

## Mexico Podcast Chatter – April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026

This week, *MexMoves* and *Dimes y Billetes* both feature Pedro Casas Alatríste, director of the American Chamber of Commerce of México. In the first, Casas offers perspective on the USMCA review and its implications for investment and rules of origin, underscoring Mexico's strategic role in the region. In the second, speaking from Washington, Casas argues with Moris Dieck that the U.S.-China rivalry has given Mexico more leverage than it typically acknowledges, but that the country must shift from prioritizing investment volume to improving its quality if it wants to fully capitalize on the nearshoring opportunity (see below).

On the business and economic side, *Whitepaper 10* raises the question of which Mexican company could one day surpass a \$30 billion valuation, with Banamex as the most plausible candidate by size and brand, followed by Coppel, Gentera, Banregio, and Plata as credible contenders. *Fintech Expert* analyzes the Banamex transition following Citi's sale, Nu México's rise to the top 3 neobanks, and the payments sector's preparations for the 2026 World Cup, noting that the CNBV identified cybersecurity as a national systemic risk. *Estrategia del Día's* weekly summary covered the visit of USTR head Jamieson Greer to Mexico to discuss tariffs and rules of origin, weak February growth data, the sale of Atlas FC for \$220 million, and Amazon's technological expansion with Anthropic.

On domestic politics, *Botepronto* examines how Sheinbaum's handling of the CIA incident in Chihuahua and the Pemex spill in the Gulf has weakened her presidential authority, with contradictory statements and delayed reports exposing failures in communication and accountability. *Hablemos con Denise Maerker* interviewed energy specialist Fluvio Ruiz Alarcón, who argued that Pemex has the technical capacity for fracking but lacks the financial resources and institutional support. *El Noti's* weekly summary examined the shooting at Teotihuacán, questions over CIA operations in Chihuahua, the diesel shortage and dismantling of fuel theft networks, and Luisa María Alcalde's departure from Morena's leadership.

On international relations, *Tercer Grado* examined the accident in which two CIA agents were killed in Chihuahua, arguing that Governor Maru Campos's independent actions undermine national security and diplomatic credibility. *Política y otros datos* interpreted Sheinbaum's visit to Spain for the "Defense of Democracy" summit as Mexico's return to active European diplomacy after an eight-year pause. *Broojula* analyzed the USMCA review with Luis de la Calle and Solange Márquez, who argue that Mexico arrives more exposed than Canada.

On security, *Sal con amigos* featured journalist Javier Garza Ramos, who argued that political and media centralism from Mexico City limits understanding of local realities and explains why violence coverage and security policies tend to fall short in peripheral regions. *Narcosistema* with Anabel Hernández analyzes the death of CIA agents in Chihuahua and the covert operations the incident brought to light.

*Al habla con Warkentin* spoke with Santiago Corcuera about the decision to bring Mexico's case before the UN General Assembly, who stressed that the crisis of more than 130,000 disappearances since 2012 is a humanitarian tragedy, not a diplomatic conflict.

Finally, on history and culture, *Mexico: The Podcast* explores lesser-known archaeological sites that rival Teotihuacán and Chichén Itzá — such as Xochicalco and Cantona — examining heritage preservation policy and the impact of modern projects such as the Tren Maya on the Yucatán Peninsula.

## Mexico Business, Economics & Finance

### Mexico's next big company? — Whitepaper 10

Which Mexican company could one day surpass a US\$30 billion valuation? This is the question Whitepaper poses this week. Karla Berman and René Lankenau argue that while Mexico has several large firms, very few have a clear path to becoming the next FEMSA, Banorte, or Walmex. Potential candidates, according to the hosts, would need scale, ambition, stronger market valuation, and either global expansion or dominance in a deep domestic market. Banamex emerges as the most plausible candidate due to its size and brand, while Coppel, Gentera, Banregio, and Plata (alongside 3B, GBM, and others) are considered credible contenders.

20/04/26, Karla Berman and René Lankenau, [Whitepaper 10](#)

### North America's First World Cup, USMCA, Growth Challenges, Piracy, AI Investment, and Fibra Battles — MexMoves

This week, *MexMoves* looks at Mexico's economy following a weak first quarter and limited investment. Andrés Martínez explains the impact of the first FIFA World Cup in North America, highlighting how the U.S. and Mexico intersect in football business and culture. The episode also covers the economic toll of World Cup-related piracy and contraband, estimated at \$2.5 billion, affecting formal jobs. Flex, meanwhile, plans a \$1 billion investment in AI infrastructure, and Atlas FC changes hands for \$220 million. Pedro Casas, on the hand, provides insight into the USMCA review and its implications for investment and rules of origin, emphasizing Mexico's strategic role in the region.

23/04/26, Damian Fraser and Eduardo García with Andrés Martínez and Pedro Casas, [MexMoves](#)

### Banamex post-Citi, Plata vs. Nu for the top 3, and the 2026 World Cup as a stress test — Fintech Expert

The fintech-focused pod explores Banamex's post-Citi transition this week, as well as Nu México's rise to a top 3 neobank, to highlight how Mexico's digital market is taking shape ahead of the 2026 World Cup. The episode focuses on the importance of sound payment infrastructure, consumer trust, and regulation, and touches on sector developments (Nuvei launched direct acquiring, Banorte tested fully cashless payments in stadiums, and the CNBV identified cybersecurity as a systemic national risk).

27/04/26, Staff, [Fintech Expert](#)

### Weekly Summary — La Estrategia del Día

Mexico progresses in USMCA review talks with Jamieson Greer meeting President Claudia Sheinbaum this week, to discuss tariffs, rules of origin, and economic security. On the economy, February's data showed weak growth and falling public investment. Private sector highlights include the sale of Atlas FC, Prologis vs. Fibra Monterrey, and Amazon's technological expansion with Anthropic. Netflix's stock drop, meanwhile, impacts local investors, and Unilever implements multi-brand strategies to engage Mexican consumers.

24–27/04/26, Jimena Tolama, [La Estrategia del Día](#)

## Mexican Political Affairs

### The Latest Presidential Blunder — Botepronto

*Botepronto* this week examines how Sheinbaum's response to the Chihuahua CIA incident and the Gulf oil spill has weakened her presidential authority. The panel review how conflicting statements, delayed reporting, and poorly managed operations reveal deep communication failures and the shirking of accountability. These missteps, they argue, undermine her credibility, complicate judicial processes, and confuse the public, suggesting that acknowledging errors could restore trust at a time when mismanagement and uncertainty dominate the political sphere.

21/04/26, Carlos Puig, María Scherer, Salvador Camarena and Carlos Heredia, [Botepronto](#)

### Mexico on the path to fracking: Is Pemex ready? — Hablemos con Denise Maerker

This week, Denise Maerker interviews Fluvio Ruiz Alarcón, energy expert, on Mexico's energy vulnerability and the potential role of fracking. They discuss the country's heavy dependence on U.S. gas, limited storage, and the short- to medium-term viability of fracking. Ruiz emphasizes that Pemex has technical capacity but lacks financial resources and institutional support, with effective fracking deployment requiring stronger regulatory frameworks, public-private partnerships for technology transfer, and competent governance. He urges the development of a broader energy strategy that includes nuclear, renewables, and domestic gas production to reduce national vulnerability.

21/04/26, Denise Maerker with Fluvio Ruiz Alarcón, [Hablemos con Denise Maerker](#)

### Weekly Summary — El Noti

*El Noti* this week covered the Teotihuacán shooting, which left one tourist dead and several injured, while the death of U.S. agents in Chihuahua raised questions about C.I.A. operations and federal oversight. Diesel shortages, on the other hand, affected transportation and industry, while huachicol (fuel theft) networks were dismantled (authorities seized 100,000+ liters of LPG in a series of 20 raids

nationwide). On the political front, Luisa María Alcalde left Morena's leadership, and the INE came under renewed party control.

21-27/04/26, Maca Carriedo and Javier Garza, [El Noti](#)

## Mexican International Relations

### Why CIA Agents Were in Mexico? Claudia Sheinbaum's Spain Trip and the Pemex Spill – Tercer Grado

On this week's episode, the panel analyzes the story that dominated last week's headlines: the fatal involvement of two CIA agents in Chihuahua. They argue that independent actions of Governor Maru Campos inadvertently undermine national security and diplomatic credibility, revealing systematic vulnerabilities between local governments and federal oversight. Claudia Sheinbaum's trip to Barcelona also gained air-time, with the panel highlighting the balancing act between projecting diplomacy and managing U.S. perceptions. Finally, Pemex's delayed acknowledgement of the Gulf oil spill was criticized for exposing institutional inefficiency and eroding public trust, touching on the central themes of this week's episode.

23/04/26, René Delgado, Denise Maerker, Viridiana Ríos, Leo Zuckerman, Raymundo Riva Palacio and Leopoldo Gómez, [Tercer Grado](#)

### Why the U.S. needs Mexico more than ever – Dimes y Billetes

Moris Dieck reports from Washington D.C. in a conversation with Pedro Casas, president of the American Chamber of Commerce Mexico. Casas argues that U.S.-China rivalry has given Mexico more leverage than it typically recognizes, due to the nearshoring opportunity (which he believes could enter a second wave after the review). However, Casas argues that Mexico must shift from prioritizing the volume of investment to improving its quality through a coordinated national strategy, stronger negotiation with investors, and requirements such as technology transfer and local development, if it is to fully capitalize on the opportunity. He highlights Asian models of development as an example of where FDI has been used to achieve meaningful national development.

27/04/26, Moris Dieck with Pedro Casas, [Dimes y Billetes](#)

### Sheinbaum in Spain: Mexico Returns to the European Stage – Política y Otros Datos

President Claudia Sheinbaum's visit to Spain for the "Defence of Democracy" summit last week marked Mexico's reentry into active European diplomacy after an eight-year hiatus, spotlighted on *Política y Otros Datos* this week. Tec de Monterrey professor Blanca Algarra Alba and international political analyst Verónica Ortiz interpret the visit as a strategic reinforcement of Mexico's commitment to pluralistic international relations, signaling engagement with powers beyond the United States. Given that Spain is Mexico's second-largest European investor, the guests argue that the trip strategically positions

Mexico as a regional leader capable of navigating EU, Latin American, and U.S. interests ahead of USMCA talks and the World Cup.

23/04/26, Mariel Ibarra with Verónica Ortiz and Blanca Algarra Alba, [Política y Otros Datos](#)

### **The Canadian Strategy – Broojula**

Ana Ordorica examines the USMCA review this week alongside Solange Márquez, *El Universal* columnist and political analyst, and Luis de la Calle, former undersecretary for international trade negotiations (in Mexico's Ministry of the Economy). They argue that Mexico is more exposed than Canada, with Ottawa diversifying and taking a firmer stance while Mexico remains dependent on the U.S. De la Calle argues that this dependence, however, may actually protect Mexico, as supply chain integration limit aggressive U.S. actions. The episode, therefore, reveals how Mexico is highly dependent on the U.S. ahead of reviews, yet not easily replaceable.

24/04/26, Ana Paula Ordorica with Luis de la Calle and Solange Márquez, [Broojula](#)

## **Mexican Security & Crime**

### **Javier Garza: Centralism, Violence, and Regional Journalism – Sal con amigos**

Veteran journalist Javier Garza Ramos examines how centralism in Mexico (the political, media, and resource control from Mexico City) limits understanding of local realities in more peripheral regions. Ramos argues that coverage of violence and policies often fail because they are designed without an accurate understanding of the local context, regional actors, or social dynamics. He emphasizes the need to listen to local perspectives, incorporate on-the-ground knowledge, and adapt strategies so media and policies become more accurate, responsible, and effective for Mexican society outside of the capital.

23/04/26, Salvador Camarena with Javier Garza Ramos, [Sal con amigos](#)

### **Spy Games: CIA Secret Operations Unsettle Sheinbaum – Narcosistema**

Anabel Hernández this week examines the death of CIA agents in Chihuahua and the covert operations it uncovered. Hernández reveals that Sheinbaum had authorized coordinated raids on an 850 m<sup>2</sup> meth lab linked to the Sinaloa Cartel, yet the U.S. conducted secret mirror missions elsewhere. The episode uses direct testimonies and sources to expose institutional vulnerability caused by parallel official and covert operations, criticizing the lack of transparency when dealing with organized crime.

22/04/26, Anabel Hernández, [Narcosistema](#)

### **The dilemma of never returning: forced disappearance in Mexico – Al habla... con Warkentin**

Gabriela Warkentin speaks with Santiago Corcuera, human rights expert and former president of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances, about the decision to refer Mexico's case to the UN General Assembly after more than 130,000 disappearances since 2012. Corcuera argues that the referral is not an attack on Mexico, but a response to a persistent crisis of rising disappearances, near-

total impunity, and forensic collapse, escalated by Calderón-era militarization and reinforced by successive governments. The crisis, he argues, is a humanitarian tragedy, not a diplomatic dispute.

27/04/26, Gabriela Warkentin with Santiago Corcuera, [Al habla... con Warkentin](#)

## Mexican Culture & Society

### Hidden Gems of Mexican Archaeology – Mexico: The Podcast

In this episode, Tavo and Alex explore lesser-known archaeological sites in Mexico that rival Teotihuacán and Chichén Itzá in beauty and historical significance, including Sochikalko and Cantona. They highlight the richness of Mesoamerican civilizations, from the Olmecs to the Mayans, and their extraordinary urban planning and infrastructure, especially water systems. The discussion covers the politics and bureaucracy affecting site preservation, as well as the impact of modern projects like the Maya Train and agriculture in the Yucatán Peninsula. Despite these challenges, the episode emphasizes the importance of visiting and valuing these “hidden treasures” of Mexico, supported by local communities that protect and maintain their ancestral legacy.

23/04/26, Tavo Figueroa and Alex González Homerad, [Mexico: The Podcast](#)