

FEBRUARY 3RD, 2023

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



Forecasts 2023

Mexican Government

International Trade

Institutional
Relationship

Immigration

**North American
Leaders' Summit**

**COMPETITIVENESS
ECONOMY**

Security and
governance

RELEVANT EVENTS

- NORTH AMERICAN LEADERS' SUMMIT

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The Coppel-Intuit
Center for Binational
Institutions

An Initiative by the USMF



Instituto Mexicano para la Competitividad A.C.



Coverage Report

January 1st to January 31st, 2023

We compiled thirty-five publications related to the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States during the period from these 20% were written by Mexican think tanks, while 80% of the publications were published by United States think tanks. The Mexico Institute was the leading institution with eleven publications, followed by The Heritage Foundation with five publications.

In the context of the **North American Leaders' Summit** that took place in Mexico City on January 9th and 10th, this month's publications were focused on this meeting and the discussions around it. The tenth trilateral encounter between the presidents of Mexico, the United States, and Canada approached key topics such as migration, security, drug trafficking, supply chains, and labor mobility. Special emphasis was made on economic competitiveness in terms of how to promote the region through the nearshoring of semiconductor supply chains and battery production of electric vehicles. Additionally, the importance of the location of minerals related to these productive activities was highlighted. In relation to drug trafficking and border crime, fentanyl production was the most discussed topic. Overall, the publications remarked on the cordiality during the encounter and the opportunity that a friendly trilateral relationship would represent for the region.

The second most analyzed topic was **migration** due to President Biden's visit to the southern border of the United States. His administration announced changes in migratory policies, the most important being the amplification of the humanitarian parole program. This program now includes citizens of Cuba, Haiti, and Nicaragua, along with the previous incorporation of Venezuelans in October 2022. Nonetheless, Biden's decisions on migration and the asylum system are being questioned, especially concerning Title 42 of the migratory law. This title allows border authorities to expel immigrants to their country of origin or the last country visited before their arrival to the United States. The use of Title 42 increased significantly during the Trump administration due to the pandemic under the catchphrase 'Remain in Mexico'. Consequently, in April 2020, the encounters between immigrants and border patrol agents decreased to historical minimums. Nevertheless, the situation changed rapidly, and in November 2022 these border encounters

reached the maximum in 20 years.¹ Therefore, migration continues to be the protagonist in the trilateral relationship.

On the other hand, the **institutional relationship** was also an important topic in the publications. After the North American Leaders' Summit, think tanks published the results of the encounter and analyzed its key points and next steps to make the agreements plausible. Additionally, because of the trilateral dialogue, there was an emphasis made on **competitiveness**, specifically on the opportunities that the USMCA offers to the region and the actions required in sectors such as logistic infrastructure, rule of law, energetic transition, and human capital.² Moreover, **international trade** was relevant due to the decision made by the Mexican government to implement export tariffs for white corn. This, along with the previous limitations imposed on transgenic corn and the implications of both policies were discussed in various publications. In this same subject, e-commerce, technological relationships, and 5G networks took relevance in the discussions of the think tanks.

Finally, concerning technology, several articles centered their analysis on the **Mexican government** and the decisions made by the Lopez Obrador administration related to information technologies and communication. They argue that while the 2013 reform to the Telecommunications Act was a positive move in terms of competitiveness by opening to foreign direct investment, the current administration's project "Internet for all" is a setback. Although the program's objective of providing internet to rural areas is positive, there are no improvements in other realms of the national digital strategy. Also, due to government constraints such as the imposed high spectrum fees, the Federal Institute of Telecommunications has almost no capacity for action, even though it is an autonomous institution. Therefore, within this landscape, telecommunications cannot be an area where regional collaboration could be enhanced.

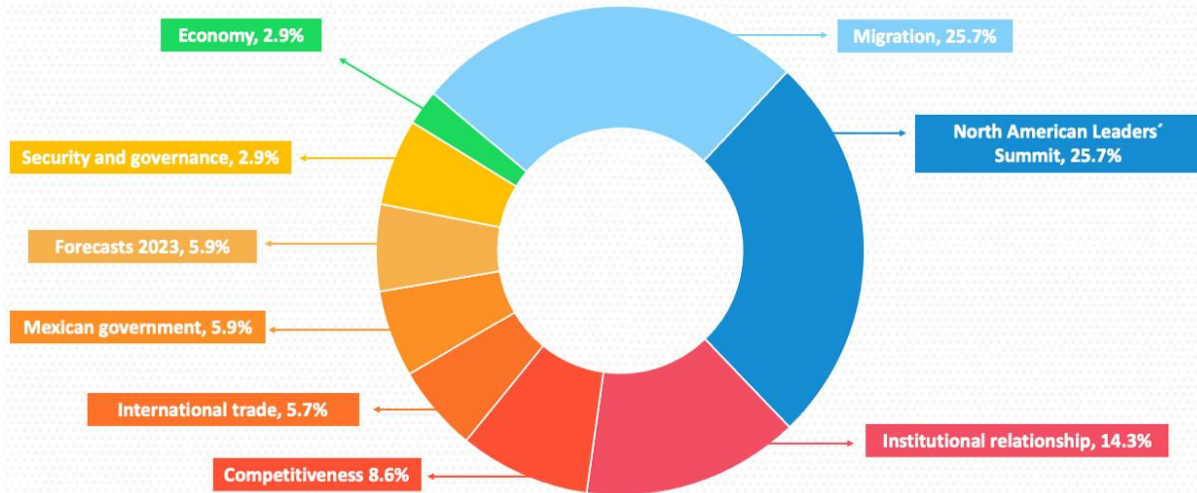
¹ Pew Research Center, [MONTHLY ENCOUNTERS WITH MIGRANTS AT U.S.-MEXICO BORDER REMAIN NEAR RECORD HIGHS](#), John Gramlich.

² IMCO, [¿CÓMO CONSOLIDAR AMÉRICA DEL NORTE COMO LA REGIÓN MÁS COMPETITIVA DEL MUNDO?](#), IMCO staff

Topics Covered

What topics of the bilateral relationship did think tanks in Mexico and the United States cover on January 2023?

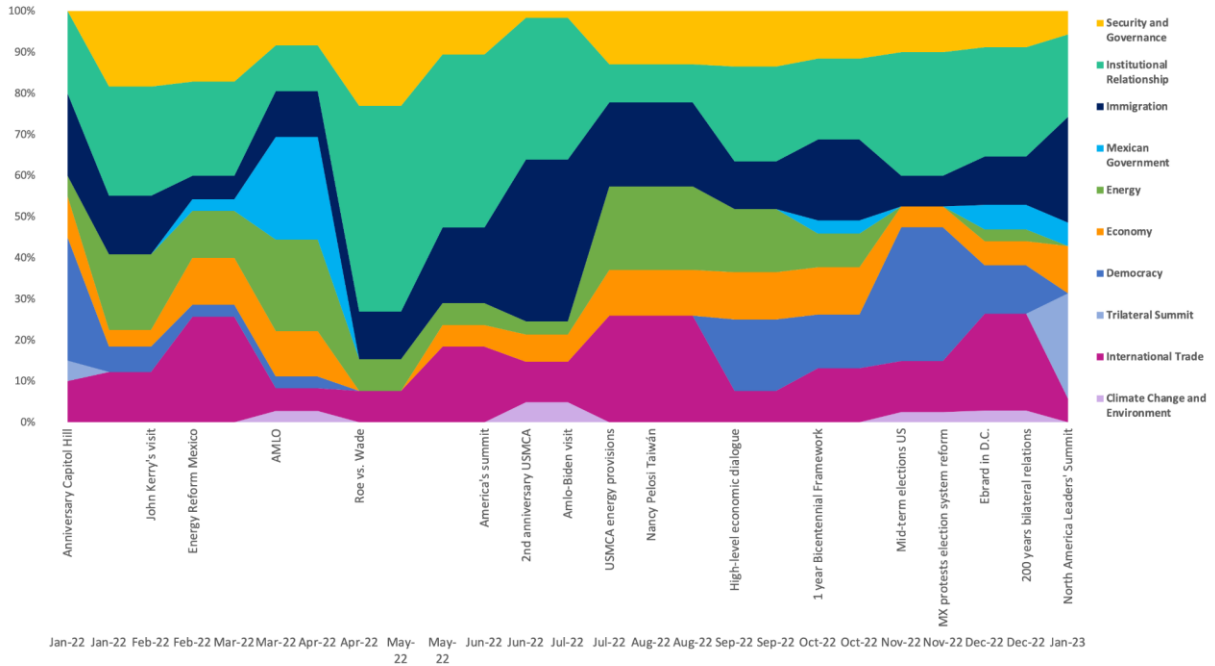
COMPETITIVENESS



Source: IMCO and USMF.



Relevant short-term events for the bilateral relationship and percentage of publications for selected topics



The chart above shows the most popular topics covered in each report over time. In this period, the topic of the Trilateral Summit is of vital importance due to the encounter between the three countries on January 9th and 10th. Immigration continues on the radar especially because of Biden's visit to the border and the migratory policies implemented by the United States. Furthermore, the institutional relationship continues to be a key topic, and it is expected to keep its relevance given the agreements and proposed agendas for 2023 in subjects such as international trade, security, and immigration.

Publications

Mexican Think Tanks

- Aspen Institute Mexico, [FUTURO DE AMÉRICA DEL NORTE](#), Webinar with Amb. Andrés Rozental, Ana María Salazar and Duncan Wood.
- COMEXI, [RESULTADOS DE LA CUMBRE DE LÍDERES DE AMÉRICA DEL NORTE](#), Webinar with Lorena Patterson, Pamela Starr, and Antonio Ortiz Mena, moderated by Sergio Alcocer and Rafael Fernández de Castro
- CEEY, [REPRESA MIGRATORIA](#), Rodolfo de la Torre
- IMCO, [¿CÓMO CONSOLIDAR AMÉRICA DEL NORTE COMO LA REGIÓN MÁS COMPETITIVA DEL MUNDO?](#), IMCO Staff
- IMCO, [EL FALLO A FAVOR DE MÉXICO Y CANADÁ SOBRE LAS REGLAS DE ORIGEN DEL SECTOR AUTOMOTRIZ PROTEGE LA COMPETITIVIDAD DE LA REGIÓN](#), IMCO Staff
- IMCO, [LOS ARANCELES A LA EXPORTACIÓN DE MAÍZ BLANCO ARRIESGAN LA COMPETITIVIDAD EN MÉXICO](#), IMCO Staff
- Ethos Laboratorio de Políticas Públicas, [DIALOGAN SOBRE EL FUTURO DE LOS THINK TANKS Y CENTROS DE INVESTIGACIÓN](#)

United States Think Tanks

- AS/COA, [MEDIA BRIEF: THE 2023 NORTH AMERICAN LEADER'S SUMMIT](#), Carin Zissis, Axel Cabrera, and Pedro Casas
- AS/COA, [APPROVAL TRACKER: MEXICO'S PRESIDENT AMLO](#), Carin Zissis
- Bush Center, [BUSH INSTITUTE AND NASCO ANNOUNCE WORKFORCE STUDY](#), Mathew Rooney and Tiffany Melvin
- CSIS, [TELECOMMUNICATIONS REFORM 2.0: HOW TO STRENGTHEN MEXICO'S ICT SECTOR BEYOND 2025](#), Ryan C. Berg and Andrew Sady-Kennedy
- CSIS, [BEST OF 35 WEST: LOGROS Y LIMITACIONES EN EL SECTOR DIGITAL EN MÉXICO / ACHIEVEMENTS AND LIMITATIONS IN MEXICO'S DIGITAL SECTOR](#), Podcast with Valeria Moy
- CSIS, [NORTH AMERICA IS BACK](#), Podcast with Kellie Meiman and Juan Carlos Baker
- Peterson Institute for International Economics, [NORTH AMERICAN LEADERS MAKE LITTLE PROGRESS ON THE HARD ISSUES](#), Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Jeffrey J. Schott
- Heritage Foundation, [TOP 3 REASONS WHY BIDEN'S BORDER VISIT IS THE WORST KIND OF POLITICS](#), Tom Homann and Mark Morgan
- Heritage Foundation, [BIDEN'S BUNGLED BORDER PROMISES](#), John Cooper
- Heritage Foundation, [BIDEN'S ABUSE OF POWER AT THE BORDER](#), Simon Hankinson
- Heritage Foundation, [FACT-CHECKING 5 FIBS FROM BIDEN'S BORDER SPEECH](#), Erin Dwinell
- Mexico Institute, [ON THE HORIZON 2023 | LATIN AMERICA](#), Benjamin Gedan, Beatriz García Nice and Francisco Urdinez
- Mexico Institute, [ON THE HORIZON 2023 | Mexico](#), Andrew I. Rudman, and Lila Abed
- Mexico Institute, [TENTH NORTH AMERICAN LEADERS' SUMMIT PREVIEW](#), Mexico Institute
- Mexico Institute, [CANUSA STREET EPISODE 54: PREVIEW OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LEADERS' SUMMIT](#), Canusa Street
- Mexico Institute, [MEXICAN LEADERSHIP IN ADDRESSING NUCLEAR RISKS, 1962-1968](#), J. Luis Rodríguez
- Mexico Institute, [THE 2023 NORTH AMERICAN LEADERS SUMMIT: WHEN THE "THREE AMIGOS" MEET IN MEXICO CITY, BUILDING COOPERATION WILL BE KEY](#), Earl Anthony Wayne
- Mexico Institute, [SMART TAKE: A LOOK BACK AT THE SUMMIT OF NORTH AMERICAN LEADERS IN MEXICO CITY](#), Andrew I. Rudman
- Mexico Institute, [A WEEK OF CONTRASTS: THE NORTH AMERICAN LEADERS SUMMIT AND VIOLENCE IN BRASÍLIA](#), Americas 360
- Mexico Institute, [NORTH AMERICA AFTER NALS: WHAT COMES NEXT?](#), Mexico Institute
- Mexico Institute, [JOURNALISM IN LATIN AMERICA IS UNDER ATTACK BY SPYWARE](#), Boris Muñoz
- Pew Research Center, [MONTHLY ENCOUNTERS WITH MIGRANTS AT U.S.-MEXICO BORDER REMAIN NEAR RECORD HIGHS](#), John Gramlich



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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