

JANUARY, 2024

# BILATERAL X-RAY MEXICO-UNITED STATES



SECURITY AND RULE OF LAW

Economy and  
Commerce

North America

## DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONS

MIGRATION AND LABOR MOBILITY

### RELEVANT EVENTS

- U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY JANET YELLEN VISITS MEXICO

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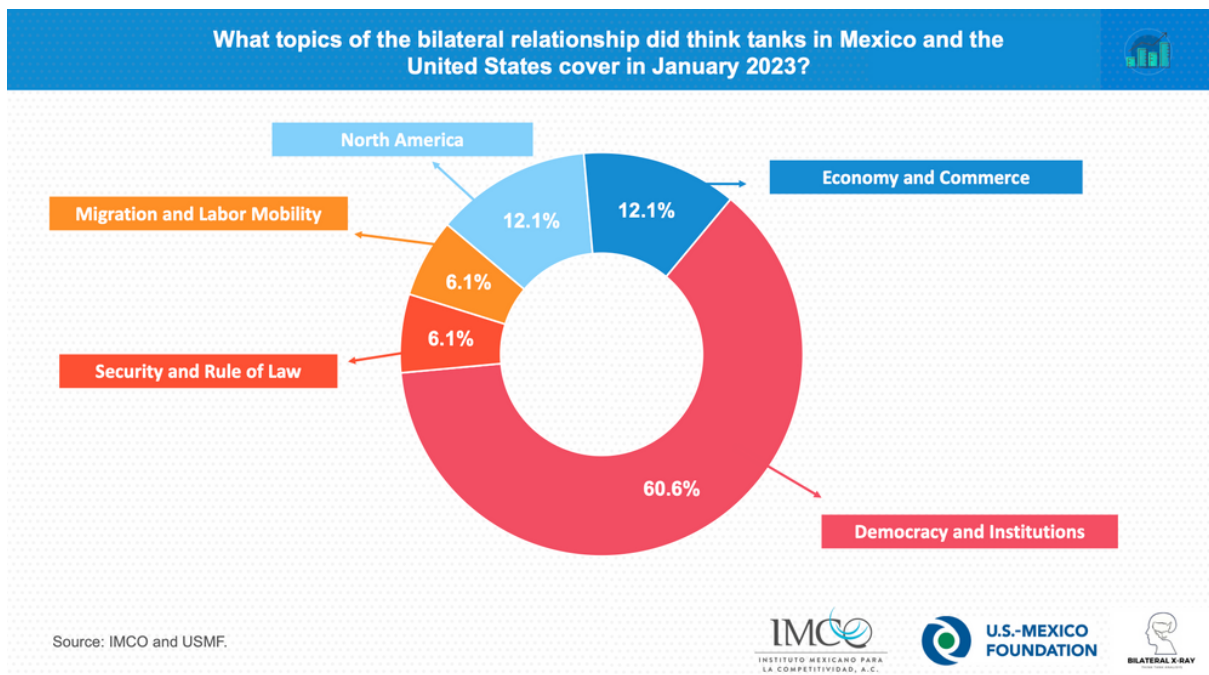
## Coverage Report

### January 1st to January 31st

In January, 33 pieces of content related to the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States were published. Mexico was responsible for one publication, while the United States produced the remaining 32. This month, the Mexico Institute was the leading content publisher, contributing 17 articles. AS/COA was the second-highest content producer with 4 pieces. This month, 60% of the content focused on Democracy and Institutions, accounting for 20 publications; with the electoral year upon us, its impact is evident. **Economy and Commerce**, along with **North America**, each followed with four publications.

The following figure shows the top five most mentioned topics.

## Topics Covered



## Democracy and Institutions

In the area of **Democracy and Institutions**, it is noteworthy that 60% of the publications are related to this topic. It stands out that the presidential race in Mexico reflects the majority of content in January. During the monthly analysis, it was observed that the Mexico Institute published 17 articles, of which 80% are related to the electoral process and a series of articles introduced some gubernatorial candidates. Meanwhile, AS/COA continues its monitoring of President López Obrador's approval rating (68% as of December). It is striking that few think tanks are following the U.S. presidential race from a bilateral agenda perspective. We are convinced that in 2024, **Democracy and Institutions** will be one of the most prolific topics in terms of publications.

### Key publications regarding Democracy and Institutions this month:

- [Mexico Institute, Why are Mexico's Elections Important?](#) by [Earl Anthony Wayne](#)
- [AS/COA, 2024 Elections in Latin America: A Preview](#) by [Chase Harrison](#), [Jon Orbasch](#), and [Jennifer Vilcarino](#)

### DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONS RECENT DATA

- In Democratic primary races for the 2024 Presidential election, President Biden has faced little opposition, contrasting with the Republican side, where former President Trump encountered several contenders. The Democratic primaries officially began with the South Carolina primary on February 3, with New Hampshire Democrats voting on January 23 (**Reuters**).

## Economy and Commerce

In the **Economy and Commerce** section, 4 articles covered a range of topics, notably including a report by IMCO on Nearshoring and its effects on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows. This analysis highlighted the significant impact of relocating businesses, showing a strategic shift in global manufacturing and supply chains favoring Latin American countries like Mexico, Brazil, and Chile. On the other hand, The Dialogue spotlighted the U.S. Treasury Secretary's visit to Mexico, which included discussions with Mexican Finance Minister Rogelio Ramírez de la O on the development of cross-border payment systems. All 4 articles presented in January reflect a deepening economic relationship between Mexico and the United States, underscored by strategic initiatives and trends like nearshoring, and reshaping regional investment landscapes and financial infrastructures.

### Key publications regarding Democracy and Institutions this month:

- [The Dialogue, Why are the US and Mexico intensifying financial scrutiny](#) by [Nicolás Mariscal](#)
- [IMCO, Nearshoring: The Impact on Foreign Direct Investment"](#) by [Staff](#)

### ECONOMY AND COMMERCE RECENT DATA

- FDI linked to the relocation of production chains in Mexico during the first nine months of 2023 grew by 47% compared to the same period in 2022 (**IMCO**).
- In December 2023, 5,490 million dollars in remittances entered Mexico, which represented an increase of 2.1% compared to December 2022. The total income from remittances in the country during 2023 was 63,313 million dollars, an increase of 7.6% compared to the amount received in 2022 (**BBVA Research**).

## North America

In discussions about **North America**, publications primarily emphasized two key topics: the border and elections. These discussions often revolved around the potential implications of these issues for the North American region. With a significant influx of migrants crossing the border in December, numerous think tanks delved into analyzing the potential effects on border policy development and the upcoming elections. The elections, in particular, garnered considerable attention in articles and publications, especially amidst shifting demographics where a growing Hispanic population becomes eligible to vote. This demographic shift is expected to have significant consequences for the electoral landscape. The Mexican elections have also garnered attention due to the impact the newly elected president will have on the bilateral relationship.

### Key publications regarding North America this month:

- [American Enterprise Institute, Could Immigration Hand the 2024 Election to Trump? by Ruy Teixeira](#)
- [Atlantic Council, With elections in Mexico and the US, 2024 is a pivotal year for North American trade by Luz Maria de la Mora](#)

### NORTH AMERICA RECENT DATA:

- **Article 34.7 of the USMCA**, allows for the trade agreement to end after a period of sixteen years (June 30, 2036) however, **in 2026 there will be a review (Atlantic Council)**.
- **Biden's approval rating** for handling immigration at the U.S.-Mexico border is currently at **18%**, the lowest since 2004. In Wall Street Journal poll, Trump has a 30 point lead over Biden on immigration issues (**American Enterprise Institute**).

## Other topics

In January, think tank publications delved into **Migration and Labor Mobility**, along with **Security and Rule of Law**. December witnessed a historic surge in migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, sparking multifaceted analyses in January. These included evaluations of border policy implications and potential impacts of the Biden administration's perceived lack of control on the upcoming U.S. elections. On this note, many advocate for stricter border policies to manage migrant flows and curb drug trafficking. One of the primary security concerns for the U.S. in its bilateral relationship revolves around drug cartels undermining the rule of law and the escalating drug epidemic. Meanwhile, Mexico grapples with efforts to combat these groups and reduce violence levels within the country.

### Key publications regarding Migration and Labor Mobility and Security and Rule of Law this month:

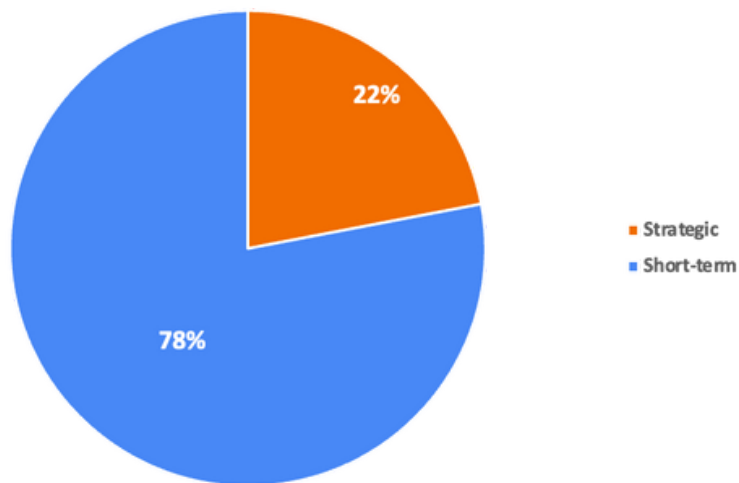
- [Council on Foreign Relations, Tough New Immigration Rules Risk Empowering the Cartels by Will Freeman](#)
- [Mexico Institute, Only the Truth Will Set Mexico Free...From Cartels by Luis Chaparro](#)

### MIGRATION AND LABOR MOBILITY AND SECURITY AND RULE OF LAW RECENT DATA

- In December, **U.S. officials processed 300,000 migrants at the U.S. southern border (Council on Foreign Relations)**.
- **Mexico holds a 29 murder per 100,000 rate** while the **U.S. has a 15 per 100,000**, according to official figures (**Wilson Center**).

## Relevant short-term events for the bilateral relationship

- The majority of the publications in the **Democracy and Institutions** category generated in January were classified as short-term relevance. In January, the content focused on Mexico's presidential process, as well as migration-related topics and the U.S. policies towards this.
- On the other hand, the strategic publications in January centered around the themes of **Economy and Commerce, Security and Rule of Law, and Migration and Labor Mobility**. It is noteworthy that publications focused on the USMCA and the economic opportunities the trade agreement provides. As well as a focus on Mexico's performance as a country.



Publications on the bilateral relationship have remained at the same volume compared to previous months. The majority of topics are related to Democracy and Institutions, with a particular focus on Mexico's elections. As stated before, it is anticipated that this will be the predominant topic for 2024.

## PUBLICATIONS

### MEXICAN THINK TANKS

- [IMCO Nearshoring: el impacto sobre la inversión extranjera directa](#) IMCO staff

### UNITED STATES THINK TANKS

- [American Enterprise Institute Could Immigration Hand the 2024 Election to Trump?](#) Ruy Teixeira
- [Atlantic Council With elections in Mexico and the US, 2024 is a pivotal year for North American trade](#) Luz Maria de la Mora
- [Baker Institute Mexico Country Outlook](#) Baker Institute
- [Council on Foreign Relations Proposed Judicial Reform Hasten Democratic Erosion](#) Shannon K. O'Neil and Will Freeman
- [Council on Foreign Relations Tough New Immigration Rules Risk Empowering the Cartels](#) Will Freeman
- [Heritage Foundation Why Biden's Support Among Hispanics Is Tanking—Here's a Hint: The Border Crisis](#) Mike Gonzalez
- [Pew Research Institute Monthly Encounters with migrants at US-Mexico border remain near record highs](#) JOHN GRAMLICH
- [The Dialogue Why are the US and Mexico intensifying financial scrutiny](#) Nicolás Mariscal, Raúl Benítez Manaut, Sarah Messer, James Gerber
- [Mexico Institute 2024 Elections: The United States, Mexico, and USMCA](#) Edgar Guillaumin
- [Mexico Institute NAFTA at 30: Canada Institute and Mexico Institute Experts Reflect](#) Staff
- [Mexico Institute Candidate Profile: Jorge Álvarez Máynez](#) Alexandra Helfgott
- [Mexico Institute Why are Mexico's Elections Important?](#) Earl Anthony Wayne
- [Mexico Institute Threats to Judiciary Independence: Are They Becoming Policies?](#) Mariana Campos
- [Mexico Institute January 2024: El Financiero Polls](#) Alejandro Moreno
- [Mexico Institute Mexico's Election: Issues and Polls](#) Staff
- [Mexico Institute Mexico-US meetings on migration, activist kidnapped, AMLO's austerity plan, Mexico files request with ICC](#) Lauren TerMaat
- [Mexico Institute The Role of Pemex in the 2024 Elections](#) Leonardo Beltrán
- [Mexico Institute Candidate Profile: Laura Haro Ramírez](#) Alexandra Helfgott
- [Mexico Institute Libia Dennise García Muñoz Ledo](#) Alexandra Helfgott
- [Mexico Institute US court decides on arms trafficking case, Ayotzinapa development, Gálvez to visit D.C., AMLO's proposed fentanyl reform](#) Lauren TerMaat
- [Mexico Institute AMLO's Grip: Mexico's Future at Stake](#) Alejandro García Magos
- [Mexico Institute Lucía Meza Guzmán](#) Alexandra Helfgott
- [Mexico Institute José Francisco Yunes Zorrilla](#) Alexandra Helfgott
- [Mexico Institute January 29, 2024: El Financiero Polls](#) Alejandro Moreno
- [Mexico Institute Only the Truth Will Set Mexico Free...From Cartels](#) Luis Chaparro
- [AS/COA Approval Tracker: Mexico's President AMLO](#) Carin Zissis
- [AS/COA 2024 Elections in Latin America: A Preview](#) Chase Harrison, Jon Orbasch and Jennifer Vilcarino
- [AS/COA Elecciones en 2024 en Latinoamérica: Un avance](#) Chase Harrison, Jon Orbasch and Jennifer Vilcarino
- [AS/COA Carin Zissis en NTN24: ¿Cómo avanza la precampaña en México?](#) Gustau Alegret
- [AS/COA Poll Tracker: Mexico's 2024 Presidential Vote](#) Carin Zissis
- [CSIS 2023: A Year of Mexican Oil to Cuba](#) Ryan Berg
- [PIIE Monetary policy in Latin America](#) Alejandro Werner, Maurice Obstfeld, Monica de Bolle and José De Gregorio

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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