

México Podcast Chatter – 30 de septiembre de 2026

Our recommendation of the week is *Hablemos*, which features a conversation with political scientist Blanca Heredia about the PISA results and the challenges posed by artificial intelligence for education in Mexico. The episode warns that the decline in learning outcomes, particularly in maths, is limiting the development of human capital, and argues that the response must focus on strengthening reading, writing, reasoning and critical thinking so that AI functions as a tool, not a substitute.

In business and economics, *Peras y Manzanas*, *MexMoves*, *Dimes y Billetes*, *Chisme Corporativo*, *Whitepaper 10* and *La Estrategia del Día* reflect a week marked by competitiveness, demographic changes and the need to convert investment into greater productivity. ‘Peras y Manzanas’ highlights the importance of infrastructure, security and the rule of law in attracting talent and capital, whilst ‘MexMoves’ warns that slower population growth will force Mexico to rely more heavily on productivity, investment and human capital. ‘Dimes and Billetes’ analyses direct sales and financing; ‘Corporate Gossip’ examines the barriers mothers face in working and starting businesses; and ‘Whitepaper 10’ covers the arrival of JD Sports and the growth of regional airports. ‘The Strategy of the Day’ also tracks Banxico’s decisions, trade uncertainty and investor interest in Mexico.

In domestic politics, *Política y Otros Datos* analyses Morena’s initial plans for 2027 and the tensions arising from opinion polls, the influence of governors and their relationships with allies, whilst *El Noti* covers these disputes alongside other security and justice issues. *Broojula* examines the relationship between political and economic power and its impact on investment certainty; *Botepronto* questions the functioning of the Public Prosecutor’s Office; and *Tercer Grado* analyses how Donald Trump is incorporating the fight against the cartels into a hemispheric security agenda that is increasing pressure on Mexico.

On security and crime, *Narcosistema* presents audio recordings, documents and testimonies to support allegations of alleged links between Sinaloa Cartel operatives and authorities in Mexico City.

Finally, in the history and culture section, *Rodcast* talks to Jorge Traslosheros about the historical tensions within the Mexican state, generational disillusionment and the challenges posed by AI. *Ciberdiálogos* talks to Gael García Bernal about identity, privilege and Latin America through the lens of cinema, whilst *El Colegio de México* traces the history of San Sebastián Atzacualco to show how Mexico City’s commercial and migratory dynamics have left their mark since the 16th century.

Mexico Business, Economics and Finance

State competitiveness in Mexico depends on complete ecosystems of infrastructure, security, talent, and investment, rather than isolated strengths – Peras y Manzanas

Peras y Manzanas reviews 20 years of IMCO's State Competitiveness Index and analyzes the factors that allow a state to attract and retain investment and talent. Óscar Ocampo explains that competitiveness combines energy, logistics, certainty, security, human capital, quality of life, and infrastructure, and that the index uses more than 50 variables grouped into six dimensions. The episode highlights that regional gaps remain significant: more than 83% of households in Mexico City have internet access, compared with 42% in Chiapas, while major differences also persist in educational attainment and access to services. In the 2026 edition, Mexico City ranks first, followed by Querétaro, Nuevo León, and Coahuila. Querétaro stands out for ranking among the top 10 in all six subindices, while Coahuila reflects sustained improvement associated, among other factors, with progress in security. The episode also examines significant shifts: Quintana Roo rises 12 positions, supported by investment and tourism activity, while Chihuahua falls from eighth to fifteenth despite its export strength, affected by shortcomings in the rule of law, government, and debt. Sinaloa drops seven places to 23rd, already reflecting the impact of violence on economic activity and competitiveness.

23/09/24, Valeria Moy with Óscar Ocampo, Peras y Manzanas

Motherhood continues to shape women's access to employment and entrepreneurship in Mexico – Chisme Corporativo

Chisme Corporativo analyzes the obstacles mothers face when working and starting businesses in Mexico through the case of Chispa Experience, a coworking space with childcare facilities founded by four women. The episode highlights that women spend around 35 hours per week caring for children ages 0 to 5, compared with 15 hours for men, and that labor force participation falls from 83% among women without children to 63% among mothers. It also addresses financing barriers: 29% of MSMEs are owned by women, and nine out of ten female entrepreneurs start their businesses using their own resources. The episode links these gaps to a lack of care infrastructure, limited workplace flexibility, and a significant motherhood wage penalty, while also showing how fintech companies are facilitating the operation of new small businesses.

23/09/2026, Maca Riva and Rosa Laura López with Adriana Rodríguez and Paula, Chisme Corporativo

JD Sports arrives in Mexico as regional airport growth reflects new consumption and connectivity dynamics – Whitepaper 10

Whitepaper 10 analyzes JD Sports' arrival in Mexico through Grupo Axo, which plans to reach around 140 points of sale by 2027 through the conversion of TAF stores and new openings. René Lankenau and Karla Berman highlight that the operation strengthens Axo's position in a highly competitive sportswear segment, where its network of locations, relationships with shopping centers, and experience operating multiple brands represent a strategic advantage. The episode also examines the growth of regional airports such as Querétaro, Morelia, and Bajío. Morelia stands out for the increase in international passengers, driven largely by Volaris routes to the United States, while Bajío benefits from industrial and convention activity, as well as its regional connectivity.

24/09/2026, René Lankenau and Karla Berman, Whitepaper 10

Mexico faces a smaller demographic dividend as it seeks to turn investor interest into greater growth and infrastructure — MexMoves

MexMoves analyzes several issues that are reshaping Mexico's economic outlook. Based on new INEGI data, the episode highlights a slowdown in population growth, an increase in the median age, and a decline in the fertility rate to 1.2 children per woman, well below replacement level. The hosts warn that this will gradually reduce the boost Mexico has received from a growing labor force and will require the country to rely more heavily on productivity, investment, and human capital to sustain growth and meet its fiscal commitments. The episode also addresses JD Sports' arrival in Mexico with Grupo Axo, which expects to operate around 140 stores and illustrates how global brands are turning to local partners to navigate a complex market. On investment, Enrique Perret notes that the USMCA remains the backbone of the North American relationship, but that Mexico needs to complement trade with greater investment in infrastructure, energy, education, digitalization, and training. He adds that uncertainty affects new investors in particular, while companies already established in the country continue to reinvest. Verónica Bilia, meanwhile, reports greater international interest in infrastructure, energy, and real estate, as well as growing participation from afores and investors from the United States, Canada, and Europe, although she acknowledges that the private equity market still faces significant challenges in generating more exits.

24/09/26, Damian Fraser and Eduardo García with Enrique Perret and Verónica Bilia, MexMoves

Direct sales still have room to grow in Mexico through flexible entrepreneurship and financing models — Dimes y Billetes

Dimes y Billetes analyzes the direct sales model in Mexico through the case of Royal Prestige, a brand that has operated in the country since 1994 and has more than 2,600 authorized distributors. Moris Dieck speaks with Frank Carrasco and Kenya about a model in which sellers can get started without an initial investment, receive training, and progress toward distribution licenses as they gain experience and increase sales volumes. The episode also highlights the importance of financing in this market: seven out of ten orders are financed, with loans commonly ranging from MXN 25,000 to MXN 50,000, while Mexico has become the company's second-largest market globally.

26/09/2026, Moris Dieck with Frank Carrasco and Kenya, Dimes y Billetes

Weekly Summary — La Estrategia del Día

La Estrategia del Día examines a week shaped by monetary policy, trade uncertainty, corporate developments, and shifting investor sentiment toward Mexico and North America. The episodes discuss the peso's depreciation toward MXN 18 per dollar, Banxico's latest policy stance and its divergence from the Federal Reserve, alongside inflation and economic activity. The podcast also follows U.S.-China trade negotiations and the outlook for the T-MEC, as well as investor views gathered at the North

Capital Forum. On the corporate front, the week includes Citi's next steps with Banamex, Nubank, McDonald's, Lego's presence in Nuevo León, Pemex's financial pressures, Netflix, and Shein's latest figures. Other topics include Mexico's slowing population growth and the growing economic and corporate debate surrounding artificial intelligence.

23/09/26–29/09/26, Jimena Tolama, [La Estrategia del Día](#)

Mexican Political Affairs

The relationship between political and economic power has become more discretionary and opaque, while uncertainty limits investments – Broojula

In conversation with Carlos Elizondo Mayer-Serra, Broojula analyzes the relationship between the private sector and the government since Andrés Manuel López Obrador took office. The academic argues that López Obrador's promise to separate political and economic power did not eliminate corporate influence—it changed how the two interact. While past governments built regulatory bodies with a certain level of autonomy to reduce discretion, López Obrador's administration centralized decision-making and favored closer personal relationships with business owners. Elizondo points to examples such as the cancellation of the Texcoco airport, the oil bidding rounds, and Pemex's mixed contracts to argue that this model increased opacity and undermined certainty for investment. Concerning Claudia Sheinbaum, Elizondo recognizes her greater dialogue with the private sector and efforts like Plan México, but maintains that institutional and legal reforms continue to generate uncertainty for long-term projects.

28/09/2026, Ana Paula Ordorica with Carlos Elizondo Mayer-Serra, [Broojula](#)

Declining learning outcomes and the rise of AI reopen the debate over the future of education in Mexico – Hablemos con Denise Maerker

Hablemos analyzes PISA results and the challenges artificial intelligence poses for Mexico's education system in a conversation with political scientist Blanca Heredia. The episode highlights that Mexico continues to lag significantly in reading, science, and especially mathematics: around 70% of students perform below the proficiency level in the latter, while results show a decline between 2018 and 2025 that reverses part of the progress observed in previous years. Heredia links this deterioration to factors including prolonged school closures during the pandemic, weak foundational learning, and reduced availability of public information to assess the system's performance. The conversation also questions the priority different governments have given to educational quality compared with political negotiations with teachers' unions, and notes that since 2018, permanent teaching positions and salaries have increased without equivalent evidence of improvements in learning outcomes. As AI advances, Heredia argues that schools should strengthen reading, writing, mathematical reasoning, general knowledge, and intellectual discipline rather than replace them with technology. The goal, she argues, should be to develop students who can ask better questions, critically evaluate information, and use AI

as a tool to expand their capabilities rather than depend on it passively.
24/09/26, Denise Maerker with Blanca Heredia, Hablemos

Trump increases pressure on Mexico by linking the fight against cartels to a hemispheric security agenda – Tercer Grado

Tercer Grado analyzes Donald Trump's speech before the UN General Assembly and its implications for Mexico. The panel highlights that Trump once again portrayed Mexico as a central focus of drug trafficking and violence, while at the same time acknowledging a close bilateral relationship and operational cooperation with Claudia Sheinbaum's government. Several participants interpret the most significant shift as Washington moving away from treating cartels solely as a bilateral issue and instead framing them as a hemispheric and national security threat, with greater pressure on Mexico to investigate and prosecute officials linked to organized crime. The episode also addresses differences between the two governments over how to recover territories under criminal influence, as well as Sheinbaum's firmer sovereignty rhetoric in response to potential U.S. pressure. The conversation also connects security and trade: panelists note that these issues are already appearing in bilateral negotiations and warn of additional economic risks, such as a potential U.S. restriction on diesel exports, considering that around 40% of Mexican demand depends on products refined in the United States.

24/09/26, René Delgado with Denise Maerker, Raymundo Riva Palacio, Leopoldo Gómez and Viridiana Ríos, Tercer Grado

Morena's internal process ahead of 2027 exposes tensions over polling, the influence of governors, and relations with its allies – Política y Otros Datos

Política y Otros Datos analyzes the early start of Morena's process to define candidates for the 17 governorships that will be contested in 2027, in a conversation with Luis Carlos Ugalde. The former president of the IFE questions the party's de facto decision to bring forward its primary campaigns and argues that the use of polls favors well-known figures but does not necessarily guarantee better candidates or governments. He also highlights the lack of transparency in polling, internal challenges, and the influence some governors may have had in the selection of candidates. The conversation focuses particularly on Zacatecas and Michoacán, where Ugalde identifies greater risks of internal fractures, while complaints from the PT and PVEM are interpreted largely as part of negotiations over positions and candidacies. The episode also broadens the discussion to Mexico's electoral system: Ugalde argues that Mexico moved from PRI hegemony to pluralism and later to a new concentration of power around Morena, and identifies risks ahead of 2027 including weak electoral authorities, the political use of social programs, intervention by public officials, organized crime, and potential pressure from the United States.

24/09/26, Mariel Ibarra with Luis Carlos Ugalde, Política y Otros Datos

Vanessa Romero defends the pillars of the 4T project but acknowledges execution problems and the challenge of cleaning up Morena – Sal con Amigos

Sal con Amigos speaks with Vanessa Romero Rocha about her career as a lawyer and political analyst, her closeness to the political project promoted by Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Claudia Sheinbaum, and her assessment of the country's current situation. Romero describes herself as a supporter of the project, though not a Morena member, and highlights four pillars she considers central: prioritizing lower-income sectors, regional development, a state with greater capacity for intervention, and wealth redistribution. The conversation also addresses the 4T's unresolved challenges. Romero acknowledges significant implementation failures during López Obrador's administration, particularly in healthcare and in the rollout of the Institute of Health for Well-Being (Insabi), but argues that the administration broke with entrenched practices and structures that needed to change, while Sheinbaum's government now faces the challenge of correcting those failures with a more technical approach. In response to criticism of Morena, she notes that the party's rapid growth attracted opportunists and questionable figures, making one of its current challenges the need to distinguish between Morena as a party structure and the broader Fourth Transformation project, while also advancing an internal cleanup.

23/09/2026, Salvador Camarena with Vanessa Romero Rocha, Sal con Amigos

The Prosecutor's Office faces scrutiny over rushed investigations, inconsistent standards, and the political use of its findings – Botepronto

Botepronto analyzes the case of the alleged seizure of 59 million liters of illicit fuel in Guanajuato, initially presented as the largest operation of its kind in Mexico and later questioned after journalists found that the facility remained in operation. The hosts argue that the episode exposes problems of haste, lack of verification, and a search for media impact before investigations are completed. They also compare the handling of different cases to argue that the Prosecutor's Office applies inconsistent standards: while some individuals are detained and quickly sent to prison, others linked to sensitive investigations remain without giving testimony or facing clear consequences. The conversation broadens this criticism to the institutional functioning of the justice system. Carlos Heredia argues that the Prosecutor's Office operates erratically and with criteria that can be adapted to the political needs of the moment, while Salvador Camarena questions how the announcement of the seizure first generated favorable headlines and was later followed by doubts about what had actually been secured. The episode also addresses Donald Trump's remarks before the UN regarding cartels in Mexico and argues that, beyond bilateral rhetoric, the country still cannot demonstrate equivalent progress in investigations, prosecutions, and strengthening the justice system.

22/09/26, Carlos Puig, Salvador Camarena, María Scherer and Carlos Heredia, Botepronto

Weekly Summary – El Noti

El Noti reviews a week shaped by political developments ahead of 2027, security issues, and new economic and social pressures. The episodes follow the finalization of Morena's list of gubernatorial hopefuls and the internal tensions stemming from the process, as well as the PT's distancing from its alliance with Morena. They also cover security and justice cases, including the displacement of more than 1.5 million people due to violence, the departure of a Prosecutor's Office delegate in Guanajuato over an alleged fuel-smuggling case, and reports of possible remains of children in Michoacán. On the economic and social fronts, the podcast analyzes Mexico's aging population, risks related to diesel, and a new massive data leak. Other topics include anti-meme reforms, the possible return of promotion to Liga MX, a ten-point plan on cellphone use in schools, and Donald Trump's remarks about Mexico before the UN.

23/09/26–29/09/26, [El Noti](#)

Security and Crime

Narcosistema presents audio recordings and documents to support allegations of alleged links between Sinaloa Cartel operators and authorities in Mexico City – Narcosistema

Narcosistema focuses the episode on José Ángel Rivera Zazueta, alias "El Flaco," identified by Anabel Hernández as an operator close to Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada and detained in Mexico City for extradition purposes. The journalist argues that Rivera Zazueta operated for years from the capital, used Mexico City International Airport (AICM) to move cocaine, and relied on protection networks and bribes within different security institutions. To support these claims, the episode cites an Italian court file opened in Catania, according to which Rivera Zazueta had ties to Mexican officials and moved between 500 and 800 kilos of cocaine per week in 2019. The main new element is a set of audio recordings from a 2023 interview with an operator who, according to Hernández, collaborated with the DEA. In the recordings, the witness claims that Rivera Zazueta paid bribes to personnel from the Navy, the Defense Ministry, and the National Guard, stored drugs in the Roma neighborhood, and that there was an alleged line of contact with someone identified as "Claudia" to negotiate drug seizures. Hernández interprets these testimonies as evidence of political protection during Claudia Sheinbaum's administration in Mexico City and argues that Rivera Zazueta's extradition could open new lines of investigation in the United States. These are allegations presented by the journalist and the witness cited in the episode; the material shared does not contain a court ruling establishing responsibility on Sheinbaum's part.

24/09/26, Anabel Hernández, [Narcosistema](#)

Mexican Culture and History

Jorge Traslosheros connects the historical tensions of the Mexican nation-state with generational disillusionment and the challenges of artificial intelligence – Rodcast

Rodcast speaks with historian Jorge Traslosheros about the tensions that have accompanied the construction of the Mexican state since the 19th century and their persistence today. The conversation addresses the difficulty the nation-state has faced in integrating regional, cultural, and legal diversity, as well as the role of local powers and political polarization. Traslosheros also analyzes a younger generation marked by fewer employment opportunities, discouragement, and lower political participation, while highlighting its ability to build communities and networks of solidarity. The episode closes with a discussion of artificial intelligence, its emerging capabilities, the risks of concentration and alignment, and the need to develop new social and institutional mechanisms capable of responding to a large-scale technological transformation.

28/09/26, Rodrigo Pacheco with Jorge Traslosheros, Rodcast

Gael García Bernal reflects on cinema as a space to explore identity, privilege, and the contradictions of Latin America – Ciberdiálogos

Ciberdiálogos speaks with Gael García Bernal about *Hombre al agua* and the way cinema can address questions of identity, privilege, migration, masculinity, and belonging. García Bernal explains that the film was conceived as an independent and deliberately open-ended work that blends comedy, satire, and different narrative layers to encourage reflection on Latin America and on how money, power, and social expectations shape people. The conversation also explores his personal and artistic relationship with Cuba, as well as the social changes he has observed across the region. Finally, García Bernal discusses his evolution as a director and the lessons he has drawn from filmmakers such as Alfonso Cuarón, Walter Salles, Michel Gondry, and Pablo Larraín.

28/09/26, León Krauze with Gael García Bernal, Ciberdiálogos

San Sebastián Atzacualco shows how Mexico City's commercial, migratory, and community dynamics retain traces dating back to the 16th century – El Colegio de México

Pasado/Presente traces the history of San Sebastián Atzacualco, one of the four former Indigenous neighborhoods of Mexico-Tenochtitlan, to show how the city's historical configuration remains visible in its current dynamics. Historian Jéssica Ramírez explains that since the 16th century, the area functioned as a point of entry, storage, and redistribution of goods due to its location along routes toward Veracruz and the northern mining regions. This commercial role helps explain why it continues today to be characterized by warehouses, intense commercial activity, and a large transient population, rather than representing a recent change in the neighborhood's use. The episode also highlights that San Sebastián retained distinctive neighborhood characteristics because of its peripheral location, strong Indigenous presence, and status as a hydrosocial space connected to the former lake system. Over time, the neighborhood incorporated Indigenous, Spanish, Filipino, and migrant communities from different regions, creating a diversity that remains part of its identity. Ramírez argues that studying these spaces helps explain not only the city's material heritage, but also forms of coexistence, solidarity, and everyday interaction with diversity that have weakened under more isolated urban models.

24/09/26, Karla Benítez with Jéssica Ramírez Méndez, El Colmex: conocimiento, ciencia, y cultura