

April 2024



Top Highlights

The Ministry of Economy imposes several tariffs on 544 products. The tariffs range from 5 percent to 50 percent on imports for the following products: steel, aluminum, textiles, wood, plastics, paper, electric material, fiber optic cables and synthetic fibers, among others, applicable for two years. Secretary of Economy Raquel Buenrostro announced that the aim is to promote a balanced interaction in the market so that the nearshoring trend and foreign investments will not be affected.

The Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP) presents the General Pre-Criteria for Economic Policy in 2025. The SHCP submitted the General Economic Policy Pre-Criteria 2025 to the Mexican Congress. This pre-criteria outlines projections for the evolution of economic activity and public finances through 2024 and 2025. Anticipated within these projections is a deceleration in the Mexican economy, along with reduced oil revenues for the first year of the upcoming administration. Within the document, macroeconomic indicators suggest a gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of between 2 percent and 3 percent, with a specific estimate of 2.5 percent.

The Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN) approves legality of NOM-051 on front-of-package labeling of food and nonalcoholic beverages. The SCJN ruled on the constitutional validity of certain sections of laws governing front-of-package labeling for prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages. This measure aims to identify products that exceed specified limits for energy content, added sugars, saturated fats, sodium, and other critical nutrients and ingredients. Thus, the country's highest court decided to dismiss the injunction and deny federal justice protection to the protesting companies. The argument for its approval included the protection of the right to health, as well as consumer protection.

Inflation rates increase. During the first half of April 2024, the year-on-year inflation rate accelerated to 4.63 percent nationwide, due primarily to an increase in the price of farming products, as well as in fruits and vegetables.



Congress Report

The House of Representatives approves amendments to Amparo Law and Amnistía Law. The amendment to the Amparo Law stipulates that suspensions granted in amparo lawsuits will not have general effects. Secondly, revisions to the Amnistía Law authorize the federal executive to offer clemency to individuals who have been convicted or are undergoing sentencing, provided that they agree to collaborate in corroborating matters of national interest.

The Senate approves bill establishing Welfare Pensions Fund. This amendment seeks to supplement pensions for the elderly, specifically individuals aged 70 and older, whose income falls within the average salary range of the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS). The goal is to help ensure that individuals can retire with their full final salary intact. Opposition parties voted against the bill and informed that they will take it to the Supreme Court of Justice for invalidation.

House unanimously approves reform banning the imposition of commissions for the use of bank cards. This amendment to Mexico's Federal Consumer Protection Law prohibits providers from imposing additional charges on consumers who use debit, credit cards or other payment methods. The bill was forwarded to the Senate for further analysis and potential approval.



Executive Branch

The Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) updates permit exclusion and clean energy certificate (CEL) allocation. The CRE approved changes in the electric sector allowing members of self-supply societies to exclude their load centers from certain permits. This means that they can request to exclude their load centers directly. Additionally, the CRE has set criteria for allocating CELs for 2022.

The Ministry of Health publishes an Official Mexican Standard (NOM) regarding front labeling of medical devices. The Ministry of Health published in the *Official Federal Gazette* the standard PROY-NOM-137-SSA1-2024, which aims to establish the sanitary information requirements that must include the front labeling of medical devices considered for human use, for their adequate use and traceability. The publication considers a period of 60 days of consultation, where comments can be made through the National Advisory Committee on Standardization of Health Regulation and Promotion (*Comité Consultivo Nacional de Normalización de Regulación y Fomento Sanitario* or CCNNRFS).

The Ministry of Economy announces 93 new private investment projects from Jan. 1 to April 15, 2024, totaling an expected investment of \$36.153 million. These investments sum up to the \$110.744 million that was invested in 2023. The largest investments come from the United States (54 percent), followed by Germany (15 percent) and Argentina (12 percent). Key sectors include manufacturing, transportation, mass media, commerce and energy.



Elections

Presidential Debates. The first presidential debate was held on April 7, 2024, between the three candidates: Claudia Sheinbaum of the Morena-PVEM-PT alliance, Xóchitl Gálvez of PAN-PRI-PRD alliance, and Jorge Álvarez from the MC. The debate encompassed critical topics, including education and healthcare, transparency and the anti-corruption agenda, as well as the eradication of discrimination, support for vulnerable communities and the combat against violence targeting women. The debate did not result in any significant shifts in the polling trends, Sheinbaum remains at top of preferences with 58 percent of the voting intentions, followed by Gálvez with 31 percent and Álvarez with 10 percent.

The second debate took place on April 28, 2024, where the three candidates discussed economic growth, employment and inflation, infrastructure and development, poverty and inequality, and climate change and sustainability. Gálvez and Álvarez made a few new policy proposals regarding tax policy and infrastructure.

Contact Us



Rodolfo Rueda

Partner
Mexico City
+52.55.3602.0634
Houston
+1.713.244.8208
rodolfo.rueda@hklaw.com



Jorge Aguilar

Senior Policy Advisor
Mexico City
+52.55.3602.8070
jorge.aguilar@hklaw.com

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