

DECEMBER 5TH, 2023

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



SECURITY AND RULE OF LAW

**DEMOCRACY AND
INSTITUTIONS**

North America

**Economy and
Commerce**

MIGRATION AND LABOR

MOBILITY

RELEVANT EVENTS

- **ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) 2023
MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO**

By:
USMF – Jesús Silva (@JesusSileli)
IMCO – Andrea Villegas (@AndreaVillegasZ)



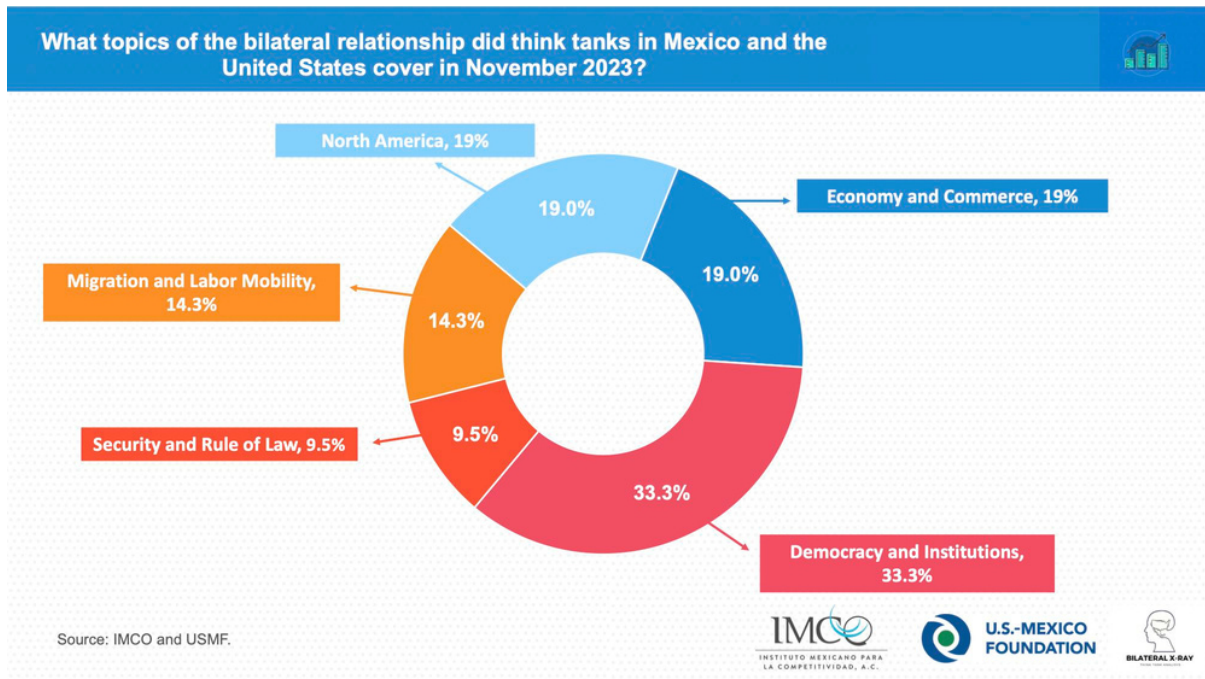
Coverage Report

November 1st to November 30th

During November, 24 posts and content pieces were generated on the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States. Of these, 8% were produced in Mexico, while the remaining 92% originated in the United States. The Mexico Institute led with 5 articles, marking the highest count during the period, followed by AS/COA with 4 publications. In November, the most frequently discussed topics included **Democracy and Institutions**, with 7 publications, and **Economy and Commerce**, with 4 pieces.

The next figure shows the top five most mentioned topics.

Topics Covered



Democracy and Institutions

In November, think tanks primarily produced publications related to **Democracy and Institutions**. For the third consecutive month, researchers maintained a focus on the upcoming Mexican presidential elections. AS/COA worked on three publications that tracked the 2024 electoral process. Notably, among these pieces, it was highlighted that the 2024 election will be the largest in Mexico's history, with over 20,000 positions at stake: 19,746 at the local level and 629 at the national representation level. Meanwhile, the Mexico Institute presented an insightful analysis of the challenges and opportunities the next administration will face.

Key publications regarding Democracy and Institutions this month:

- [CSIS, Presidential Elections and a Fragmenting Political Landscape in Mexico](#) by Ryan Berg & Gerardo Penchyna
- [Mexico Institute, Outlook for 2024](#) by Gustavo Almaraz & Mariana Raphael

DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONS RECENT DATA

- **Countries experiencing the greatest decline in support for democracy** include Venezuela (-12%), Costa Rica (-11%), and Guatemala and Mexico (-8%) according to the Latinobarómetro 2023 report titled "The Democratic Recession in Latin America."
- Former President **Trump is leading in the polls in 5 out of the 6 swing states** that will determine the course of the 2024 elections in the United States, as reported by The New York Times and Siena College.

Economy and Commerce

In the realm of **Economics and Commerce**, the content generated by think tanks in November presented a mix of topics. The American Enterprise Institute underscored the importance of defining rules for digital trade and emphasized the need to establish a critical path for protecting agriculture in North America. Meanwhile, the Mexico Institute delved into the ongoing trade panel regarding the use of transgenic corn and bioagents. Lastly, AS/COA highlighted the significance of closing the gender gap in the private sector and its leadership.

Key publications regarding Democracy and Institutions this month:

- [The Milken Institute, Mexico's Competitiveness as a Strategic Trade Partner Dashboard](#), by Maggie Switek, Lawson Mansell, & Leilani Jimenez
- [Mexico Institute, "Sin Maíz No Hay País" Meets "King Corn"](#) by Ben Conner

ECONOMY AND COMMERCE RECENT DATA

- **In Mexico, 38% of top executive positions are held by women**, five-percentage-point increase from the 33% reported in 2022. In contrast, the United States has female representation in leadership roles in only 31% of its companies (Women in Business 2023, Grant Thornton).
- Mobile commerce refers to e-commerce transactions conducted through a mobile phone. **It is anticipated that mobile commerce sales will constitute 43% of total e-commerce sales in the United States in 2023** (Shopify).

North America

The November publications on **North America** focused on the role of the USMCA and the U.S.-Mexico bilateral relationship. Think tanks revisited the cooperation meeting Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity (APEP) held earlier in the month. The meeting addressed different issues, including foreign policy, trade, security, and regional cooperation. This gathering marked progress in light of the economic uncertainty faced by some Latin American countries. Additionally, there was a comprehensive analysis of the USMCA, particularly regarding regulations for digital trade in the region. These regulations serve as a crucial reference point in the development of new trade agreements.

Key publications regarding North America this month:

- [Council on Foreign Relations, The United States Needs a Bold Vision for Trade in the Americas](#) by Inu Manak and Gabriel Cabanas
- [México ¿cómo vamos?, The North American Project](#) by Juan Carlos Baker Pineda, Diego Marroquín

NORTH AMERICA RECENT DATA:

- In 2022, the **United States ranked globally as the primary recipient of foreign direct investment with USD 285 billion**, while Mexico secured the eleventh position with USD 35 billion, with nearly half of Mexican investments originating from its North American partners (North American Project).
- Between **2003 and 2022, trilateral goods trade experienced a significant increase, rising from USD 632 billion to over USD 1.5 trillion annually**, with an average annual growth rate of close to 5% (North American Project).

Other topics

In the November publications, key themes included **Migration and Labor Mobility**, as well as **Security and Rule of Law**. Regarding Security, articles focused on violence in Mexico and the threats it poses to the 2024 elections. Analyses were presented on the presence of organized crime in some regions of Mexico, along with the growing issue of drug use in the United States. On migration, U.S. think tanks reflected on the flow of Mexican migrants entering the United States. There was a particular emphasis on the security challenges posed by the increase in undocumented migrants entering the U.S. In this context, the Baker Institute advocated for a change in the immigration system, especially in terms of economic security. This issue is expected to be a recurring theme leading up to the 2024 presidential elections.

Key publications regarding Migration and Labor Mobility and Security and Rule of Law this month:

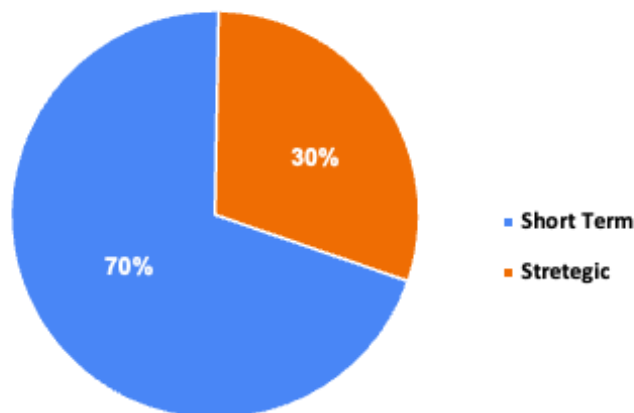
- [Brookings Institution, The US-Mexico border challenge](#) by Vanda Felbab-Brown and Fred Dews
- [Baker Institute, Small Steps Congress Can Take to Reform America's Immigration System](#) by Elizabeth M. Mendoza

MIGRATION AND LABOR MOBILITY AND SECURITY AND RULE OF LAW RECENT DATA

- The number of **undocumented immigrants from Mexico decreased by 900,000 between 2017 and 2021**, reaching a total of 4.1 million (Pew Research).
- The public health crisis of **fentanyl overdoses is killing 300 Americans a day** (Brookings).

Relevant short-term events for the bilateral relationship

- In the content related to **Democracy and Institutions**, all articles presented in November were classified as short-term elements. Throughout the month, once again, the content focused on the 2024 presidential process in Mexico and the tracking of voter preferences.
- On the other hand, strategic publications in November centered on **North America** and the ongoing implementation of the USMCA and the attention given to multilateral cooperation mechanisms such as the aforementioned Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity (APEP).



Publications on the bilateral relationship have maintained a consistent volume compared to previous months. The majority of topics related to Democracy and Institutions, with a focus on Mexico's elections. On the other hand, content related to Economics and Commerce continues to concentrate on the implementation of the USMCA.

Upcoming events

THINK TANK	EVENT	TIME AND PLACE
Baker Institute	MEXICO COUNTRY OUTLOOK 2024	December 7th, 8:00 am (GMT) James A. Baker III Hall
Meridian International	CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND MEXICO THROUGH SPORTS DIPLOMACY	December 12th, 5:30 (ET) Online

PUBLICATIONS

MEXICAN THINK TANKS

- [México ¿cómo vamos? The North American Project](#) Juan Carlos Baker Pineda, Diego Marroquín
- [The Coppel-Intuit Center for Binational Institutions Foreign Secretary Bárcena concludes visit to Washington, D.C. Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores](#)

UNITED STATES THINK TANKS

- [American Enterprise Institute An Increasingly Unsustainable Stalemate on Immigration](#) Chris Stirewalt
- [American Enterprise Institute Woke Triumphs on Digital Trade Rules](#) Claude Barfield
- [American Enterprise Institute The Path Forward for US Agricultural Trade: Free Trade, Fair Trade, or Both?](#) Barry K. Goodwin | Vincent H. Smith
- [Baker Institute Small Steps Congress Can Take to Reform America's Immigration System](#) Elizabeth M. Mendoza
- [Council on Foreign Relations The United States Needs a Bold Vision for Trade in the Americas](#) Inu Manak and Gabriel Cabanas
- [Council on Foreign Relations Unpacking the IPEF: Biden's Indo-Pacific Trade Play](#) Inu Manak
- [Heritage Foundation Congress Should Fund Real Border Security, Not a Worldwide Welfare State](#) Simon Hankinson
- [New America Searching for Justice in the Midst of Mexico's Drug War](#) Azam Ahmed
- [Pew Research Center What we know about unauthorized immigrants living in the U.S.](#) JEFFREY S. PASSEL AND JENS MANUEL KROGSTAD
- [PIIE How did Canadian workers adjust so well to US trade?](#) Peter Morrow
- [Milken Institute Mexico's Competitiveness as a Strategic Trade Partner](#) Magguelite Switek, Lawson Mansell, Leilani Jimenez
- [CSIS Presidential Elections and a Fragmenting Political Landscape in Mexico](#) Ryan Berg and Gerardo Penchyna
- [Brookings Institution The US-Mexico border challenge](#) Vanda Felbab-Brown y Fred Dews
- [AS/COA Poll Tracker: Contenders for Mexico's 2024 Presidential Vote](#) Carin Zissis
- [AS/COA Mexico Votes 2024: What's in Play in the Country's Massive Elections?](#) Carin Zissis
- [AS/COA Approval Tracker: Mexico's President AMLO](#) Carin Zissis
- [AS/COA It's Time to Close the Leadership Gap for Women in Mexico's Private Sector](#) Carin Zissis y Susan Segal
- [Mexico Institute Mexico's Next President: Challenges and Recommendations](#) Anthony Wayne, Andrew Rudman, Lila Abed, Duncan, Wood, Ariel Ruiz y Eric Martínez
- [Mexico Institute Natural Gas as a Driving Force to Reduce the Pressures that Drive Irregular Immigration](#) Warren Levy
- [Mexico Institute Mexico's Next President Faces Urgent Human Rights Challenges](#) Duncan Tucker
- [Mexico Institute Outlook for 2024](#) Gustavo Almaraz y Mariana Raphael
- [Mexico Institute The GMO Corn Case and North American Integration - "Sin Maíz No Hay País" Meets "King Corn"](#) Ben Conner



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.



www.usmexicofoundation.org



www.imco.org.mx

