

México Podcast Chatter – 2 de septiembre de 2026

Our recommended podcasts of the week, *Tercer Grado*, *Política y Otros Datos*, *Botepronto* and *Ciberdiálogos*, examine the consequences of Rubén Rocha Moya's departure from the governorship of Sinaloa from different perspectives. *Tercer Grado* presents the case as a test of presidential authority and argues that preventing Rocha's return demonstrated Sheinbaum's ability to bring her party into line. *Política y Otros Datos* focuses on governance in Sinaloa, Graciela Domínguez's ability to distance herself from Rocha's political structure and the risks the crisis poses ahead of the 2027 elections. *Botepronto* examines what could happen to the former governor in light of the allegations against him in the United States and debates whether the Mexican government might choose to prosecute him domestically or whether he could eventually face extradition. *Ciberdiálogos* broadens the analysis to the bilateral relationship.

In business and economics, *Rodcast*, *Dimes y Billetes*, *MexMoves*, *Whitepaper 10* and *La Estrategia del Día* reflect a week marked by the challenge of maintaining competitiveness amid technological transformation, slower growth and changing business models. *Rodcast* examines how Mexico can preserve its manufacturing advantage as automation and artificial intelligence reduce the importance of low labor costs; *MexMoves* addresses informality as one of the main obstacles to improving productivity; and *Dimes y Billetes* examines the risks that oversupply, pre-sales and weak planning are creating in the real estate market. *Whitepaper 10* shows how companies are seeking growth through acquisitions, international expansion and market consolidation, while *La Estrategia del Día* follows Mexico's updated growth outlook, the peso's performance and an active corporate agenda.

In domestic politics, the Sinaloa crisis dominated much of the conversation. Beyond the four recommended podcasts, *Broojula* assesses the first year of the new Supreme Court and questions its productivity, independence and growing politicization, broadening the debate over the strength of institutional checks and balances. *El Noti* follows Sinaloa's political reconfiguration after Rocha Moya's departure, Morena's initial positioning ahead of 2027 and U.S. investigations involving several Mexican political figures. Taken together, the episodes reflect a week in which governance, the ability of institutions to investigate those in power and the growing influence of the relationship with the United States once again moved to the center of the political agenda.

On security and crime, *Narcosistema* analyzes the designation of Imelda Castro as Morena's virtual candidate for governor of Sinaloa and questions whether she truly represents a break with Rocha Moya's political structure. Based on testimonies from sources she says have first-hand knowledge of the events, Anabel Hernández argues that Castro may have previously known about meetings between Rocha and Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, allegations the episode uses to question Morena's ability to offer genuine political renewal in a state deeply affected by violence and the penetration of organized crime.

Finally, in history and culture, *Mexico: The Podcast* examines the role of public universities in Mexico's political, scientific and economic development. Through institutions such as UNAM, IPN, UAM, CIDE and El Colegio de México, the episode shows how budget constraints have limited part of their ability to turn research and innovation into national development, even as they continue to play a central role in training academics, public officials and policymakers.

Mexico Business, Economics & Finance

Mexico's automotive advantage will depend on whether it can turn its young manufacturing workforce into a competitive edge in the age of AI and automation – Rodcast

Rodcast speaks with Klaus von Moltke, president and CEO of BMW Group's San Luis Potosí plant, about Mexico's position in a rapidly transforming global automotive industry. Von Moltke highlights the country's young, skilled and flexible workforce and estimates that Mexico currently enjoys a 20–30% manufacturing and labor-cost advantage, but warns that this edge cannot be taken for granted as the United States, China and other economies accelerate investment in electrification, digitalization, robotics and artificial intelligence. BMW's San Luis Potosí operation illustrates the stakes: its 3,700 employees support an industrial ecosystem associated with roughly 32,000 jobs in the region, making long-term competitiveness a broader economic issue rather than simply a corporate one. Von Moltke argues that Mexico must strengthen skills, infrastructure and its capacity to implement new technologies while capitalizing on its deep economic interdependence with the United States, particularly as automation increasingly reshapes the economics of manufacturing and reduces the importance of low labor costs alone.

31/08/2026, Rodrigo Pacheco with Klaus von Moltke, Rodcast

Mexico's real estate boom is exposing the risks of oversupply, presales and weak project planning – Dimes y Billetes

Dimes y Billetes examines the challenges facing Mexico's real estate market with Steven Handal, founder of Grupo 100 and a developer with 45 years of experience. Handal argues that many projects described as real estate frauds are not necessarily deliberate schemes, but developments that became financially unviable following pandemic-era disruptions, higher construction costs, tighter credit and poor management decisions. The discussion focuses particularly on Nuevo León, where Handal says the pipeline of apartments is already sufficient to cover around five years of demand even as new projects continue to launch, creating significant oversupply and competition among developers. Moris Dieck and Handal also discuss the risks of buying properties in presale, recommending that investors examine a developer's track record and verify construction permits as well as water, drainage and electricity feasibility before committing capital.

29/08/2026, Moris Dieck with Steven Handal, Dimes y Billetes

Mexico's 55% informality rate remains a major constraint on productivity and exposes the limits of the country's low unemployment figures – MexMoves

MexMoves examines the structural causes of Mexico's labor informality with Sofía Ramírez Aguilar, director general of México, ¿cómo vamos?, who notes that more than 55% of workers are informally employed while the informal economy generates only around 25% of GDP, reflecting a large productivity gap and leaving millions without adequate access to social security and healthcare. Ramírez argues that informality is primarily a consequence of limited economic growth and investment, weak enforcement of labor rules and Mexico's low female labor-force participation rather than a preference among workers to avoid taxes or regulation; informal workers earn less than half as much as their formal counterparts on average. She warns that the problem has worsened since the pandemic and that reducing it will require a broader economic strategy combining stronger investment and North American supply-chain integration with improvements in security, rule of law, childcare and women's access to paid employment.

27/08/2026, Eduardo García and Damian Fraser with Sofía Ramírez Aguilar, MexMoves

Sarely Sarely accelerates its international expansion with its Target launch, while Whitepaper 10 examines new models of growth, consolidation and investment – Whitepaper 10

Whitepaper 10 analyzes the expansion of Mexican beauty brand Sarely Sarely into more than 600 Target stores in the United States as part of the retailer's new push into premium beauty. Karla Berman and René Lankenau highlight that the company, already one of the best-selling Mexican beauty brands at Sephora and Ulta Beauty in Mexico, is raising around US\$3 million to support its expansion and strengthen inventory across new channels. The episode also looks at the growth of Agua Fría, which has completed 25 acquisitions since 2017 as part of a roll-up strategy in the fragmented ice industry, using the case to discuss how private equity and search funds seek to consolidate highly dispersed markets. It also covers the limited size of Mexico's bookstore network and the emergence of new financing models for content creators, including funds that provide upfront capital in exchange for a share of future channel revenues.

26/08/2026, Karla Berman and René Lankenau, Whitepaper 10

Weekly Summary – La Estrategia del Día

La Estrategia del Día followed a week marked by changes in Mexico's economic outlook and a busy corporate agenda. Banco de México raised its 2026 growth expectations, while the peso's performance after the Jackson Hole meeting and the outlook for interest rates remained in focus. The podcast also examined Canada-US tariff tensions and their implications for trade, alongside Washington's pressure over Venezuelan oil. On the corporate front, Afore Coppel's deal with InverCap, Tomás Milmo's attempt to regain control of Axtel and developments involving Stripe and PayPal highlighted renewed dealmaking, while Volkswagen announced adjustments at its Puebla plant and Domino's parent company in Mexico prepared for a change in ownership. Technology and industry featured prominently

as well, with discussion of AI development in Mexico and Apple entering a new era following Tim Cook's departure as CEO, while Honda and Nissan moved toward greater cooperation despite their failed merger.

27/08/2026–02/09/2026, La Estrategia del Día

Mexican Political Affairs

One year after the judicial election, Mexico's new Supreme Court faces questions over its productivity, independence and growing politicization – Broojula

Broojula assesses the first year of the Supreme Court that emerged from Mexico's 2025 judicial election and questions whether the new model has delivered on promises of a more efficient, accessible and independent judiciary. Ana Paula Ordorica notes that, despite the Court's claims of greater efficiency, an Integralia analysis found that the total number of cases resolved fell 37% compared with the same period under the previous Court, while seven out of ten cases were closed on procedural grounds. Together with Yusef Núñez of EMPRA, the episode examines a decline in the technical quality of deliberations, the emergence of different blocs among the justices and signs of greater deference toward the government in fiscal, energy and regulatory matters. It also discusses recent rulings on the UIF's authority to freeze bank accounts and protections involving abortion, disability and environmental rights, as well as uncertainty surrounding the Court's presidential succession, as contradictory constitutional provisions could determine whether Lenia Batres replaces Hugo Aguilar in 2027.

31/08/2026, Ana Paula Ordorica with Yusef Núñez, Broojula

Rocha Moya's failed return exposes the limits of Sheinbaum's power and intensifies the debate over impunity, sovereignty and organized crime in Sinaloa – Tercer Grado

Tercer Grado analyzes the political fallout from Rubén Rocha Moya's attempt to return as governor of Sinaloa after 112 days on leave, only to step aside again 34 hours later following pressure from President Claudia Sheinbaum and Morena. The panel sees the episode as a test of presidential authority, arguing that removing Rocha demonstrated Sheinbaum's capacity to align her party but that the real measure will be whether Mexican authorities pursue investigations and judicial consequences rather than simply restoring the previous political arrangement. The discussion focuses particularly on the tension between sovereignty and impunity: while rejecting the idea that US authorities should determine who is prosecuted in Mexico, the panel argues that failing to investigate allegations against governing-party figures risks strengthening Washington's justification for greater unilateral pressure. The crisis also exposes the depth of Sinaloa's governance problems, where persistent cartel violence, economic deterioration and the strength of Rocha's local political network complicate efforts by new interim governor Graciela Domínguez to restore effective state authority.

27/08/2026, René Delgado, Denise Maerker, Viridiana Ríos, Leo Zuckermann, Raymundo Riva Palacio and Leopoldo Gómez, Tercer Grado

Rocha Moya's departure deepens Sinaloa's political crisis and leaves Morena facing a governance challenge ahead of 2027 — Política y Otros Datos

Política y Otros Datos analyzes the crisis triggered by Rubén Rocha Moya's brief return as governor of Sinaloa after 112 days on leave and his subsequent withdrawal following opposition from the federal government and Morena. Mariel Ibarra speaks with Adrián López and Víctor Manuel Sánchez about how the decision further weakened Rocha, who had stepped aside after being named alongside other Sinaloa officials in an investigation by US authorities, and the pressures that may have influenced his attempt to return to office. The appointment of Graciela Domínguez as substitute governor opens a new phase for a state facing historically high levels of homicides, disappearances and femicides, as well as deteriorating economic and formal employment conditions, while her ability to distance the administration from Rocha's political network could depend largely on whether she reshuffles the cabinet. The discussion places the transition within the 2027 electoral race and the challenge of preventing organized crime from influencing the elections, as violence between rival Sinaloa Cartel factions increasingly shifts toward Mazatlán.

27/08/2026, Mariel Ibarra with Adrián López and Víctor Manuel Sánchez, Política y Otros Datos

Rocha Moya's departure does not resolve Sinaloa's crisis and leaves Sheinbaum facing the challenge of restoring political control and governance in the state — Botepronto

Botepronto analyzes the consequences of Rubén Rocha Moya's renewed leave of absence and the appointment of Graciela Domínguez as substitute governor of Sinaloa. María Scherer, Carlos Heredia, Salvador Camarena and Carlos Puig agree that preventing Rocha's return allowed Claudia Sheinbaum to win an initial political battle, but warn that the deeper challenge is regaining control of a state marked by violence, organized crime's penetration of public institutions and economic deterioration. The panel also debates what could happen to Rocha given the accusations against him in the United States: while Heredia considers an eventual extradition likely, Camarena sees a domestic prosecution that would keep him in Mexico as more plausible. Domínguez's appointment, described as relatively close to the Rocha political network but with some autonomy, illustrates the difficulty of immediately breaking with local power structures, while the broader challenge will be reaching the 2027 elections with greater governability and more credible political and security conditions.

25/08/2026, Carlos Puig, Salvador Camarena, Carlos Heredia and María Scherer, Botepronto

Sheinbaum's strategy toward Trump has relied on concessions, but growing bilateral tensions suggest that model may be reaching its limits — Ciberdiálogos

Ciberdiálogos speaks with former foreign minister Jorge Castañeda about the increasingly complex relationship between Claudia Sheinbaum and Donald Trump. Castañeda argues that the widely praised perception that Sheinbaum had found a uniquely effective way of handling Trump was overstated and that the relationship worked largely because Mexico conceded on most of Washington's demands while

avoiding a face-to-face presidential meeting that could have exposed deeper disagreements. He contends that this approach is becoming harder to sustain as disputes multiply over security, migration, trade and the treatment of Mexican political figures accused in the United States. Castañeda identifies Omar García Harfuch as an important channel with Washington, though not a substitute for the presidential relationship, and argues that the Rocha Moya case could become a decisive test of whether Sheinbaum prioritizes protecting Morena figures or preserving the broader bilateral relationship. He also warns that even a Democratic victory in the US midterms would not necessarily reduce pressure on Mexico, since Trump could devote more attention to foreign policy during the final two years of his presidency.

31/08/2026, León Krauze with Jorge Castañeda, Ciberdiálogos

The debate over regulating social media for minors faces the challenge of protecting their mental health without opening the door to content control – Sal con Amigos

Sal con Amigos speaks with Ana María Olabuenaga about the emotional effects of social media, artificial intelligence and the debate opened by Claudia Sheinbaum's government over possible regulation to protect children and teenagers. Olabuenaga argues that there is a worrying correlation between intensive use of digital platforms and issues such as anxiety, depression, self-harm and intolerance, and considers it urgent to limit minors' access and screen time. At the same time, she warns that regulating the addictive design of platforms is very different from intervening in ideas, opinions or information, as the latter would amount to exercising power over public debate. The discussion also examines how algorithms reward emotions such as outrage, how advertising has adapted to an economy of constant attention and the impact of artificial intelligence, toward which Olabuenaga expresses more hope than fear, while stressing the need for renewed ethical and social reflection on its limits.

26/08/2026, Salvador Camarena with Ana María Olabuenaga, Sal con amigos

Weekly Summary – El Noti

El Noti followed a week marked by Sinaloa's political reconfiguration following Rubén Rocha Moya's departure, with the appointment of a new governor and Morena's first moves to position candidates ahead of the 2027 elections. Attention also remained focused on US investigations involving Mexican political figures, including reports of another governor coming under scrutiny and the case of a former Navy official whom, according to the podcast, prosecutors have been unable to locate. The week also brought proposals to prevent dual nationals from running for certain public offices, signals from Washington regarding visas and Donald Trump's pressure over Venezuelan oil. Mexico's foreign investment outlook and a dinner involving the López Beltrán brothers featured in the political agenda, while debates over banning cellphones in schools and penalties against Meta over the addictive effects of social media added a regulatory and social dimension to the week.

27/08/2026–02/09/2026, El Noti

Security & Crime

The selection of Imelda Castro as Morena's likely candidate in Sinaloa raises questions about the continuity of Rocha Moya's political network – Narcosistema

Narcosistema analyzes the selection of Senator Imelda Castro as Morena's coordinator for the defense of the transformation and sovereignty in Sinaloa, a position Anabel Hernández interprets as the prelude to her candidacy for governor in 2027. Hernández argues that, rather than representing a break with Rubén Rocha Moya following the crisis triggered by the accusations against him in the United States, Castro belongs to the same political structure that brought him to power and questions her response to the governor's alleged ties to the Sinaloa Cartel. Citing testimony from sources she says have first-hand knowledge of the events, Hernández alleges that Castro had known for years about meetings between Rocha Moya and Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada but neither publicly denounced them nor pushed for an investigation, an allegation she uses to question whether the senator can lead a transformation in a state deeply affected by violence and organized crime's penetration of public institutions.

27/08/2026, Anabel Hernández, [Narcosistema](#)

Mexican Culture & Society

Mexico's public universities remain central to the country's intellectual and economic life despite decades of budget constraints and the rise of private education – Mexico: The Podcast

Mexico: The Podcast traces the development of Mexico's public university system and its role in building the country's political, scientific and cultural institutions. Estavo Figueroa and Alex González-Omrad argue that institutions such as UNAM and the Instituto Politécnico Nacional were fundamental to Mexico's twentieth-century development, before economic crises and declining public funding from the 1980s helped private universities gain greater influence. The conversation highlights the IPN's original mission of building technological sovereignty and uses its semiconductor research to illustrate how limited funding can prevent Mexican academic innovation from translating into domestic industrial development. It also examines the UAM and leading state universities, whose strengths often reflect regional economic and cultural specializations, before turning to elite public research institutions such as CIDE and El Colegio de México, whose small student bodies have nevertheless produced influential academics, policymakers and public officials.

27/08/2026, Estavo Figueroa and Alex González-Omrad, [Mexico: The Podcast](#)