Economic Research, Mexico

Remittances – Slight moderation in June, with several adverse factors in play

- Remittances (June): U\$\$5,201.0 million; Banorte: U\$\$5,126.4mn; consensus: U\$\$5,353.3mn (range: U\$\$5,126.4mn to U\$\$5,710.0mn); previous: U\$\$5,360.1mn
- Flows continued to be affected by the adverse environment for migrants in the US, with a 16.2% y/y decline —the largest since September 2012. Thus, the cumulative amount over the last twelve months came in at US\$62,995.9 million (-2.2%)
- In local currency, the total stood at \$98,975.1 million, which translates into a 12.5% y/y contraction. This is partly explained by the additional appreciation of the peso against the dollar, which reduced the amount when translated into local currency
- The number of transactions decreased to 12.7 million (-14.3% y/y), with the average amount per transaction at US\$409.36 (-2.2%)
- Inflows fell 2.3% m/m in a context of increased raids in different US cities and demonstrations against them. On the labor front, figures showed a slight deterioration
- Pressures on undocumented Mexicans in the US will continue for the rest of the year, which will likely result in a moderation in flows in the short-term. However, this trend could reverse somewhat towards the end of the year on the likely intention to bring forward some flows prior to the entry into force of the 1% tax on cash remittances

Remittances fell sharply in June in annual terms, with a challenging base in play. The amount received came in at US\$5,201.0 million. It should be noted that the base effect was quite difficult, with June 2024 maintaining the historical high, which in our view was influenced by the depreciation of the peso at the time. Thus, the annual comparison resulted in -16.2% y/y, its biggest drop since September 2012. In local currency terms, the total reached \$98,975.1 million (-12.5%), also impacted by the year-to-date appreciation of the MXN. The period was marked by a significant increase in raids, which were highly publicized. High absenteeism in sectors traditionally occupied by migrant workers and massive demonstrations in several US cities were some of the immediate consequences. In the middle of the month, President Donald Trump ordered a pause in the raids, but only in workplaces related to agriculture, restaurants, and hotels. However, we believe that uncertainty had already permeated among the population. In this context, the cumulative amount of remittances in the last twelve months was US\$63.0 billion (-2.2% y/y), which in pesos is equivalent to \$1,241.8 billion (+11.8%).

Regarding the US economy, consumption remains resilient. Retail sales rose 0.6% m/m, with personal spending up 0.3%. Industry was also positive at +0.3%, with a marginal expansion in manufacturing (0.1%). Construction was favorable, with housing starts expanding 4.6% m/m and permits up 0.2%. The negative note came from consumer prices, with the annual print accelerating to 2.7% y/y from 2.4% in the previous month.

Transactions and the average amount contracted in annual terms. 12.7 million transactions were carried out (previous: 13.9 million), representing a 14.3% y/y decline (previous: -5.7%). The average amount increased vs. the previous month at US\$409.36 (previous: US\$385.21), although implying a 2.2% y/y reduction (previous: +1.1%). As we mentioned earlier, the base effect was very challenging, as June 2024 saw peak flows of US\$6,206.9 million, also tied to highs in operations and the average amount.

August 1, 2025



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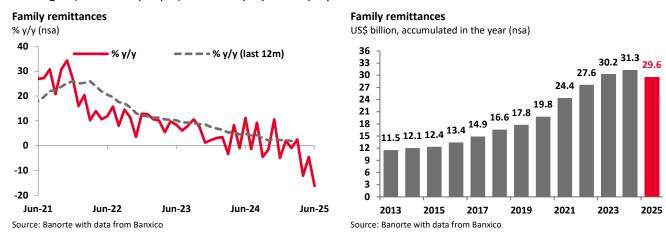


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Sequential decline in flows. Seasonally adjusted figures showed that remittances fell by 2.3% m/m, almost reversing the strong growth in May. This happened in a context of a slight deterioration in the labor market for Mexican migrants. Overall, total non-farm payrolls in the US rose by 147.0 thousand, with the unemployment rate improving marginally to 4.1%. Unemployment for Hispanics and Latinos fell to 4.8% from 5.1%, contrasting with the metric for Mexican migrants, which rose from 4.8% to 5.0%. The working-age population in the latter group –including 'natives', 'non-native citizens', and 'non-citizens' (both legal and illegal)–increased by 399.1 thousand, its highest increase in seven months, with employment unchanged (263 fewer people) and unemployment up by 46.9 thousand.



Pressures on undocumented Mexicans in the US will persist for the remainder of 2025. We believe that remitters will slow their pace of resources sent in the coming months, prioritizing other expenses and even increasing their savings, resulting in fewer flows sent. This is justified by the fear of raids. This apprehension has led to greater caution in job searches (for example, in sectors such as construction, where it is relatively easy to identify undocumented individuals offering their services) or increased absenteeism (especially in agricultural activities, where exposure is higher). In this backdrop, household disposable income will probably be lower and remittance flows will likely follow this trend.

Donald Trump's new budget and tax law (OBBBA) finally established a 1% tax on all international remittances in cash, money orders, or cashier's checks, effective January 2026. While this measure represents an improvement over the original presidential initiative (a 5% tax), a key difference is that it no longer discriminates based on the sender's citizenship status —which means it is a generalized tax. In this context, we cannot rule out the possibility that by the end of 2025, the population group that sends cash remittances will seek to maximize the amount of resources allocated to remittances before the tax comes into effect. On the other hand, as we have mentioned on other occasions, it is to be expected that the amount reported through traditional channels will decrease, reflecting a shift in preference toward unregulated remittance instruments.



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ноі	LD	When the share expected performance is similar to the MEXBOL estimated performance.
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