Economic Research, Mexico

# Credit growth continued in August, with a slight improvement in NPLs

- Today, Banxico published its banking credit report for August 2023. Credit accelerated to 6.0% y/y in real terms, stringing 17 months in positive territory
- Inside, growth was generalized and with improvements in two of the three sectors.
   Consumer loans increased 12.9%, while corporates rose 2.7%, with mortgages moderating, although still up 5.5%
- Non-performing loans (NPLs) declined, standing at 2.3%. Both corporates and mortgages decreased, by 10bps and 20bps, respectively. The index for the consumer loans was unchanged
- Going forward we remain optimistic about credit growth, although we recognize that in the short-term there may be a moderation in the pace of expansion. However, strength in economic activity should prove enough of a driver to keep pushing the expansion

Loans keep accelerating, supported by strong economic conditions. Banking credit to the non-financial private sector rose 6.0% y/y in real terms (see Chart 1). As such, loans have registered growth rates between 4%-6% in the last eleven months, situation which we believe is highly positive. Analyzing the factors that directly influence credit demand, we mostly find favorable signs for its growth, among which we highlight strong economic activity, fostering a tight labor market. On the other hand, we do not rule out that given high interest rates, some investment or mortgage projects and/or purchases of durable goods are being postponed. On short-term drivers, a slight pickup in inflation along a modest depreciation of the MXN may have driven some loans.

Consumer loans remain as the main driver, up 12.9% y/y. Inside, only two of the five categories accelerated vs. the previous month, as seen in Chart 2. As such, we highlight durable goods (at 12.0% from 11.6%) —boosted entirely by auto loans—, while 'others' climbed 14.7% (previous: 10.1%). Remaining items were unchanged. Corporates loans grew 2.7% up from 2.0% in July. 8 of the 13 components showed an acceleration relative to the previous month, with professional services (22.4% from 17.5%) and construction (-0.2%; previous: -3.6%) showing the most progress. Finally, mortgages moderated to 5.5% (previous: 5.7%). Both the residential and low-income categories slowed down, coming in at 5.9% (from 6.0%) and -4.5% (from -2.1%), respectively. For more details see Table 1.

Non-performing loans represented 2.3% of the total portfolio. They improved by 8bps relative to the previous month (Chart 3). Inside, two of the three categories declined, with corporates at 2.0% (-20bps) and mortgages at 2.5% (-10bps). Lastly, the index for consumer loans stood at 3.1%. The fact that NPLs have remained rather stable for the past 12 months –hovering between 2.3% and 2.4%— in a context of high credit growth suggests a responsible management by the different players involved, including financial institutions and regulators.

We maintain an optimistic view on banking credit growth going forward. We anticipate positive trend will continue in the following months, based on: (1) Constructive expectations on household consumption, with fundamentals strengthening further, mainly employment; (2) relative stability in mortgage rates, despite an increase in those other financial instruments; and (3) resilience in some industry sectors which are still in need of credit despite higher borrowing costs.

## September 29, 2023



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As such, we reiterate that consumer loans will continue to be the main driver. In this regard, some pressures on inflation —especially towards the end of the year— could translate into additional financing needs for households, especially considering higher spending in the season. Furthermore, as commented in the <u>previous report</u>, we believe that the demand for autos will continue to increase, driving loan growth. Regarding mortgages, we anticipate some stability with signs of resilience considering that there are several limitations, such as: (1) Higher costs of construction inputs; and (2) the decrease in the supply of low-income housing. Finally, regarding on corporates, the main drag, in our opinion, is the current level of interest rates. Thus, and considering that <u>we expect to remain higher for longer</u>, a moderation in its pace of growth would be a likely outcome. Finally, we do not rule out that the current strength of the MXN may be partially offsetting some investment deferrals as key purchases are made to take advantage of the situation.



# **Banking credit**

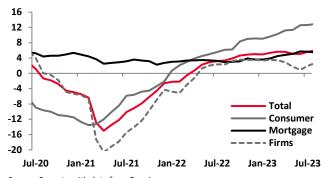
% y/y in real terms

	Aug-23	Jul-23	Aug-22	Jan-Aug'23	Jan-Aug'23
Private banking credit	6.0	5.7	3.3	5.4	0.9
Consumer	12.9	12.6	6.1	11.2	3.9
Credit cards	17.2	17.2	7.1	15.4	4.2
Payroll	10.5	10.5	6.2	10.0	4.7
Personal	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.1	2.8
Durable goods	12.0	11.6	1.0	8.3	-0.6
Auto loans	13.9	12.8	-3.7	8.5	-5.2
Other durable goods	3.1	5.4	31.7	6.9	30.7
Others	14.7	10.1	13.2	10.8	19.3
Mortgage	5.5	5.7	2.9	4.9	3.2
Low-income housing	-4.5	-2.1	-11.1	-5.0	-13.7
Medium and residential	5.9	6.0	3.7	5.3	4.2
Firms	2.7	2.0	2.3	2.6	-0.8
Primary activities	-4.3	-5.6	4.5	-2.1	3.5
Mining	6.4	8.2	6.8	-0.7	-2.4
Construction	-0.2	-3.6	-3.1	-1.5	-4.1
Utilities	-8.1	179.1	122.9	116.2	-8.6
Manufacturing industry	-3.0	-1.9	5.2	-0.2	0.1
Commerce	6.8	4.1	0.3	4.3	-1.2
Transportation and storage	4.6	3.2	-4.7	2.8	-1.6
Mass media services	-17.7	-11.2	7.1	-20.7	4.5
Real estate services	10.2	8.2	2.9	9.4	-4.2
Professional services	22.4	17.5	-0.7	12.4	-1.4
Lodging services	-5.4	-5.1	-2.9	-1.5	-4.5
Other services	15.8	13.6	10.1	15.8	7.4
Not sectorized	9.0	7.0	2.2	6.4	0.7
Non-banking financial intermediaries	26.5	34.1	6.8	30.4	-7.5

Source: Banxico

Chart 1: Banking credit

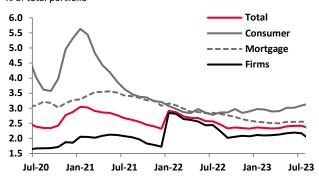
% y/y in real terms



Source: Banorte with data from Banxico

**Chart 3: Non-performing loans** 

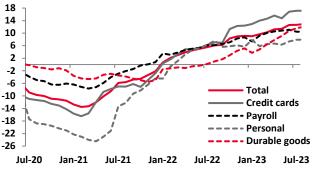
% of total portfolio



Source: Banorte with data from Banxico

### **Chart 2: Consumer credit**

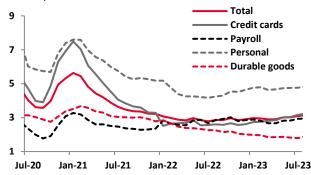
% y/y in real terms



Source: Banorte with data from Banxico

**Chart 4: Non-performing loans: Consumer credit** 

% of total portfolio



Source: Banorte with data from Banxico



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