Economic Research, Mexico

Industrial production – Modest setback in March, albeit corroborating a positive 1Q25

- Industrial production (March): 1.9% y/y nsa; Banorte: 1.5%; consensus: 1.5% (range: 0.3% to 2.6%); previous: -1.2%
- Industrial activity contracted 0.9% m/m, albeit following a significant uptick in February (2.2%). Performance was again influenced by tariff uncertainty, with greater volatility for manufacturing
- By sectors, mining backtracked 2.7% –dragged by oil and non-oil–, while manufacturing retreated 1.1% m/m, with 16 of its 21 items down. Construction grew 0.8%, boosted by edification
- Although trade uncertainty will continue to cloud performance in the short-term, we think 2H25 could be more favorable. Specifically, we expect several tailwinds, such as a better trade position with the US vs. other countries and a greater boost in public works, among others

Expansion in annual terms, helped by a calendar effect. Industry advanced 1.9% y/y (see Chart 1), above consensus and our estimate. Inside, two of the four items were positive. Construction was the highest at 5.4% (Chart 2) –driven by edification–, with manufacturing at 3.1%. However, mining remained negative at -9.5% –dragged down by the oil component—with utilities also down at -1.9%. We must remember that the period had two additional working days due to the annual difference in the dates of the Easter holiday. Thus, with seasonally adjusted data, activity fell 1.3% y/y. For further details, please refer to Table 1.

Uncertainty continued to weigh sequentially. Industrial production fell 0.9% m/m (Chart 3), not enough to erase the strong 2.2% advance in February. The external environment remained a source of uncertainty regarding the entry into force of US tariffs, with much activity on this front throughout the month. Thus, the impact on Mexican manufacturing demand was quite volatile. Domestic conditions were more stable, but the basis of comparison for several sectors was very challenging.

Mining fell 2.7% —with declines in five of the last seven months. The oil component contracted by the same magnitude, with weak production in both crude oil and gas. The non-oil component came in at -4.3% despite the uptick in industrial metals prices. Lastly, 'related services' grew 0.4%, contrasting with its characteristic volatility.

Manufacturing contracted 1.1% (Table 2) after a 2.3% expansion in the previous month. The acceleration in February was largely driven by advanced shipments to the US to avoid tariffs, so it is not entirely surprising that a drop was observed. In this sense, there seems to have been a timing difference with respect to manufacturing exports data, which grew 3.1%. Part of the distortion is due to delays in customs and other adjustments in supply chains. In detail, 16 of the 21 categories decreased. We highlight declines in metallic goods (-5.5%), clothing (-2.9%) and electrical equipment (-1.9%). Transportation backtracked 1.1%, in line with AMIA's report.

Construction climbed 0.8%, adding three months to the upside. Inside, edification grew +1.5%, but civil engineering dropped -2.8%, with the latter in line with negative prints in public spending on physical investment. Finally, specialized works expanded 1.3%.

May 12, 2025



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Possible resilience under the materialization and consolidation of certain factors on both the external and domestic fronts for the remainder of the year. In the short-term, we believe that volatility driven by the new trade order will continue to weigh on Mexican industry. However, our baseline scenario sees these adjustments easing and intermittent tariff measures. More importantly, our path recognizes certain favorable headwinds, some clearer currently and others to materialize during the second half of the year.

Focusing on manufacturing, the external environment will continue to be the most relevant factor. However, we find factors that, if consolidated, could give the sector some breathing space. The first is related to Mexico's trade position with the US. The federal government's priority objective is to improve its position, obtaining a lower effective tariff rate than the rest of the countries. On the other hand, we are keeping an eye on the USMCA review and its possible advancement, although the latest statements by Presidents Trump and Sheinbaum suggest that it will take place within the established timeframe in 2026. Finally, another short-term driver will be the level of the Mexican peso against the dollar, remembering that the current weakness of the USD would play against the attractiveness of Mexican manufacturing abroad, although improving the profile of imported inputs we import from abroad.

Finally, we also see some favorable elements for a reactivation in construction in the remainder of the year. These are: (1) Some acceleration in government spending for public works as part of *Plan Mexico*; (2) a higher proportion of domestic content in government purchases; (3) greater openness to mixed investments (public-private participation) for infrastructure projects, with the goal of tendering projects for at least \$100 billion of private investment in 2025; and (4) progress in the central bank's rate cutting cycle. This could compensate for other challenges such as the usual slowdown in government spending that the country faces at the beginning of every six-year administration, along with fiscal consolidation efforts by the government.

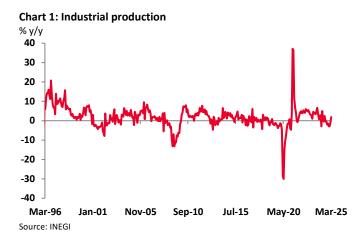


Table 1: Industrial production

% y/y nsa, % y/y sa

	nsa				sa	
	Mar-25	Mar-24	Jan-Mar'25	Jan-Mar'24	Mar-25	Mar-24
Industrial Production	1.9	-2.9	-0.7	0.8	-1.3	2.1
Mining	-9.5	-4.6	-9.3	-2.5	-10.1	-3.3
Oil and gas	-10.6	-4.9	-10.8	-2.8	-10.5	-4.6
Non-oil mining	-2.8	-1.3	-0.8	0.3	-5.3	1.6
Services related to mining	-28.6	-15.5	-27.9	-9.4	-28.8	-10.7
Utilities	-1.9	-0.2	-0.8	-0.8	-3.4	1.2
Construction	5.4	4.7	-0.2	9.9	2.1	8.7
Edification	14.6	0.5	7.6	4.8	10.1	4.2
Civil engineering	-27.6	32.8	-27.7	38.8	-27.5	39.1
Specialized works for construction	6.0	-5.6	0.9	3.3	3.9	-1.1
Manufacturing	3.1	-4.7	0.7	-0.9	-1.0	1.7
Food industry	1.6	-2.7	0.4	-1.1	-1.0	1.5
Beverages and tobacco	-0.4	-1.1	-0.9	1.4	-4.2	4.4
Textiles - Raw materials	2.4	-14.9	-2.0	-11.2	-8.1	-3.2
Textiles - Finished products ex clothing	0.6	-7.8	-1.4	-5.8	-4.6	0.0
Textiles - Clothing	-0.8	-16.8	-3.7	-9.9	-5.7	-9.0
Leather and substitutes	-0.9	-22.9	-4.0	-17.4	-8.8	-12.1
Woodworking	-1.1	-18.7	-2.6	-11.5	-3.9	-12.4
Paper	2.6	-10.2	3.5	-7.3	-0.9	-4.7
Printing and related products	3.6	-12.5	5.4	-4.8	0.7	-5.9
Oil- and carbon-related products	-11.0	19.4	-8.2	17.0	-12.1	21.9
Chemicals	0.0	-2.3	-1.4	3.1	-4.5	3.4
Plastics and rubber	4.8	-8.6	3.5	-3.9	-1.5	0.6
Non-metallic mineral goods production	-1.5	-7.6	-5.0	-4.3	-5.8	-2.4
Basic metal industries	1.3	-8.5	-0.9	-4.1	-1.1	-6.1
Metal-based goods production	3.8	-8.2	1.1	-2.5	-2.4	0.9
Machinery and equipment	1.9	-7.9	-2.2	-7.2	-0.8	-1.9
Computer, communications, electronic, and other hardware	2.3	0.7	2.4	1.1	-1.8	6.3
Electric hardware	6.7	-7.6	5.2	-3.6	3.0	-1.7
Transportation equipment	5.2	-9.2	0.1	-0.9	-1.6	3.5
Furniture, mattresses, and blinds	2.3	-8.5	-1.6	-4.7	-4.0	-1.0
Other manufacturing industries	42.8	5.2	30.5	3.0	30.5	10.9

Source: INEGI



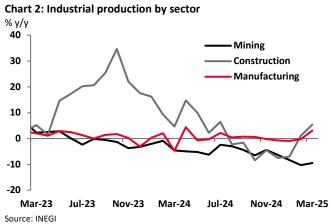


Table 2: Industrial production

% m/m sa; % 3m/3m sa

	% m/m			% 3m/3m		
	Mar-25	Feb-25	Jan-24	Jan-Mar'25	Dec'24-Feb'25	
Industrial Production	-0.9	2.2	-0.4	-0.1	-1.2	
Mining	-2.7	0.1	-1.6	-3.2	-2.7	
Oil and gas	-2.7	1.0	-1.2	-3.3	-4.0	
Non-oil mining	-4.3	0.6	2.0	0.5	0.5	
Services related to mining	0.4	-13.4	-14.5	-12.5	1.3	
Utilities	-1.1	-0.4	-0.9	-2.6	-2.2	
Construction	0.8	3.4	0.5	1.2	-1.4	
Edification	1.5	4.7	-0.4	1.0	-1.9	
Civil engineering	-2.8	-0.5	0.8	-2.9	-5.0	
Specialized works for construction	1.3	-1.5	1.7	2.1	2.8	
Manufacturing	-1.1	2.3	-0.5	0.0	-1.0	
Food industry	-0.2	0.9	0.0	0.2	-0.5	
Beverages and tobacco	-1.7	0.8	2.3	1.9	0.7	
Textiles - Raw materials	0.5	1.5	-0.8	-0.3	-2.2	
Textiles - Finished products ex clothing	-1.1	-0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Textiles - Clothing	-2.9	-0.2	2.1	0.4	-0.6	
Leather and substitutes	-4.3	1.2	-1.6	-2.8	-1.6	
Woodworking	-4.7	2.0	-5.1	-3.8	-0.6	
Paper	-4.5	1.5	1.8	1.5	2.1	
Printing and related products	-6.5	1.8	-2.3	-0.1	4.1	
Oil- and carbon-related products	-2.8	2.8	-3.9	3.2	3.3	
Chemicals	-2.3	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6	
Plastics and rubber	-1.6	0.0	3.2	1.3	-0.3	
Non-metallic mineral goods production	-0.7	0.2	-0.5	-2.0	-3.2	
Basic metal industries	-3.0	1.7	2.1	0.8	0.3	
Metal-based goods production	-5.5	6.2	3.3	3.6	0.7	
Machinery and equipment	1.5	5.5	-6.0	-1.3	-1.8	
Computer, communications, electronic, and other hardware	0.2	-0.5	1.4	1.0	0.3	
Electric hardware	-1.9	2.2	-1.3	0.3	1.0	
Transportation equipment	-1.1	3.3	-0.9	-2.5	-5.4	
Furniture, mattresses, and blinds	0.4	0.4	-0.9	-1.8	-1.9	
Other manufacturing industries	1.2	21.2	-14.1	5.9	10.2	

Source: INEGI

Chart 3: Industrial production

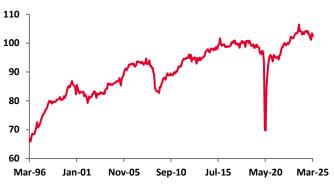
% m/m sa



Source: INEGI

Chart 4: Industrial production

Index sa



Source: INEGI



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