between April and June 2020.

Table 1
COLOMBIA: MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 a/
	Annual growth rates b/								
Gross domestic product	6.9	3.9	5.1	4.5	3.0	2.1	1.4	2.5	3.3
Per capita gross domestic product	5.9	3.0	4.2	3.4	1.8	0.7	-0.2	1.0	1.9
Gross domestic product, by sector									
Agriculture, livestock, hunting, forestry and fishing	1.9	2.5	7.5	2.9	4.3	2.7	5.6	2.4	1.9
Mining and quarrying	14.4	5.4	5.3	-1.3	-1.1	-2.9	-5.8	-1.9	2.0
Manufacturing	5.6	0.8	1.5	2.9	2.0	3.2	-1.8	1.8	1.6
Electricity, gas and water	3.1	2.1	3.7	3.4	-0.7	0.0	2.9	2.5	2.8
Construction	6.2	5.9	11.3	8.9	6.3	3.6	-2.0	-0.4	-2.0
Wholesale and retail commerce, restaurants and hotels	6.8	3.9	5.2	5.0	3.2	3.7	1.8	2.8	5.1
Transport, storage and communications	8.5	2.6	5.9	5.1	2.7	-0.1	1.2	2.7	3.3
Financial institutions, insurance, real estate and business services	5.9	4.6	5.3	6.1	3.0	1.3	3.0	3.2	3.8
Community, social and personal services	5.8	5.1	5.6	5.4	5.2	3.9	3.3	4.2	4.7
Gross domestic product, by type of expenditure									
Final consumption expenditure	5.7	5.5	5.4	4.3	3.4	1.6	2.3	3.7	4.4
Government consumption	6.5	4.8	8.9	4.7	4.9	1.8	3.6	7.0	4.3
Private consumption	5.5	5.6	4.6	4.2	3.1	1.6	2.1	3.0	4.5
Gross capital formation	18.5	2.9	7.8	12.0	-1.2	-0.2	-3.2	2.1	4.0
Exports (goods and services)	12.3	4.5	4.7	-0.3	1.7	-0.2	2.6	0.9	2.6
Imports (goods and services)	20.2	9.4	8.5	7.8	-1.1	-3.5	1.0	5.8	8.1
Investment and saving c/	Percentages of GDP								
Gross capital formation	23.0	22.1	22.2	24.0	23.8	23.2	21.6	21.3	22.3
National saving	20.1	19.0	18.9	18.8	17.4	18.9	18.3	17.4	18.0
External saving	2.9	3.1	3.3	5.2	6.3	4.3	3.3	3.9	4.2
Balance of payments	Millions of dollars								
Current account balance	-9 803	-11 362	-12 501	-19 764	-18 564	-12 036	-10 241	-13 117	-13 740
Goods balance	6 137	4 956	3 179	-4 641	-13 479	-9 176	-4 470	-5 144	-8 451
Exports, f.o.b.	58 262	61 604	60 282	56 899	38 572	34 063	39 777	44 440	42 368
Imports, f.o.b.	52 126	56 648	57 103	61 539	52 051	43 239	44 247	49 584	50 818
Services trade balance	-5 501	-6 142	-6 343	-7 222	-4 788	-3 530	-3 977	-3 852	-3 805
Income balance	-15 490	-15 008	-14 224	-12 523	-5 727	-5 229	-8 405	-11 764	-10 189
Net current transfers	5 051	4 833	4 887	4 622	5 430	5 898	6 611	7 643	8 704
Capital and financial balance d/	13 545	16 768	19 447	24 200	18 980	12 201	10 786	14 303	17 074
Net foreign direct investment	6 227	15 646	8 558	12 270	7 506	9 330	10 147	6 409	11 342
Other capital movements	7 318	1 122	10 889	11 931	11 473	2 871	639	7 895	5 731
Overall balance	3 742	5 406	6 946	4 437	415	165	545	1 187	3 333
Variation in reserve assets e/	-3 742	-5 406	-6 946	-4 437	-415	-165	-545	-1 187	-3 333
Other external-sector indicators									
Real effective exchange rate (index: 2005=100) f/	79.5	76.5	80.0	83.0	99.5	102.4	97.7	96.1	101.2
Terms of trade for goods (index: 2010=100)	114.8	108.5	100.7	91.6	69.0	68.2	79.7	87.2	86.0
Net resource transfer (millions of dollars)	-1 945	1 760	5 224	11 678	13 252	6 973	2 381	2 540	6 885
Total gross external debt (millions of dollars)	75 622	78 784	92 073	101 404	110 502	120 153	124 636	132 016	138 158
Employment g/	Average annual rates								
Labour force participation rate	63.7	64.5	64.2	64.2	64.7	64.5	64.4	64.0	62.9
Unemployment rate h/	10.1	9.7	9.0	8.5	8.3	8.6	8.8	9.1	9.9
Visible underemployment rate	11.2	12.1	11.8	10.1	10.3	9.9	9.5	8.9	9.6

Table 1 (concluded)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Prices	Annual percentages								
Variation in consumer prices (December-December)	3.7	2.4	1.9	3.7	6.8	5.7	4.2	3.1	3.8
Variation in producer prices (December-December)	8.7	-4.9	-0.1	6.0	5.5	2.2	3.3	2.3	6.1
Variation in nominal exchange rate (annual average)	-2.7	-2.8	4.0	7.1	37.1	11.1	-3.3	0.3	11.0
Variation in average real wage	0.3	1.1	2.7	0.4	1.2	-2.2	3.1	1.1	0.8
Nominal deposit rate i/	4.2	5.4	4.2	4.1	4.6	6.8	6.0	4.7	4.5
Nominal lending rate j/	12.8	13.7	12.2	12.1	12.1	14.7	13.7	12.1	11.8
Central national government	Percentages of GDP								
Total revenue	15.2	16.1	16.8	16.5	16.1	14.9	15.7	15.1	16.2
Tax revenue	13.5	14.3	14.1	14.2	14.5	13.6	13.8	13.7	14.0
Total expenditure	18.1	18.4	19.1	18.9	19.1	18.9	19.3	18.2	18.6
Current expenditure	15.6	15.6	16.0	15.9	16.1	16.6	17.2	16.7	16.9
Interest	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.9
Capital expenditure	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.3	2.1	1.5	1.7
Primary balance	-0.3	0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.8	-1.6	-1.1	-0.6	0.4
Overall balance	-2.8	-2.3	-2.3	-2.4	-3.0	-4.0	-3.7	-3.1	-2.5
Central national government debt	36.5	34.5	37.1	40.2	45.0	46.0	44.9	48.6	48.4
Domestic	26.2	25.6	27.4	28.5	28.9	30.5	29.4	31.8	32.0
External	10.3	8.9	9.6	11.8	16.1	15.5	15.5	16.8	16.4
Money and credit	Percentages of GDP, end-of-year stocks								
Domestic credit	43.1	46.1	48.0	51.0	54.4	55.0	58.4	57.9	60.6
To the public sector	8.1	8.4	8.5	8.6	7.5	8.0	8.6	8.2	9.2
To the private sector	35.0	37.7	39.5	42.4	46.9	47.1	49.8	49.7	51.5
Others									
Monetary base	8.3	8.5	8.5	9.2	10.3	9.8	9.6	9.9	10.4
M2	37.6	40.7	43.6	44.5	47.5	47.3	47.5	46.6	47.0

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/ Nationwide total.

h/ Open unemployment rate includes an adjustment for workforce figures due to exclusion of hidden unemployment.

i/ 90-day fixed-term certificates of deposit, weighted average..

j/ Weighted average of consumer, prime, ordinary and treasury lending rates for the working days of the month.

Table 2
COLOMBIA: MAIN QUARTERLY INDICATORS

	2018				2019				2020	
	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/	1.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.5	1.1	...
Gross international reserves (millions of dollars)	47 683	47 538	47 530	47 889	50 329	51 985	52 749	53 074	53 497	55 622
Real effective exchange rate (index: 2005=100) c/	96.1	93.7	94.5	100.0	97.5	100.7	102.3	104.1	106.7	113.3 d/
Open unemployment rate e/	10.1	8.8	8.9	8.5	11.2	9.5	10.0	8.9	11.9	...
Employment rate	56.4	58.2	58.0	58.5	56.0	56.6	56.2	57.7	53.8	...
Consumer prices (12-month percentage variation)	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.8	3.8	3.8	2.2
Wholesale prices (12-month percentage variation)	3.6	7.4	7.2	2.31	4.7	3.8	3.8	6.09	-0.2	-4.8 f/
Average nominal exchange rate (pesos per dollar)	2 856	2 840	2 961	3 171	3 135	3 240	3 346	3 404	3 543	3 911 d/
Average real wage (variation from same quarter of preceding year)	-2.2	0.1	2.0	1.8	0.6	1.7	0.9	1.0	2.1	...
Nominal interest rates (average annualized percentages)										
Deposit rate g/	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4 d/
Lending rate h/	12.1	12.3	12.4	11.7	12.2	11.9	11.8	11.2	11.1	9.3 f/
Interbank rate	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	3.5 d/
Monetary policy rates	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.3
Sovereign bond spread, Embi + (basis points to end of period) i/	182	198	169	231	184	181	183	161	376	293
Risk premiia on five-year credit default swap (basis points to end of period)	107	125	110	157	111	92	93	72	232	161
International bond issues (millions of dollars)	1 371	970	-	3 445	2 410	50	1 383	950	4 279	4 900
Stock price index (national index to end of period, 31 December 2005 = 100)	119	131	131	117	137	133	135
Domestic credit (variation from same quarter of preceding year)	10.9	8.4	10.6	7.4	9.5	10.0	9.0	11.6	11.5	...

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/ Quarterly average, weighted by the value of goods exports and imports.

d/ Figures as of May.

e/ Nationwide total.

f/ Figures as of April.

g/ 90-day fixed-term certificates of deposit, weighted average.

h/ Weighted average of consumer, prime, ordinary and treasury lending rates for the working days of the month.

i/ Measured by J.P.Morgan.