September 28, 2023

Banxico – Hawkish tone suggests that the start of the easing cycle will be delayed further

- **In a unanimous decision, Banxico's Board kept the reference rate unchanged at 11.25%, in line with our call, and consensus expectations**
- **In our view, the tone was markedly more hawkish. Among the factors behind this, we note the upward revision to inflation forecasts, and the delay by two quarters of the estimated convergence to the target, from 4Q24 to 2Q25**
- **We also highlight that the guidance was reiterated, stating that "*…it will be necessary to maintain the reference rate at its current level for an extended period…*". We also perceived signs of greater risks for prices, and growing optimism on activity**
- **After the decision, we adjust our view on the reference rate. We now expect the first 25bps cut in May 2024 (previous: -25bps in February). In addition, the year-end level would be 9.25% (previous: 8.25%)**

Banxico doubles up on its cautious stance. In line with expectations, the rate remained unchanged at 11.25% in a unanimous decision. Nevertheless, the tone of the statement was markedly more hawkish. Several changes explain this: (1) Headline and core inflation were revised up throughout the entire forecast horizon (excluding 3Q23), on average by +20bps; (2) the timing of the estimated convergence to the target was delayed by two quarters, from 4Q24 to 2Q25; (3) the balance of risks for inflation remains tilted to the upside, adding as an upward risk factor that "*…the economy's resilience contributes to a more gradual decline in inflation than foreseen…*", consistent with a positive output gap; (4) the acknowledgement that advanced economies could maintain high rates for a prolonged period; and (5) the removal of the comment that the balance of risks for growth is balanced, which among other changes and its recent performance, we believe suggests that it has tilted to the upside. In addition, they reiterated that "*…it will be necessary to maintain the reference rate at its current level for an extended period…*". Overall, the decision and associated details were very in line with our expectations. Outside of these factors, we believe it is key to take into account: (1) The global discussion on the possibility that 'neutral' interest rates are higher, which has triggered strong adjustments in financial markets and USD strength; (2) a more hawkish Fed; (3) the fiscal boost within the *2024 Budget Proposal*, supporting a still positive output gap; (4) expectations of a double-digit minimum wage increase next year; and (5) further increases in commodity prices, especially energy and food, which could pressure companies' costs and be passed-through to final consumers.

We modify our view on the reference rate. Considering these factors, we now believe that the first 25bps will take place until May 2024 (previous: -25bps in February). In addition, we raise the forecast of the level by late December, now at 9.25% from 8.25%. With this, accumulated cuts in 2024 would total 200bps. Among the downside risks, we highlight: (1) A deep global and local slowdown given high real interest rates; and (2) financial stability issues abroad that could require easing earlier. On the contrary, (3) not only a 'soft landing' but an acceleration of growth that drives commodities prices even higher; (4) new supply disruptions due to geopolitical issues; and (5) strong climate shocks that impact food prices and are passed on faster to the core component.


Alejandro Padilla Santana
Chief Economist and Head of Research
alejandro.padilla@banorte.com


Juan Carlos Alderete Macal, CFA
Executive Director of Economic Research and Market Strategy
juan.alderete.macal@banorte.com


Francisco José Flores Serrano
Director of Economic Research, Mexico
francisco.flores.serrano@banorte.com


Yazmín Selene Pérez Enríquez
Senior Economist, Mexico
yazmin.perez.enriquez@banorte.com


Cintia Gisela Nava Roa
Senior Economist, Mexico
cintia.nava.roa@banorte.com

Banxico's decisions in 2023

Date	Decision
February 9th	+50bps
March 30th	+25bps
May 18th	0bps
June 22nd	0bps
August 10th	0bps
September 28th	0bps
November 9th	--
December 14th	--

Source: Banxico

Analyst Certification.

We, Alejandro Padilla Santana, Juan Carlos Alderete Macal, Alejandro Cervantes Llamas, Manuel Jiménez Zaldívar, Marissa Garza Ostos, Katia Celina Goya Ostos, Francisco José Flores Serrano, José Luis García Casales, Víctor Hugo Cortes Castro, José Itzamna Espitia Hernández, Carlos Hernández García, Leslie Thalía Orozco Vélez, Hugo Armando Gómez Solís, Yazmín Selene Pérez Enríquez, Cintia Gisela Nava Roa, Miguel Alejandro Calvo Domínguez, José De Jesús Ramírez Martínez, Gerardo Daniel Valle Trujillo, Luis Leopoldo López Salinas, Isaías Rodríguez Sobrino, Juan Carlos Mercado Garduño, Daniel Sebastián Sosa Aguilar, Jazmin Daniela Cuautencos Mora and Andrea Muñoz Sánchez, certify that the points of view expressed in this document are a faithful reflection of our personal opinion on the company (s) or firm (s) within this report, along with its affiliates and/or securities issued. Moreover, we also state that we have not received, nor receive, or will receive compensation other than that of Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. of C.V for the provision of our services.

Relevant statements.

In accordance with current laws and internal procedures manuals, analysts are allowed to hold long or short positions in shares or securities issued by companies that are listed on the Mexican Stock Exchange and may be the subject of this report; nonetheless, equity analysts have to adhere to certain rules that regulate their participation in the market in order to prevent, among other things, the use of private information for their benefit and to avoid conflicts of interest. Analysts shall refrain from investing and holding transactions with securities or derivative instruments directly or through an intermediary person, with Securities subject to research reports, from 30 calendar days prior to the issuance date of the report in question, and up to 10 calendar days after its distribution date.

Compensation of Analysts.

Analysts' compensation is based on activities and services that are aimed at benefiting the investment clients of Casa de Bolsa Banorte and its subsidiaries. Such compensation is determined based on the general profitability of the Brokerage House and the Financial Group and on the individual performance of each analyst. However, investors should note that analysts do not receive direct payment or compensation for any specific transaction in investment banking or in other business areas.

Last-twelve-month activities of the business areas.

Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. de C.V., through its business areas, provides services that include, among others, those corresponding to investment banking and corporate banking, to a large number of companies in Mexico and abroad. It may have provided, is providing or, in the future, will provide a service such as those mentioned to the companies or firms that are the subject of this report. Casa de Bolsa Banorte or its affiliates receive compensation from such corporations in consideration of the aforementioned services.

Over the course of the last twelve months, Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. C.V., has not obtained compensation for services rendered by the investment bank or by any of its other business areas of the following companies or their subsidiaries, some of which could be analyzed within this report.

Activities of the business areas during the next three months.

Casa de Bolsa Banorte, Grupo Financiero Banorte or its subsidiaries expect to receive or intend to obtain revenue from the services provided by investment banking or any other of its business areas, by issuers or their subsidiaries, some of which could be analyzed in this report.

Securities holdings and other disclosures.

As of the end of last quarter, Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. of C.V. has not held investments, directly or indirectly, in securities or derivative financial instruments, whose underlying securities are the subject of recommendations, representing 1% or more of its investment portfolio of outstanding securities or 1 % of the issuance or underlying of the securities issued.

None of the members of the Board of Grupo Financiero Banorte and Casa de Bolsa Banorte, along general managers and executives of an immediately below level, have any charges in the issuers that may be analyzed in this document.

The Analysts of Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. of C.V. do not maintain direct investments or through an intermediary person, in the securities or derivative instruments object of this analysis report.

Guide for investment recommendations.

	Reference
BUY	When the share expected performance is greater than the MEXBOL estimated performance.
HOLD	When the share expected performance is similar to the MEXBOL estimated performance.
SELL	When the share expected performance is lower than the MEXBOL estimated performance.

Even though this document offers a general criterion of investment, we urge readers to seek advice from their own Consultants or Financial Advisors, in order to consider whether any of the values mentioned in this report are in line with their investment goals, risk and financial position.

Determination of Target Prices

For the calculation of estimated target prices for securities, analysts use a combination of methodologies generally accepted among financial analysts, including, but not limited to, multiples analysis, discounted cash flows, sum-of-the-parts or any other method that could be applicable in each specific case according to the current regulation. No guarantee can be given that the target prices calculated for the securities will be achieved by the analysts of Grupo Financiero Banorte S.A.B. C.V, since this depends on a large number of various endogenous and exogenous factors that affect the performance of the issuing company, the environment in which it performs, along with the influence of trends of the stock market, in which it is listed. Moreover, the investor must consider that the price of the securities or instruments can fluctuate against their interest and cause the partial and even total loss of the invested capital.

Directory

Research and Strategy

Alejandro Padilla Santana
Chief Economist and Head of Research
alejandro.padilla@banorte.com
(55) 1103 - 4043

Raquel Vázquez Godinez
Assistant
raquel.vazquez@banorte.com
(55) 1670 – 2967

Itzel Martínez Rojas
Analyst
itzel.martinez.rojas@banorte.com
(55) 1670 - 2251

Lourdes Calvo Fernández
Analyst (Edition)
lourdes.calvo@banorte.com
(55) 1103 - 4000 x 2611

María Fernanda Vargas Santoyo
Analyst
maria.vargas.santoyo@banorte.com
(55) 1103 - 4000 x 2586

Economic Research

Juan Carlos Alderete Macal, CFA
Executive Director of Economic Research and Market Strategy
juan.alderete.macal@banorte.com
(55) 1103 - 4046

Francisco José Flores Serrano
Director of Economic Research, Mexico
francisco.flores.serrano@banorte.com
(55) 1670 - 2957

Katia Celina Goya Ostos
Director of Economic Research, Global
katia.goya@banorte.com
(55) 1670 - 1821

Yazmín Selene Pérez Enríquez
Senior Economist, Mexico
yazmin.perez.enriquez@banorte.com
(55) 5268 - 1694

Cintia Gisela Nava Roa
Senior Economist, Mexico
cintia.nava.roa@banorte.com
(55) 1103 - 4000

Luis Leopoldo López Salinas
Economist, Global Internacional
luis.lopez.salinas@banorte.com
(55) 1103 - 4000 x 2707

Market Strategy

Manuel Jiménez Zaldívar
Director of Market Strategy
manuel.jimenez@banorte.com
(55) 5268 - 1671

Marissa Garza Ostos
Director of Equity Strategy
marissa.garza@banorte.com
(55) 1670 - 1719

Víctor Hugo Cortes Castro
Senior Strategist, Technical
victorh.cortes@banorte.com
(55) 1670 - 1800

José Itzamna Espitia Hernández
Senior Strategist, Equity
jose.espitia@banorte.com
(55) 1670 - 2249

Carlos Hernández García
Senior Strategist, Equity
carlos.hernandez.garcia@banorte.com (55) 1670 - 2250

Hugo Armando Gómez Solís
Senior Analyst, Corporate Debt
hugoa.gomez@banorte.com
(55) 1670 - 2247

Leslie Thalía Orozco Vélez
Senior Strategist, Fixed Income and FX
leslie.orozco.velez@banorte.com
(55) 5268 - 1698

Isaías Rodríguez Sobrino
Analyst, Fixed Income, FX and Commodities
isaias.rodriguez.sobrino@banorte.com
(55) 1670 - 2144

Gerardo Daniel Valle Trujillo
Analyst, Corporate Debt
gerardo.valle.trujillo@banorte.com
(55) 1670 - 2248

Juan Carlos Mercado Garduño
Strategist, Equity
juan.mercado.garduno@banorte.com
(55) 1103 - 4000 x 1746

Quantitative Analysis

Alejandro Cervantes Llamas Executive Director of Quantitative Analysis
alejandro.cervantes@banorte.com
(55) 1670 - 2972

José Luis García Casales
Director of Quantitative Analysis
jose.garcia.casales@banorte.com
(55) 8510 - 4608

Miguel Alejandro Calvo Domínguez
Senior Analyst, Quantitative Analysis
miguel.calvo@banorte.com
(55) 1670 - 2220

José De Jesús Ramírez Martínez
Senior Analyst, Quantitative Analysis
jose.ramirez.martinez@banorte.com
(55) 1103 - 4000

Daniel Sebastián Sosa Aguilar
Senior Analyst, Quantitative Analysis
daniel.sosa@banorte.com
(55) 1103 - 4000 x 2124

Jazmin Daniela Cuautencos Mora
Strategist, Quantitative Analysis
jazmin.cuautencos.mora@banorte.com
(55) 1103 - 4000

Andrea Muñoz Sánchez
Analyst, Quantitative Analysis
andrea.muñoz.sanchez@banorte.com
(55) 1103 - 4000

BANORTE