

México Podcast Chatter – 5 de agosto de 2026

Amid the scandal over the alleged use of artificial intelligence in UNAM's entrance exams, our recommended podcast of the week is Rodcast, where Rodrigo Pacheco speaks with Juan Pablo Murra, rector of the Tecnológico de Monterrey, and Silvia Dávila, board member of the School of Conscious Capitalism, about how this technology is transforming education, talent, and the business world. The episode argues that the adoption of AI will force universities and companies to rethink the way they prepare and develop people, prioritizing skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and the capacity for continuous learning. The guests agree that the technology will make it possible to automate an increasing number of tasks, but that long-term competitiveness will depend on combining these tools with human capabilities, quality jobs, and business models capable of balancing efficiency, talent, and purpose.

In business and economics, Chisme Corporativo, Rodcast, Mexico Matters, MexMoves, Dimes y Billetes, Whitepaper 10, and La Estrategia del Día examine how technology, infrastructure, and adaptability are redefining the competitiveness of companies and industries in Mexico. The episodes address the transformation of the labor market in the face of artificial intelligence, energy constraints on Mexico's ability to capitalize on nearshoring, the digitalization of commerce and media, new requirements for importers, and the importance of strong operating models to sustain growth. Together, they show that investment and expansion opportunities will increasingly depend on combining technological innovation with infrastructure, talent, and execution capabilities.

In national politics, Broojula, Política y Otros Datos, AI habla con Warkentin, and El Noti agree that the regulation of media and new technologies is opening a broader debate over the role of the state, freedom of expression, and digital education. The episodes analyze the new audience rights guidelines and the risks associated with greater regulatory intervention in the media, as well as proposals to restrict cellphone use in schools and their implications for students, teachers, and families. The discussions suggest that the challenges associated with digital transformation are unlikely to be solved through bans or regulation alone and will also require greater digital literacy, shared responsibility, and institutional adaptation.

Finally, Narcosistema examines the new audience rights guidelines from the perspective of their potential implications for critical journalism and coverage of organized crime, corruption, and links between political actors and criminal groups. The episode warns that greater government authority to intervene in journalistic content could increase the pressures already facing the media in a context marked by violence against journalists and ahead of the 2027 elections, reinforcing the importance of preserving effective mechanisms to protect freedom of expression.

El Palacio de Hierro is much more than a luxury department store — Chisme Corporativo

Chisme Corporativo examines the history and business model of El Palacio de Hierro, from its origins as Mexico's first department store to its integration into the Baillères family conglomerate. Maca Riva and Rosa Laura López explain that, despite perceptions that it was long more of a prestige asset than a profitable business, the company has built a virtually unique position as the gateway to Mexico's luxury market: it operates 15 department stores, alongside boutiques, standalone stores, restaurants and travel agencies, and generates five to six times more revenue per store than Liverpool. The episode highlights that its current strength comes from combining three businesses — retail, financial services and real estate — with the Tarjeta Palacio credit card and its property portfolio providing value beyond merchandise sales. It also explores the transformation of the global luxury market, where a smaller consumer base now accounts for a similar level of spending, and notes El Palacio de Hierro's accelerating digital transition, with online sales growing 21% in the first quarter of 2026, compared with 4.2% growth in the group's overall sales.

04/08/2026, Maca Riva and Rosa Laura López, Chisme Corporativo

Artificial intelligence is forcing a rethink of education, talent and the purpose of business — Rodcast

Rodcast examines how artificial intelligence is simultaneously transforming education and the business world, in conversation with Juan Pablo Murra, rector of Tecnológico de Monterrey, and Silvia Dávila, board member of its Conscious Capitalism School. Murra explains that Tec is redesigning its academic programs to prepare students for a labor market in which AI will increasingly automate tasks, while the professor's role is shifting from transmitting knowledge to designing learning experiences that develop critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and other human skills. Dávila argues that this transformation is also forcing companies to balance short-term pressures for profitability and efficiency with strategies that consider employees, customers, suppliers and society, making talent and purpose increasingly important competitive advantages. The conversation also addresses challenges facing recent graduates, the migration of Mexican talent toward markets offering higher salaries, and the need to combine technological adoption with entrepreneurship and high-quality formal employment. Both guests argue that while AI will accelerate the transformation of companies and professions, long-term competitiveness will depend on developing people who can ask better questions, continuously learn and use technology without replacing the human capabilities that create value.

03/08/2026, Rodrigo Pacheco with Juan Pablo Murra and Silvia Dávila, Rodcast

Mexico's energy constraints threaten its ability to capitalize on nearshoring and North American integration — Mexico Matters

Mexico Matters examines how insufficient investment in energy infrastructure has become a major constraint on Mexico's economic growth and its ability to attract manufacturing and data centers. In conversation with former energy regulator Guillermo García Alcocer, Mariana Campero discusses

Mexico's growing dependence on U.S. natural gas, declining domestic oil and gas production, limited storage capacity and an electricity grid that has struggled to keep pace with industrial demand. García Alcocer argues that the Sheinbaum administration has adopted a more pragmatic approach than its predecessor by recognizing the need for private investment in electricity generation and mixed-investment projects, although restrictions on private participation and CFE's control of transmission continue to limit the sector. The episode contrasts this progress with Pemex, whose financial liabilities, weak payment record and state-centered partnership model continue to discourage investment in hydrocarbons. With the United States expanding energy production and countries such as Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela competing for global capital, García Alcocer argues that Mexico's priority should shift from energy sovereignty to energy security, using private investment, domestic production, storage and greater North American integration to ensure that a lack of reliable energy does not become a permanent barrier to investment and competitiveness.

04/08/2026, Mariana Campero with Guillermo García Alcocer, Mexico Matters

Gabriela Cámara explains why restaurant success depends more on execution than culinary innovation – MexMoves

MexMoves speaks with Gabriela Cámara, founder of Contramar and CEO of Red Contramar, about the business model behind one of Mexico's most internationally recognized restaurant groups. Cámara argues that Contramar's success does not come from particularly sophisticated cuisine, but from maintaining a simple and consistent proposition built around high-quality ingredients, strong service, long-term supplier relationships and disciplined execution, while Red Contramar centralizes functions such as finance, procurement and operating standards without eliminating the independence of each restaurant. The conversation also explores the growing international appeal of Mexican cuisine and the group's expansion into the United States, where Cámara highlights labor costs, access to skilled staff and the selection of local partners as critical factors in successfully replicating a restaurant concept. Despite the sector's growing appeal, she warns that investing in restaurants solely in expectation of high returns is often a mistake, given tight margins and the operational complexity of an industry where success ultimately depends on building strong teams and consistently delivering a high-quality customer experience.

30/07/2026, Damian Fraser and Eduardo García with Gabriela Cámara, MexMoves

Mexico's new electronic value declaration changes the rules for importers – Dimes y Billetes

Dimes y Billetes examines the introduction of the electronic value declaration, a new requirement that makes importers responsible for digitally declaring the value of goods entering Mexico. In conversation with Daniel Peinberg of Campton, Moris Dieck explains that the measure seeks to curb the undervaluation of merchandise and improve tariff collection, but also shifts responsibility toward importers for a process that was previously handled largely by customs brokers. The episode warns that the change could create a significant administrative burden for around 110,000 importing companies,

particularly those managing large volumes, as the declaration must be correctly completed before goods can clear customs and errors can result in fines. Peinberg argues that greater transparency was necessary but questions whether the technological infrastructure and the industry are sufficiently prepared for the new requirement, highlighting potential delays, higher storage costs, customs congestion and disruptions to domestic supply chains.

03/08/2026, Moris Dieck with Daniel Peinberg, Dimes y Billetes

The New York Times shows how a legacy media company can reinvent its business model for the digital era – Whitepaper 10

Whitepaper 10 examines how The New York Times has managed to grow despite the structural decline of the newspaper industry, transforming a traditional media company into a subscription-driven digital business with more than 13 million subscribers. René Lankenau and Carla Medina highlight how decades of investment in journalistic credibility allowed the company to capitalize on growing demand for reliable information, while gradually expanding its offering into products such as games, cooking, sports and product reviews to increase engagement and diversify revenues. The episode contrasts this performance with the broader deterioration of the newspaper industry, including Mexico, where employment in newspaper publishing fell by approximately 45% between 2014 and 2024. The hosts argue that the company's success ultimately reflects its ability to preserve news as the foundation of its brand while adapting its product to new consumption habits, expanding internationally and building a business model in which recurring subscription revenues provide greater financial stability and editorial independence.

03/08/2026, René Lankenau and Carla Medina, Whitepaper 10

Weekly Summary – La Estrategia del Día

La Estrategia del Día covers a week shaped by Mexico's stronger-than-expected second-quarter GDP growth, Pemex's financial results and investment plans, and developments across global technology and financial markets. The podcast examines Pemex's debt, revenues and relationship with private-sector partner Grupo Carso, alongside Kia's investment in electric vehicle production in Mexico and changes at major Mexican banks. Artificial intelligence also features prominently, from a White House meeting with leading AI executives to Alibaba's latest model and concerns over the security of Anthropic's systems. Other topics include Ajay Banga's visit to Mexico, corporate developments involving Apple, Visa and major luxury brands, BYD's sales ambitions, and the continuing commercial and financial disputes surrounding FIFA.

29/07/26–05/08/26, Jimena Tolama, La Estrategia del Día

New audience rights guidelines reignite debate over freedom of expression and media regulation — Broojula

Broojula examines the controversy surrounding the new audience rights guidelines submitted for public consultation by the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (CRT), which establish obligations for media outlets regarding codes of ethics, audience ombudspersons, and the distinction between information, opinion and advertising. In conversation with political analyst Ivabelle Arroyo, Ana Paula Ordorica explores the risk that a system initially based on self-regulation could ultimately give authorities greater leverage over media outlets, as the CRT would be able to review compliance with recommendations issued by audience ombudspersons and, as a last resort, impose sanctions. Arroyo argues that the main concern lies in the ambiguity of concepts such as “truthful” information, ideological plurality and decontextualized content, which could increase the regulator’s discretion over editorial decisions. She also questions the idea that the state can protect audiences from disinformation through media regulation and warns that potentially extending these rules to the written press and digital platforms would deepen the debate over the boundaries between audience rights and freedom of expression.

31/07/2026, Ana Paula Ordorica with Ivabelle Arroyo, [Broojula](#)

Ban or educate: Mexico debates how to regulate cell phone use in schools — Política y Otros Datos

Política y Otros Datos examines the debate surrounding the Sheinbaum administration’s plans to regulate cell phone use in basic education schools, amid growing concerns over its effects on attention, learning, mental health and children’s online safety. In conversation with Gabriela Delgado, director general of A Favor de lo Mejor, Mariel Ibarra discusses international experiences and the different initiatives already being considered in Mexico, while warning that prohibition alone is unlikely to solve the problem. Delgado argues that restrictions on devices should be accompanied by media and digital literacy and shared responsibility among government, schools, families, technology companies and students, particularly in addressing risks such as cyberbullying, online recruitment and algorithms designed to maximize engagement. Ahead of the initiative expected to be presented during the next legislative session, the episode argues that regulation could be a first step, but an effective strategy will also require digital education, greater involvement from parents and teachers, and better tools to help children develop a safer and more conscious relationship with technology.

30/07/2026, Mariel Ibarra with Gabriela Delgado, [Política y Otros Datos](#)

Regulating cell phone use in schools requires rethinking what happens inside the classroom — Al habla con Warkentin

Al habla con Warkentin examines the debate over regulating cell phone and social media use among children and teenagers, following the Sheinbaum administration’s announcement of forums to define potential measures in Mexican schools. In conversation with Ana Razo, a professor and researcher at UAM Xochimilco specializing in education policy, Gabriela Warkentin argues that removing devices may

help reduce distractions but will not by itself address problems related to attention, socialization, mental health and student disengagement. Razo argues that regulation should be accompanied by changes in teaching practices, teacher training and digital citizenship education, as well as greater accountability for platforms whose design encourages prolonged engagement. She also calls for children and teenagers to participate directly in the government's forums and for policymakers to draw on the experience of Mexican states that have already introduced restrictions. The episode frames the debate as an opportunity to reconsider the role of schools as spaces for learning, social interaction and community-building, warning that banning cell phones without providing alternative forms of participation and engagement is unlikely to restore students' attention on its own.

28/07/2026, Gabriela Warkentin with Ana Razo, Al habla... con Warkentin

Weekly Summary – El Noti

El Noti covers a week marked by security, political and regulatory developments in Mexico. The episodes examine the decline in homicides, although at a slower pace than government figures suggest, as well as the discovery of seven illegal fuel refineries over the past seven years and investigations into facilities operating near National Guard installations. On the political and regulatory front, the podcast revisits the controversy surrounding new rules for radio and television and Claudia Sheinbaum's response to concerns over potential restrictions on the media, alongside the upcoming decision on cell phone use in schools. The week's agenda also includes Donald Trump's comments on the renewal of the USMCA, stronger-than-expected Mexican economic growth, controversies surrounding UNAM's new admissions exam, and other domestic and international developments shaping public debate.

29/07/26–05/08/26, El Noti

Security and Crime

Narcosistema warns that new audience rights guidelines could increase pressure on critical journalism – Narcosistema

Narcosistema examines the new audience rights guidelines and their potential implications for freedom of expression in Mexico, amid continued violence against journalists and ahead of the 2027 elections. In conversation with Leopoldo Maldonado, regional director for Mexico and Central America at Article 19, Anabel Hernández argues that the new rules could be used to restrict investigations and reporting on corruption, organized crime and alleged links between political actors and criminal groups. Maldonado warns that while audience rights are legitimate and complementary to freedom of expression, the main concern is that the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission could become a second instance for resolving complaints and imposing sanctions on broadcasters, increasing the state's ability to intervene in journalistic content. The episode places the debate within a broader environment of risks to the press, highlighting journalist killings, the involvement of local authorities and criminal organizations in attacks, and the historical increase in violence against the media during electoral

periods. Maldonado argues that the public consultation provides an opportunity to bring the guidelines in line with international standards and warns that eventually extending this type of regulation to digital platforms could further increase risks to freedom of expression.

30/07/2026, Anabel Hernández with Leopoldo Maldonado, Narcosistema