

JUNE 5, 2023

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



SECURITY AND RULE OF LAW

ENERGY AND ESG

North America

**MIGRATION AND LABOR  
MOBILITY**

Economy and Commerce

Democracy and Institutions

RELEVANT EVENTS

- END OF TITLE 42

By:  
USMF - Sofia Calderón (@Sofia\_CalderonR)  
IMCO - Andrea Villegas (@AndreaVillegasZ)



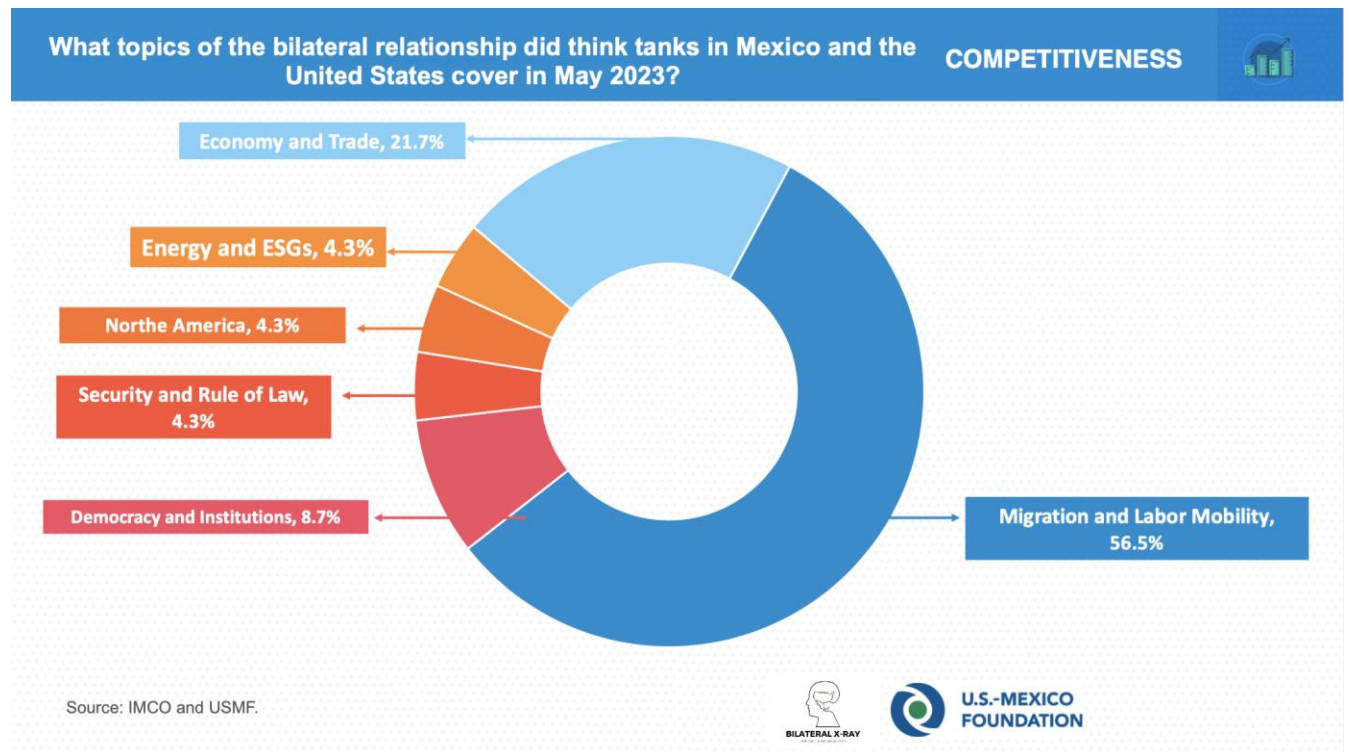
## Coverage Report

May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

We compiled 23 publications related to the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States. From all the publications, 17% were written by Mexican think tanks, while 82% were written by United States think tanks. AS/COA, American Enterprise Institute, Baker Institute and CSIS were the leading institutions with three publications each. During May, the most mentioned topics were **Migration and Labor Mobility** with 13 publications, followed by **Economy and Commerce** with 5 publications and **Democracy and Institutions** with 2 publications.

The next figure shows the top five most mentioned topics.

### Topics Covered



## Migration and Labor Mobility

During May, publications mainly focused on the end of Title 42 on May 11th. Some think tanks describe the trajectory of this measure, while others wonder what will come next. Other regulatory measures which are still valid were discussed, such as Title 8, which allows rapid deportations and prison time for people who attempt to illegally cross the border, as well as Humanitarian Parole, Migrant Protection Protocols such as the “Remain in Mexico” program, Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Also, the Baker Institute released an article with the psychological implications of Title 42, which describes the mental crisis that the migrants go through under this measure.

Key publications regarding Migration and Labor Mobility this month:

- Baker Institute, [MORE HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICIES WILL REDUCE MIGRANT TRAUMA](#), Luz Maria Garcini, Kimberly Nguyen, Daniel Argueta, Aldo Barrita, Amy Barrett, Jin Yan
- AS/COA, [EXPLAINER: U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON LATIN AMERICAS](#), Chase Harrison, Jennifer Vilcarino, Carin Zissis

### MIGRATION AND LABOR MOBILITY RECENT DATA

In 2021, only 18% of the 62,500 available spaces for asylum seekers were filled (Baker Institute).

In 2023, more than 1 million asylum seekers are still waiting for their court hearing (Baker Institute).

2.8 million people were expelled under Title 42 between March 2020 and March 2023 (AS/COA).

## Economy and Commerce

Within this topic, publications focused on the disagreements the U.S. is having regarding digital trade, especially because of the free flow of data that the USMCA Chapter on Digital Trade states. Also, the new Tesla factory that is going to be built in Nuevo Leon, Mexico was addressed by explaining the reasons of the investment. These include geographic proximity, labor costs and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and a consumer subsidy for electric vehicles, which can apply to any vehicles sourced in Mexico, the U.S. or Canada. The first North American Semiconductor Conference (NASC) took place on May 18 and 19, as a commitment made during this year’s NALS, it aims to boost North America’s capacity in the semiconductor industry. Finally, IMCO analyzed fifteen socioeconomic indicators in an effort to evaluate the level of preparation that each state has to take advantage of the opportunities generated by nearshoring.

Key publications regarding Economy and Commerce: :

- CSIS, [CAN NORTH AMERICA BECOME A SEMICONDUCTOR POWERHOUSE?](#) Ryan C. Berg, Christopher Hernandez-Roy, Juliana Rubio, Rubi Bledsoe, Henry Ziemer
- Baker Institute [WHY IS TESLA PLANNING AN AUTOMOBILE FACTORY IN MEXICO?](#) David A. Gantz
- IMCO, [NEARSHORING: OPORTUNIDAD QUE DESAFÍA A LAS ENTIDADES MEXICANAS](#), IMCO Staff

### ECONOMY AND COMMERCE RECENT DATA

Mexico is now the 6th largest auto producer in the world, with 4 million autos and light trucks produced in 2019, representing \$121 billion dollars worth of cars and components (Baker Institute).

## Democracy and Institutions

Publications on this topic focused on the presidency of Andrés Manuel López Obrador, highlighting his approval rate as well as the democratic backsliding experienced in the last five years. Through an analysis, the publications commented on the lessons learned and the consequences of this change in government leading up to the 2024 elections. There was also a monitor published on the Mexican president's approval rating; which remains above 60%. The publications also touch on the authoritarianism and populism being faced in Mexico, especially in context of the attack on the National Electoral Institute, and the challenges that this could entail in the future.

Key publications and events regarding Democracy and Institutions this month:

- Wilson Center, [DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING IN MEXICO: LESSONS FOR OPPONENTS OF AUTHORITARIAN POPULISM](#), Alejandro García Magos
- AS/COA, [APPROVAL TRACKER: MEXICO'S PRESIDENT AMLO](#), Carin Zissis

### DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONS RECENT DATA

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador maintains an approval rate above 60% both in satisfaction with his government and in the execution of his public policies (AS/COA).

40% of Mexicans would vote for Morena in the 2024 presidential elections (AS/COA).

## Other topics

Apart from the three main categories other topics such as **Energy and ESG** and **Security and Rule of Law** were mentioned. The first one was addressed by a publication which focused on the importance of clean energy for the integration of North America as a region, especially in the context of the possibilities that nearshoring represents. Mexico is the country furthest behind in the energy transition, which in turn creates a need to attract investment and ensure public policies that can facilitate this process (IMCO). Regarding Security and Rule of Law, the Baker Institute released a publication of three recent criminal cases of Mexican officials held in the United States and questions Mexico's rule of law and the impact of the judicial relationship between both countries.

Publications regarding Energy and ESG and Security and Rule of Law:

- Baker Institute [YARRINGTON, GARCÍA LUNA, AND CIENFUEGOS: THREE CASES THAT EXPLAIN THE NEW JUDICIAL RELATIONSHIP](#), Tony Payan
- IMCO, [RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLY IS KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN INTEGRATION](#), Valeria Moy

### Energy and ESG Data

With the Inflation Reduction Act the Biden administration has facilitated \$40 billion in loans and \$27 billion in grants for clean energy projects (IMCO).

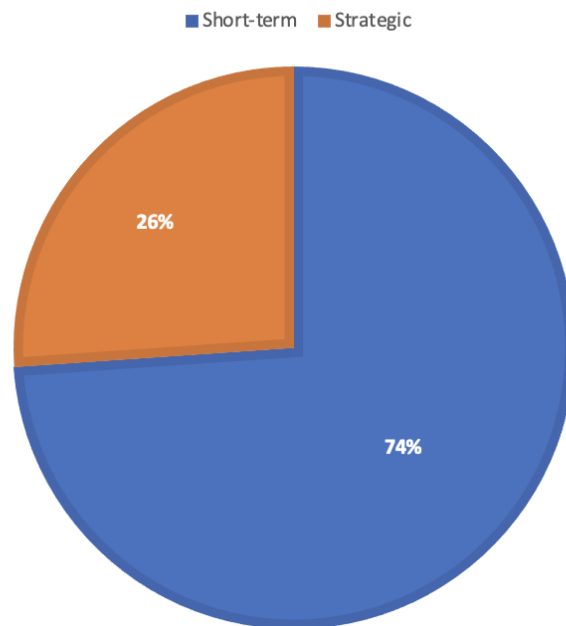
In Mexico, the Plan Sonora aims to attract \$48 billion in solar photovoltaic and wind farms between 2023 and 2030 (IMCO).

## Relevant short-term events for the bilateral relationship

- The topic of **Migration and Labor Mobility** had mainly short-term publications because of the Biden Administration's decision to end Title 42. Think tanks enquired on the future measures to be established now that mass migrations are expected in the short-term.
- The publications in the **Economy and Commerce** section referred to more strategic topics regarding the possibilities of the semiconductor industry and the digital trade. Nonetheless, there were short-term publications, such as the one regarding the new Tesla factory in Mexico.
- **Democracy and Institutions** publications focused on President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and the oncoming 2024 presidential elections.

The next chart shows that 74% of this month's publications were related to short-term events, while 26% of them discussed strategic issues.

### RELATION OF PUBLICATIONS TO SHORT-TERM EVENTS



Source: IMCO and USMF.

Although short-term analyses are fundamental to understanding the bilateral relationship, we encourage think tanks to address these issues in a more strategic and long-term perspective. Topics such as the semiconductor industry, digital trade, clean energy, and the migratory measures require proposals that will have major effects in the bilateral relationship in the long-term and could also assess policy makers in both countries. In this sense, documents such as the Nearshoring analysis by IMCO provide the necessary insights to make policy proposals that are necessary from the strategic prospective.

## Upcoming Events

THINK TANK	EVENT	DATE AND TIME
UCSD	<a href="#">ELECTROMOBILITY: WILL MEXICO BE READY?</a>	June 9, 9:00 am (PDT) <b>Webinar</b>
Atlantic Council	<a href="#">Closer to home: Bringing supply chains back to the Americas</a>	June 12, 4:30 pm (ET) <b>1030 15th Street NW 12th Floor, Washington Webinar</b>
Wilson Center	<a href="#">BUILDING A COMPETITIVE US-MEXICO BORDER CONFERENCE</a>	June 21, 9:00 am (ET) <b>6th Floor Flom Auditorium, Woodrow Wilson Center</b>

## Publications

### Mexican Think Tanks

- COMEXI, [MÉXICO ANTE LAS INICIATIVAS EN MIGRACIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE BIDEN](#), Susan Gzesh, Comentarista: Gretchen Kuhner, Moderadora: Luicy Pedroza
- COMEXI, [MÉXICO Y ESTADOS UNIDOS FRENTE A LA MIGRACIÓN CENTROAMERICANA Y LA PRÁCTICA DEL "TERCER PAÍS SEGURO"](#), Dra. Yadira Gálvez Salvador, Profra. Celia Toro, Dr. Manuel García y Griego, Mtro. Andrés Jiménez, Dra. Paola Suárez Ávila
- IMCO, [NEARSHORING: OPORTUNIDAD QUE DESAFÍA A LAS ENTIDADES MEXICANAS](#), IMCO Staff
- IMCO, [RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLY IS KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN INTEGRATION](#), Valeria Moy

### United States Think Tanks

- American Enterprise Institute, [BIDEN AND TRUMP: OUR WORST-CASE CANDIDATES](#), Jay Cost
- American Enterprise Institute, [WTH IS GOING ON WITH TITLE 42](#), Danielle Pletka, Marc A Thiessen
- American Enterprise Institute, [US DIGITAL TRADE POLICY: RETREAT, RETREAT](#), Claude Barfield
- AS/COA, [APPROVAL TRACKER: MEXICO'S PRESIDENT AMLO](#), Carin Zissis
- AS/COA, [EXPLAINER: U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON LATIN AMERICAS](#), Chase Harrison, Jennifer Vilcarino, Carin Zissis
- AS/COA, [53rd ANNUAL WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON THE AMERICAS](#)
- Baker Institute, [MORE HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICIES WILL REDUCE MIGRANT TRAUMA](#), Luz Maria Garcini, Kimberly Nguyen, Daniel Argueta, Aldo Barrita, Amy Barrett, Jin Yan
- Baker Institute [WHY IS TESLA PLANNING AN AUTOMOBILE FACTORY IN MEXICO?](#), David A. Gantz
- Baker Institute [YARRINGTON, GARCÍA LUNA, AND CIENFUEGOS: THREE CASES THAT EXPLAIN THE NEW JUDICIAL RELATIONSHIP](#), Tony Payan
- Bush center, [WHAT DOES THE END OF TITLE 42 MEAN?](#), Laura Collins
- Center for American Progress, [THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATIONS USE OF IMMIGRATION PAROLE AUTHORITY IS BOTH LAWFUL AND SMART](#), Tom Jawetz
- CSIS, [CAN NORTH AMERICA BECOME A SEMICONDUCTOR POWERHOUSE?](#), Ryan C. Berg, Christopher Hernandez-Roy, Juliana Rubio, Rubi Bledsoe, Henry Ziemer
- CSIS, [INSULATE, CURTAIL, COMPETE: SKETCHING A U.S. GRAND STRATEGY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN](#), Ryan C. Berg
- Harvard Growth Lab, [THE IMPACT OF RETURN MIGRATION ON EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN MEXICAN CITIES, D.](#) Diodato, r. Hausmann
- Heritage Foundation, [WHY THE END OF TITLE 42 MEANS THE END TO A SECURE BORDER](#), Simon Hankinson
- Heritage Foundation, [CONGRESS MUST END THE EXPLOITATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN](#), Lora Ries
- The Dialogue, [UNDERSTANDING THE RECENT GROWTH IN REMITTANCES TO MEXICO](#), Manuel Orozco
- Wilson Center, [MEXICAN LABOR AND THE US FOOD SYSTEM](#), Katie Cooper
- Wilson Center, [DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING IN MEXICO: LESSONS FOR OPPONENTS OF AUTHORITARIAN POPULISM](#), Alejandro García Magos



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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