

Colombia's Economic Perspectives

Ministry of Finance and Public Credit March 2024





Macroeconomic outlook

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In 2023, the Colombian economy registered a growth of 0.6%, explained by dynamism of the sectors of financial activities, artistic activities and public administration



Source: DANE. Ministry of Finance calculations. *Communication and information. **Commerce, transportation and hotels.

In January 2024, the labor market showed a favorable performance, reflected in a declining unemployment rate and an employed population growth



Unemployment rate and employed population

(National total, seasonally adjusted)

- In January 2024, the unemployment rate stood at 10.4%, 0.4 pp below that observed in December 2023 (10.8%). This is the lowest rate for a January since 2019.
- January 2024, the In employed population registered a growth of 214 thousand people, 1% higher than that recorded in December 2023.
 - Job creation was concentrated in \cap the agriculture, public administration, and manufacturing sectors.

In February, inflation continued to decline, a trend that is expected to continue in the coming months



Food inflation has registered a sustained reduction. Between December 2022 and February 2024, it slowed down by 25.9pp (from 27.81% to 1.89%).

End-of-period inflation is estimated to be 6.0% in 2024, 3.3pp lower than that registered in 2023 (9,3%). The correction in inflation would respond to expectations of a total dissipation of external shocks, and to the lagged effects of the monetary policy on aggregate demand.

Source: Colombia's Central Bank. DANE.

In 2023, the external imbalance was significantly corrected, and Foreign Direct Investment showed favorable dynamism



In 2023, current account deficit showed a significant correction, due to a moderated domestic demand growth, a good performance of non-traditional and service exports and a lower primary income deficit.



Source: Central Bank. DANE.

*Agriculture, manufacturing industry, retail trade, utilities, construction, transportation, financial services and other services.

Macroeconomic assumptions 2023 and 2024



Crude oil Brent prices (Annual average, USD/Barrel)



Source: Ministry of Finance and Public Credit projections. FP: Financial Plan MTFF: Medium-Term Fiscal Framework



Exchange rate (Annual average, USD/COP) 4.603 4.328 4.317 Observed 2023 MIFE 2024 PE

2023

Current account balance (% of GDP)

2024



777

Crude oil production

(Annual average, KBPD)



The MoF's annual economic growth forecast for 2024 is 1.5%. From 2025 onwards economic growth will be above 3%, driven by reindustrialization and energy transition policies, and greater public investment (especially in infrastructure)



The implementation of a productive transformation policy, which includes reindustrialization and the energy transition, would promote the strengthening of the nonmining energy sectors and would favor the diversification of the internal and exportable supply.

Investment in infrastructure, consistent with greater execution of government projects, such as tertiary roadways and the strengthening of urban mass transportation systems or intermodal infrastructure that would improve competitiveness.

 The National Government intends to intervene 87 thousand kilometers of tertiary roadways to promote regional convergence.

Source: Ministry of Finance and Public Credit projections.



Fiscal Strategy

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Recent tax reforms and higher non-oil revenues allowed for a simultaneous reduction of the deficit and an increase in primary expenditure

Decomposition of 2022-2023 Central Government's fiscal adjustment (% and pp of GDP)



* Explained by income tax (0.6pp of GDP), DIAN's modernization (0.4pp of GDP), VAT tax reliefs related to tourism sector (0.2pp) and tax paid in TIDIS and cash refunds (0.1pp of GDP), which is counterbalance by a reduction of external taxes (-0.7pp of GDP). Source: Ministry of Finance Tax revenues from DIAN's institutional measures to reduce evasion and Central Bank profits would allow for a sustainable increase in primary spending



Source: Ministry of Finance

Fiscal Rule's Target Fiscal Balance for 2023-2024

Decomposition of the Fiscal Balance consistent with the Fiscal Rule

Fiscal Rule Components	2023	2024 MTFF (June 2023)	2024 FP	
Structural Primary Net Balance*	-1,4	-0,2	-0,2	-
Economic cycle	0,0	0,1	-0,1	
Oil cycle	1,2	0,3	-0,2	
One-off Transactions	-0,5	-0,1	-0,3	
Interest Income	0,1	0,1	0,0	
Primary Balance	-0,5	0,2	-0,9	
Interest Payments	-3,9	-4,5	-4,5	
Fiscal Balance	-4,4	-4,4	-5,3	

*Values defined for 2023 within the framework of the transition period (2022-2025) defined by the Social Investment Law (Law 2155 of 2021). **Source**: Ministry of Finance - GDMP.

 Update of real GDP estimate, resulting in an estimated negative output gap for 2024.

✓ Reduction in oil revenues, due to a decrease in the oil price between 2022 and 2024, together with a reduction in the expected income tax surcharge for the oil sector.

2023

 ✓ Non-structural payment of FEPC (-\$7.3 Trillion COP)

2024

- ✓ Non-structural payment of FEPC (-\$1.3 Trillion COP)
- ✓ Ruling regarding the nondeductibility of royalties, for the mining sector (-\$1.5 Trillion COP)
- State Council's decision to eliminate time limit on cash refund requests (-\$3 Trillion COP)

Central Government Net Debt



One of this government's main fiscal policy achievements has been the reduction in fuel subsidies

- During 2023 Colombia was able to eliminate the implicit subsidy in gasoline prices and ended with a positive spread between local and international prices. The strategy for 2024 is to keep local prices stable, to continue accruing a surplus, which contributes to finance the deficit generated by diesel consumption.
- » Regarding diesel prices, the National Government is working jointly with transporters associations, to define a strategy to allow for the gradual reduction of this fuel's subsidy. Also, the elimination of this subsidy for this fuel's large-scale consumers will help mitigate their fiscal impact.
- This will allow the National Government, aside from improving expenditure efficiency and promoting the energy transition, to have higher resources to finance social spending.



*Forecasted figures

Source: Ministry of Finance with data from the Ministry of Energy and the FEPC Directive Committee.



Financing Plans

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Central Government Sources and Uses 2024

For 2024, **financing needs are estimated at \$131.1 trillion of pesos** (7.8% of GDP), with a prevailing strategy of maintain a **majority share of local currency sources** over foreign currency.

Financing disbursements would be \$75.828 trillion pesos equivalent to 4,5% of GDP.

During 2023, through the liability management operations, the amortizations for 2024 were reduced in 15 trillion pesos.

			MTFF 2023	FP 2024	Dif				MTFF 2023	FP 2024	Dif
Sources	US\$ MTFF 2023	US\$ FP	132.326	131.062	- 1.264	Uses	US\$ MTFF 2023	US\$ FP 2024	132.326	131.062	- 1.264
Disbursements			73.431	75.828	2.39	7 Deficit to be financed			76.709	89.345	12.636
External	(US\$ 5.959 mill.)	(US\$ 5.500 mill.)	27.431	22.391	- 5.04	I Of which					
Internal			46.000	53.437	7.43	7 Internal Interest			56.528	56.975	447
						External Interest	(US\$ 4.124 mill.)	(US\$ 4.160 mill.)	20.334	18.034	- 2.300
Treasury Opera	itions		7.108	7.772	66	1					
						Amortizations			45.732	30.344	- 15.388
Accrual Adjust	ments and other re	sources	24.482	25.913	1.43	External	(US\$ 5.364 mill.)	(US\$ 4.380 mill.)	26.452	18.991	- 7.461
						Internal			19.280	11.353	- 7.927
						Obligations payments (health)		1.390	3.550	2.160	
Initial Availabil	ity		27.305	21.546	- 5.75	P Final Availability			8.495	7.823	- 672

Source: Ministry of Finance

Debt progress during 2024



Thousand of Million pesos

In December 2023, Colombia issued green TES in the local market



In November 2023, Colombia issued its first social bond in the international market

Issue characteristics

	Bonds 2035	Bonds 2053				
Nie osta al Mala a	USD 2,500,000,000					
Nominal Value	USD 1,250,000,000	USD 1,250,000,000				
Maturity	November 14, 2035	November 14, 2053				
Cupon	8,000% 8,750%					
Bid to Cover	5.1x					

The 2022 portfolio of this issuance has social eligible expenses of **42 projects that add up USD 3.9 billion classified in 7 categories**:

- Socieconomic advancement and reduction of inequalities (\$2.533 US M)
 Education (\$462 US M)
- 삼 Housing (\$353 US M)
- Food and nutritional Security (\$316 US M)
- Peace Construction (\$168 US M)
- Healthcare service (\$109 US M)
 - Generation of employment and promotion to productivity (including MiPYMEs) (\$28 US M)

Diversified investor base by region



Overview of Social Elegible Expenses Based on 2023 Budget

- I The current elegible social spending portfolio for the 2023 Budget amounted to USD 1,152 MM
- I There were 23 elegible projects for the 2023 period, according to our framework classifed into 6 categories



ETF – Local TES is an instrument to democratize the public debt





Source: DGCPTN, Bloomberg. As of March 11th, 2024.

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