

## México Podcast Chatter – 19 de agosto de 2026

Our recommended podcast of the week is *Dimes y Billetes*, in which Moris Dieck analyses the recent appreciation of the Mexican peso and explains why its return to levels close to 17 pesos to the dollar should not be interpreted solely as a sign of economic strength. The episode examines the interest rate differential with the United States, the *carry trade*, the peso's liquidity and export performance, whilst linking the currency's strength to the review of the USMCA, US tariffs and pressures on the automotive industry. Taken together, it shows how the peso has become a barometer of both global financial conditions and Mexico's economic position relative to the United States.

In business and economics, *Rodcast*, *Fintech Expert*, *Chisme Corporativo*, *MexMoves*, *Whitepaper 10* and *La Estrategia del Día* agree that business competitiveness will increasingly depend on the ability to adapt to technological, financial and consumer-driven transformations. The episodes analyse the maturation of fintech firms, the integration of artificial intelligence into payments and logistics, the growth of hard discount retailers, the challenges of building Mexican brands with global reach, and the tension between brand identity and corporate interests.

In domestic politics, *Broojula*, *Política y Otros Datos* and *El Noti* reflect a week marked by fresh questions about the strength of institutions and an increasingly complex relationship with the United States. The episodes analyse the revocation of Andy López Beltrán's visa, the growing use of consular measures as a tool for bilateral pressure, and doubts regarding the independence and capacity of the new Supreme Court, alongside various political and security controversies that keep governance and the rule of law at the centre of the debate.

On security and crime, *Narcosistema* and *Sal con Amigos* offer contrasting perspectives on how institutions function. Whilst *\*Sal con Amigos\** highlights the reduction in homicides and greater coordination between authorities—though it acknowledges challenges regarding extortion and disappearances—*Narcosistema* uses the case of Brenda Quevedo to examine allegations of torture, manipulation of evidence and political influence. Both programmes reflect that improvements in certain indicators coexist with persistent challenges of impunity and institutional strengthening.

Finally, in history and culture, *Ciberdiálogos* and *The Modern Mexico Podcast* reflect on how societies respond to periods of transformation and uncertainty. The conversation with Valeria Luiselli addresses the role of literature in refocusing attention and understanding political and social change, whilst the history of the tequila industry shows how adaptation and cooperation enabled the industry to weather periods of instability, corruption and violence.

## Mexico Business, Economics & Finance

### **The “Super Peso” Reflects Global Factors and Mexico’s Financial Appeal — Dimes y Billetes**

Moris Dieck analyzes the Mexican peso’s appreciation, which has returned to around 17 pesos per U.S. dollar, and argues that the exchange rate should not be interpreted solely as a reflection of Mexico’s economic performance. He explains that the peso is a highly liquid currency widely used by international investors, making it sensitive to both domestic developments and global risk appetite. Factors currently supporting the peso include Mexico’s interest-rate differential with the United States, which continues to make the *carry trade* attractive, as well as strong Mexican exports. Dieck also discusses the USMCA review and U.S. tariffs on automobiles, steel, and aluminum, warning about the pressure that growing Chinese vehicle imports could place on Mexico’s automotive industry. Finally, he examines U.S. visa restrictions and other measures as potential tools of political pressure on Mexico, questioning the broader objectives behind this strategy.

**17/08/2026, Moris Dieck, Dimes y Billetes**

### **Mexico’s historical identity and the rise of AI raise questions about how societies adapt to profound transformations — Rodcast**

*Rodcast* presents a conversation between Rodrigo Pacheco and historian Jorge Traslosheros about the construction of Mexico’s national identity and the challenges posed by a new period of technological transformation. Traslosheros argues that Mexico’s “official history” has often been shaped by political interests, reinforcing narratives centered on conquest, victimhood and confrontation rather than recognizing the country’s cultural diversity and complex historical development. The conversation examines Mexico’s Indigenous and colonial heritage, the construction of the nation-state, liberalism and populism, as well as the current government’s use of historical narratives for political purposes. The episode also explores the rapid development of artificial intelligence, comparing its potential impact with previous industrial revolutions and examining the concentration of technological power in private companies. Traslosheros argues that AI should ultimately remain a tool at the service of society and that its development must be guided by human dignity, dialogue and the common good rather than exclusively by corporate, political or technological interests.

**13/08/2026, Rodrigo Pacheco with Jorge Traslosheros, Rodcast**

### **The transformation of fintechs into banks marks a new stage of maturity and competition in Mexico’s financial system — Fintech Expert**

*Fintech Expert* analyzes how Mexico’s fintech ecosystem is moving from a stage focused on growth and customer acquisition toward one increasingly driven by profitability, scale, and regulation. The episode highlights the performance of Nu México, which now surpasses several digital banks combined in assets, deposits, and lending and has completed its transformation into a fully licensed bank, reflecting a trend also being pursued by players such as Ualá, Klar, and Finsus. It also examines Banco Plata’s strategy of

using promotional interest rates to attract customers, new anti-money laundering requirements, and a Supreme Court ruling that strengthens the UIF's ability to keep accounts frozen during legal proceedings. The episode argues that banking licenses provide greater trust and protection for depositors but also impose heavier regulatory requirements, raising the challenge of whether fintechs can preserve the agility and innovation that originally allowed them to compete with traditional banks.

**17/08/2026, FintechExpert**

### **Technology is reshaping logistics and digital payments across key sectors of Mexico's economy – MexMoves**

*MexMoves* analyzes the week's main business trends in Mexico, highlighting the growth of hard-discount retail, the transformation of the logistics sector, and the increasing adoption of artificial intelligence in financial services. Damian Fraser and Eduardo García discuss Tiendas 3B's strong performance relative to traditional retailers and speak with Antonio Tejedo of TRAXIÓN about the company's evolution toward a more integrated and asset-light logistics model, as well as the opportunities created by Mexico-U.S. trade despite uncertainty surrounding nearshoring and security challenges. The episode also explores the transformation of digital payments with Mauricio Schwartzmann of Yuno, who explains how AI can optimize processes such as fraud prevention and payment approvals while enabling digital agents to conduct transactions on behalf of consumers. Overall, the conversations illustrate how technology, operational efficiency, and new business models are reshaping both traditional and digital sectors of the Mexican economy.

**13/08/2026, Damian Fraser and Eduardo García with Antonio Tejedo and Mauricio Schwartzmann, MexMoves**

### **Mexico has the manufacturing capacity to build global fashion brands, but scale and competition remain major barriers – Whitepaper 10**

*Whitepaper 10* analyzes why Mexico has developed a strong apparel manufacturing base without producing fashion brands with the global scale of companies from the United States, Europe or other Latin American markets. René Lankenau and Karla Berman highlight that Mexico exported nearly US\$5.8 billion in apparel and footwear in 2025 and manufactures for brands including Levi's, Nike, Patagonia and Tommy Hilfiger, yet local companies face an unusually competitive domestic market, limited access to financing, higher logistics costs and disadvantages in sourcing and scale. The episode argues that global players such as Inditex combine the speed of smaller companies with the purchasing power of large corporations, making it difficult for Mexican brands to compete on either dimension. At the same time, brands such as Maja, Cuidado con el Perro, Acapella and Someone Somewhere show that opportunities remain for companies able to identify differentiated niches, maintain profitability and scale without sacrificing quality.

**17/08/2026, René Lankenau and Karla Berman, Whitepaper 10**

## Weekly Summary — La Estrategia del Día

This week, *La Estrategia del Día* focused on Mexico's economic outlook, corporate performance and major international business developments. The episodes examined growing pressure from private-sector economists for the Sheinbaum administration to accelerate economic growth, the strength and outlook of the Mexican peso, and weaker-than-expected tourism figures. The podcast also covered Nu's strong earnings, Tiendas 3B's strategy, Plata's expansion in savings products and CFE's plans for a new Fibra E. Internationally, it analyzed U.S. policy toward Cuba and Iran, the continued impact of tariffs on Mexico, and major corporate developments involving Anthropic, SpaceX, Stripe, Jeff Bezos and Liverpool. The week closed with a discussion of BP's renewed investment plans in Mexico and the government's efforts to regulate social media use among minors.

12/08/2026–18/08/2026, Jimena Tolama, [La Estrategia del Día](#)

## Mexican Political Affairs

### The cancellation of Andy López Beltrán's visa opens a new front of tension between Mexico and the United States — Broojula

*Broojula* analyzes the controversy surrounding the cancellation of Andrés Manuel López Beltrán's U.S. visa and its implications for the bilateral relationship. In a conversation with Brian Naranjo, former Minister Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico, Ana Paula Ordorica examines the lack of official information regarding the reasons behind the decision and the Trump administration's growing use of visa restrictions as a tool for political pressure. The episode highlights that Morena and Claudia Sheinbaum have framed the case as a political and sovereignty issue, while the opposition has linked it to allegations of corruption surrounding López Beltrán, despite Washington not confirming the reasons for the cancellation. Naranjo argues that Morena's nationalist response was predictable and suggests that the episode could complicate Sheinbaum's position by forcing her to balance the defense of a figure close to López Obrador with the need to preserve cooperation with the United States.

18/08/2026, Ana Paula Ordorica with Brian Naranjo, [Broojula](#)

### Mexico's New Supreme Court Faces Questions Over Its Independence, Technical Capacity, and Role as a Check on Power — Política y Otros Datos

*Política y Otros Datos* reviews the first year of Mexico's new Supreme Court and the effects of the judicial reform that introduced the popular election of justices. In a conversation with constitutional scholars Juan Jesús Garza Onofre and Javier Martín Reyes, the episode argues that the new Court has shown lower efficiency, technical capacity, and independence, as well as greater alignment with political power. The experts warn that these changes could weaken legal certainty and the Court's ability to serve as an effective check on government, particularly amid proposals to reopen previously final rulings. The discussion also addresses the upcoming rotation of the Court's presidency and the possibility of Lenia Batres assuming the position, as well as pending issues such as mandatory pretrial detention. Overall,

the speakers frame the judicial reform as part of a broader institutional transformation that has weakened checks on the Executive and could have long-term implications for the rule of law.

**13/08/2026, Mariel Ibarra, Juan Jesús Garza Onofre and Javier Martín Reyes, [Política y Otros Datos](#)**

### **Weekly Summary – El Noti**

This week, *El Noti* focused its coverage on deteriorating security conditions, political disputes, and cases raising questions about the functioning of Mexico's institutions. The episodes examined rising extortion, reports on organized crime's penetration across different regions of the country, the arrest of alleged extortionists in Michoacán, and the release in the United States of Sinaloa's former security secretary. On politics, the podcast covered growing pressure on Alejandro "Alito" Moreno, the controversy surrounding the revocation of Andy López Beltrán's U.S. visa, the dispute over the so-called "Sheinbaum list," and efforts to remove the governor of Nuevo León. It also addressed alleged irregularities in Mexico City public tenders, criminal proceedings against a former governor of Guerrero, and the economic stagnation of several Mexican states. The week's coverage also included UNAM's decision to return to an in-person admissions exam and developments involving Mexican nationals in Colombia.

**12/08/2026–18/08/2026, [El Noti](#)**

## **Security and Crime**

### **The Brenda Quevedo case exposes alleged torture, evidence manipulation and institutional failures in Mexico's justice system – Narcosistema**

Anabel Hernández examines the case of Brenda Quevedo Cruz, who was accused in connection with the alleged 2005 kidnapping and murder of Hugo Alberto Wallace and spent nearly two decades in detention or under judicial proceedings. Hernández argues that the case was built on manipulated evidence, confessions obtained under torture and the political influence of Isabel Miranda de Wallace, while Quevedo recounts her detention, extradition from the United States and alleged torture by masked officials in Mexican prisons, including Islas Marías. The episode frames her case as an example of broader institutional failures in Mexico, highlighting alleged abuses by federal authorities, irregularities in the investigation and the intervention of organizations including the UN and Amnesty International. Hernández also connects the case to her broader argument about a "failed state," in which political influence, impunity and weaknesses in the justice system can enable serious human-rights violations.

**13/08/2026, Anabel Hernández with Brenda Quevedo Cruz, [Narcosistema](#)**

### **The decline in homicides reflects greater institutional coordination, although challenges remain around extortion and disappearances – Sal con Amigos**

*Sal con Amigos* analyzes the evolution of the Sheinbaum administration's security strategy in a conversation with Marcela Figueroa, head of the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security

System. Figueroa highlights that the daily average number of homicides has fallen by 51% since the beginning of the administration, reaching 42.5 per day in July, and attributes this trend to a strategy focused on addressing root causes, strengthening institutions, intelligence, and greater coordination between federal and state authorities. The conversation also addresses discrepancies between homicide figures reported by the SESNSP and INEGI, as well as efforts to standardize and verify information provided by state prosecutors. The episode further examines persistent challenges, particularly extortion and disappearances, and explains how discoveries of clandestine graves are incorporated into homicide statistics once investigations determine the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

**12/08/2026, Salvador Camarena with Marcela Figueroa, Sal con amigos**

## **Mexican Culture & Society**

### **Literature offers a tool to recover our attention and understand an increasingly fragmented political environment – Ciberdiálogos**

*Ciberdiálogos* presents a conversation between León Krauze and Mexican writer Valeria Luiselli about the role of literature in an era shaped by distraction, polarization, and political and social transformation. Drawing on her book *Principio, Medio, Fin*, Luiselli reflects on how a childhood marked by migration and moving between different countries and languages shaped her writing, and explains her return to the classics and the observation of the natural world as ways to recover the capacity for attention. The conversation also addresses the deterioration of reading and concentration habits among young people, as well as the political environment in the United States under Donald Trump, particularly pressures on migrants, universities, international students, and the media. Luiselli argues that literature is not obligated to respond directly to political or social crises, but can provide a space to question reality, imagine alternatives, and understand the human consequences of broader societal changes.

**17/08/2026, León Krauze with Valeria Luiselli, Ciberdiálogos**

### **The history of tequila reflects how political risk and institutional weakness have shaped business development in Mexico – Modern Mexico**

*Modern Mexico* analyzes the evolution of the tequila industry as a lens for understanding Mexico's economic and political history, in a conversation with Ted Genoways, author of *Tequila Wars*. Through the story of José Cuervo during the Porfiriato and the Mexican Revolution, the episode examines how the industry went from benefiting from investment and infrastructure expansion to facing corruption, political instability and widespread destruction during the revolutionary conflict. Genoways highlights that the sector's survival depended on the ability of leading tequila families to adapt politically and later cooperate to rebuild the industry and develop export markets. The conversation argues that some of these challenges remain today, particularly institutional uncertainty, extortion and organized crime, although cooperation among producers has helped turn tequila into one of Mexico's most internationally recognized industries.

13/08/2026, Nathaniel Parish with Ted Genoways, [The Modern Mexico Podcast](#)