

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

**BILATERAL
X-RAY
MEXICO-UNITED STATES**



MIGRATION AND LABOR
MOBILITY

DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONS

North America **Economy and
Commerce**

ENERGY AND ESG

RELEVANT EVENTS

- **PANEL REQUEST FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION ON
BIOTECH CORN**

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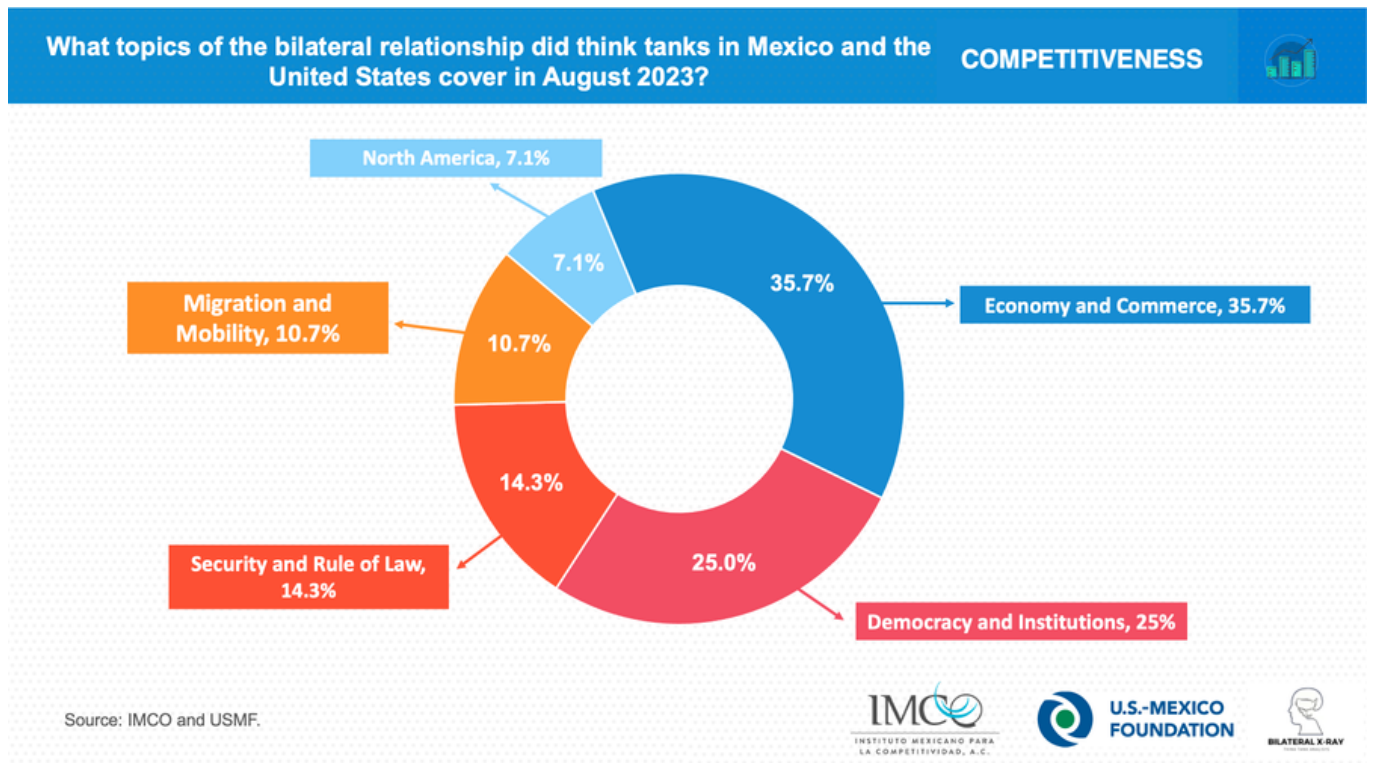
Coverage Report

August 1st to August 31st

During the period, 28 publications were compiled on the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States. Of these publications, 29% were made in Mexico and 71% in the United States. The Mexico Institute presented 5 publications, the highest during the period, followed by COMEXI, AS/COA, American Enterprise Institute, Council on Foreign Relations, and CSIS, each with 2 publications. In August, the most mentioned topics were **Economy and Commerce** with 10 publications, **Democracy and Institutions** with 7 publications, and **Security and Rule of Law** with 4 publications.

The next figure shows the top five most mentioned topics.

Topics Covered



Economy and Commerce

One of the highlighted topics was the growth of trade tensions, particularly regarding restrictions on the trade of agricultural biotechnology (corn). IMCO presented the evolution of this contentious issue in the trade relationship and warned about the possible negative impact on the economy resulting from the Dispute Settlement Panel, initiated by the USTR on August 17, under Chapter 31 of the USMCA. Despite these tensions, think tanks emphasized the opportunities to strengthen commercial integration through Nearshoring. A relevant work in Foreign Affairs explored the opportunities that Mexico offers as a destination for semiconductor industry relocation. According to this piece, Mexico could become a strategic player in semiconductor production, potentially replacing Asian manufacturing.

Key publications regarding Economy and Commerce this month:

- Wilson Center, [A CONVERSATION WITH MEXICO'S FORMER SECRETARY OF ECONOMY AND CURRENT DEPUTY ILDEFONSO GUAJARDO](#), Andrew Rudman
- Foreign Affairs, [MEXICO'S MICROCHIP ADVANTAGE](#), Chris Miller & David Talbot

ECONOMY AND COMMERCE RECENT DATA

- In 2Q2023, a quarterly GDP growth rate of 0.8% was observed in Mexico, with this increase, **there have been seven consecutive quarters of GDP growth**, starting in 4Q2021. (Mexico Cómo vamos)
- In 2022, the total export value of corn reached 4.9 billion USD (1 of the top 3 commodities exported to Mexico). **Over the past decade, corn exports to Mexico have witnessed a remarkable growth of 179%**, according to data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Democracy and Institutions

Think tanks have begun to focus on electoral issues in both the United States and Mexico. The Mexico Institute conducted an analysis of the elections in the states of Mexico and Coahuila, highlighting Xóchitl Gálvez, a Senator of the Republic, as a possible opposition candidate, which has now been confirmed by the Frente Amplio por México. On the other hand, the Institute of the Americas (AS/COA) presented a series of articles and visualizations that addressed internal processes within political parties. These works explained the selection dynamics within MORENA to determine its presidential candidate in 2024. Additionally, some publications addressed the first Republican debate, which featured eight contenders for the presidential nomination. It is important to mention the absence of former President Trump, who chose to broadcast a pre-recorded interview while the debate took place.

Key publications regarding Democracy and Institutions this month:

- AS/COA, [Explainer: How Will Mexico's Morena Party Pick AMLO's Potential Successor?](#) Karin Zissis and Chace Harrison
- Wilson Center, [THE RACE FOR MEXICO'S PRESIDENCY](#) Lila Abed

DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONS RECENT DATA

- Generation Z will define the elections in 2040. **In the United States, 20 million** new voters will be eligible to register to vote. Meanwhile, **in Mexico, 15.2 million** young people aged 18 to 24 will cast their votes for the first time. (The Washington Post and Animal Político)
- According to a poll by México Elige, **Xóchitl Gálvez** leads her rivals within the opposition coalition by 40 percentage points and **is tied nationally with Claudia Sheinbaum**, former Mexico City mayor and AMLO's favored candidate. (Wilson Center)

Security and Rule of Law

In August, the discourse on Security and Rule of Law predominantly revolved around the pressing issue of the current drug epidemic, particularly concerning the alarming use of Fentanyl. Various publications, including articles and podcasts, delved into the growth of Mexican drug cartels and the presence of this lethal drug within the United States. Notably, the Wilson Center conducted an in-depth analysis of the Trilateral Fentanyl Committee, established in 2023 to counteract the illicit fentanyl trade in North America. Additionally, The Dialogue engaged in a thoughtful conversation highlighting the growing militarization in Mexico, a response to the escalating violence that continues to afflict the nation.

Key publications regarding Security and Rule of Law this month:

- Mexico Institute [FENTANYL SEIZURES AT THE SOUTHWEST BORDER: A BREAKDOWN BY CBP AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY](#), Aldrin Ballesteros
- The Dialogue [HAS MEXICO'S MILITARY TAKEN ON TOO MUCH POWER?](#) Rebecca Bill Chavez, Arantza Alonso, Raúl Benítez Manaut, Tyler Mattiace, Tony Payan

SECURITY AND RULE OF LAW RECENT DATA:

- **Fentanyl seizures** at the U.S.-Mexico border **increased 164%** from 2020 to 2022. (Wilson Center)
- In 2022, the **DEA seized more than 58 million fake pills containing fentanyl**, enough to kill every single person the U.S. population. (Brookings)

Other topics

Migration and Labor Mobility and Energy and ESG's were the next most mentioned topics during August. In the context of **migration**, publications primarily focused on the new challenges associated with integrating the substantial number of migrants received each year and the policies being implemented to address these challenges. The Wilson Center published an article highlighting the need for a paradigm shift in migration policies in response to the tragedy in Ciudad Juarez in which 39 migrants died. The institute advocates for public policies that address the root causes of migration which is paralleled with the increase of visas. Regarding **Energy and ESG's** the publications focused on the implications of Mexico's dependence on imports from the U.S. and the danger this posed to energy security in North America.

Key publications regarding Migration and Labor Mobility and Energy and ESG's this month:

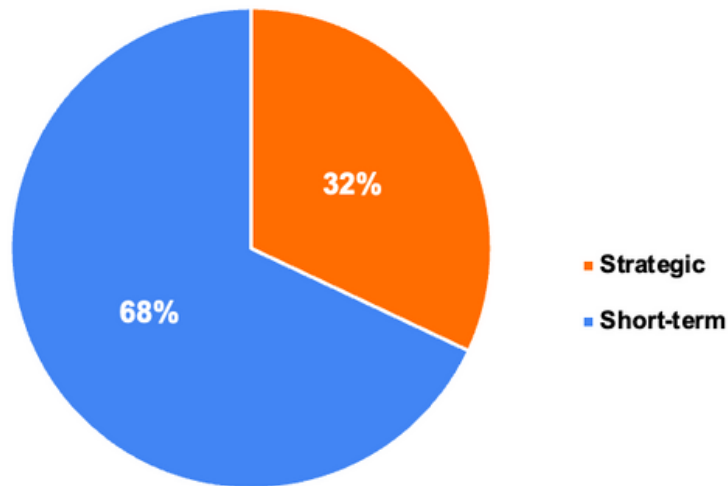
- Mexico Institute [CAMBIO DE PARADIGMA EN LAS POLÍTICAS MIGRATORIAS: UNA VISIÓN HACIA LA INTEGRACIÓN DE LAS POBLACIONES MIGRATORIAS](#) Aldrin Ballesteros
- CSIS [FOR NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY, GO LOCAL: EXAMINING THE ROLE OF NATURAL GAS AND MEXICO'S ENERGY SECTOR](#) Ryan C. Berg, Emiliano Polo, Henry Ziemer

MIGRATION AND LABOUR MOBILITY AND ENERGY & ESG'S RECENT DATA

- Mexico relies on the **U.S. to supply 70% of the domestic demand of natural gas** even though the CFE (Federal Electricity Commission) claims to be able to satisfy the demand of the country. (CSIS)
- In 2022, around **276,000 H-2A visas or 93% of those given went to Mexicans**. (Wilson Center)

Relevant short-term events for the bilateral relationship

- In the **Economy and Commerce** section, the majority of topics addressed were of short-term relevance. However, one of the strategic topics of the month is the trade dispute initiated through the request for the Dispute Settlement Panel by the USTR. It is anticipated that this issue will gain further prominence, as the Mexican government has expressed its intention to uphold its position in response to the demands of the U.S. government
- All the articles and publications related to **Democracy and Institutions** have short-term relevance. The majority of these pieces analyze the beginning of the electoral processes in both countries, including the internal selection within MORENA, the growing prominence of Xóchitl Gálvez, and the first debate among Republican contenders.
- Regarding publications related to **Security and the Rule of Law**, there is a balance between articles of short-term relevance and those of a strategic nature. It is noteworthy that an increasing number of think tanks are analyzing the challenges and effects of the fentanyl crisis in both countries.



Publications on the bilateral relationship have increased compared to previous months. Economic and Commerce-related topics are prominent, focusing on opportunities and challenges of nearshoring in Mexico. Additionally, the U.S.-led trade panel, with Canada's support, is expected to become a relevant topic in the coming months. Both countries' electoral processes have also sparked content from think tanks. Lastly, there is a growing interest in analyzing the fentanyl crisis in the context of Security and Rule of Law.

Upcoming events

THINK TANK	EVENTO	HORA Y FECHA
Georgetown Americas Institute	<u>POVERTY IN MEXICO: THE LATEST NEWS</u>	September 6th 19:00 (ET) Online
Aspen Institute	<u>TIERRA ADENTRO: VIAJE AL CORAZÓN DE LA COMIDA MEXICANA</u>	September 7th 12:00 (CT) Online
Baker Institute	<u>EL GRITO: MEXICO NOW</u>	September 12th, 18:00 (CDT) Sewall Hall, Welcome Center, Rice University
Baker Institute	<u>CENTER FOR THE U.S. AND MEXICO 10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER</u>	September 13th 18:00 (CDT) James A. Baker III Hall
Wilson Center	<u>UNDERSTANDING THE FENTANYL AND OPIOID CRISIS: U.S.-MEXICO SOLUTIONS</u>	September 18th, 11:00 (ET) Online

PUBLICATIONS

MEXICAN THINK TANKS

- IMCO ESTADOS UNIDOS SOLICITA PANEL DE SOLUCIÓN DE CONTROVERSIAS POR MEDIDAS DE BIOTECNOLOGÍA AGRÍCOLA EN MÉXICO IMCO Staff
- COLMEX (RE) INTEGRACION DE MIGRANTES DE RETORNO: IMPORTANCIA DEL CONTEXTO LOCAL Claudia Masferrer
- COMEXI PRESENTACION DEL LIBRO "VECINOS" DE LEONARDO KURZIO
- COMEXI MÉXICO: ¿ENTRE EL PROTECCIONISMO Y EL NEARSHORING? Alberto Moreno
- COMEXI PRIMER DEBATE DE LOS ASPIRANTES REPUBLICANOS A LA PRESIDENCIA DE EE.UU. Rafael Fernández De Castro
- COMEXI "EL SECTOR PRIVADO Y LOS ORGANISMOS INTERNACIONALES: INTEGRANDO AGENDAS PÚBLICAS"
- Fundación IDEA PERSPECTIVAS GLOBALES Y POLÍTICA PÚBLICA EN INNOVACIÓN, CIENCIA Y TECNOLOGÍA EN EL MARCO DEL TRATADO ENTRE MÉXICO, ESTADOS UNIDOS Y CANADÁ (T-MEC)

UNITED STATES THINK TANKS

- American Enterprise Institute MONEY TALKS: CONSCIOUS UNCOUPLING OR UNCONSCIOUS FAILURE? Chris Miller, Mike Bird, Tom Lee-Devlin, Alice Fulwood
- American Enterprise Institute MEXICO'S MICROCHIP ADVANTAGE Chris Miller, David Talbot
- Baker Institute BINATIONAL PROSPECTS FOR WATER AUGMENTATION IN THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER BORDER REGION Stephen Mumme, Aidan Lyde
- Council on Foreign Relations A TICKING CLOCK FOR LATIN AMERICA' NEARSHORING OPPORTUNITY Shannon K. O'Neil,
- Council on Foreign Relations LATIN AMERICA THIS WEEK: AUGUST 9, 2023 Shannon K. O'Neil, Will Freeman
- Heritage Foundation GENDER ZEALOTS CENSOR POLITICIANS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR VOICING THE TRUTH Grace Melton
- The Dialogue HAS MEXICO'S MILITARY TAKEN ON TOO MUCH POWER? Rebecca Bill Chavez, Arantza Alonso, Raúl Benítez Manaut, Tyler Mattiace, Tony Payan
- Aspen Institute Mexico LAS MUJERES QUE NOS REPRESENTAN EN LA DIPLOMACIA: MEXICANAS EN LA DIPLOMACIA Aspen Institute Mexico
- Mexico Institute FENTANYL SEIZURES AT THE SOUTHWEST BORDER: A BREAKDOWN BY CBP AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY Aldrin Ballesteros
- Mexico Institute H-2A PROGRAM EXPANDS IN 2023 Philip Martin
- Mexico Institute A CONVERSATION WITH MEXICO'S FORMER SECRETARY OF ECONOMY AND CURRENT FEDERAL DEPUTY ILDEFONSO GUAJARDO ILDEFONSO GUAJARDO
- Mexico Institute CAMBIO DE PARADIGMA EN LAS POLÍTICAS MIGRATORIAS: UNA VISIÓN HACIA LA INTEGRACIÓN DE LAS POBLACIONES MIGRATORIAS Aldrin Ballesteros
- Mexico Institute THE RACE FOR MEXICO'S PRESIDENCY Lila Abed
- AS/COA POLL TRACKER: CONTENDERS FOR MEXICO'S 2024 PRESIDENTIAL VOTE Carin Zissis
- AS/COA EXPLAINER: HOW WILL MEXICO'S MORENA PARTY PICK AMLO'S POTENTIAL SUCCESSOR? Carin Zissis
- AS/COA APPROVAL TRACKER: MEXICO'S PRESIDENT AMLO
- Brookings Institution WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE TESTIMONY OF THE DEA ADMINISTRATOR Vanda Felbab-brown
- CSIS FOR NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY, GO LOCAL: EXAMINING THE ROLE OF NATURAL GAS AND MEXICO'S ENERGY SECTOR Ryan C. Berg , Emiliano Polo , Henry Ziemer
- CSIS ON YOUR MARKS Mariana Campero
- Hudson Institute HOW TO DEFEAT MEXICO'S DRUG CARTELS Marshall Kosloff & William P. Barr
- Foreign Affairs MEXICO'S MICROCHIP ADVANTAGE Chris Miller and David Talbot

The Mexican Institute for Competitiveness (IMCO) and the U.S.-Mexico Foundation's initiative, The Center for Bilateral Institutions, monitor publications of the leading think tanks and research centers in Mexico and the United States, analyze the topics discussed, and the actors pushing the narrative.

For the making of this report, thirty-seven think tanks are monitored every month, twenty-four think tanks are from the US, while thirteen are from Mexico. The think tanks included in this report are: Instituto Mexicano para la Competitividad (IMCO), México Evalúa, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica (CIDE), El Colegio de México (COLMEX), Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Internacionales (COMEXI), Fundar, Centro de Estudios Espinosa Yglesias (CEEY), Fundación Idea, Aspen Institute México, The Coppel-Intuit Center for Binational Institutions (CBI), Brookings, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Hudson Institute, Peterson, Milken Institute, Bush Center, USC Schwarzenegger Institute, Bay Area Council Economic Institute, Meridian, New America, México ¿cómo vamos?, The Dialogue, American Enterprise Institute, Atlantic Council (AALAC), Baker Institute, Center for American Progress, Council on Foreign Relations, Heritage Foundation, Mexico Institute, Pew Research Center, USMEX UCSD, Americas Society/Council of the Americas (AS/COA), Centro de Competitividad de México (CCMX), Ethos Laboratorio de Pol. Públicas, Harvard Growth Lab, International Republican Institute (IRI), y Observatorio Nacional Ciudadano.

The history of the Mexico-United States relationship is also written by the Think Tanks since they help to build the long-term government agenda. Their active participation is crucial, particularly for in-depth analysis of political, economic, and social issues.



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