

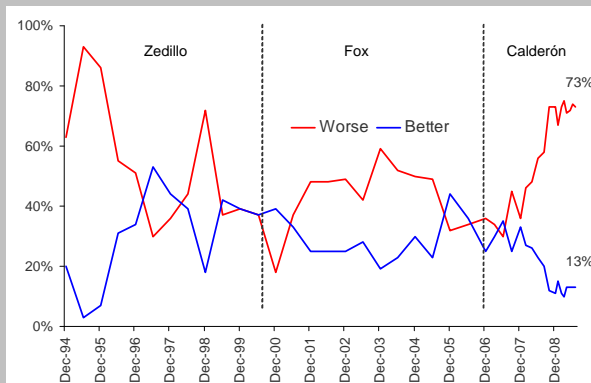
Alan Stoga, President
Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and editor

Poll

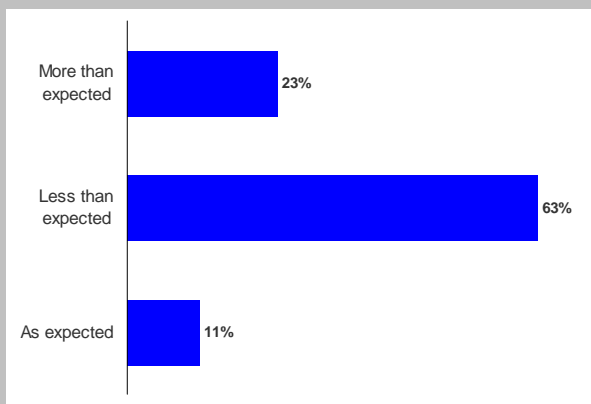
Economic outlook hits government

A Beltran telephone poll for *Excelsior* showed that perceptions of the economic situation of the country remain very negative – second only to the environment of the Tequila crisis in 1995 – but also have been quite steady since October 2008. Sixty-three percent say that the government has done less than expected to confront the economic crisis, while 23% say it has done more. ([Excelsior 8/10](#))

Do you think the economic situation of the country is better or worse than one year ago?



Have the actions taken by the government of Felipe Calderón to confront the economic crisis been more or less than you expected?



Key Dates

- 9/1:** Start of new Congressional session; President delivers *Informe*.
- 9/8:** Delivery of 2010 economic package to Congress
- 10/18:** Tabasco and Coahuila local elections
- 11/15:** Deadline for approving budget

Expectations controlled for North American Summit

The meeting of North American heads of state took place in Guadalajara with the Mexican government emphasizing the cordial atmosphere and statements of support from **President Barack Obama** and Prime Minister **Stephen Harper** for Mexico's war against drug traffickers, while expectations for progress on specific issues of importance to Mexico were downplayed. Canada will not relax its recent requirement for visas for Mexican tourists. With respect to the U.S.-Mexico agenda, President Obama made positive statements about resolving the U.S. ban on Mexican trucks and human rights certification for the Mexican military under the Mérida Initiative, but no concrete agreements were announced. For reasons of protocol, newly-confirmed U.S. Ambassador **Carlos Pascual** was not part of the U.S. delegation. ([Presidencia 8/9](#), [Universal 8/9](#))

A divided PAN elects Nava as party chief

The PAN national assembly elected former presidential private secretary **César Nava** as the new party president to serve out the term of **Germán Martínez**, who resigned after the July 5 elections. Nava was the sole candidate, and the vote was 290 in favor, with 39 against and 19 abstentions. Another 23 assembly members, including Nava opponents **Diego Fernández de Cevallos** and former President **Vicente Fox**, did not attend. Three Nava opponents were given seats on the central committee: **Ricardo García Cervantes**, **Héctor Laríos**, and **Humberto Aguilar**. In addition, Aguilar and **Javier Corral** were elected to the "Committee of Reflection" that will analyze the causes for the PAN's poor performance in the election. ([Universal 8/9](#))

Supreme Court to investigate ABC day care fire

By a vote of 8-3, the Supreme Court established a commission headed by two circuit court judges to investigate whether there were any violations of constitutionally guaranteed individual rights by public officials in the **ABC day care center fire**. The six month investigation, which will not determine legal liability, will run parallel to the ongoing criminal and administrative investigations of the fire that killed 49 children. *El Universal* editorialized, "Against the feeling that few things in Mexico ever really change, the Ministers of the Supreme Court have shown ... that there is space for justice in this country....This could open up a new era in the relationship between the judiciary and the governed." The decision is controversial. Court Minister **Sergio Aguirre Anguiano** warned that the Court is not an ordinary tribunal that can impose sanctions or provide for reparations. "We ought not to risk the court in exercising the powers of [constitutional] Article 97 and bring new life to the verse of [the Roman poet] Horace: 'Let the mountains labor with great noise and give birth to a ridiculous mouse,'" Aguirre said. ([Reforma 8/6](#), [Universal 8/7](#))

Huge crystal meth factory discovered

The Army seized the largest drug manufacturing facility ever discovered in Mexico: 22 buildings including labs, dormitories, warehouses, a gymnasium, and its own power plants and water system, covering 240 hectares in the "Golden Triangle" area of the Sierra Madre. The plant manufactured crystal meth and warehoused marijuana. The military seized 164 55-gallon drums with chemical precursors along with 20kg of pure crystal meth and 10 tons of marijuana. Reportedly the plant belonged to the Sinaloa cartel, but no persons were captured during the operation. ([Excelsior 8/8](#), [Reforma 8/7](#), [Proceso 8/7](#))