

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

## Activity in Mexico A slower Q4

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## Talk of the Day

China's weaker-than-expected import growth in December led to speculation of more official support for growth. We do not believe those results would prompt a reaction beyond the selective easing already factored into our GDP growth forecast (7.8% this year). The negative surprise came after positive surprises in Oct and Nov. Moreover, commodity imports remained solid and the growth in imports volume was still substantial in Q4.

Accordingly, **Brazilian** exported quantities remained robust. In the fourth quarter, they grew a seasonally-adjusted 3.2%, thanks to a 11.8% increase in basic products exports.

Imports of intermediate goods, which are highly correlated to industrial production, are on an upward trend. They went up 1.8% in December, the third sequential rise, reinforcing our call of industrial production growth of about 1% in that month.

High frequency inflation data out this morning came in higher than we expected: the IPC-Fipe for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January gained 0.75% (our call 0.66%), adding some upside risk to our January IPCA call (0.66%). The first preview of January's IGP-M came at -0.01% (our call -0.07%). Higher food inflation was the main surprise in both measures.

**Chile's** central bank survey of expectations showed that analysts still expect a 100-bp easing cycle this year, but the first cut is now expected for February (previously January), following the higher-than-expected CPI print in December.

Inflation expectations remain firmly anchored at 3.0%, both for 12 months (previously 2.9%) and 24 months ahead. We look for lower inflation, at 2.7% in 2012 and 2.5% in 2013.

GDP growth forecasts for 2011 stood flat at 6.2% (our estimate 6.1%). For 2012, they ticked down to 4.0%, from 4.2% (our call 4.2%). For 2013, they rose to 5.0%, from 4.8% (our call 4.0%).

**Mexico's** IGAE, a monthly GDP index, fell 0.6% seasonally-adjusted in October. After solid growth in Q3, IGAE's result signals a deceleration in the fourth quarter, as we discuss below. November industrial production (12pm, SP time) is today's key release. Consensus is for a 0.6% seasonally-adjusted gain, after a 0.5% drop in October.

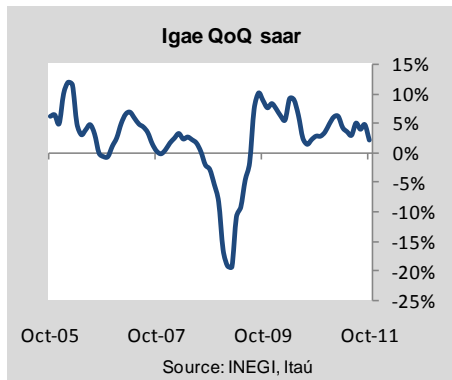
According to a survey by Mitofvsky consulting, 33.4% of voters would like that [Enrique Peña Nieto](#) becomes the next president, followed by Lopes Obrador (11.9%) and Josefina Vázquez Mota (8.1%). However, his score for "positive image" fell to 37% in December from 40% a month earlier.

Starting in February, all imports of consumer goods into **Argentina** will have [to pass through a new approval system](#) created by the country's federal tax bureau. Though presented as an improvement in transparency and efficiency, the measure will likely further restrict imports, amid the government's effort to protect the trade surplus through administrative tools.

## Activity in Mexico

### A slower Q4

*A monthly GDP proxy hints at decelerating activity*



- Mexico's monthly GDP proxy (Igae) fell 0.6% mom/sa in October, following a 1.0% rise in the previous month. The decline stemmed from a shrinking secondary sector (-0.5%), already known by industrial production data in October. A 5.9% drop in the volatile agricultural sector also contributed. Yet, services were also muted (no growth), after climbing 1.0% September.
- Igae's quarterly annualized growth slowed down significantly to 2.0%, from 4.7% in September.
- These numbers hint at a deceleration in Mexico's economy in fourth quarter GDP, after solid growth in Q3 (5.5% annualized).

## Good Readings

**[Mohamed El-Erian](#): "Germany should beware of celebrating negative yields" – FT**

"Another day and another previously unthinkable development becomes reality in Europe. Yet what on the surface appears to be good news for Germany – the record low yield at its latest government debt auction – is actually an indication of growing stress elsewhere in the region."

**[Gideon Rachman](#): "Why I'm feeling strangely Austrian" - FT**

"Under normal conditions I would probably sign up with the social democratic tendency. The Tea Party is not my cup of tea. But I spent the weekend reading newspaper accounts of the ever more incredible figures that may have to be poured into the bail-outs for banks and countries in Europe. Then I turned the page to read of demands for more protectionism and regulation in the EU. For light relief, I then went to see The Iron Lady – the new film about Margaret Thatcher. The whole experience has left me feeling strangely Austrian."

**[Christophe Chamley](#): "Europe requires European bonds" - Vox**

"Is it time for Eurobonds? This column argues that Eurobonds have always been the right solution. Every successful union throughout history has needed to create a proper financial instrument of sovereign debt – and the Eurozone is no different."

**[Thibault Fally](#): "Has production become more fragmented? International vs domestic perspectives" - Vox**

"As the oft-cited iPhone example illustrates, production has become increasingly fragmented across countries. This column presents recent research, however, suggesting that this trend may be reversing for manufacturing plants in the US. It shows that intermediate goods account for a decreasing fraction of output value, while industries that are closer to the final consumer contribute to an increasing share of GDP."

## This Week's Data Tracker

Country	Release	SP Time	Our Forecast	Consensus	Actual
Monday, January 9					
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>IGP-DI Inflation (Dec) MoM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>-0.07%</b>	<b>-0.22%</b>	<b>-0.16%</b>
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>CPI (Dec) MoM</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>		<b>0.76%</b>	<b>0.82%</b>
Tuesday, January 10					
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>Monthly GDP IGAE (Oct) YoY</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>		<b>3.80%</b>	
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>Gross Fixed Investment (Oct) YoY</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>		<b>6.00%</b>	
Wednesday, January 11					
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>Industrial Production (Nov) MoM</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>		<b>0.6%</b>	
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>AMIA Vehicle Production (Dec)</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>			
Thursday, January 12					
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>Core Retail Sales (Nov) MoM</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.30%</b>	
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>Broad Retail Sales (Nov) MoM</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	
<b>Chile</b>	<b>Monetary Policy Decision</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	
<b>Peru</b>	<b>Monetary Policy Decision</b>	<b>9:00 PM</b>	<b>4.25%</b>	<b>4.25%</b>	

## Forecast Tables

### World Economy

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011F	2012F	2013F
<b>GDP Growth</b>							
World GDP growth - %	5.4	2.9	-0.5	5.0	3.7	2.7	3.2
USA - %	1.9	-0.3	-3.5	3.0	1.7	1.8	1.5
Euro Area - %	3.0	0.3	-4.2	1.8	1.5	-1.1	0.3
Japan - %	2.4	-1.2	-6.3	3.9	-0.9	1.2	0.9
China - %	14.2	9.6	9.1	10.3	9.2	7.8	8.0
<b>Interest rates and currencies</b>							
Fed Funds - %	4.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
USD/EUR eop	1.46	1.35	1.46	1.32	1.34	1.30	1.30
YEN/USD eop	112.5	91.3	90.0	83.3	76.0	75.0	75.0
DXY Index*	76.7	81.3	77.9	79.0	79.7	79.5	79.5
<b>Commodities</b>							
CRB Index - avg growth - %	19.3	6.3	-14.6	35.6	10.8	-6.1	6.6
ICI External prices - avg growth - %	20.0	14.6	-20.8	21.8	24.7	-9.3	4.0
Metals - avg growth - %	37.0	-13.0	-25.3	29.4	12.2	-11.0	-
Energy - avg growth - %	9.0	28.6	-39.4	21.0	31.4	-0.4	-
Agricultural - avg growth - %	18.2	25.3	-7.4	19.8	29.2	-10.2	-

### Brazil

(For our *monthly* Brazil forecasts, [click here.](#))

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011F	2012F	2013F
<b>Economic Activity</b>							
Real GDP growth - %	6.1	5.2	-0.3	7.5	2.8	3.5	5.4
Nominal GDP - BRL bn	2,661	3,032	3,239	3,745	4,105	4,481	4,965
Nominal GDP - USD bn	1,367	1,651	1,626	2,128	2,456	2,524	2,837
Per Capita GDP - USD	7,427	8,871	8,629	11,154	12,762	13,012	14,510
Unemployment Rate - year avg	9.3	7.9	8.1	6.6	6.1	6.7	6.7
<b>Inflation</b>							
IPCA - %	4.5	5.9	4.3	5.9	6.5	5.2	5.2
IGP-M - %	7.8	9.8	-1.7	11.3	5.1	4.5	5.0
<b>Interest Rate</b>							
Selic - eop - %	11.25	13.75	8.75	10.75	11.00	9.00	11.50
<b>Balance of Payments</b>							
BRL / USD - eop	1.77	2.34	1.74	1.69	1.84	1.75	1.75
Trade Balance - USD bn	40.0	24.7	24.5	20.2	29.8	15.0	-3.2
Current Account - % GDP	0.1	-1.7	-1.5	-2.2	-2.1	-3.0	-3.8
Foreign Direct Investment - % GDP	2.5	2.7	1.6	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.5
International Reserves - USD bn	180	194	239	288	358	408	441
<b>Public Finances</b>							
Primary Balance - % GDP	3.3	3.4	2.1	2.8	3.2	2.5	2.5
Nominal Balance - % GDP	-2.7	-1.9	-3.3	-2.6	-2.7	-3.1	-3.0
Net Public Debt - % GDP	45.1	38.4	42.8	40.4	37.8	36.9	35.1

\* The DXY is a leading benchmark for the international value of the U.S. dollar, measuring its performance against a basket of currencies that includes the euro, yen, pound, Canadian dollar, Swiss franc and Swedish krona.

\*\* The Itaú Commodity Index - External Prices is a proprietary index composed of those commodity prices, measured in U.S. dollars and traded in international exchanges that are relevant to Brazilian consumer inflation. Its sub-indexes are Metals, Energy and Agricultural.

## Argentina

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011P	2012P	2013P
<b>Economic Activity</b>								
Real GDP growth (Private Estimates) - %	8.7	8.8	3.3	-4.1	8.2	5.8	2.7	3.0
Nominal GDP - USD bn	213.2	260.4	327.9	307.1	369.9	464	533	608
Per Capita GDP - USD	5,470	6,617	8,249	7,652	9,129	11,341	12,907	14,594
Unemployment Rate - year avg	10.2	8.5	7.9	8.7	7.8	7.5	8.0	8.0
<b>Inflation</b>								
CPI (Private Estimates) - %	9.8	22.3	20.3	14.9	26.4	25.0	26.5	28.0
<b>Interest Rate</b>								
BADLAR - eop - %	9.88	13.63	19.75	10.00	11.25	20.00	22.00	24.00
<b>Balance of Payments</b>								
ARS / USD - eop	3.08	3.12	3.18	3.75	3.92	4.30	5.00	5.75
Trade Balance - USD bn	12.3	11.1	12.6	16.9	11.6	9.0	4.0	2.5
Current Account - % GDP	3.6	2.7	2.1	3.6	0.8	0.1	-0.8	-1.2
Foreign Direct Investment - % GDP	2.6	2.5	3.0	1.3	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.5
International Reserves - USD bn	32.0	46.2	46.4	48.0	52.2	46.0	35.0	30.0
<b>Public Finances</b>								
Nominal Balance - % GDP	1.8	1.1	1.4	-0.6	0.2	-0.2	-1.5	-1.5
Gross Public Debt - % GDP	64.1	55.6	44.5	47.9	44.4	38.4	35.5	32.8

## Chile

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011P	2012P	2013P
<b>Economic Activity</b>								
Real GDP growth - %	4.6	4.6	3.7	-1.7	5.2	6.1	4.2	4.0
Nominal GDP - USD bn	146.8	164.3	170.7	161.2	203.5	233	244	264
Per Capita GDP - USD	8,942	9,907	10,193	9,493	11,836	13,406	13,869	14,829
Unemployment Rate - year avg	8.0	7.0	7.8	10.0	7.1	7.4	7.5	7.7
<b>Inflation</b>								
CPI - %	2.6	7.8	7.1	-1.5	3.0	3.6	2.7	2.5
<b>Interest Rate</b>								
Monetary Policy Rate - eop - %	5.25	6.00	8.25	0.50	3.25	5.25	3.75	4.50
<b>Balance of Payments</b>								
CLP / USD - eop	534	496	629	506	468	510	490	495
Trade Balance - USD bn	22.8	23.9	8.5	14.1	15.9	12.0	7.0	5.0
Current Account - % GDP	4.9	4.6	-2.4	1.6	1.9	-0.5	-1.7	-1.8
Foreign Direct Investment - % GDP	5.0	7.6	8.9	8.0	7.4	6.0	5.8	5.3
International Reserves - USD bn	19.4	16.9	23.2	25.4	27.9	40.0	41.0	42.0
<b>Public Finances</b>								
Nominal Balance - % GDP	7.5	8.6	5.0	-4.6	-0.3	1.0	0.7	0.8
Net Public Debt - % GDP	-6.1	-13.4	-23.8	-12.9	-8.3	-8.6	-8.7	-9.0

## Colombia

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011P	2012P	2013P
<b>Economic Activity</b>								
Real GDP growth - %	6.7	6.9	3.5	1.5	4.3	5.5	4.3	4.2
Nominal GDP - USD bn	162.7	207.4	244.8	235.6	288.7	314	344	372
Per Capita GDP - USD	3,749	4,723	5,507	5,239	6,344	6,824	7,383	7,894
Unemployment Rate - year avg	12.0	11.2	11.3	12.0	11.8	10.0	10.0	9.0
<b>Inflation</b>								
CPI - %	4.5	5.7	7.7	2.0	3.2	3.6	3.2	3.0
<b>Interest Rate</b>								
Monetary Policy Rate - eop - %	7.50	9.50	9.50	3.50	3.00	4.75	4.75	6.00
<b>Balance of Payments</b>								
COP / USD - eop	2239	2015	2244	2044	1914	1900	1850	1870
Trade Balance - USD bn	-1.8	-2.9	-2.0	0.0	-0.9	1.4	0.8	0.5
Current Account - % GDP	-1.8	-2.9	-2.8	-2.2	-3.1	-3.0	-2.8	-2.6
Foreign Direct Investment - % GDP	4.1	4.4	4.3	3.0	2.4	2.8	2.6	2.8
International Reserves - USD bn	15.4	20.9	24.0	25.4	28.5	33.0	34.5	37.0
<b>Public Finances</b>								
Nominal Balance - % GDP	-3.1	-2.8	-1.7	-3.7	-3.5	-3.2	-3.0	-3.0
Gross Public Debt - % GDP	37.5	32.9	33.2	34.7	34.7	35.0	35.5	36.1

## Mexico

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011P	2012P	2013P
<b>Economic Activity</b>								
Real GDP growth - %	5.2	3.3	1.2	-6.1	5.4	4.0	2.5	2.0
Nominal GDP - USD bn	952.2	1,038.6	1,087.6	880.6	1,037.8	1,099	1,149	1,222
Per Capita GDP - USD	9,081	9,818	10,195	8,188	9,553	10,020	10,365	10,918
Unemployment Rate - year avg	3.6	3.7	4.0	5.5	5.4	5.1	5.3	5.5
<b>Inflation</b>								
CPI - %	4.1	3.8	6.5	3.6	4.4	3.3	3.7	3.5
<b>Interest Rate</b>								
Monetary Policy Rate - eop - %	7.02	7.57	8.25	4.50	4.50	4.50	3.75	4.25
<b>Balance of Payments</b>								
MXN / USD - eop	10.88	10.87	13.54	13.06	12.36	13.20	12.80	13.00
Trade Balance - USD bn	-6.1	-10.1	-17.3	-4.7	-3.0	-1.0	-1.5	-1.7
Current Account - % GDP	-0.5	-0.9	-1.5	-0.7	-0.6	-0.8	-1.2	-1.3
Foreign Direct Investment - % GDP	2.1	2.9	2.4	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.0
International Reserves - USD bn	67.7	78.0	85.4	90.8	113.6	140.0	152.0	160.0
<b>Public Finances</b>								
Nominal Balance - % GDP	0.1	0.0	-0.1	-2.3	-2.8	-2.0	-2.5	-2.5
Net Public Debt - % GDP	16.4	14.9	18.2	29.1	30.7	30.5	31.2	32.1

## Peru

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011P	2012P	2013P
<b>Economic Activity</b>								
Real GDP growth - %	7.7	8.9	9.8	0.9	8.8	7.0	5.0	5.2
Nominal GDP - USD bn	92.4	107.2	126.6	127.0	153.6	177	192	204
Per Capita GDP - USD	3,344	3,799	4,419	4,365	5,197	5,888	6,310	6,607
Unemployment Rate - year avg	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.4	7.9	7.5	7.8	7.8
<b>Inflation</b>								
CPI - %	1.1	3.9	6.7	0.2	2.1	4.6	2.6	2.0
<b>Interest Rate</b>								
Monetary Policy Rate - eop - %	4.50	5.00	6.50	1.25	3.00	4.25	3.25	3.75
<b>Balance of Payments</b>								
PEN / USD - eop	3.20	3.00	3.14	2.89	2.81	2.70	2.75	2.75
Trade Balance - USD bn	9.0	8.5	2.6	6.0	6.7	8.5	7.0	6.5
Current Account - % GDP	3.0	1.3	-4.1	0.1	-1.5	-1.8	-2.5	-2.8
Foreign Direct Investment - % GDP	3.8	5.1	5.5	4.4	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.7
International Reserves - USD bn	17.3	27.7	31.2	33.1	44.1	49.4	53.0	57.0
<b>Public Finances</b>								
Nominal Balance - % GDP	1.5	1.8	2.2	-1.7	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.2
Gross Central Govt. Debt - % GDP	33.0	29.7	24.2	27.1	23.5	20.0	18.0	16.6

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