

THE MEXICO EQUITY AND INCOME FUND, INC. "MXE"

WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT

SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

Systemic Risk and Volatility in Emerging Markets

The bullish trend seen in the peso-dollar exchange rate during the last weeks is called "Systemic Risk." The so-called "Systemic Risk" is the perception of serious economic problems that can cause losses in the entire international financial system. The perception of a greater systemic risk makes investors more cautious; therefore, an important decomposition of investment portfolios is generated worldwide, in which the acquisition of "safe assets" mainly US Treasury Bills is favored, and the most volatile financial assets are reduced.

On this occasion, the increase in systemic risk reflects problems in other emerging countries such as:

Argentina

The Argentine peso is down more than 50% this year while inflation in July rose to 31.2%. The budget deficit and sovereign risk led Argentina to take a 50-billion-dollar loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Turkey

The Turkish lira has lost 25% of its value in August and 40% since the beginning of the year. The lack of foreign investment, high debt maturities, and low saving rates have led public debt to represent up to 53% of GDP.

Brazil

The Brazilian real has depreciated almost 9% in August in the middle of political turmoil. The presidential front-runner, leftist Lula da Silva, is in jail while the right-wing candidate, Jair Bosonaro, was attacked at a campaign rally last week.

China

The Chinese yuan was practically unchanged in August, after seven weeks of consecutive falls. Trade disagreements with the United States, due to reciprocal duties and tariffs, are unlikely to settle soon.

Mexico is also considered an emerging economy, but stands apart from the rest:

- The presidential election in July was an achievement for democracy. The left-wing candidate, AMLO, had a landslide victory, and his opponents accepted his triumph before results were made official.
- ii. The outgoing federal administration and the newly elected administration have reached essential agreements towards a smooth government transition.
- iii. Mexico's new government will honor oil and gas contracts awarded under the energy reform and bidding processes in the energy sector could take place as soon as December 2018.
- iv. On August 27th, Mexico and the United States reached a commercial understanding that reduces one of the primary sources of uncertainty in the foreign exchange market since 2016.

The Mexican peso lost 1.2% and 2.3% of its value during the first week of September and in August, however, overall performance throughout the year was positive as it appreciated 1.79% year-to-date. The Mexican peso had an outstanding performance when compared to depreciation in developed and emerging countries in the same time frame: The Canadian dollar lost 4.53% of its value, the British Pound 4.39%, and the Euro 3.77%. In Latin America, the Argentine peso fell 49.72%, the Brazilian real 18.38% and the Colombian peso 2.27%. In other emerging countries, the Turkish lira dipped 40.63%, the South African and 18.47%, and the Chinese yuan 4.92%.



MEXBOL Index dropped 1.16% in the first week of September and 0.06% in August given augmented risk aversion due to global volatility. The companies that had the best returns were: VolarA 8.17%, Cuervo* 4.18%, AlpekA 1.67% and AsurB 1.62% and the worst return were: Elektra* -8.56%, GenteraB - 6.50%, LalaB -3.79%, and GFInbur -3.59%.

Evolution of consumption in Mexico

The Consumer Confidence Index rose 17.4% in August, in line with the 18.4% uptick in July while Walmex same-store sales increased 5.9%. In this context, consumer confidence and retail consumption suggest economic optimism following the presidential election victory of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.



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Definitions

Mexican Stock Exchange/MEXBOL Index- The Mexican Stock Exchange headquartered in Mexico City, is the full service securities exchange of the country, dealing in cash equities, derivatives and fixed income products.

Consumer Confidence Index: The consumer confidence index measures how optimistic or pessimistic consumers are with respect to the economy in the near future.

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