

FEBRUARY, 2024

**BILATERAL
X-RAY
MEXICO-UNITED STATES**



Security and Rule of Law

**DEMOCRACY AND
INSTITUTIONS**

ECONOMY AND
COMMERCE

ENERGY

**Migration and Labor
Mobility**

RELEVANT EVENTS

- **AMAZON ANNOUNCED A \$5 BILLION USD INVESTMENT IN THE MEXICAN STATE OF QUERÉTARO**

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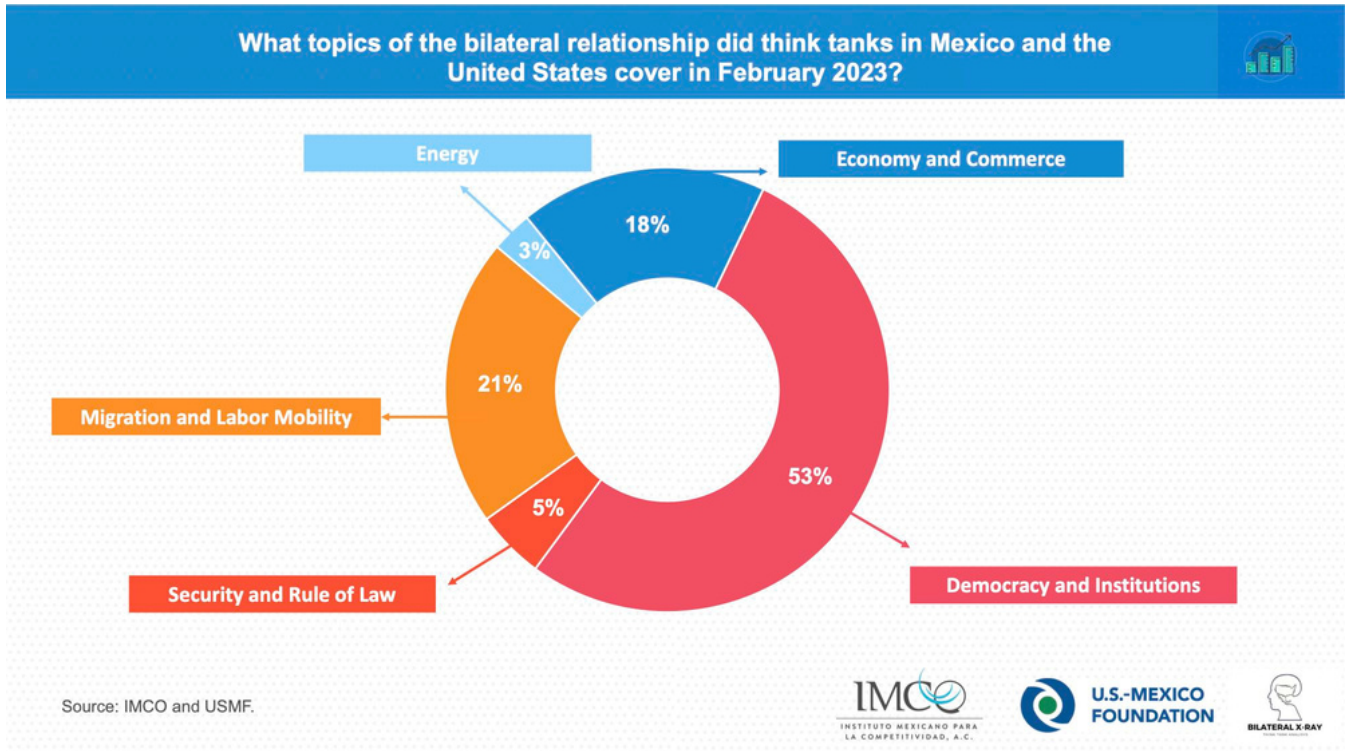
Coverage Report

February 1st to February 29th

In February, think tanks increased the number of publications, reaching 38. It should be noted that only 10% of the content was generated by think tanks in Mexico, while the remaining 90% comes from institutions within the United States. As expected, the thematic classification of **Democracy and Institutions** ranks first, as the contents related to the start of the presidential elections in Mexico capture the attention of think tanks. Meanwhile, the tags of **Migration and Labor Mobility** and **Economy and Commerce** occupied second and third place, respectively, according to the number of related notes.

The following figure shows the top five most mentioned topics.

Topics Covered



Democracy and Institutions

For the second consecutive time this year, the topic of **Democracy and Institutions** was the most mentioned in our monthly report, with more than 50% of publications related to it. Nearly 20 publications under this thematic label focus on the electoral process in Mexico and the challenges the next president will face. Additionally, the package of 20 legislative reforms sent by AMLO to Congress is highlighted, which aims to address pending issues such as the recognition of indigenous peoples, policies for the prevention of water stress, and school scholarships. Finally, AMLO's controversial interaction with journalists from the NYT is also underscored. As expected, the electoral process in both countries will be the source of the majority of publications in 2024.

Key publications regarding Democracy and Institutions this month:

- [AS/COA, Mexico Elects: Ongoing Coverage of the 2024 Vote by Carin Zissis](#)
- [Mexico Institute, Mexico Institute Experts Comment on AMLO's Proposed Reforms by Amb. Roberta Lajous](#)

DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONS RECENT DATA

- The 2024 election campaigns have kicked off, ushering in the so-called "*spotiza*"; a period during which the parties and candidates participating in Mexico's electoral process will broadcast, through media such as radio and television, about 20 million spots featuring their electoral agendas. **(Ana Paula Ordorica, Broojula)**

Migration and Labor Mobility

In February, the discourse over **Migration and Labor Mobility** in the United States centered on the unprecedented influx of migrants and a thorough examination of public policies. Since last December, the situation reached historic proportions with a record number of migrants attempting to cross the border. This surge can be attributed, in part, to the relaxation of numerous COVID-19 restrictions. However, it has now become a focal point in the bilateral debate, considering its implications on the U.S. government and the intricate relationship between Mexico and the U.S. With widespread criticism directed at President Biden's policies on this front, the topic has gained even more attention, prompting numerous inquiries into the necessary course of action to effectively address this issue.

Key publications regarding Migration and Labor Mobility this month:

- [Pew Research Center Migrant encounters at the U.S.-Mexico border hit a record high at the end of 2023 by John Gramlich](#)
- [Brookings Fixing the border: Four reasons the immigration crisis isn't going away by Elaine Kamarck](#)

MIGRATION AND LABOR MOBILITY RECENT DATA:

- **The U.S. Border Patrol had nearly 250,000 encounters with migrants crossing into the United States from Mexico** in December 2023. (Pew Research Center)
- As of January 2024, there was a backlog of 3,363,667 cases in the immigration courts. **(Brookings Institute)**

Economy and Commerce

In the realm of **Economy and Commerce**, 7 publications were generated, tackling a variety of topics of bilateral interest. México, ¿cómo vamos? emphasizes the growth expectations for the Mexican economy in 2024, while Foreign Affairs presents an intriguing article on the future of free trade. Lastly, the American Enterprise Institute zeroes in on the most significant news of the month: Mexico surpasses China as the primary exporter to the United States. This collection of publications highlights the significance and dynamism of the trade and economic relations between Mexico and the United States, forecasting substantial changes and trends for the coming months.

Key publications regarding Economy and Commerce this month:

- [Mexico, ¿cómo vamos? Comercio, T-MEC, y las reformas del presidente](#) by [Sofía Ramírez](#)
- [Foreign Affairs, How to Save Free Trade](#) by [Peter E. Harrel](#)

ECONOMY AND COMMERCE RECENT DATA

- **Mexico has overtaken China as the United States' largest goods exporter for the first time in two decades.** According to the latest figures released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the U.S. imported goods worth \$427.2 billion from China in the last year, marking a decline of approximately 20% from the previous year. In contrast, Mexico's exports to the U.S. saw a 5% increase, reaching \$475.6 billion in 2023. **(NIKKEI, Asia)**

Other topics

This month, two topics were mentioned but did not receive much attention in the public debate: **Security and Rule of Law, and Energy.** Regarding Energy, publications delved into the energy politics proposed by the upcoming Mexican presidential elections amidst current obstacles in the Mexican energy sector. On the other hand, discussions surrounding Security and Rule of Law focused on the persistent challenges of arms and drug trafficking faced by both the United States and Mexico. This prompted a joint effort by the Mexican Attorney General of the Republic (FGR) and the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to trace the origin and number of firearms in Mexico. An analysis of the efforts undertaken by both countries to address these issues was also presented.

Key publications regarding Energy and Security and Rule of Law this month:

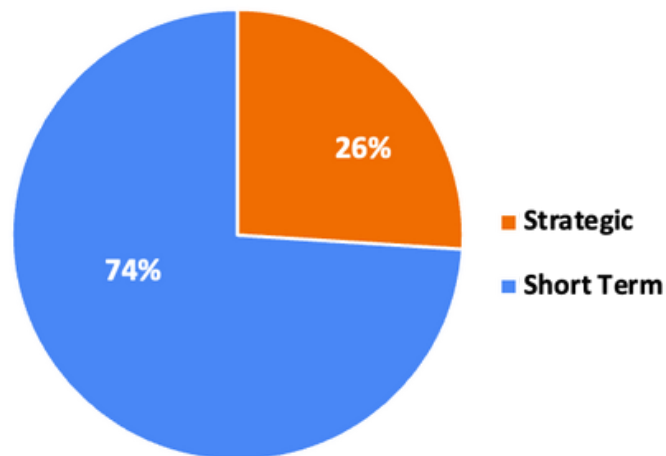
- [Mexico Institute Infographics | Arms Trafficking Across the US-Mexico Border](#) by [Gullermo Lemus](#)
- [Mexico Institute Claudia vs. Sheinbaum: Let the Energy Games Begin](#) by [Miriam Grunstein](#)

ENERGY AND SECURITY AND RULE OF LAW RECENT DATA

- **Baja California** is the Mexican State **with the most firearms traced back to the United States**, accounting for 31% of the 3,995 firearms traced. **(Wilson Center)**
- Between **2016 and 2022 50% of all firearms found in Mexico** for which a source could be identified **were initially manufactured in the United States.** **(Wilson Center)**

Relevant short-term events for the bilateral relationship

- The majority of publications generated in February were classified as of short-term relevance. In the second month of the year, and consistent with the previous month of January, the content focused on the presidential process in Mexico, as well as issues related to migration and the United States' policies towards this phenomenon.
- On the other hand, strategic publications in February focused on **Migration and Labor Mobility** issues. Overall, these strategic publications revisit the growing crisis related to migration and highlight not only the government's role but also that of NGO's in addressing the diverse needs of this bilateral challenge.



Publications on the bilateral relationship have increased in volume compared to previous months. The majority of topics are related to **Democracy and Institutions**, with a focus on Mexico's elections. As stated before, it is anticipated that this will be the predominant topic for 2024.

PUBLICATIONS

MEXICAN THINK TANKS

- México ¿cómo vamos? Crecimiento económico de México: qué esperar en 2024 ISAAC GUZMÁN VALDIVIA TOVAR
- México ¿cómo vamos? Comercio, T-MEC y las reformas del presidente SOFÍA RAMÍREZ AGUILAR
- CEEY La utilidad de los registros administrativos Roberto Velez

UNITED STATES THINK TANKS

- American Enterprise Institute Why Biden's Border Policies Haven't Been Working Katherine Camberg
- American Enterprise Institute New Trade Patterns in 2023: Cars, Chemicals, and China Derek Scissors
- Atlantic Council Mexico's vital institutions face decline Vanessa Rubio-Márquez
- Atlantic Council This year's bipartisan immigration bill offers a border blueprint for 2025 Thomas S. Warrick
- Baker Institute Troubled Waters: Recent Challenges to the 1970 US-Mexico Boundary Treaty Stephen Mumme, Regina M. Buono
- Council on Foreign Relations Why U.S. Imports From Mexico Surpassed Those From China Brad W. Setser
- Council on Foreign Relations Mexico's Electoral Campaigns Kick Off Plus Latin America's Resilient Democracies Shannon K. O'Neil and Will Freeman
- Pew Research Center Migrant encounters at the U.S.-Mexico border hit a record high at the end of 2023 JOHN GRAMLICH
- Pew Research Center How Americans View the Situation at the U.S.-Mexico Border, Its Causes and Consequences Staff
- The Dialogue How Will Proposed Reforms Shape Mexico's Politics? Andrés Rozental Arantza Alonso Berbotto Earl Anthony Wayne Lillian Briseño Senosiain María Elisa Vera Madrigal
- Foreign Affairs How to Save Free Trade Peter E. Harrell
- Mexico Institute Zaldívar's Resignation and the Double-Edged Sword of Judicial Corporatism Julio Rios-Figueroa
- Mexico Institute Doxing a New York Times Reporter Demands Condemnation, Not Perfunctory Talking Points John Feeley
- Mexico Institute February 2024: Buendía and Márquez Polls Jorge Buendía, Javier Marquéz
- Mexico Institute AMLO vs. New York Times, Mexico-Canada migration talks, presidential candidates register, March for Democracy Lauren TerMaat
- Mexico Institute Mexican Cartels and the FTO Debate: The Designation Process and Relevant Government Stakeholders María Calderon
- Mexico Institute Presidential candidates meet with the Pope, water crisis, arms trafficking, state energy company granted tax credit Lauren TerMaat
- Mexico Institute Challenges to Sheinbaum's Fiscal Policy Cara Duffy
- Mexico Institute A Conversation With Mexico City Mayoral Candidate Salomón Chertorivski Staff
- Mexico Institute Mexico Institute Experts Comment on AMLO's Proposed Reforms Roberta Lajous
- Mexico Institute Infographic | US-Mexico Valentine's Trade Samantha Hargy
- Mexico Institute 360° View of Policies Needed to Secure Shipping Chokepoints Mark Kennedy
- Mexico Institute Infographics | Arms Trafficking Across the US-Mexico Border Guillermo Lemus
- Mexico Institute The Country and Challenges that Mexico's Next President Will Inherit Eduardo Ruiz-Healy
- Mexico Institute AMLO's reform package, Mexico is US' top trade partner, migration discussions, Gálvez in DC Lauren TerMaat
- Mexico Institute Water: The 2024 Elections and Beyond Alexandra Helfgott
- Mexico Institute A Conversation with Mexican Presidential Candidate Xóchitl Gálvez Staff
- Mexico Institute Claudia vs. Sheinbaum: Let the Energy Games Begin Miriam Grunstein
- Mexico Institute Economic growth slows, AMLO denies cartel connection, journalists' data leaked, energy reform ruled unconstitutional Lauren TerMaat
- George W. Bush Presidential Center Nonprofit organizations play a critical role along the U.S.-Mexico border Laura Collins
- Brookings Fixing the border: Four reasons the immigration crisis isn't going away Elaine Kamarck
- As/COA LatAm in Focus: As Mexico's Election Fires Up, a Look at Youth and Democracy Carin Zissis
- As/COA Mexico Elects: Ongoing Coverage of the 2024 Vote Carin Zissis, Chase Harrison
- As/COA Five Things to Know about the Latino Vote in 2024 Chase Harrison
- As/COA Poll Tracker: Mexico's 2024 Presidential Vote Carin Zissis

The Mexican Institute for Competitiveness (IMCO) and the U.S.-Mexico Foundation's initiative, The Center for Bilateral Institutions, monitor publications of the leading think tanks and research centers in Mexico and the United States, analyze the topics discussed, and the actors pushing the narrative.

For the making of this report, thirty-seven think tanks are monitored every month, twenty-four think tanks are from the US, while thirteen are from Mexico. The think tanks included in this report are: Instituto Mexicano para la Competitividad (IMCO), México Evalúa, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica (CIDE), El Colegio de México (COLMEX), Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Internacionales (COMEXI), Fundar, Centro de Estudios Espinosa Yglesias (CEEY), Fundación Idea, Aspen Institute México, The Coppel-Intuit Center for Binational Institutions (CBI), Brookings, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Hudson Institute, Peterson, Milken Institute, Bush Center, USC Schwarzenegger Institute, Bay Area Council Economic Institute, Meridian, New America, México ¿cómo vamos?, The Dialogue, American Enterprise Institute, Atlantic Council (AALAC), Baker Institute, Center for American Progress, Council on Foreign Relations, Heritage Foundation, Mexico Institute, Pew Research Center, USMEX UCSD, Americas Society/Council of the Americas (AS/COA), Centro de Competitividad de México (CCMX), Ethos Laboratorio de Pol. Públicas, Harvard Growth Lab, International Republican Institute (IRI), y Observatorio Nacional Ciudadano.

The history of the Mexico-United States relationship is also written by the Think Tanks since they help to build the long-term government agenda. Their active participation is crucial, particularly for in-depth analysis of political, economic, and social issues.



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