

MARCH, 2024

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



**Migration and Labor
Mobility
DEMOCRACY AND
INSTITUTIONS
ECONOMY AND
COMMERCE
ENERGY Security and Rule of Law**

RELEVANT EVENTS

- **THE OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD FOR THE MEXICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION HAS BEGUN**

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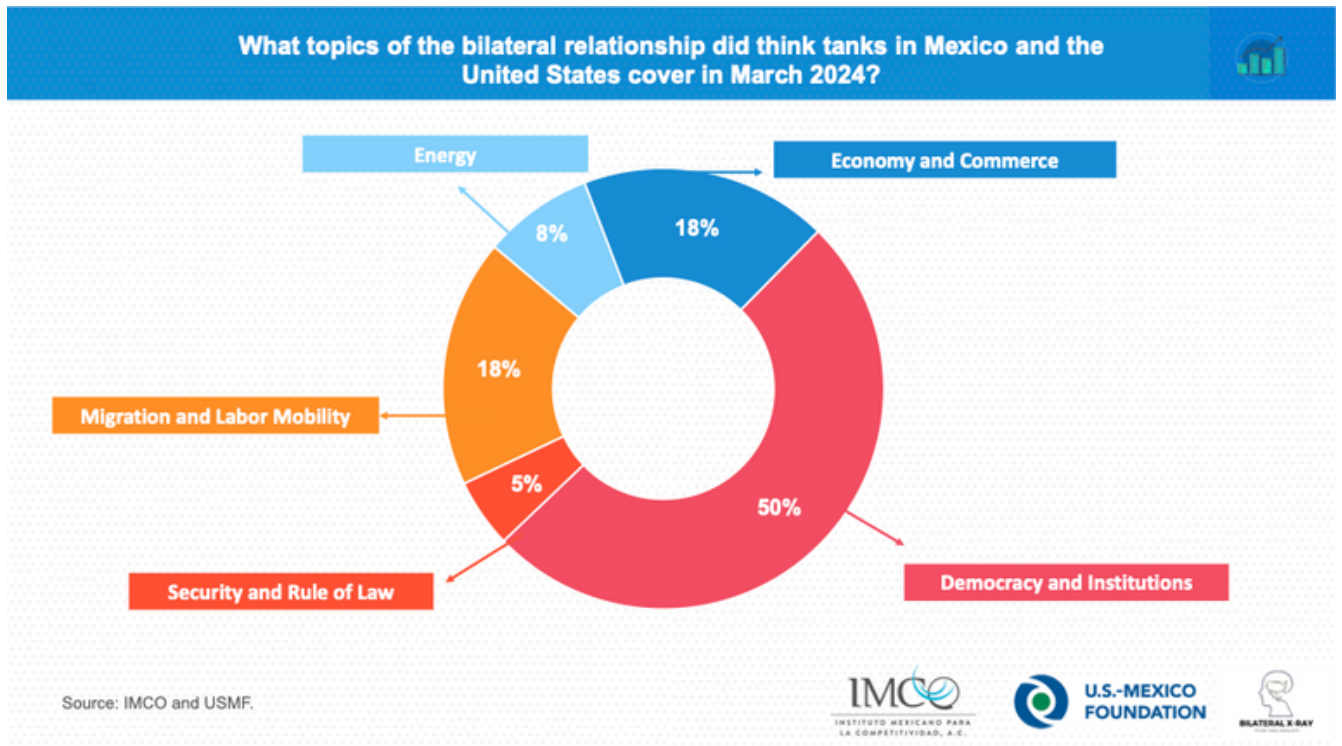
Coverage Report

March 1st to March 31st

During March, think tanks maintained the total number of publications at 38. It is important to highlight that all of the content was generated by institutions in the United States. Consistent with the trend of the last few months, **Democracy and Institutions** received the highest number of related contents with 19 articles, while **Economy and Commerce**, and **Migration and Labor Mobility** each presented 7 pieces respectively. Finally, 3 articles, representing 8% of the total, are related to content in the field of **Energy**. Furthermore, the Mexico Institute was the leading producer of content, generating 13 publications. Following closely, AS/COA contributed 6 pieces, and the Baker Institute rounded out the contributions with 5 articles over this monthly reporting period.

The following figure shows the top five most mentioned topics.

Topics Covered



Democracy and Institutions

In March, publications predominantly addressed **Democracy and Institutions**, with a key focus on the upcoming 2024 elections in Mexico. Think tanks examined various aspects, including political violence and its implications for the elections. They also highlight aggressions against politicians and the resulting impact on citizen participation. Additionally, concerns persisted regarding the incumbent president's actions challenging electoral norms. Publications also discussed Mexican candidates' strategies, particularly their efforts to engage expatriate voters along the US-Mexico border. Overall, the discourse centered on the elections' significance, the US-Mexico border's importance, challenges to Mexican democracy, and complexities in US-Mexico cooperation on border issues and trade dynamics.

Key publications regarding Democracy and Institutions this month:

- [Mexico Institute, Political Violence in Mexico's 2024 Elections: Past and Future by María Calderon](#)
- [AS/COA, Explainer: Who's Who in Mexico's 2024 Presidential Race? by Chase Harrison](#)

DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONS RECENT DATA

- **From 2018 to March 2024, 1,709 attacks** have been registered **in Mexico against people working in politics or government** or against government or party facilities. (Mexican Institute)
- **Eight-in-ten U.S. adults** say the **federal government is doing a bad job** dealing with the large **number of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border**, including 45% who say it's doing a very bad job. (Pew Research Institute)

Migration and Labor Mobility

In March, think tanks delved into the topic of **Migration and Labor Mobility**, examining the unprecedented fluctuations observed at the US Southern border. December 2023 witnessed a record high of nearly 250,000 migrant encounters, followed by a sharp decline to just over 124,000 in January 2024 according to the American Enterprise Institute. Various factors contributed to this shift, including seasonal migration patterns, cartel actions, and increased border enforcement measures in Latin American countries. Focusing on Labour Mobility, the United States grapples with a labor shortage since the COVID-19 pandemic, prompting resistance to immigration reform despite the economy's heavy reliance on immigrant labor. The Baker Institute argues that the underutilized TN visa presents a solution, since it offers opportunities to address workforce shortages, integrate North American labor markets, and bolster competitiveness. Other publications focused on refugee integration, such as Mexico's relocation program facilitated by the UNHCR.

Key publications regarding Migration and Labor Mobility this month:

- [Mexico Institute, Mexico-Venezuela migration agreement, missing persons number about 100,000, Texas law on migration, energy in the election by Lauren TerMaat](#)
- [Baker Institute, America Is Facing Severe Labor Shortages. Expanding the TN Visa Can Help by Tony Payan](#)

MIGRATION AND LABOR MOBILITY RECENT DATA

- **As of March 2023, 30,000 refugees** had been relocated to **10 different Mexican cities**. (Baker Institute)
- **Mexico's Vuelta a la Patria (Return to the Homeland) plan** offers a **monthly stipend of \$110 USD for six months** and guaranteed employment to **facilitate the return of Venezuelans** to their country of origin. (Wilson Center)

Economy and Commerce

In March, a total of 7 publications were noted under the **Economy and Commerce** category, showcasing a broad range of topics through articles, infographics, and reports. These publications highlighted various issues, including the trade dynamics of grocery products, the burgeoning opportunities within Mexico's pharmaceutical sector, and the apprehensions regarding the escalating flow of Chinese capital into the electric vehicle (EV) sector. Furthermore, the annual report from Brookings, entitled "USMCA Forward 2024," comes highly recommended for its insightful analysis and comprehensive coverage of these critical economic and trade issues.

Key publications regarding Economy and Commerce this month:

- [Brookings, USMCA Forward 2024](#)
- [Baker Institute, Excluding Mexican and Chinese EVs from the United States by David A. Gantz](#)

ECONOMY AND COMMERCE RECENT DATA

- Top Chinese electric vehicle maker BYD is considering setting up a plant in Mexico. The company started a feasibility study for a Mexican plant. **Overall, 1.36 million vehicles were sold in Mexico in 2023, up 24% from 2022. Of those, Chinese vehicles accounted for more than 120,000, a gain of 60%.** (NIKKEI, Asia)
- **Chinese investments in Mexico jumped 50% to \$587 million in 2022**, according to Mexico's Secretariat of Economy. Solarever, a Chinese EV maker, unveiled plans to spend 6.8 billion pesos (\$395 million) in the Mexican state of Durango. (NIKKEI, Asia)

Other topics

Shifting focus, the **Energy** category features 3 articles concerned with the energy policies of the current administration in Mexico and the potential impacts stemming from the presidential transition. Additionally, topics such as water stress in the region and the potential for developing a bilateral strategy to address this challenge are highlighted. In the realm of **Rule of Law and Security**, the emphasis remains on collaborative strategies to combat fentanyl trafficking.

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

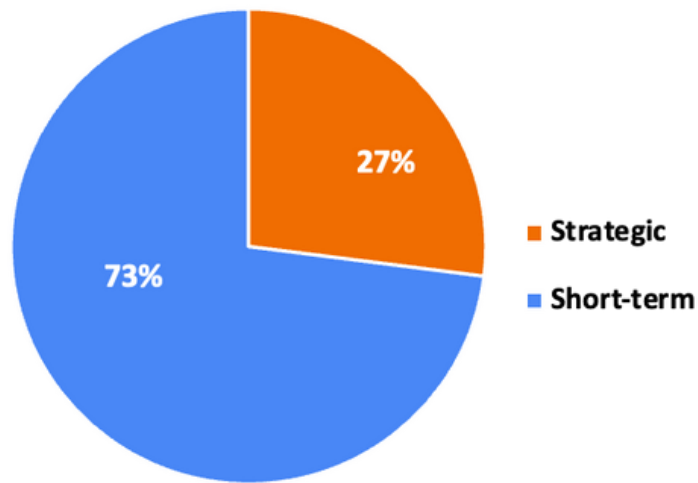
- [The Dialogue, How Dire Is the Water Shortage in Mexico City? by Itzkuauhtli Zamora Saenz Et al](#)
- [Council on Foreign Relations, New CFR Book Assesses Multi-Billion Dollar U.S. Security Assistance Programs for Colombia and Mexico by Paul Angelo](#)

ENERGY AND SECURITY AND RULE OF LAW RECENT DATA

- **As of the end of February 2024, the Palmer Drought Index indicates that severe to extreme drought conditions expanded to cover approximately 11% of the contiguous US**, marking a 2% increase from the previous month, while about 23% experienced moderate to extreme drought, and roughly 3% were classified as severely to extremely wet. (National Centers for Environmental Information)

Relevant short-term events for the bilateral relationship

- Two-thirds of publications generated in March were classified as of short-term relevance. For the third month in a row, the content was mainly focused on the presidential process in Mexico, as well as issues related to migration and the United States' policies towards this phenomenon.
- The strategic publications in March focused on **Democracy and Institutions** issues. Overall, these strategic publications revisit the official start of the presidential campaign period in Mexico



PUBLICATIONS

UNITED STATES THINK TANKS

- [Mexico Institute Electoral campaigns officially begin, mayoral candidates assassinated, Canada's visa requirement for Mexicans, AMLO "censored" by Youtube Lauren TerMaat](#)
- [Mexico Institute Infographic | US-Mexico Trade in Grocery Products Lauren TerMaat](#)
- [Mexico Institute Political Violence in Mexico's 2024 Elections: Past and Future María Calderon](#)
- [Mexico Institute Political Violence in Mexico's 2024 Elections: Organized Crime Involvement María Calderon](#)
- [Mexico Institute Political Violence in Mexico's 2024 Elections: Gender-Based Political Violence Against Women María Calderon](#)
- [Mexico Institute Infographic | Gender-Based Political Violence Against Women in Mexico María Calderon](#)
- [Mexico Institute Militarization and Human Rights: Don't Expect Big Changes from the 2024 Elections Anna Braverman](#)
- [Mexico Institute Trends and Opportunities in Mexico-US Pharma Trade Jeffrey Kicik, Andrew Rudman](#)
- [Mexico Institute The Mexican Energy Sector after AMLO Carlos Ramírez, Mónica R. Díaz](#)
- [Mexico Institute Mexico-Venezuela migration agreement, missing persons number about 100,000, Texas law on migration, energy in the election Lauren TerMaat](#)
- [Mexico Institute What Can the Next President of Mexico Offer Her Constituents in the United States? Ian Scholer](#)
- [Mexico Institute Mexico's Private Sector and Innovation for a Sustainable Future Richard P. Wells Viesca](#)
- [Mexico Institute Mexico's Presidential Candidates' Campaign Platforms: A Comparison Alexandra Helfgott](#)
- [Mexico Institute AMLO discusses fentanyl with 60 Minutes, wildfires in 20 states, migration agreement with Colombia and Ecuador, airline lawsuit Lauren TerMaat](#)
- [PIIE Trump's proposed mass deportations would backfire on US workers Michael A. Clemens](#)
- [CSIS Americans Are Migrating to Mexico Too Mariana Campero](#)
- [Brookings China, Mexico, and America's fight against the fentanyl epidemic Vanda Felbaba-Brown](#)
- [Brookings USMCA Forward 2024 Varios](#)
- [AS/COA Carin Zissis on CNN International: Campaigning for Mexico's June Elections Begins Kim Brunhuber](#)
- [AS/COA Approval Tracker: Mexico's President AMLO Carin Zissis](#)
- [AS/COA Carin Zissis en el programa de radio "Así las cosas" de W Radio México Javier Risco Gabriela Warketin](#)
- [AS/COA Explainer: Who's Who in Mexico's 2024 Presidential Race? Chase Harrison](#)
- [AS/COA Mexico Elects: Ongoing Coverage of the 2024 Vote Chase Harrison Carin Zissis](#)
- [AS/COA Poll Tracker: Mexico's 2024 Presidential Vote Carin Zissis](#)
- [American Enterprise Institute \(Un\)Holy Digital Alliances Claude Barfield](#)
- [American Enterprise Institute What Lies behind January's Shocking Drop in Border Crossings? Katherine Camberg](#)
- [Baker Institute Baker Briefing: What's At Stake for Mexico in 2024? On the Border, Elections, and Democracy Tony Payan, Jose Ivan Rodriguez-Sanchez, and Ed Emmett](#)
- [Baker Institute Women's Suffrage in Mexico Meets the 2024 Election Vania Ramírez Camacho, Kenzie Langhorne-Ajidahun](#)
- [Baker Institute Excluding Mexican and Chinese EVs from the United States David A. Gantz](#)
- [Baker Institute Refugee Relocation Can Be a Positive Experience Elizabeth Ferris](#)
- [Baker Institute America Is Facing Severe Labor Shortages. Expanding the TN Visa Can Help Tony Payan](#)
- [Council on Foreign Relations New CFR Book Assesses Multi-Billion Dollar U.S. Security Assistance Programs for Colombia and Mexico Paul Angelo](#)
- [Council on Foreign Relations A Self-Absorbed America Means Disorder for the World Edward Alden](#)
- [New America Climate-Fueled Migration Requires a Different Approach Madison Harris](#)
- [Pew Institute Latinos' Views on the Migrant Situation at the U.S.-Mexico Border LUIS NOE-BUSTAMANTE](#)
- [Pew Institute What Can Improve Democracy? LAURA SILVER, MOIRA FAGAN, CHRISTINE HUANG AND LAURA CLANCY](#)
- [Pew Institute State of the Union 2024: Where Americans stand on the economy, immigration and other key issues ANNA JACKSON](#)
- [The Dialogue How Dire Is the Water Shortage in Mexico City? Itzkuauhtli Zamora Saenz, José Alfredo Ramirez, June Garcia-Becerra, Christina Boyes, Elias Cattan Cherem](#)

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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