

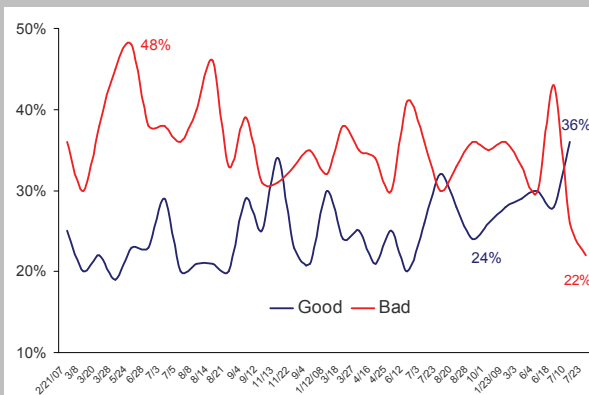
Alan Stoga, President
Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and editor

Polls

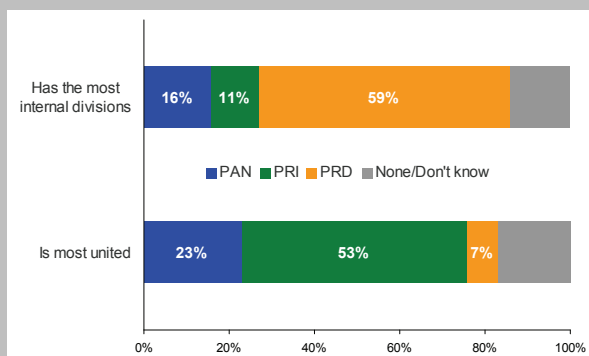
PRI image rebounds

A BCG Ulises Beltrán tracking poll showed that opinions about the PRI improved significantly in the wake of the July 5 elections. The share having a “bad” opinion about the party fell to 22%, the lowest since President Calderón took office. Those having a “good” opinion rose to 38%. At the same time, the PRI is clearly viewed as the party that is most united, while the PRD’s internal disputes have made it the party viewed as most divided. Beltrán notes that the PAN’s leadership contest has not yet achieved a high level of public awareness. ([Excelsior 7/27](#))

What is your opinion of the PRI, good or bad?



Among the PAN, PRI, and PRD which party:



Key Dates

- 8/8:** PAN National Council meeting
- 8/8-11:** North American Leaders Summit, Guadalajara
- 9/1:** Start of new Congressional session; President delivers *Informe*.
- 10/18:** Tabasco and Coahuila local elections

Fear and loathing inside the PAN

Only former presidential private secretary **César Nava** registered to run for PAN party president, after party elders including **Santiago Creel** and **Manuel Espino** said they would boycott the internal election. As [previously reported](#), Creel had called for a period of ‘reflection’ on the causes of the PAN’s electoral defeat before rushing to new elect a new leader. According to the *Bajo Reserva* column: “The discontent among the 360 members of the [PAN’s] National Council is growing, and the group expressing its disagreement with ‘the imposition’ [of Nava] is not being reined in.... That Nava would be on his own and under a cloud is a terrible message for a party that has worked carefully over the decades to be competitive, to show itself as a model of democracy, and to be the best face of the country, argued the opponents of the so-called ‘official candidate.’” The PAN leadership vote will take place on August 8th. ([Universal 7/21](#), [7/27](#))

Hacienda preparing new fiscal reform package

Finance Secretary **Agustín Carstens** announced that the government will present a new fiscal reform as part of the 2010 budget package. “Yes, we are thinking of the need to increase tax revenues through a tax reform. The specific measures have not yet been determined, and will be presented with the new package [in September],” he said as he announced a new round of modest spending cuts to bridge the gap created by this year’s decline in tax and oil revenues. Carstens said that this year’s gap was mostly being filled by tapping contingency funds, the oil price hedge, and other measures, but that these will not be available next year. ([Universal 7/24](#), [Reforma 7/24](#))

Juárez cartel creates own paramilitary squads

According to the organized crime directorate SIEDO, the **Juárez cartel** led by **Vicente Carrillo Fuentes** has created its own paramilitary hit squads, recruited from among members of the Army’s elite units. The ‘**Lynxes**’ are thought to number at least 80 men, operating in 4 or 5 man cells, and are the cartel’s answer to **Los Zetas**, the paramilitary wing of the Gulf cartel. The Lynxes are thought to be behind the attempt against Chihuahua governor **José Reyes Baeza** last February. ([Universal 7/20](#))

Economic recession raises poverty rates

After years of improving poverty figures, the latest report of **Coneval**, the national council for evaluating social programs, showed a sharp deterioration in social indicators. The number of Mexicans unable to meet basic needs for health, food, housing, clothing, transportation, and education rose from 44.7 million in 2006 to 50.5 million in 2008. Those lacking sufficient income to meet basic food needs (estimated at Ps. 707 per month) increased to 19.5 million from 14.4 million persons. At the same time, the reach of the government’s social assistance programs continues to grow. Coneval said that in 1992 89% of the poorest fifth of the population had no access to government social programs. By 2006 this had fallen to 38% and in 2008 to 31%. ([Universal 7/19](#), [Coneval](#))

Flu cases resurge

A second wave of the **A(H1N1) flu** has struck southeastern Mexico, affecting Chiapas and Yucatán in particular. The authorities are responding with more nuanced measures than the initial outbreak in April. Governor **Juan Sabines** of Chiapas replaced his health minister after it was disclosed that Chiapas, which was largely spared during the initial outbreak, now had the highest number of cases in Mexico. According the federal Ministry of Health, there have been 15,383 confirmed A(H1N1) cases and 140 deaths nationwide. ([Reforma 7/22](#), [7/26](#))