COLOMBIA

1. General trends

The restrictions on mobility to address the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic weighed heavily on economic activity, which contracted by 6.8% in 2020. A number of fiscal and monetary measures softened the impact of lost household and corporate income, but failed to prevent the sharp drop in consumption and the even greater decline in investment. Construction, mining and commerce recorded the largest decreases, while other production sectors were better able to cope with lockdown measures (agriculture) or were better adapted to remote working conditions (finance and real estate).

The recovery continued in the first half of 2021 with GDP growth of 8.8% compared to the year-earlier period, driven by the rebound in household consumption and investment dynamics. A prolonged strike, road blockades and public order issues, along with the massive third wave of the pandemic which only began to subside in July, disrupted growth, but failed to reverse the positive trend seen in the first quarter of 2021. The greater value of exports, boosted by the recovery in external demand and high oil and coffee prices, added to this favourable growth scenario.

Inflation in 2020 (1.6%) was the lowest in Colombia's recent history and below the policy target of 3% owing to the sharp decline in aggregate demand. By contrast, external and domestic factors have driven inflation in 2021. Prices reflected a 3.63% year-on-year increase in the first half of 2021 and are expected to end the year above the target.

The fiscal situation deteriorated in 2020 because of increased spending to tackle the pandemic and its profound impact on economic activity and government revenues. The central government deficit rose to 7.8% and the debt level increased to about 65% of GDP. The government's attempt in March 2021 to secure the approval of an ambitious tax reform in terms of revenue collection and increasing the number of taxpayers failed because of strong opposition from various sectors. Rating agencies downgraded the country's debt rating, resulting in the loss of the investment grade status achieved more than a decade ago.

As of the last week of March 2020, the monetary authorities adopted an expansionary stance that lasted throughout the year and until the first half of 2021. Lower interest rates, changes in reserve requirements to allow greater financial intermediation and the purchase of peso- and dollar-denominated securities, among other measures, ensured liquidity, supported the flow of credit to businesses and households, and provided relief to debtors. The persistence of inflation and upward revisions of growth estimates have reduced the scope for maintaining such a generous monetary stance.

Progress in the vaccination plan and the response to protesters' demands have helped economic activity to regain the momentum of the first quarter. Against the backdrop of improving external demand, the recovery in consumer and business confidence and the increase in household spending support the projection for growth of 7.5% in 2021, which contrasts with the forecast for a slower recovery in employment.

2. Economic policy

(a) Fiscal policy

The fiscal strategy to address the pandemic required extraordinary spending by the central government which, combined with weaker tax revenues owing to the slump in economic activity, resulted in a sharp deterioration in the fiscal accounts. The fiscal rule was suspended in 2020 and 2021 to ensure the necessary flexibility for fiscal stimulus to mitigate the effects of the crisis. Expansionary fiscal policy was implemented throughout 2021 and from 2022 onward adjustment is expected with a new, stricter fiscal rule that incorporates targets for the level of public debt into those relating to the fiscal deficit, and that relies on a more autonomous Fiscal Rule Advisory Committee.

The central government deficit rose from 2.5% of GDP in 2019 to 7.8% in 2020, a deterioration deriving from a 1 percentage point reduction in revenues and a 4.3 percentage point increase in spending. Tax revenues declined by 0.9 percentage points owing to several factors: the impact of accelerated tax refunds to resolve taxpayers' cash flow issues; lower revenue from value added tax (VAT) owing to the slump in domestic demand and from import taxes, which also fell sharply, and some exemptions approved to boost the recovery. Capital income declined by 0.1 percentage points owing to lower financial returns. The cost of programmes to finance health expenditure arising from the pandemic and to mitigate its impact on the poorest households and on businesses accounted for an additional 4.0 percentage points of GDP in operating expenditure, particularly transfers. In addition to the increased allocations for pension payments, this rise in spending was channelled through the Emergency Mitigation Fund (FOME), a mechanism created by the government to manage the resources allocated to address the pandemic and its effects. Central government investment spending climbed by about 10% and contributed an additional 0.3 percentage points to the fiscal stimulus in 2020.

The government was able to meet increased resource needs through flexible domestic and external sources of funding. Gross central government debt increased by 14.5 percentage points in 2020 to 64.8% of GDP. Domestic debt grew by 7.6 percentage points because of placements in the domestic market through auctions, while external debt increased by 6.9 percentage points. While most of the external debt increase is explained by the depreciation of the peso (4.3 percentage points), new debt issuance also contributed.

The positive balance sheets of regional and local governments, and for social security, eased the sizeable central government deficit slightly. The surplus recorded by regional and local governments (0.1%) derived from the slow pace of implementation, which is common in the first of the four years of administration and which in 2020 was also limited by restrictions on mobility. With regard to social security, the positive balance (0.5%) is explained by the higher transfers made by the central government and territorial entities for the payment of pensions, as the number of requests for withdrawal by members decreased. By contrast, in 2020 the fiscal deficit of public enterprises and the rest of the public sector resulted in the further widening of the non-financial public sector deficit, which came to 7.6% of GDP, 5.2 percentage points above the 2019 figure.

The medium-term fiscal framework, presented in June 2021, contains the fiscal policy road map for the next 10 years. According to this road map, in 2021, and to a lesser extent in 2022, the government will maintain additional spending to protect the most vulnerable families and boost economic activity. As of 2023, the adjustment is expected to be accelerated through lower public spending and an increase in permanent government revenues. In order to meet the fiscal deficit target of 8.6% for 2021, the Social Investment Act (Law No. 2155), which seeks to achieve social, economic and fiscal objectives simultaneously, was passed. The main social objective is to increase public spending to reduce poverty, while the economic objective is to restore employment and economic momentum, and the fiscal objective is to build fiscal sustainability. This law seeks revenue equivalent to 1.3% of GDP (with more than 70% of resources coming from the corporate sector).

On 19 May 2021, Standard & Poor's downgraded Colombia's long-term foreign currency sovereign credit rating from BBB- to BB+, with a stable outlook. A few weeks later, on 1 July 2021, Fitch Ratings also downgraded the country's long-term foreign and local currency debt ratings from BBB- to BB+, with a stable outlook. According to these agencies, the increase in the fiscal deficit and public debt, along with uncertainty about the resumption of fiscal adjustment, explain their decisions, which entail the loss of the country's investment grade rating. Moody's rating agency announced that it would make its assessment once the tax reform bill had been adopted, and when this had been done it maintained its rating.

(b) Monetary policy

To mitigate the effects of the pandemic, the monetary authorities maintained an expansionary policy in 2020 and extended it throughout 2021 in order to help consolidate the recovery. In addition to increasing liquidity, monetary policy has sought to stabilize the foreign exchange and public and private debt markets, and to protect the payment system.

Since 2020, in order to increase liquidity and direct resources to programmes addressing the pandemic, the reserve requirement for current accounts had been reduced (from 11% to 8%) along with that of time deposits (from 4.5% to 3.5%), and financial institutions were required to invest those resources in solidarity bonds to fund FOME. In addition, expansion operations were carried out with peso- and dollar-denominated securities, other economic agents were authorized to access monetary expansion operations, maturities were extended and other forms of collateral were allowed. In December 2020, US$ 5.4 billion was disbursed from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Flexible Credit Line to reduce uncertainty about the country's external financing and confirm its ability to make payments.

In order to encourage an economic recovery, the central bank increased banks' intermediation capacity by reducing reserve requirements and cut its benchmark interest rate on seven successive occasions between March and September by a cumulative 250 basis points to 1.75%, maintaining this level in 2021.

The benchmark rate cut was passed on to the interest rates applied to different types of credit, which maintained positive annual growth rates despite the sharp drop in economic activity. Following a significant decline in credit disbursements in the second quarter of 2020, when constraints on economy activity were the tightest, the monetary stimulus was reflected in the recovery in these disbursements in the second half of the year. At the end of 2020, the total portfolio in local currency had grown by 4.9% year-on-year, driven by commercial loans (6.1%) and the mortgage portfolio (5.4%), with consumer credit (3.1%) and microcredit (1.7%) showing less momentum. In 2021, the total portfolio as a percentage of GDP surpassed pre-pandemic levels and grew by 3.1% year-on-year in the first week of August. Also noteworthy is the stronger growth of the mortgage portfolio (9.2%), driven by government programmes that promote new home purchases.

The non-performing loan portfolio grew by 19.4% year-on-year in 2020 as a result of an increase in all components, but mainly in consumer loans (35.4%) and commercial loans (12.0%). The government created a programme in support of debtors (PAD) to allow lending institutions to grant debtors extensions for the payment of obligations or to redefine lending conditions while overcoming the reduction in income caused by the pandemic. PAD, which expired at the end of August 2021, stabilized the growth in the non-performing loan portfolio.

(c) Exchange-rate policy

The collapse in economic activity caused by the pandemic, the widespread perception of increased risk and the high volatility of international markets led to a sharp depreciation in the currencies of the region's main economies in 2020. One of these currencies was the Colombian peso, which depreciated by an average of 12.5% in nominal terms and was also influenced by the fall in oil prices owing to weak global fuel demand.

In order to stabilize the exchange-rate market, the central bank moved swiftly to include several mechanisms to provide liquidity in dollars, without affecting international reserve levels, in the package of pandemic measures. These actions, together with some factors that were consolidated in the first half of 2021, such as higher oil prices, higher remittance inflows and, in general, the improvement in the terms of trade, contained the peso's depreciation for the remainder of the year. In the short term, the weakness of the peso is associated with uncertainty about social protests, the outcome of the tax reform and the loss of investment grade status.

3. The main variables

(a) The external sector

The current account deficit as a percentage of GDP narrowed from 4.4% in 2019 to 3.3% at the end of 2020, owing mainly to the reduction of one percentage point of GDP in the factor income deficit. The profits from oil, financial services, transport and communications companies with investments abroad declined owing to the slump in economic activity in 2020, so their outward remittances were lower.

In 2020, the smaller trade deficit also contributed, albeit to a lesser extent, to the decline in the external deficit. The reduction in the value of imports as a result of the collapse in economic activity was greater than the decrease in value of exports. Sales of fuels, extractive industry products and industrial products abroad fell sharply as a result of lower external demand and, in the case of oil and coal, because of lower prices. By contrast, exports of agricultural products, such as coffee, bananas, sugar and beef, along with other food and beverages, increased but failed to offset the decline in exports of hydrocarbons and manufactured goods. The main destination countries for goods and services exports were the United States (28.7%), China (8.9%) and Ecuador (4.7%).

The larger surplus in current transfers in 2020 also contributed to the reduction in the external deficit, mainly because of the growth in the remittances of workers (particularly those residing in the United States), which continued to trend upward even in the pandemic.

The financial account of the balance of payments shows that the smaller current account deficit was financed with net capital inflows equivalent to 3.0% of GDP, resulting from debt placements, external credit disbursements and foreign direct investment FDI inflows. In order to guarantee financing resources against the backdrop of the loss of income and the increase in expenditure to tackle the pandemic, placements of public debt securities and loan disbursements amounted to more than US$ 18 billion.

FDI, which has been the most important source of external financing, fell by 46.3% in 2020 to US$ 7.69 billion. By economic activity, the FDI received in this period was destined for financial and business services (28%), mining (23%) and trade and hotels (11%).

The government continued to accumulate international reserves in 2020, reflecting an increase of US$ 4.328 billion over the year to US$ 57.495 billion at the end of 2020.

The current account deficit increased in the first half of 2021. The improvement in the terms of trade from high prices for coffee, coal and oil on international markets was accompanied by increases in the prices of other commodities and in transport costs, as well as problems in global supply chains for some essential goods. The greater current account deficit in the first months of 2021 reflected the recovery which in turn was evident in the increase in imports and FDI profit remittances partly offset by an increase of over 30% in workers' remittances. The current account deficit is estimated at 4.5% of GDP for 2021.

(b) Economic activity

Economic activity declined by 6.8% in 2020 as a result of the impact of the pandemic on the various components of GDP. Gross capital formation was one of the most affected items, reflecting a reduction of more than 20% and a greater contribution to the economic contraction owing to the decline in all its components: housing, other buildings and machinery and equipment. Private consumption contracted by 5.6%, while public consumption expanded by 3.7% because of the extraordinary expenses incurred to address the pandemic, which lessened the fall in total consumption (-3.9%). With regard to the net performance of the external sector, both exports and imports contracted (by 18.3% and 17.3%, respectively) owing to weak external demand, given the global nature of the downturn and low international hydrocarbon prices.

The sectors reflecting the largest decreases —construction (-25.8%), mining (-16.0%), commerce (-15.2%) and industry (-7.7%)— were also the hardest hit by the restrictions on mobility and the contraction in domestic and external demand. The best performers were sectors that were able to cope with isolation measures, such as agriculture (2.6%), or those that were able to adapt to remote working, such as finance (2.1%) and real estate (1.9%).

A sustained recovery was confirmed in the first half of 2021 with GDP growth of 8.8% compared to the year-earlier period, driven by the rebound in household consumption and the trend in investment. The prolonged strike, road blockades and public order issues, along with the massive third wave of the pandemic which only began to subside in July, disrupted growth, but failed to reverse the trend. The economic activities driving the recovery in the first half of 2021 were: commerce, transport and storage, accommodation and food services (40.3%), manufacturing (32.5%), arts, entertainment and recreation, and other services (83.8%). This period reflects the confirmation of the strong recovery of year-on-year growth in final consumption (21.8%) and gross capital formation (29.5%), along with the rebound in imports (45.8%) and exports (15.4%) driven by high oil and coffee prices.

(c) Prices, wages and employment

At the end of 2020, the consumer price index (CPI) rose by 1.6%, below the long-term inflation target (3.0%). This low inflation rate resulted from the combined effect of the fall in demand, idle production capacity, tax and utility rate relief granted to offset the loss of household income, and the low pass-through of the revaluation of the dollar to prices. These factors offset inflationary pressures from supply constraints also caused by closures and lockdowns.

The acceleration of inflation in 2021 is beginning to cause concern. Prices rose 3.63% year-on-year in June, above the target of 3.0%. This was mainly because of increases in the price of perishable foods, owing to supply difficulties in some cities as a result of the days of protest, the partial withdrawal of utility rate relief and the increase in fuel prices. The increase in the international prices of basic goods and commodities, and higher logistics and transport costs, have accentuated these pressures.

The Colombian labour market had been slowly deteriorating since 2015, when unemployment stood at 8.9% and thereafter, as a result of the slowdown experienced because of lower hydrocarbon prices, grew steadily each year (9.2% in 2016, 9.4% in 2017 and 9.7% in 2018) to 10.5% in 2019. With the arrival of the pandemic, this gradual deterioration accelerated, and the unemployment rate peaked at 21.4% in May 2020, with further destruction of formal jobs. The economic recovery that began to materialize in August 2020 helped to reduce unemployment and the unemployment rate stood at 14.3% for the country as a whole and 16.4% for the 13 main cities at the end of 2020.

Although employment has recovered, this improvement has been slower than the rebound in output. In June 2021, the unemployment rate stood at 14.4%, reflecting a persistent gender gap: in that month, the unemployment rate for women was 19%, compared with 11.2% for men. It also highlights increased informality, which in 2020 rose from 45.3% to 47.3% in the 13 main cities, as the recovery of employment has been mainly in non-wage or informal jobs.

To achieve the 2019 employment level, two million jobs still need to be recovered, 1.4 million of which would correspond to women, who, together with young people, have been the most affected by unemployment. In order to address increased unemployment among young people, the authorities created a subsidy equivalent to 25% of the minimum wage for companies hiring a person between 18 and 28 years of age. In addition, the mechanisms of institutionalized care systems were streamlined to enable women to reduce the time spent on care work in the home and to facilitate their participation in paid work.

Table 1

COLOMBIA: MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 a/
	Annual growth rates b/								
Gross domestic product	3.9	5.1	4.5	3.0	2.1	1.4	2.6	3.3	-6.8
Per capita gross domestic product	3.0	4.2	3.4	1.8	0.7	-0.2	1.0	1.9	-7.8
Gross domestic product, by sector									
Agriculture, livestock, hunting, forestry and fishing	2.5	7.5	2.9	4.3	2.7	5.6	1.6	2.3	2.6
Mining and quarrying	5.4	5.3	-1.3	-1.1	-2.9	-5.8	-1.7	1.7	-16.0
Manufacturing	0.8	1.5	2.9	2.0	3.2	-1.8	1.5	1.2	-7.7
Electricity, gas and water	2.1	3.7	3.4	-0.7	0.0	2.9	2.5	2.5	-2.6
Construction	5.9	11.3	8.9	6.3	3.6	-2.0	-1.3	-1.9	-25.8
Wholesale and retail commerce, restaurants and hotels	3.9	5.2	5.0	3.2	3.7	1.8	2.8	3.8	-12.7
Transport, storage and communications	2.6	5.9	5.1	2.7	-0.1	1.2	2.9	2.6	-14.7
Financial institutions, insurance, real estate and business services	4.6	5.3	6.1	3.0	1.3	3.0	3.9	4.0	-0.1
Community, social and personal services	5.1	5.6	5.4	5.2	3.9	3.3	4.4	6.2	-1.1
Gross domestic product, by type of expenditure									
Final consumption expenditure	5.5	5.4	4.3	3.4	1.6	2.3	4.0	4.2	-3.9
Government consumption	4.8	8.9	4.7	4.9	1.8	3.6	7.4	5.3	3.7
Private consumption	5.6	4.6	4.2	3.1	1.6	2.1	3.2	3.9	-5.6
Gross capital formation	2.9	7.8	12.0	-1.2	-0.2	-3.2	1.5	3.8	-20.3
Exports (goods and services)	4.5	4.7	-0.3	1.7	-0.2	2.6	0.6	3.1	-18.3
Imports (goods and services)	9.4	8.5	7.8	-1.1	-3.5	1.0	5.8	7.3	-17.3
Investment and saving c/	**Percentages of GDP**								
Gross capital formation	22.1	22.2	24.0	23.8	23.2	21.6	21.2	21.5	19.0
National saving	19.0	18.9	18.7	17.2	18.6	18.2	17.1	17.0	15.6
External saving	3.1	3.3	5.3	6.6	4.5	3.4	4.1	4.5	3.4
Balance of payments	**Millions of dollars**								
Current account balance	-11 641	-12 587	-20 233	-19 302	-12 782	-10 744	-13 669	-14 508	-9 326
Goods balance	4 956	3 179	-4 641	-13 479	-9 176	-4 470	-5 275	-8 629	-8 017
Exports, f.o.b.	61 604	60 282	56 899	38 572	34 063	39 777	44 259	42 079	33 273
Imports, f.o.b.	56 648	57 103	61 539	52 051	43 239	44 247	49 534	50 708	41 290
Services trade balance	-6 421	-6 430	-7 692	-5 526	-4 276	-4 477	-4 264	-4 353	-4 440
Income balance	-15 008	-14 223	-12 522	-5 727	-5 228	-8 408	-11 773	-10 230	-5 601
Net current transfers	4 833	4 887	4 622	5 430	5 898	6 611	7 643	8 704	8 732
Capital and financial balance d/	17 046	19 533	24 670	19 717	12 947	11 289	14 855	17 841	13 655
Net foreign direct investment	15 646	8 558	12 270	7 506	9 330	10 147	6 409	11 160	6 355
Other capital movements	1 400	10 975	12 400	12 211	3 617	1 142	8 447	6 681	7 299
Overall balance	5 406	6 946	4 437	415	165	545	1 187	3 333	4 328
Variation in reserve assets e/	-5 406	-6 946	-4 437	-415	-165	-545	-1 187	-3 333	-4 328
Other external-sector indicators									
Real effective exchange rate (index: 2005=100) f/	76.5	80.1	83.0	99.5	102.4	97.8	96.1	101.2	110.8
Terms of trade for goods (index: 2010=100)	108.4	100.6	91.5	68.9	68.1	79.7	87.2	86.0	72.7
Net resource transfer (millions of dollars)	2 038	5 310	12 147	13 990	7 719	2 881	3 083	7 611	8 054
Total gross external debt (millions of dollars)	78 784	92 073	101 404	110 502	120 153	124 636	132 016	138 683	154 605
Employment g/	**Average annual rates**								
Labour force participation rate	64.5	64.2	64.2	64.7	64.5	64.4	64.0	62.9	58.6
Unemployment rate h/	9.7	9.0	8.5	8.3	8.6	8.8	9.1	9.9	15.1
Visible underemployment rate	12.1	11.8	10.1	10.3	9.9	9.5	8.9	9.6	9.8

Table 1 (concluded)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 a/
Prices	**Annual percentages**								
Variation in consumer prices (December-December)	2.4	1.9	3.7	6.8	5.7	4.1	3.2	3.8	1.6
Variation in producer prices (December-December)	-4.9	-0.1	6.0	5.5	2.2	3.3	2.3	6.1	-0.9
Variation in nominal exchange rate (annual average)	-2.8	4.0	7.1	37.1	11.1	-3.3	0.3	11.0	12.6
Variation in average real wage	1.1	2.7	0.4	1.2	-2.2	3.1	1.1	0.8	-4.9
Nominal deposit rate i/	5.4	4.2	4.1	4.6	6.8	6.0	4.7	4.5	3.4
Nominal lending rate j/	13.7	12.2	12.1	12.1	14.7	13.7	12.1	11.8	9.9
Central national government	**Percentages of GDP**								
Total revenue	16.1	16.8	16.5	16.1	14.9	15.7	15.1	16.2	15.2
Tax revenue	14.3	14.1	14.2	14.5	13.6	13.8	13.7	14.0	13.0
Total expenditure	18.4	19.1	18.9	19.1	18.9	19.3	18.2	18.7	23.0
Current expenditure	15.6	16.0	15.9	16.1	16.6	17.2	16.7	16.8	20.7
Interest	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.7
Capital expenditure	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.3	2.1	1.5	1.8	2.2
Primary balance	0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.8	-1.6	-1.1	-0.6	0.1	-5.1
Overall balance	-2.3	-2.3	-2.4	-3.0	-4.0	-3.7	-3.1	-2.5	-7.8
Central national government debt	34.5	37.1	40.2	45.0	46.0	44.9	48.6	48.6	61.4
Domestic	25.6	27.4	28.5	28.9	30.5	29.4	31.8	32.1	38.6
External	8.9	9.6	11.8	16.1	15.5	15.5	16.8	16.4	22.8
Money and credit	**Percentages of GDP, end-of-year stocks**								
Domestic credit	46.1	48.0	51.0	54.4	55.0	58.4	57.7	60.7	66.5
To the public sector	8.4	8.5	8.6	7.5	8.0	8.6	8.2	9.2	12.4
To the private sector	37.7	39.5	42.4	46.9	47.1	49.8	49.6	51.5	54.1
Others									
Monetary base	8.5	8.5	9.2	10.3	9.8	9.6	9.9	10.4	13.2
M2	40.7	43.6	44.5	47.5	47.3	47.5	46.5	47.0	56.9

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/ 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

	2019				2020				2021	
	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/	3.6	3.1	3.2	3.3	0.6	-15.7	-8.4	-3.6	1.1	...
Gross international reserves (millions of dollars)	50 329	51 985	52 749	53 074	53 498	55 622	57 053	57 740	58 967	59 124 c/
Real effective exchange rate (index: 2005=100) d/	97.5	100.7	102.3	104.2	106.8	112.3	112.3	111.7	109.4	113.5 c/
Open unemployment rate e/	11.2	9.5	10.0	8.9	11.9	18.6	16.8	13.1	15.1	...
Employment rate	56.0	56.6	56.2	57.7	53.8	43.7	48.4	53.3	51.1	...
Consumer prices (12-month percentage variation)	3.2	3.4	3.8	3.8	3.8	2.2	2.0	1.6	1.5	3.6
Wholesale prices (12-month percentage variation)	4.7	3.8	3.8	6.09	-0.2	-1.9	-1.3	-0.87	11.3	18.0
Average nominal exchange rate (pesos per dollar)	3 135	3 240	3 346	3 404	3 543	3 843	3 734	3 656	3 554	3 694
Average real wage (variation from same quarter of preceding year)	2.0	0.6	0.7	0.2	-0.8	-13.0	-5.3	-0.3	1.7	...
Nominal interest rates (average annualized percentages)										
Deposit rate g/	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.2	2.8	2.0	1.8	1.8 c/
Lending rate h/	12.2	11.9	11.8	11.2	11.1	9.8	9.6	9.0	9.1	8.5 c/
Interbank rate	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	3.2	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.7 c/
Monetary policy rates	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.3	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.8
Sovereign bond spread, Embi + (basis points to end of period) i/	184	181	183	161	376	293	262	206	216	247
Risk premiia on five-year credit default swap (basis points to end of period)	111	92	93	72	232	161	152	89	135	136
International bond issues (millions of dollars)	2 410	50	1 383	950	4 279	4 900	3 092	120	2 840	5 755
Stock price index (national index to end of period, 31 December 2005 = 100)	137	133	135	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Domestic credit (variation from same quarter of preceding year)	9.5	10.0	9.0	11.6	11.5	14.3	10.9	6.3	...	...

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/ 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.

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