

Legislación Economía

The electrical mobility law is passed in Panama, an advance in the conservation of the environment

Panamanian economy evidence of gradual recovery

**Labor Day:
The Haymarket revolt may 1, 1886**

**An exclusive interview with
Wigberto Ramos, the great
panamanian jockey**

Exclusive Interview

Editorial Counselour

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Editorial

THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN CITIZEN CONTROL TOOLS OVER ARBITRARY ACTIONS OF PUBLIC SERVANTS ELECTED BY POPULAR VOTE

As an innovation, a citizen movement has emerged that is trying to obtain a ruling from the Electoral Court on the arbitrary and illegal actions of the current Mayor of the District of Panama. In the same order of ideas, two Electoral Court Magistrates have been singled out for issuing a resolution in which they have exceeded their functions to safeguard the interests of a former President of the Republic who is evading different processes that are taking place in the Public Ministry and the Judicial Branch. against him for corruption offences.

The dissatisfaction that citizens have with respect to the development of the authorities that have been democratically elected is universal, since in the

performance of their responsibilities, they distance themselves diametrically, not only from their proposals, but from their obligations emanating from the law.

In our country, every five years the candidates go out of their way to bring to the fore government plans full of promises in the different areas of importance to the voters such as: Education, health, job creation, institutional strengthening, inclusion and reduction of poverty and inequality.

However, it is enough for them to start their administration for the traditional excuses to appear, such as "I received the country in debt", "We weren't prepared for a Pandemic", "I cannot name the officials I

need" and other trivial excuses to evade their promises.

In many countries, a current is being generated that allows citizens, within a period that is normally equivalent to 50% of the term in which these public servants are elected, so that through a democratic process, widely discussed, the mandate can be revoked to who due to negligence or serious actions, especially those that imply corruption, disheveledness or incapacity, may be dismissed through a popular consultation that so determines.

This control mechanism is healthy and constitutes the best warning so that those public servants who do not have the suitability, character, diligence to exercise their positions with honesty, speed, accountability, efficiency and moral solvency, have to abandon their positions.

Just as companies through their shareholders can decide to dismiss those who manage the businesses, in the same order of ideas, this possibility of applying corrective measures to avoid crises in the countries and also in local governments must prevail in a timely manner.

I firmly believe that the exercise initiated against the Mayor of Panama will have many lessons and will serve as an incentive for other public servants who in these almost three years of government management have acted contrary to the sacred interests of the great majorities.

It will dawn and we will see.... L&E



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Invited Writer



THE ELECTRICAL MOBILITY LAW IS PASSED IN PANAMA, AN ADVANCE IN THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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On April 25, the President of the Republic, Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, from an official act held in the Yellow Room of the Presidential Palace, sanctioned Law 295 of April 25, 2022, which encourages electric mobility in the ground transportation. This Law, proposed by the independent deputy, Edison Broce, has the purpose of promoting in our country the transition from the use of internal combustion to electric.

When we talk about an internal combustion engine, we refer to that engine that obtains its energy from fuel ignition process, which allows movement of the vehicle. These engines can use gasoline or diesel. Electric mobility, on the other hand, consists of use of new technologies as a means of transport, bicycles, scooters, motorcycles and



electric cars, are examples of this type of mobility. To allow movement, one or more electric motors are used and it is rechargeable through electricity.

Internal combustion is one of the main pollutants of the environment, since due to the burning of diesel and gasoline to be able to function, it generates various types of greenhouse gases, for example, nitrous oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO₂), also, particles are generated that are toxic both to the environment and to humans.

Using electric mobility reduces the use of means of transportation with internal combustion engines, which helps reduce gas emissions and toxic particles that are released into the environment.

There are many countries around the world who, in their struggle to help planet, are adopting this means of transport, not only in private vehicles, but also in public transport.

There are also cars known as hybrids, which can operate with both fuel and electricity.



Panama doesn't escape this reality; we have a small market for electric and hybrid vehicles. According to data compiled by the financial magazine, Martes Financiero, in our country, there are currently 122 electric vehicles circulating

and 1,932 hybrids and 266 plug-in hybrids, in the same way, recharging stations have been placed throughout the country, up to the border with Costa Rica, existing in the country 78 stations to recharge these vehicles. As well as companies that offer electrical recharging solutions tailored to users.¹

In general, we can highlight some important points of this Law:

In its article 4, it is established that the public institutions of the National Government, autonomous and semi-autonomous, must execute an administrative fleet replacement plan, which must comply with minimum percentages for the introduction of electric vehicles:

YEAR	MINIMUM % OF FLEET
2025	10%
2027	25%
2030	40%

With regard to mass transportation, it will be up to the Land Transit and Transportation Authority (ATTT), to establish a process of progressive replacement of fleets whose energy source is fossil fuels, for electric fleets. A minimum percentage of introduction of these fleets must be met:

YEAR	MINIMUM % OF FLEET
2025	10%
2027	20%
2030	33%

It will be up to the Land Transit and Transportation Authority (ATTT) to carry out the annual review so that transport operators comply with the replacement of internal combustion vehicles with electric ones. Failure to comply will cause the cancellation of the operation certificate.

In its article 6, this Law indicates that the electrical units of individuals, concessionaires and providers of collective and selective public transport regulated by this regulation, will carry a green vehicle license plate, whose distinctive characteristics will be regulated by the ATTT and will be its use is prohibited in internal combustion vehicles.

It is important to comment that public institutions, shopping centers and real estate projects will enable preferential parking for electric vehicles, which will have green badges and signs; however, they cannot replace the preferential ones for people with disabilities or pregnant women.

On this point, the law provides that the availability of parking lots must be dimensioned to supply, at least, 15% of the individual parking spaces of each parking space according to the sustainable building regulations of the Technical Board of Engineering and Architecture .

Similarly, residential and commercial real estate projects will establish the conditions and specifications to enable electrical wiring outlets in order to enable the installation of electric vehicle charging stations. When it comes to new projects, these will be included in your construction plans.

On the other hand, the municipalities, through their corresponding agencies, will include the installation of electric vehicle charging stations among the requirements for the issuance of construction permits for residential and commercial buildings and public

Picture: Toyota Prius, best known hybrid car in the market / www.toyota.com

¹ “Incentivan la movilidad en Panamá” publicado en Martes Financiero el día 7 de febrero del 2022; consultado el 26 de abril del 2022.

institutions.

Under these indications, the owners of residences, public institutions, horizontal properties, residential buildings, shopping centers and properties of social interest will be able to install renewable generation plants as an energy alternative for electric vehicle charging stations.

Greenhouse gases

As mentioned, fossil fuels generate greenhouse gases, with the implementation of electric mobility, the Ministry of the Environment, must make estimates on the levels of pollution, regarding these gases. For its part, the Ministry of Health, in coordination with the Ministry of the Environment and the ATTT, must carry out measurements of these gases and volatile organic compounds.

Exemption from payment of license plate procedures

As part of the economic incentives, this Law provides that the municipalities of the Republic of Panama must manage the exemption from the payment of vehicular license plate procedures, this, for a period of five years. This will apply from the date of purchase of new electric vehicles and from the date of promulgation of the Law, for those that were acquired before.

Import Tax Exemption

Another important point to highlight, within Article 21 of this Law, it is provided that, numeral 5 of article 28-A of Law 45 of 1995, is as follows:

The rate of the selective consumption tax for other taxable goods will be as follows:

Electric land motor vehicles in tariff heading 87.03: 0% until December 31, 2030 and 5% as of January 1, 2031, and for hybrid land motor vehicles in tariff heading 87.03: 10%.

Without a doubt, it is a welcome advance that in our country laws are promoted in favor of protecting the environment. Our planet suffers day by day the consequences of our excessive consumption, our hectic pace of life, which only generates more and more pollution. The use of electric vehicles is also a great help, regarding the rise in fuel, which has been affecting us in recent weeks and using electric vehicles can be a solution for both private and public transport.

In the same way, more jobs will be generated and the economy will be supported since the purchase of this type of vehicle will surely increase little by little.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Law 295 will take effect the fiscal year following its enactment and will be regulated by the technically empowered institutions within a maximum period of six months from its entry into force.^{L&E}



WIGMAN



AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH WIGBERTO RAMOS, THE GREAT PANAMANIAN JOCKEY

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On February 26, the Panamanian jockey, Wigberto Ramos, took the victory, with the horse named "Emblem Road", within the most lucrative equestrian race worldwide, the Saudi Cup, valued at 20 million Dollars.

We had the opportunity to talk with him and ask him a series of questions, here we share everything he told us.

1. How was your start as a jockey?

Well, my start as a jockey began with the attraction of horses on my grandmother Cecilia's farm in Chame, then, when I returned to the city, a neighbor of mine started in this art, equestrian, and that's where my attention was drawn, the races of horses.

2. Where were you born?

I was born in the capital, Panama City, and I spent

school vacations in Chame, in Las Lajas de Chame.

3. How long did you ride in Panama?

I only rode for two years, the first year I became a professional, I was the champion apprentice leader and after that, thank God, I traveled to the United States, which was my dream.

4. Who were your inspirational jockeys?

Only one, his name is Manuel Ortega, one of the best jockeys in Panama.

5. Your family.

My family, I have five children, I have a wife, her name is Ingrid, she is from Chorrera and my children are called Nicole, Wigberto jr., Savannah, Adriana and Sofía.

6. What was the decision to go abroad?

That is the desire of every jockey, we see the races in the United States very attractive and that was my wish, my wish was always to go to the United States.

7. How long have you been abroad?

Well, since I left Panama, it's been 33 years of being abroad.

8. In which places have you mounted?

Well these 36 years of career I have ridden in the United States, France, Qatar, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Jamaica, if not one escapes me there, I think those have been the ones that have come to mind right now. France too, I think I already mentioned it.

9. How are Panamanian jockeys perceived abroad?

Super good, they always see us with a good attitude, good professionalism, the jockeys from Panama I compare them, just like when a soccer player from Brazil comes out, well here I compare them like this, when a jockey from Panama comes out, he always beats for his knowledge, your good learning here in Panama.

10. How was last race and what can you tell us about the horse you rode?

Well, it was a great race for me, I had never been as focused as I was in that race, I think the calm factor, calm, not panic, was one of the keys to winning that race.

11. How was the victory celebrated at the racecourse?

At the racecourse in Saudi Arabia, where I was, this one was very good for the reason that it was a local horse, the other reason that I am the jockey that has been active for the longest time there in Saudi Arabia, that I am 24 years, it was a triumph for the country of Saudi Arabia, we practically became the heroes, that was a celebration that they are still celebrating there in Arabia and I for my part too.

12. How is the fan base there?

There are very cold people who do not show their joy much, but there are also Arabs who do show it, they are super equestrians, their number one sport is soccer, then come the horses along with the camels, those are the most watched sports there.

13. How did your family experience?

Well there I saw them on video, super exciting, they enjoyed it and still, because I tell you and they still enjoy them, proud to have a family member who has done that feat.

14. Have you thought about returning to our country?

Yes, this is my house, this is where I was born, this is where I intend to finish my degree, yes of course, here in Panama.

15. How many years have you been a jockey?



Exactly I think I'm 36 years old, to be a jockey.

16. How do you see yourself in ten years?

Ten years, maybe I could accept the offer that they are making me to train horses, it could be, racehorse trainer.

17. Message to all apprentices.

Well, to all apprentices, whoever is interested in this profession, the advice I can give you is to be sure that you want this profession because it is very demanding, first of all the weight, time that you have to dedicate to this sport to learn it. well and thus develop performance in races and at work, life depends on this and this is how one has to learn to interact with these animals, it is a beautiful profession, whoever is interested in getting into this must be serious and that this is not relaxation, a lot of exercise, diet and being well disciplined and humble, that is the message.

18. Do you remember Bimbo Tejada, Dilio Long, Laffit Pincay, Braulio Baeza and other younger?

Yes of course, these people are legends of Panamanian horse racing and for our country, yes, they are very good jockeys and they left the name of Panama high, I have a lot of respect for them.

19. What anecdotes do you have about the sport of kings? How do you think?

Well, it has been my only job that I have had, very pretty, very self-sacrificing, very hard, very dedicated, one here as I was saying that, whoever gets involved in this, has to take into account that they are going to have to sacrifice a lot, but it's nice when the fruits come out. I have a very nice profession.

20. Would you like recognition in Panama for your work in another country?

Well, yes, I have already received not only one but several, several recognitions and I thank the people who made that happen and yes, I am honored by all the recognitions that have been given to me. *L&E*

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LABOR DAY: THE HAYMARKET REVOLT MAY 1, 1886

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1 36 years have passed since the strike declaration of more than 200,000 workers in the city of Chicago, a city that was characterized by having less favorable working conditions than in other cities; however, today tribute is still paid to the Haymarket martyrs, most of whom, by the way, were German, one English and two Americans.

Despite the fact that it was a general strike in the city of Chicago, only one company continued to operate and it was the McCormick agricultural company, which maintained operations with workers who did not support the strike, who were called strikebreakers or strikebreakers.

DO YOU KNOW WHY THE WORKERS WENT ON STRIKE?

They demanded the recognition of "eight hours to work, eight hours to sleep and eight hours for the house", that is, they demanded that employers work a maximum of eight hours, given that at that time they worked long hours.

As a corollary, President Andrew Johnson in 1868 issued the Ingersoll Act that established an eight-hour day for all those employees of federal offices and public works workers, with exceptions and in "absolutely urgent cases." However, the Law did not

include the workers or workers of the industry, for which they requested to be under the protection of the Law.

At that time, the workers were organized in the Noble Order of the Knights of Labor, which represented a trade union organization, considered at that time to have anarchist tendencies, which was parallel to the American Federation of Labor, which was a national federation of unions.

The American Federation of Labor held its fourth congress in October 1884, declaring that they would demand the recognition of an eight-hour work day and in the event that their claim wasn't recognized, the members would go on strike.

But it turns out that, when the time came, the Noble Order of the Knights of Labor ordered all the organizations that it brought together that they were prohibited from supporting the strike, called for May 1, and that none of the members of that organization could join the strike. same.

However, workers continued with declaration of strike and so on May 1 called strike began, which was supported by the workers of the Chicago companies. The strike began and during the following days there were clashes and mobilizations between the demonstrators, the police and the strikebreakers.

On day 2, the workers were repressed by the police when they tried to demonstrate and on the 3rd there was a confrontation between the strikers and

scabs at the moment the work shift ended, which resulted in the police intervening in the battle, giving as a result 6 dead and several dozen wounded.

As a result of the events that occurred, the workers requested permission from the Mayor of Chicago to hold a march on May 4, which was authorized by the competent authority.

On May 4, between speeches and harangues at the demonstration, someone threw a bomb at the police, which began what is now known as the Haymarket massacre, in response the police opened fire on the crowd of protesters who were on the spot.

Scholars of the matter have concluded that the balance between dead and wounded was 6 dead and 70 wounded for the police and 38 dead workers and 115 wounded.

The leaders of the demonstration, or what we know today as union leaders, were arrested and put on trial, which many considered to have been rigged, and concluded the sentence of the following workers:

- **Oscar Neebe, an American, was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor.**
- **Samuel Fielden of English origin, sentenced to life imprisonment.**
- **Michael Schwab, of German origin, was sentenced to life imprisonment.**

- **George Engel, of German origin sentenced to death.**
- **Adolf Fischer, American sentenced to death.**
- **Albert Parsons, who, despite not being present at the scene, voluntarily surrendered to be with his companions, was hanged.**
- **August Spies, German origin, sentenced to death.**
- **German Louis Lingg, sentenced to death, but committed suicide in his cell one day before execution.**

However, after the time passed Illinois Governor John P. Altgeld, declared that "the Haymarket martyrs" had been victims of a plot and released prisoners who had not been sentenced to death. Years later, a new trial restored the memory of those convicted by proving the falsity of the entire process." (cited by National Geographic)

The declared strike and all the events that occurred, despite the loss of life and injuries, gave results, given that, at the end of May 1886, a plural number of employers in certain activities accepted the maximum 8-hour day..

The Socialist Labor Congress of the Second International, held in Paris in 1889, declared May 1 as International Workers' Day in memory of "the Haymarket martyrs" or the "martyrs of Chicago".

The declaration of May 1 as International Workers'

Day, where the labor movement is commemorated, did not occur simultaneously in all countries, but rather, in a staggered manner, the countries welcomed the date of May 1 like labor day. Over the years, the celebration of the worker's day took on other nuances, when Pope Pius XII in 1954 declared May 1 as the feast of San José Obrero.

Paradoxically, in United States May 1 is not celebrated as a worker's day, but they celebrate the so-called "labor day" which is first Monday of September of each year and has historical connotations, different from the events that occurred on May 1.

In Panama, May 1, in accordance with the provisions of article 46 of the Labor Code, is considered a national holiday, which implies that it is a paid day off..

This year, May 1 has different connotations, due to the fact that it coincides with a Sunday, in such a way that, in accordance with article 47 of the Labor Code, the following Monday, that is, May 2 It will be the mandatory rest day.

Let us remember that work on the national holiday or mourning day is remunerated with a surcharge of one hundred percent over the ordinary working day, without prejudice to the right of the worker to be granted any other day of rest as compensation, in accordance with article 49. .

However, if the worker works on the authorized day, that is, on Monday, he must be paid for that day

with a fifty percent surcharge on the regular day.

Understand that work on a national holiday or mourning day and work on the authorized day are not paid in the same way, that is why, when preparing shifts and analyzing the needs of the company, the impact it will have on the payroll.

The events that occurred in May 1886 undoubtedly marked the history of the world of work, not only for workers but also for employers, and as we indicated at the beginning of these comments, they have lasted over time, which is why on this occasion we wanted to the true meaning of this and to have what we really celebrate on May 1 of each year. *L&E*



Norms of INTEREST

DECEMBER 20 NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

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With the approval of Law 291 of March 31, 2022, December 20 of each year is declared a day of national mourning on the occasion of the commemoration of the fallen on December 20.

The declaration of December 20 as a day of national mourning implies: 1. The national flag will be hoisted at half-staff. 2. Prohibition of transmission and projection of loud music, until 12:01 on December 21. 3. Educational centers and local governments must carry out activities alluding to the events that occurred on that date, in order to preserve the historical memory of what happened. 4. In history, the causes, events and consequences of the invasion should be taught. 5. Construction of a monument in remembrance of those who fell on December 20. 6. Article 46 of the Labor Code is modified, which contemplates holidays or national mourning.

In labor matters, the modification of article 46 implies that December 20 is a paid day off, which grants the worker the right not to attend work and that said day is paid, as well as that the worker on the day of party or national mourning is paid with a surcharge of one hundred and fifty percent (150%) on the regular day.

There is no doubt that the events that occurred

on December 20, 1989 marked the history of our country before and after the invasion, which filled many Panamanian families who lost a loved one in those events with mourning and pain. in addition to the uncertainty that existed at that time.

However, it is difficult to understand that December 20 has been declared a day of national mourning, precisely because of the implications that this entails. The month of December, in addition to its religious meaning, has other nuances and is that it is the month of sales, parties, acts and countless activities that represent the birth of the son of God and the goodbye to a year that is going away.

For this year 2022 after 33 years we will see the activities of the month suspended, because the companies by legal provision must suspend operations or close and if they do not they must pay the surcharges established in the Labor Code to the workers who work said, what that it will have an impact on the sales and the commercial and economic movement of that day and this will not create awareness in the present and future generations of the true meaning of December 20, 1989. *L&E*

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF EDUCATION

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Through Law 294 of April 6, 2022, the general guidelines are established for educational public policies aimed at the digital transformation of education, aimed at increasing equity in the educational system, through the pertinent implementation of various teaching models – learning, including flexible modalities of education, through technology, guaranteeing creative and innovative forms of delivery that make it easier for students to acquire digital skills and competencies during their educational trajectory and guarantee the right to education.

It has been arranged that public policies must be consistent with the goals and objectives of the national education system and respond to the problems, challenges, needs and aspirations of the country, so it is imperative that the education system guarantees the right to education. education as an enabling right for all children and young people.

Law 294 develops the terms digital skills, connectivity, technological devices, 21st century skills, flexible modalities, educational platforms and educational trajectory.

As well as, the Educational Technological Development Center is created, as an association of public interest, which for its recognition must comply with the

guidelines established by law.

Within context, the Ministry of Education is empowered to organize and formalize the creation of the public interest association, for which a call will be made to public institutions and legal entities whose activity is related to the objectives of the Center.

The Center will be responsible for developing and implementing the National Plan for Digital Transformation, which will be drawn up taking into account the capacity for public investment and identifying the different stages, their objectives and key compliance indicators..

It should be noted that, to guarantee educational continuity, MEDUCA will establish a management model that addresses educational services with relevance and equity, implementing programs with different flexible modalities for all grades of the educational system, both for formal and non-formal education, with various forms of delivery, calendar, duration and schedules that adapt to the conditions of the students and of each region.

Finally, the Executive will regulate Law 294 in a period not to exceed six months. *L&E*

INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMISSION OF PHYSICAL OR MENTAL CERTIFICATION

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The Ministry of Health issued Executive Decree No. 45 of April 7, 2022, which regulates article 5 of Law 59 of December 28, 2005, modified by Law April 25, 2018, which adopts health standards. job protection for people with chronic, involuntal and/or degenerative diseases, as well as chronic kidney failure, which cause work disability.

We must point out that article 5 of Law 59 establishes that the certification of the physical or mental condition of people who suffer from chronic, involuntal and/or degenerative diseases, as well as chronic renal failure, which produce chronic work disability, It will be issued by an interdisciplinary commission designated for that purpose.

But it turns out that until before the issuance of the executive decree the commission had not been constituted, in such a way that Executive Decree 45 in reference creates the Interdisciplinary Commission of Physical or Mental Certification, attached to the General Directorate of Public Health of the Ministry of Health and will be known as the Interdisciplinary Commission, which will be supported by a technical secretary and group of experts subcommittees.

The Commission will be made up of the director of Public Health, a doctor specializing in internal or family medicine, in psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation or orthopedics and traumatology, and a doctor specializing in occupational medicine or a doctor specializing in occupational health.

The Commission is granted the power to appoint, in a timely and periodic manner, the subcommittees of experts that they deem necessary, made up of suitable specialists, with expertise in different disciplines of the medical sciences, who will be in charge of verifying the evidence provided by the affected by their condition and confirm the condition of partial or permanent work disability.

Another aspect to mention is that, in addition to the worker in the public or private sector, the employer is granted the right to formally request a certification from the Commission on the physical or mental condition that determines whether the occupational disability presented by the worker is partial or absolute, of chronic, involuntal and/or degenerative diseases and chronic renal failure.

In this order of ideas, any worker in the public or private sector, who has been fired or dismissed, as appropriate, suffering from a chronic, involutive and/or degenerative disease, as well as chronic renal failure that causes work disability, may request certification. provided that you have filed a reconsideration and/or appeal

Finally, the General Directorate of Public Health will have a period of no more than two months, counted from the entry into force of the Decree in question, to convene the permanent members of the Interdisciplinary Commission. *L&E*

TEMPORARY ROASTED COFFEE CONTROL MEASURES EXTENDED

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The Cabinet Council issued Cabinet Decree No.4 of April 6, 2022, which extends for six additional months the validity of Cabinet Decree No.5 of March 30, 2021, modified by Cabinet Decree No.24 of September 2021 that establishes control measures related to the marketing of roasted coffee. *L&E*

EXTEND VALIDITY OF IMMIGRATION REGULARIZATION PERMITS

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Through Resolution Number 6994 of April 12, 2022, the National Immigration Service extends from May 1 to June 30, 2022, the validity of all general extraordinary migratory regularization permits, therefore, the permits that have expired during this period, will not generate penalties for expiration.

On the other hand, it has been established that as of April 18, the reception of applications for Renewal and Permanent Residences for

General Migratory Regularization will begin.

Another aspect to mention is that, from April 18 to June 30, 2022, requests for fine exemptions will be received and processed, pending payment by foreigners who intend to legalize and update their immigration status, provided they obey to reasons framed in the economic situation caused by the state of health emergency decreed. *L&E*



SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE DECLARES UNCONSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA, RELATING TO TEACHERS OVER 75 YEARS OF AGE

COMPETENCE: SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE

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¿What is the General University Council?

The General University Council is the highest Governing Body of the University of Panama and will be integrated in the manner established in article 9 of Law 11 of 1981, which hereinafter refers to the Organic Law.

Before the Plenary of the Supreme Court of Justice, a claim of Unconstitutionality was filed against articles 182-A and 182-B, modified by the Agreement of the General University Council No. 7-16 of June 23, 2016, of the University Statute from the University of Panama.

Among the first procedural actions gathered and presented by the Judicial representative, it is the declaration of unconstitutionality of the sentences. "Academic personnel who are seventy-

five (75) years of age" will automatically end their employment relationship with the University of Panama, contemplated in article 182-A and 182-B, modified by the Agreement of the General University Council No. 7- 16 of June 23, 2016.

The legal representatives state that in accordance with what is agreed in article 64 of the Political Constitution, the right and duty to work without restrictions are conceived and they also allege the violation of article 71 of the Political Constitution, by which it expressly establishes the nullity of any initiative that involves; resignation, reduction, adulteration, abandonment or affectation of a recognized right in favor of the worker.

By establishing the age of 75, as the age limit to exercise their profession as teachers at the University of Panama, it is established as a discriminatory act on the right to work, which is established in article 19 of the Political Constitution..

Opinion of the Public Ministry

The Public Ministry argues that situations related to the age of public servants have been regulated at the legal level, so that any debate that is generated regarding this issue should have been proposed in another jurisdiction, mainly when phrases contained in the Statute are attacked. of a University of Panama, which was approved by the General University Council, consequently the Public Ministry considers that the Lawsuit of Unconstitutionality presented before the Supreme Court of Justice is not viable, where the unconstitutionality of articles 182-A and 182-B, modified by the Agreement of the General University Council No. 7-16 of June 23, 2016, of the University Statute of the University of Panama.

Considerations of the Plenary

The Plenary considers that the autonomy that the University of Panama has implies that it can self-govern without the intervention of third parties, which indicates that it has full enjoyment of the guarantees that they have for its academic, administrative, financial, economic and patrimonial management.

However, it must be said that this power or immunity should in no way suppose that it exempts the University of Panama from compliance with the general provisions contained in the Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama.

The Plenary states that, although it is undeniable that the important study house enjoys full autonomy in its regime, granted by constitutional means, it is no less true that such immunity is absolute, if not that it is subject to compliance with the parameters established in the instruments to which the Plenary has referred.

The Plenum of the Supreme Court of Justice is of the opinion that article 182-A and the phrase "being

seventy-five (75) years of age", contained in article 182-B, through the Agreement of the General University Council No. 7-16 of June 23, 2016, of the University Statute of the University of Panama, violate articles 4,17,19, 20, and 74 of the Political Constitution.

It is appropriate to clarify that the fact that a teacher ages doesn't mean that he automatically loses the necessary skills to continue teaching classes..

Plenary Conclusion

The Plenary concludes that article 182-A and the phrase for being seventy-five (75) years of age contained in article 182-B. they violate articles 4,17,19,20,64 and 74 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama.

Consequently, the Supreme Court of Justice declares that Article 182-A is UNCONSTITUTIONAL and the phrase for being seventy-five (75) years of age, contained in article 182-B, through the Agreement of the General University Council No. 7-16 of June 23, 2016, of the University Statute of the University of Panama.

Reasoned Vote

Judge: Olmedo Arrocha

The Judge states that he agrees with the decision made by the majority of the Plenary, by means of which articles 182-A and the phrase for being seventy-five (75) years of age, contained in article 182-B, are DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL, since article 19 of the Political Constitution establishes that there will be no jurisdiction, privileges or discrimination based on race, birth, disability, social class, sex, religion, or political ideas. Although it is true that the aforementioned article does not include the concept of age as one of the reasons why discrimination is prohibited, it cannot be forgotten that human rights are dynamic and in fact they are recognized, not constituted.

Within the Statute of the University of Panama, there is no explanation or justification, which allows to understand and understand what is the legitimate purpose of the distinction, it makes no sense that the university professor is treated unequally just because he is 75 years old.

Saved Vote

Judge: Cecilio Cedalise

Judge Cecilio Cedalise, is of the concept that the fundamental guarantees enshrined in articles 19 and 20 of the Constitution, which prohibits is the creation of jurisdictions and privileges between people who are in equal conditions.

The Judge considers that the contested norms don't violate articles 19 and 20 of the Political Constitution, since age is not one of the circumstances specifically indicated in article 19. In this sense, the actions are mistaken when indicating age as one of the presumably vulnerable conditions within the constitutional regulations.

It is appropriate to indicate that, both nationally and internationally, there are conditions that have a direct impact on the Right to Work, either to establish a minimum age to access a job, as well as to set a maximum age to perform it..

Saved Vote

Judge: Jose Ayu Prado

The Judge states that the sentences that are considered unconstitutional are inserted in articles 182A and 182 B, of the University Statute of the University of Panama, and in them, the age of seventy-five (75) years is established, as that which leads to the end of the relationship of teachers with said house of study.

The Judge considers that the decision adopted ignores the dynamics and the perspective with which the right to work is handled, since it is not limited to activities carried out in the public sector.

The Judge reaches this conclusion since above ruling indicates in a global way that the right to work for the professor of University of Panama is contravened, however, this approach ignores the possibility of continuing to work in the private sector.

for their work performance capacity based on age, it would be discriminating against a professional person who enjoys and has equal right to be able to practice their profession as long as they have good capacity to carry out their profession.

In this particular case, what they should propose to teachers is to carry out an annual evaluation and thus be able to calculate the level of continuous teaching performance, and thus prevent the teacher from feeling affected by the decision of the General University Council.

It is evident that active labor aging in older adults allows them to maintain their quality of life and continue their participation in society. *L&E*

OPINION

I believe that no professional should be measured

Politics



ARE WE UNDERESTIMATING GUSTAVO PETRO?

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My categorical answer is yes. One of the pieces of evidence that supports this statement is that for the presidential elections announced for the first electoral round of May 29, 2022, a multiplicity of candidates for the presidency of the republic will participate. They are: Gustavo Petro, Federico Gutierrez, Sergio Fajardo, Rodolfo Hernández, Enrique Gómez, Luis Pérez, Luis Gilberto Murillo, Jhon Milton Rodríguez, Germán Córdoba and Ingrid Betancourt. This is a diversity of presidential candidates that on May 29, 2022, election day, will divide the presidential vote between the democratic forces of the right, of the center both left and right and progressive, which without the slightest doubt favors the candidate Gustavo Petro to achieve the majority of votes in the first electoral round.

Gustavo Petro is a former member of the M-19 guerrilla organization, 62 years old, an economist and with vast political experience, having been elected a member of the House of Representatives for Cundinamarca in the elections from 1991 to 1994 and again as a member of the House of Representatives. of Representatives for Bogotá from 1998 to 2006. He was Senator of the

Republic for the Polo Democrático Alternativo (PDA) from July 20, 2006 to 2010, with the third highest vote in the country. In the 2010 presidential elections, Petro obtained 1,331,267 votes in the first electoral round, which represented 9.13%, achieving fourth place.

After leaving the PDA, Gustavo Petro formed the Progressive Movement and was its official candidate for Mayor of Bogotá in the elections of October 30, 2011, achieving victory and the largest number of votes with 732,308 votes, or 32.22% of the votes over his closest opponent, Enrique Peñalosa of the Green Party, with 560,590 or 24.98% of the vote, in addition to three other candidates who also participated in the contest.

Gustavo Petro participates again as a presidential candidate in the Colombian elections on Sunday, May 27, 2018, achieving second place in the first round against Iván Duque, with 4,855,069 presidential votes, or 25.08%. As no presidential candidate reached more than 50% of the votes validly cast, the second electoral round was held on Sunday, June 17, 2018, and Gustavo Petro again obtained the second

position, achieving 8,040,449 or 41.77% of the votes, against the winner Iván Duque of the Democratic Center, who reached 10,398,689 votes or 54.03%. Voter turnout in the second round was only 54%.

Of the plurality of presidential candidates that make up the official list for the first electoral round, on Sunday, May 29, 2022, in our opinion, after the interparty consultations are held for three coalitions to choose their presidential candidate, the three candidates The presidential candidates who will obtain the best results will be Gustavo Petro of the Historical Pact, Federico (Fico) Gutiérrez of the Team for Colombia and Sergio Fajardo of the Hope Center Coalition.

Some of the polls still continue to show Gustavo Petro in first place in voting intentions, in second place they show an increase in Federico Gutiérrez, that is to say that so far the race is supposedly centered between the former Mayor of Bogotá, Gustavo Petro, and the former Mayor of Medellín, Federico (Fico) Gutiérrez and then by the presidential candidates Sergio Fajardo and the former Mayor of Bucaramanga Rodolfo Hernández. On the other hand, the eventual presidential candidate of the Democratic Center, Oscar Iván Zuluaga, renounced his candidacy and announced his support for Federico Gutiérrez, winner of the Team for Colombia consultation, giving a message of great detachment by stating "I have made the decision personnel to accompany the aspiration of Fico Gutiérrez. A message to all Colombians: Only united can we preserve democracy and freedom."

For his part, the candidate closest to disputing Gustavo Petro for the Presidency of the Republic is Federico (Fico) Gutiérrez Zuluaga, a 47-year-old engineer, who has held the position of Councilor of Medellín from 2004 to 2011 and was President of the Medellín Council from January 1 to December 31, 2008. In 2011 he was a candidate for Mayor of Medellín for the U Party and was defeated. On October 25, 2015, however, Fico Gutiérrez was elected Mayor of Medellín with 35% of the votes, followed by the Democratic Center candidate, Juan Carlos Vélez, who won 34% of the votes; Gabriel Jaime Riso came third with 111,796 votes.

The other candidate with certain possibilities, although

distant, is Sergio Fajardo Valderrama, politician, teacher, with impressive academic preparation, 65 years old. It was the vice-presidential formula of Antanas Mockus in the 2010 presidential elections for the Green Party, achieving the second position in the first electoral round with 21.51% of the votes and also the second position in the second electoral round with 27.44. %. Sergio Fajardo was also a presidential candidate in the elections held on May 27, 2018, coming third in the race with the support of Coalición Colombia, with 23.78% of the votes, that is, 4,602,916 presidential votes. The first place was achieved by the current President Iván Duque and in second place was Gustavo Petro. Sergio Fajardo was Governor of Antioquia from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2015, during which period he was recognized for his development plan called "Antioquia More Educated" and is also recognized for having done a great job as Governor. He was previously Mayor of Medellín from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2007, a management in which he carried out a great transformation of the city and obtained many national and international awards.

In my opinion, of the first three that the polls indicate to achieve the Presidency of Colombia, Sergio Fajardo Valderrama would undoubtedly be the best and most convenient option for me for many reasons, regardless of the preferences of Colombians. I don't see any chance of victory for the remaining presidential candidates and what they will do with their participation, unfortunately, will be to divide the vote, which will make it even more possible for candidate Gustavo Petro to emerge victorious in the first round.

Another situation that must be taken into account in elections is electoral abstention, a frequent phenomenon in Colombian presidential elections, the most recent example of which was observed in the last Colombian elections and many others as described below.

- In the Colombian presidential elections of 1998, when ANDRES PASTRANA ARANGO won in the second round, the electoral participation in the first round was 54.64% and in the second round it was 62.59%.

- In the presidential elections of 2002, ALVARO URIBE VELEZ obtained the Presidency of the Republic in the

first round, by widely exceeding half plus one of the valid votes to omit a second round. In that first round, electoral participation was 46.47%.

- In the presidential electoral tournament of 2006, ALVARO URIBE VELEZ, the Constitutional President, was re-elected with a wide advantage in the first electoral round. Participation in that first electoral round was only 45.05% of the voters.

- The presidential election of Colombia in the year 2010, for the period 2010-2014, had JUAN MANUEL SANTOS of the U Party as the winner in the second round. In those elections of the year 2010, the electoral participation in the first round was 49.30 % of the votes cast and in the second round the turnout was only 44.35% of the voters.

- In the Colombian presidential elections of 2014, incumbent President JUAN MANUEL SANTOS was re-elected after winning the second electoral round. In the first round, electoral participation was 39.09% of the voters, that is, an abstention rate of almost 60%, the highest in recent history. In the second round, the turnout of voters was 47.77% of the votes.

- The elections held in 2018 in Colombia gave victory in the second round to IVAN DUQUE MARQUEZ, because in the first round none of the candidates reached more than 50% of the valid votes cast. In the first round, electoral participation was 54.22% and in the second round, 54% of voters.

Thus, we observe that Colombia has been characterized by electoral abstention as a frequent phenomenon. This electoral abstention will favor Gustavo Petro both in the first round and in the second electoral round.

It is also important to keep in mind the protests that are taking place in Colombia for an indefinite period, from April 28, 2021, called by the National Strike Committee, made up of unions and labor unions and other sectors that joined, some without ideological affiliation. These protests have caused an unstable situation in the country. That accumulated discontent, in our opinion, will also have its participation and quota of electoral convening power in the next Colombian elections, just as at the time that worrying social outbreak in Chile was manifested in the last elections, which resulted in the victory, in November 2021, of the leftist candidate GABRIEL BORIC as President of the Republic.

In such a way that May 29 represents a transcendental and historical date for the Republic of Colombia, where the responsibility will fall not only on the majority of Colombian voters, who will not only have to elect a president with a true democratic vocation, who guarantees the true rule of law, freedom of expression and in short, a genuine democracy and importantly, the continuation of it.

Likewise, the democratic commitment will fall on the leaders of the political parties and their membership and on independent sectors, who, when the time comes, will have to deeply reconsider to vote and support the most viable candidate to guarantee democracy and not decide on one who represents otherwise.

I hope that when this article is published, when there will still be a few weeks to carry out this important electoral event, my suspicions about the possible victory of the one that many have underestimated will not materialize. We will wait anxiously. *L&E*

Panamanian ECONOMY

PANAMANIAN ECONOMY EVIDENCE OF GRADUAL RECOVERY

Source: MEF

The real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Republic of Panama, totaled B/. 40,736.4 million, during fiscal year 2021, which meant an increase of B/. 5,416.6 million or 15.3%, compared to what was registered in 2020, indicates the report of General Account of the Treasury 2021, of Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), according to figures from the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC).

The main contributions to the absolute growth of real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021, compared to previous year, were made by following activities: Exploitation of Mines and Quarries with B/. 1,556.5 million, representing 27.6% of the total annual increase, Wholesale and Retail Trade with B/. 1,212.9 million, 21.5% of the increase, Construction with B/. 1,067.5 million, 18.9% of the increase and Transportation, Storage and Communications with B/. 596.4 million, 10.6% of the increase.

According to the spending approach, economic growth was the result of greater external demand that underpinned exports of goods and services (mainly mining, commercial, maritime, air and travel) and also due to the gradual recovery of internal demand, both for household consumption and for investment.

The report details that GDP at current prices totaled B/. 63,605.1 million in 2021, B/. 9,628.0 million or 17.8% more than that registered in 2020. Which means that the nominal GDP level advanced on the way to recovering from pre-pandemic levels.

The MEF analysis highlights that the level of real GDP corresponding to the fourth quarter of 2021 with B/. 11,590.2 million, the highest reached for the same period of previous years, exceeding by 3.3% that of the same period of 2019 (B/. 11,217.6 million), as a result of the growth of external sales

of copper minerals and their concentrates, retail commercial sales major and minor at the end of the year and maritime transport activity, among others.

It reflects that for 2022, the projections of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicate the growth of GDP and the volume of world trade in goods and services (4.4% and 6.0% respectively), also of the Panamanian economy (5.0%), although The agency in recent communications states that there are risks and important economic impacts during this year, as a result of the war in Ukraine that has limited the production of cereals in that country, and on the other hand, the economic sanctions on Russia by the main economies, which has affected the rise in international prices of raw materials, especially oil, grains, some metals and agricultural inputs.

He clarifies that, in the Panamanian economy, progress is expected in the recovery of the activities most affected by the pandemic, greater production of copper ore for export and progress in the execution of important public infrastructure works, such as line 3 of the Mero from Panama. *L&E*

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MONTHLY INDEX OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (IMAE): FEBRUARY 2022

Source: GCRP

During February 2022, the Monthly Index of Economic Activity (IMAE) in the Republic registered a positive variation rate of 13.35%, compared to the same month of the previous year, according to preliminary estimated information compiled by the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC).

It is important to point out that the figures are subject to revision; if there are changes, they will be timely disseminated, on the Institution's website, in the next publications of the indicator.

The accumulated IMAE from January - February 2022 presented an increase of 12.83%, compared to the same period in 2021.

The recovery of economic activity continues to present a positive rate, after the impact of the health emergency caused by COVID-19.

The good behavior is influenced by the growth of the following economic activities: Other community, social and personal service activities, Construction, Commerce, Hotels and restaurants, Transport, storage and communications, Electricity and water, Fishing, Public administration, Manufacturing

industries, Real estate, business and rental activities, Agricultural and financial intermediation.

On the contrary, the sectors that showed negative variations were: Private education services, Exploitation of mines, Private households with domestic services and Private health services.

Some economic activities that presented positive year-on-year variations (February 2022-21) were: The provision of entertainment and leisure services, influenced by the increase in revenue from gross bets in luck and chance game rooms, mainly, games and betting rooms for sporting events, type A slot machines and equestrian activities.

Construction, mainly, to the execution generated by public investments in infrastructure works and social housing projects. Likewise, the gradual reactivation of several private projects. Some indicators linked to the activity such as the production of cement and ready-mix concrete.

The commercial activity registered a positive behavior, due to its associated indicators, such as re-exports in metric tons in the Colon Free

Zone, the commercialization of new vehicles and the sale of fuel for national consumption..

Services in hotels and restaurants improved their levels, due to the increase in capacity in food and beverage consumption premises. The fishing activity reported positive results, resulting from a greater capture of some export-oriented species, such as: Shrimp, other sea products and fish and frozen fish fillet.

The set of Transportation, storage and communications services showed a positive rate, influenced by the commercial movement in the Colon Free Zone, telecommunications, income from the canal toll and the net tons of the canal.

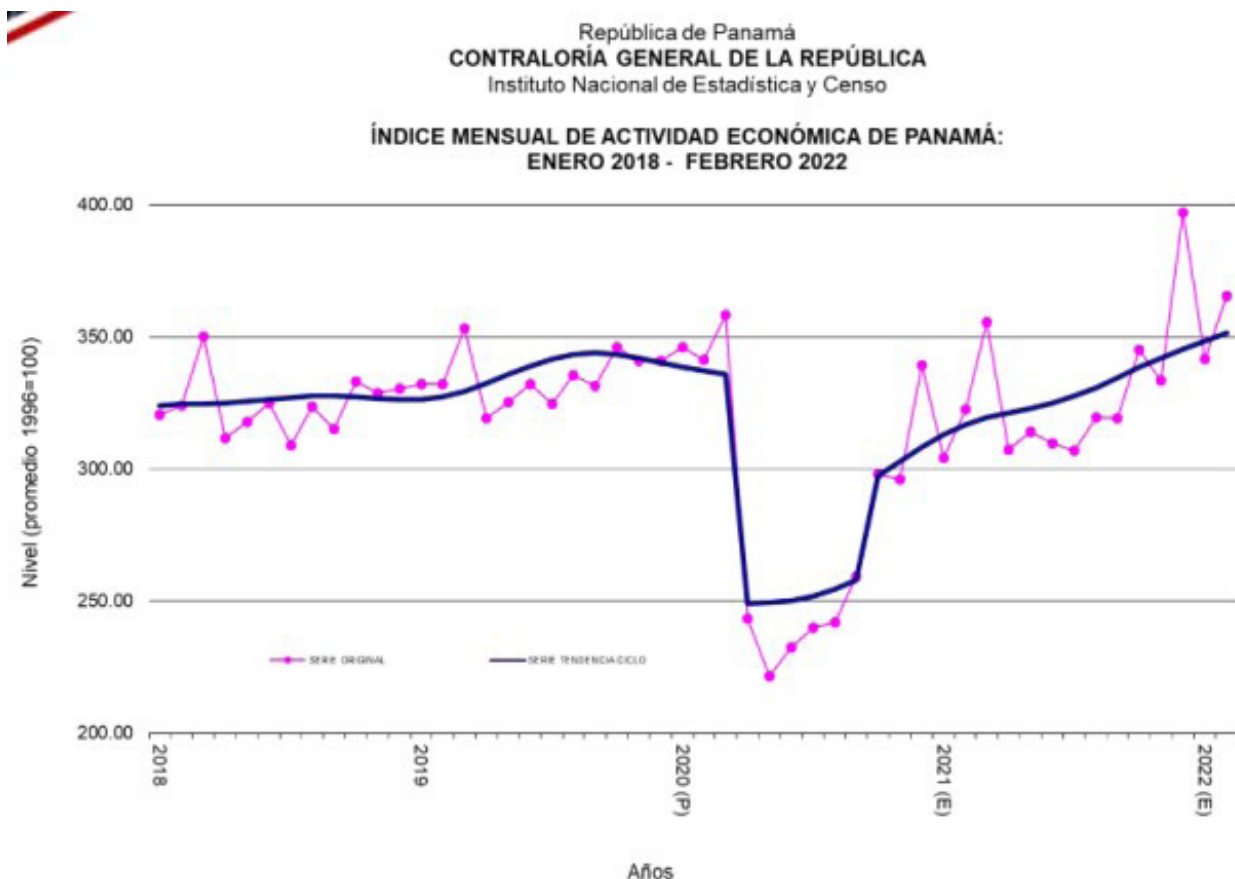
Industrial manufacturing production in some activities related to the production of food products such as the production of beef,

pork and poultry. Likewise, the production of alcoholic beverages such as beers, rum and gin. Financial intermediation registered a slight increase in financial services and insurance activity.

Likewise, the Electricity and water category showed a slight increase, mainly in the generation of thermal electricity.

The agricultural sector registered positive behavior in activities such as: The raising of pigs, cattle, poultry and the cultivation of pineapple and watermelon.

Among the activities that showed negative rates in February were: Private households with domestic services due to the reduction of personnel employed in this activity, Private Education and Health provided by the private sector.^{L&E}



COMMENTARY ON THE NATIONAL URBAN CPI FOR MARCH 2022, IN RELATION TO FEBRUARY 2022

Source: GCRP

The groups that presented increases were: Transportation in 4.0%; Health 0.5%; Food and non-alcoholic beverages, and Miscellaneous goods and services, both 0.4%; Restaurants and hotels 0.3%; and Housing, water, electricity and gas at 0.2%.

The increase observed in the Transportation group was due to the growth in two of its seven classes, "Fuels and lubricants for personal transportation equipment" by 11.0%, due to the rise in the price of fuel for automobiles, and "Transportation of passengers by air" 9.0%, for the increase in the price of the plane ticket.

The increase registered in the Health group was due to the increase in five of its seven classes. The greatest variations were in the classes: "Dental services" 1.5%, due to the growth in the price of dentistry services, "Paramedical services" 1.3%, due to the rise in the price of medical exams, and "Medical services" 1.0 %, due to the increase in the price of the medical consultation.

The Food and non-alcoholic beverages group showed an increase in eight of its eleven classes. The classes with the greatest variations were: "Coffee, tea and cocoa" at 3.9%, due to the increase in the price of coffee, "Fish" 1.8%, "Vegetables" 1.6%,

due to the growth in the price of tubers, and "Oils and fats" at 1.5%, due to the rise in the price of oil.

The Miscellaneous goods and services group reflected an increase in three of its ten classes. Greatest variations were: "Other devices, articles and products for personal care" at 0.9%, due to the increase in the price of other products for personal care.

The increase presented in the Restaurants and hotels group was due to the growth in one of its two classes, "Restaurants, cafes and similar establishments" by 0.3%, as a result of the increase in the price of alcoholic beverages outside the home.

The Housing, water, electricity and gas group presented an increase in two of its eight classes. The greatest variation was the "Gas" class at 2.0%, due to the increase in the price of the 100-pound gas tank.

The groups Clothing and footwear, Furniture, articles for the home and ordinary maintenance of the home, and Communications presented a slight variation.

The groups that registered decreases were: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco; and Recreation and culture

both at 0.2%. The decrease observed in the Alcoholic beverages and tobacco group was due to the reduction in two of its four classes. The class with the greatest variation was "Distilled beverages" at 2.2%.

The Recreation and Culture group showed a decrease in four of its sixteen classes. The greatest variation was in the class "Equipment for the reception, recording and reproduction of sounds and images" at 2.5%, due to the drop in the price of television and DVD player.

- Year-on-year variation of the National Urban CPI (March 2022 compared to March 2021):

The National Urban CPI presented an interannual variation of 3.2%. The groups that registered increases

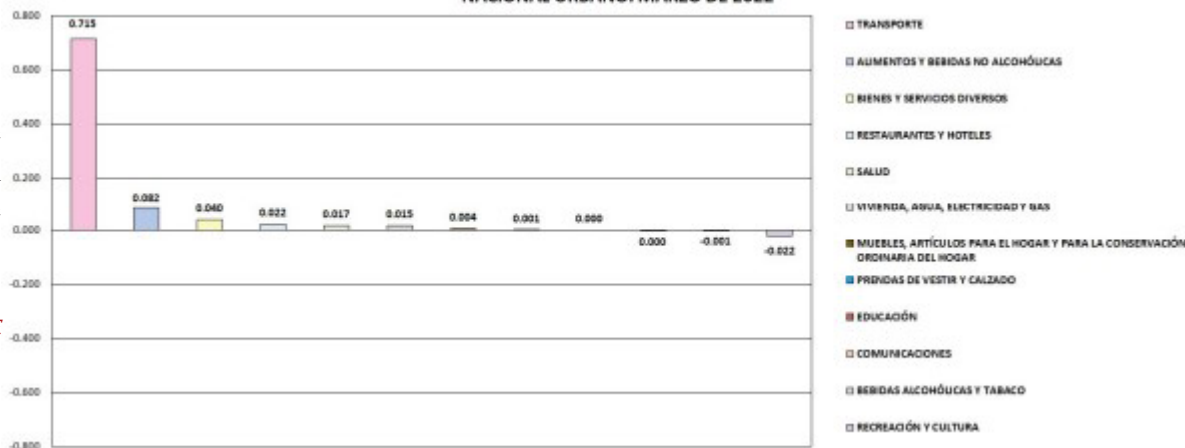
were: Transportation at 11.8%; Food and non-alcoholic beverages 2.7%; Education, and Restaurants and hotels both 2.5%; Housing, water, electricity and gas 1.6%; Furniture, articles for the home and for the ordinary maintenance of the home, and Miscellaneous goods and services, both 1.4%; and Health at 0.8%.

The group Alcoholic beverages and tobacco registered a slight variation.

The groups that reflected decreases were: Recreation and culture at 0.6%; Clothing and footwear 0.3%; and Communications 0.1%.

Below, the graph with the monthly incidence by group of the National Urban CPI for March 2022:

Gráfica 1. INCIDENCIA MENSUAL DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO: MARZO DE 2022



CUADRO 1. INCIDENCIA Y VARIACIÓN PORCENTUAL MENSUAL DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO, SEGÚN GRUPO DE ARTÍCULOS Y SERVICIOS: MARZO DE 2022 BASE 2013=100

Grupo de artículos y servicios	Ponderaciones	Incidencia	Variación mensual
TOTAL	100.0	0.9	0.9
Alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas	22.4	0.082	0.4
Bebidas alcohólicas y tabaco	0.7	-0.001	-0.2
Prendas de vestir y calzado	7.7	0.001	0.0
Vivienda, agua, electricidad y gas	8.5	0.015	0.2
Muebles, artículos para el hogar y para la conservación ordinaria del hogar	7.8	0.004	0.0
Salud	3.4	0.017	0.5
Transporte	16.8	0.715	4.0
Comunicaciones	4.3	0.000	0.0
Recreación y cultura	9.7	-0.022	-0.2
Educación	2.4	0.000	-
Restaurantes y hoteles	6.7	0.022	0.3
Bienes y servicios diversos	9.8	0.040	0.4

- Cantidad nula o cero.

0.0 Cuando la cantidad es menor a la mitad de la unidad o fracción decimal adoptada para la expresión del dato.

Gráfica 2. EVOLUCIÓN DE LA VARIACIÓN DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO TOTAL, ALIMENTOS Y BEBIDAS NO ALCOHÓLICAS Y TRANSPORTE: DE ENERO DE 2021-MARZO DE 2022



CUADRO 2. EVOLUCIÓN DE LA VARIACIÓN DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO, SEGÚN GRUPO DE ARTÍCULOS Y SERVICIOS: DE ENERO A MARZO DE 2022

Grupo de artículos y servicios	Variación porcentual mensual		
	2022		
	Enero	Febrero	Marzo
TOTAL	0.3	0.7	0.9
Alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas	0.2	0.1	0.4
Bebidas alcohólicas y tabaco	0.3	1.5	-0.2
Prendas de vestir y calzado	0.1	0.0	0.0
Vivienda, agua, electricidad y gas	-0.4	0.4	0.2
Muebles, artículos para el hogar y para la conservación ordinaria del hogar	0.2	0.7	0.0
Salud	0.1	0.0	0.5
Transporte	1.3	2.7	4.0
Comunicaciones	0.0	0.0	0.0
Recreación y cultura	0.0	0.1	-0.2
Educación	0.0	2.6	-
Restaurantes y hoteles	0.6	0.1	0.3
Bienes y servicios diversos	0.0	0.3	0.4

- Cantidad nula o cero.

0.0 Cuando la cantidad es menor a la mitad de la unidad o fracción decimal adoptada para la expresión del dato.

NON-MINERAL EXPORTS GROW 23% IN THE FIRST 2 MONTHS

Source: MICI

In the first two months of 2022, Panamanian goods exports reached B/. 468 million, with non-mineral products achieving the highest growth with a total of B/. 116 million and a positive percentage value of 23%, compared to the same period in 2021, according to data from the Comptroller General of the Republic (CGR).

The industrial sector represented 39% of these exports, reaching the figure of B/. 46 million (+21%), followed by agriculture with 34% and an amount of B/. 39 million (+24%). On the other hand, sea products obtained 14% of exports with B/. 16 million (+14%) and the agribusiness sector 13% with B/. 15 million (+13%). Asia, Europe, North America and Latin America remain the main

destinations for exportable supply without copper.

Among the products with significant increases from January to February 2022 are: shrimp, beef, palm oil, watermelon, sugar, molasses, vegetable oils, fresh papayas, vinegar, metalliferous waste, Portland cement and clinker, rum, skins and hides, seeds and oleaginous fruits for sowing, fertile eggs and preparations for animal feed.

Meanwhile, a recent report from Office of Commercial Intelligence of MICI, indicates that products such as dried coconuts, prepared mustard, alabasters and frozen tilapia fillets were exported, after a year of not being sent to international market. *L&E*

World ECONOMY

LESS THAN HALF OF COUNTRIES IMPLEMENT LARGE-SCALE LEARNING RECOVERY STRATEGIES TO HELP CHILDREN CATCH UP

Source: World Bank

More than two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, we are witnessing colossal learning losses for children. Fewer than half of countries put in place large-scale recovery strategies to help them catch up. If in future months all countries do not get involved and expand their programs, there is a risk of losing a generation.

“With a combined total loss of 2 trillion face-to-face hours of schooling due to school closures since March 2020, students in more than 4 out of 5 countries have been left behind in their learning. The learning of children from more disadvantaged backgrounds has been degraded. Especially the most marginalized – those living in poverty and in rural regions, children with disabilities and the youngest learners – are the ones who have been left furthest behind.

The basic skills that form the foundation of everything related to education have disappeared in many countries. The children no longer know how to read or write; some are unable to recognize the letters of the alphabet. Some children who were going to start school never had the opportunity to acquire these skills, as early childhood education disappeared in most countries. Without urgent remedial action, all of this

could have serious lifelong consequences in terms of health and well-being, future learning and employment.

Despite this, our data from March 2022 shows that less than half of countries featured in a recent analysis published today are implementing large-scale learning recovery strategies to help children catch up. Only half of low-income countries have put in place a plan to assess the learning situation of students who have returned to school.

At a time when a body of data indicates that a staggering number of children are not returning to school after their classrooms reopen, some countries are not collecting or are not able to collect data on the number of children who have returned, or not to school, and for this reason we grope forward. A quarter of low-income countries – whose population was already very little in school – don't have the data to show how many students haven't returned to school.

The alarm signal has been triggered several times. Six months after start of the pandemic, due to the inability to access distance learning, we already knew that at least a third of schoolchildren across

the world were completely disconnected from their education. We knew that some 24 million children and young people could drop out of school altogether. We knew that child labor and early pregnancies would increase. However, children weren't helped enough to recover what they had lost.

In a period in which it is more necessary than ever, the financing of education remains dramatically insufficient. Countries have allocated an average of 3% of their COVID-19 recovery plans to education. In low- and lower-middle-income countries the allocation was less than 1%.

As countries work to recover, they neglect the single, most effective instrument for recovery and long-term sustainability – education.

Governments must multiply their efforts to get every child into school.

Education is a fundamental human right. The multiple overlapping barriers – primarily poverty, cultural norms and poor quality education – that prevent children from accessing education must be removed. Each child must be evaluated in relation to learning from it and, based on the results obtained, must access personalized quality recovery courses that allow them to recover what was lost and go beyond recovery. Teaching must be adapted to the level at which each child is currently in relation to learning it. Teachers must be given the training, support and resources they need. Finally, schools should not be limited to places of learning and should support the well-being and safety of children.

"It is now or never the time to act and transform education to save this generation". *L&E*

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THE WAR IN UKRAINE IS A SERIOUS SETBACK FOR THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF EUROPE

Source: International Monetary FundInternacional
(By Alfred Kammer)

The humanitarian catastrophe in Ukraine is echoing throughout Europe. Some 5 million refugees have already fled the fighting in the largest exodus the continent has seen since World War II, and there are several million more internally displaced people. Most have left the country across the borders with Poland, Romania, Hungary and Moldova. The European Union has quickly taken in those displaced by the Russian invasion, granting them permits to live and work, as well as to receive social assistance, for at least a year.

The war is a serious setback to Europe's strong, if still incomplete, recovery from the pandemic, which left private consumption and investment well below pre-corona forecasts, even as fiscal and monetary support achieved a notable rebound in GDP, employment, to near levels last seen before the pandemic. The rise in food and energy prices is severely affecting household consumption, and economic uncertainty is going to slow down investment.

Also, the war is a reminder that Europe must do more to improve energy security, especially by increasing renewable sources and improving efficiency..

Our latest Regional Economic Outlook lowers growth forecasts for Europe. For advanced economies, we have cut our growth projections by 1 percentage point, to 3% in 2022, from January projections, and for emerging economies, excluding Ukraine and Russia, we have cut growth projections by 1.5 percentage points, to 2.7%. Several of the largest economies – including France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom – are projected to barely expand or even contract for two consecutive quarters this year. The forecast for activity in Russia is to reduce by 8.5%, and in Ukraine by 35%.

What should monetary and fiscal authorities do? War is a supply shock that lowers economic output and raises prices. Indeed, our forecast for inflation is that it will accelerate to 5.5% in advanced economies and to 9.3% in emerging Europe, not including Russia, Turkey and Ukraine. These forecasts are 2.2 and 3.5 percentage points higher, respectively, than the January projections.

Monetary policy must balance containing inflation with the need to limit output losses and facilitate the reallocation of workers and capital in response to new shocks. Much of the pressure on prices comes from forces outside the control

Downward growth revisions.

of central banks, such as shocks to food and energy markets and disruptions to supply chains. However, the monetary authorities of many of the countries must maintain the path of normalizing lending conditions in order to contain inflation expectations and anchor the internal determinants of inflation, such as wages and housing rents.

Wherever possible, governments should act together with social partners to prevent wage and price spirals, among other things by making sufficient support available to households and businesses that are having difficulty paying more for raw materials.

To deal with the supply shock, automatic fiscal stabilizers, such as increased unemployment insurance and decreased tax payments, must be allowed to operate freely. These measures will increase fiscal deficits as growth prospects weaken – and they are right to do so – and add pressure on the public finances of some countries. That said, fiscal policy may need to be more supportive of economies if serious risks materialize.

Budgetary pressures will be more severe in several countries that are opening their borders to refugees, for example in Poland, which is home to almost 3 million, or Moldova, where the number of refugees is very high in relation to the population. This situation

underlines the need to share the costs of humanitarian aid fairly among EU members. In non-EU host countries, assistance from multilateral and regional partners should help manage costs, especially where public finances are already under pressure.

Reconstruction costs.

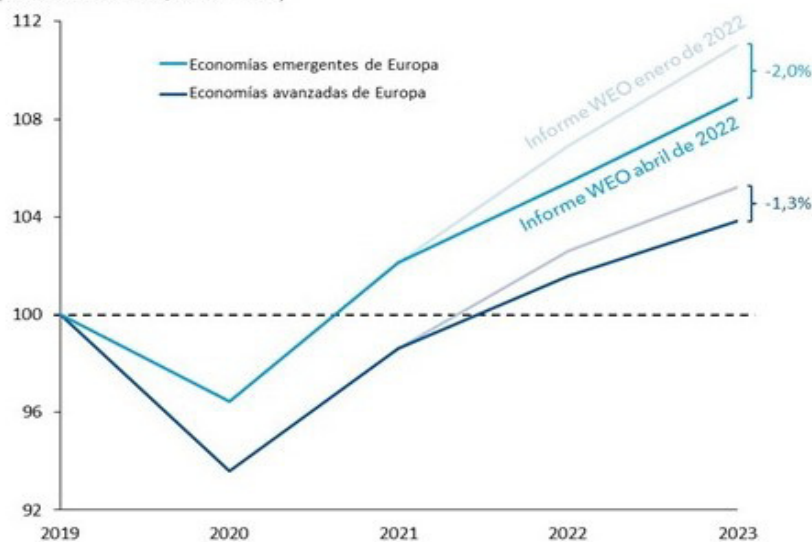
Europe's challenge will be to rebuild Ukraine and its economy in a way that encourages the return of refugees. The reconstruction of the destroyed infrastructure will require a large amount of financing with a significant grant component. Reconstruction and resettlement will contribute to the return of refugees and the recovery of economic growth. The implementation of reforms that strengthen institutions and public policy will maximize the growth dividend derived from reconstruction.

This will take some time and as a result some of those who have fled are likely to stay for a while in host countries. The integration of refugees, especially women and children, into jobs and schools will be essential. Targeted employment policies, such as temporary wage subsidies to encourage hiring, may be appropriate. It can also be the recognition of qualifications, language training and attention to childcare needs. *L&E*

El peso de la guerra

La recuperación de las economías avanzadas y emergentes de Europa será más lenta debido a los efectos secundarios de la guerra en Ucrania.

(Índice del PIB real, 2019 = 100)



Fuentes: FMI, base de datos del informe WEO, y cálculos del personal técnico del FMI.
Nota: El PIB de las economías avanzadas de Europa y economías emergentes de Europa es el promedio ponderado en PPA. Economías emergentes de Europa no incluye Belarús, Rusia, Turquía ni Ucrania.

Pronósticos económicos: Europa

(Crecimiento del PIB real, porcentaje)

	2021	PROYECCIONES	
		2022	2023
Europa	5,9	1,6	1,9
Economías avanzadas de Europa	5,6	3,0	2,2
Zona del euro	5,3	2,8	2,3
Francia	7,0	2,9	1,4
Alemania	2,8	2,1	2,7
Italia	6,6	2,3	1,7
Reino Unido	7,4	3,7	1,2
Economías emergentes de Europa	6,7	-1,7	1,0
Rusia	4,7	-8,5	-2,3
Ucrania	3,4	-35,0	-

Fuente: Base de datos de Perspectivas de la economía mundial (informe WEO),
abril de 2022.

IMF

THE RECOVERY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN DEMANDS URGENT REFORMS AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GREEN GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Source: World Bank

The economies of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are on the way to recovery after the COVID-19 crisis, although the aftermath of the pandemic persists and the need for dynamic, inclusive and sustainable growth is increasingly urgent, according to a new World Bank report, Consolidating the Recovery: Seizing Green Growth Opportunities.

After a 6.9 percent rebound in 2021, the region's GDP is expected to grow 2.3 percent this year and an additional 2.2 percent in 2023, with most countries managing to reverse losses from GDP that took place during the pandemic crisis. However, these modest projections place regional growth among the lowest in the world at a time when the region faces great uncertainties, such as the possible appearance of new variants of the coronavirus, an increase in inflationary pressure and

the war in Europe, which threatens the global recovery. In fact, the regional growth forecast was revised down by 0.4 percent after Russian invasion of Ukraine.

On the positive side, the vaccination process has become widespread in the region, companies are hiring again, and schools are reopening their doors. In any case, the long-term consequences of the crisis persist and need attention. The regional poverty rate rose to 27.5 percent in 2021 and remains above its pre-pandemic level of 25.6 percent, while learning losses could result in a 10 percent reduction in income. futures of millions of young people of school age. To avoid a return to the low growth rates of the 2010s, countries in the region must carry out a long-overdue series of structural reforms and take advantage of the opportunities

offered by an increasingly green world economy.

"We are in a global environment of great uncertainty, which could impact the post-pandemic recovery. However, in the long term the challenges of climate change will be even more pressing, forcing us to urgently move towards a growth agenda that is greener, more inclusive and raises productivity.", said Carlos Felipe Jaramillo, Vice President of the World Bank for Latin America and the Caribbean.

According to the report, it is imperative to put in place a series of pro-growth reforms in infrastructure, education and innovation, and the most important investments must be financed through more efficient spending and higher tax revenues. But these much-needed reforms must respond to the big events that are shaping the world economy, including climate change.

In the last twenty years, the report underlines, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean lost the equivalent of 1.7 percent of their annual GDP due to climate-related disasters, while some 5.8 million people could fall into extreme poverty in the region by 2030. Agriculture is likely to be seriously impacted, with reduced crop yields in almost all countries, while the stability of power generation will be affected by changes in the hydrological cycle.

"LAC enjoys tremendous green comparative advantages, which give it the opportunity to generate new industries and exports. It has enormous potential in renewable energies, large reserves of lithium and copper —used in green technologies— and great natural capital, all of which is increasingly valued in a world where global warming and energy

security take center stage", said William Maloney, World Bank Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean. "However, adapting to climate change and taking advantage of these opportunities to grow in a diversified and sustainable way will require improvements in the regional capacity to identify, adapt and implement new technologies".

The report lays out a policy mix that can help harness the opportunities that green growth brings. These include:

- **Pricing policies that promote the adoption of current low-carbon technologies, for example, through reforms in fossil fuel subsidies and the establishment of carbon taxes and emissions trading schemes.**
- **Credible verification mechanisms that make green price premiums possible. This will allow the export of carbon credits/offsets and take advantage of green finance markets.**
- **Improved systems to identify and adopt technologies that mitigate the region's impact on the climate and help it adapt, while taking advantage of its natural advantages to grow. Climate-smart agriculture, for example, can help countries adapt to changes in rainfall patterns.**
- **Commitments in terms of policies, credible long-term plans, complementary investments and risk reduction mechanisms, which reduce uncertainty and accelerate the adoption of technologies that promote growth while adapting to and mitigating climate change.** *L&E*

IS HYBRID PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION HERE TO STAY?

Source: CAF

When talking about the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on education, few refer to the more than 20 million affected students who were trained in the more than 30 vocational training institutions that were just taking their first steps in virtuality, according to estimates by the International Labor Organization.

As in other sectors, youth and women were the most affected; the first group, due to the rapid loss of jobs and even the closure of economic activities in which they participated more intensely, such as commerce, restaurants and services; and the second due to the excessive concentration of care responsibilities in confined homes in charge of women who, usually, also had to dedicate themselves to a part-time job or study.

These are some of the findings of the CAF publication *New normality and professional training*. Contributions from the experience of four training institutions that sought to characterize the processes of returning to attendance in a sample of four Vocational Training Institutions (VTIs) in the region: The National Industrial Learning Service SENAI in Brazil, the Service National Institute of Learning SENA in Colombia, the National Institute of Learning INA in Costa Rica and the National Institute of Professional Technical Training INFOTEP in the Dominican Republic.

"The pandemic, for professional training, can be seen as a rehearsal stage. It forced institutions to rapidly migrate to virtuality and learn how to do it while doing it. At the same time, it had another virtue, widely highlighted by those interviewed, since it catalyzed and accelerated processes of imminent change, which in normal times could take years. The learning during this period must be capitalized to travel, now in a more planned way, the path of digital transformation of professional training", said Felipe Migueis, economist and author of the study.

The technological disruption accelerated by the pandemic opened the door to virtuality, but it also made it clear that it is a process that does not apply to everyone and that national borders are no longer limiting to work or to train in various areas. Two years later, there seems to be a consensus to take the lessons learned and promote hybrid professional training.

When asked if hybrid education is here to stay, Bibiam Díaz, an education specialist at CAF - development bank of Latin America, replied: "Yes, and now that we have gradually returned to face-to-face learning, the challenge for educational institutions - including professional training - is to capitalize on the learning achieved in the incorporation of technological tools, and continue towards a process of digital

transformation in all dimensions of its management".

The Specialist added that, as stated in the report published by CAF, vocational training must accelerate the incorporation of the skills demanded by the new, highly technological labor markets, as well as undertake institutional modernization processes that improve its response capacity to companies and consolidate alliances to expand their impact.

CAF alliance with 17 universities

An example of the potential of hybrid professional training in the region is the launch of the Diplome in Governance and Public Innovation for leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean, taught by CAF in conjunction with 17 universities to contribute to institutional strengthening through the training of leaders of the region, in the effective performance of their functions, from a perspective that seeks to ensure an appropriate balance of political, economic, social, climatic and gender variables.

The Diplome is aimed at leaders who work on issues related to innovation and public management (national and subnational), private sector, civil society, etc., with a focus on strategic issues for the region such as: productive, sustainable and inclusive reactivation, transformation digital; gender and inclusion; biodiversity and climate change; innovation; circular and sustainable economy; incorporation of the 2030 SDGs in public and private practices, among others.

The Diploma has a mixed modality, in which 50% of the training is taught by CAF "online", while the remaining 50% is taught by universities in Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. *L&E*



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MARITIME LABOR CONVENTION, 2006 MARITIME LABOR CONVENTION ACHIEVED 100 RATIFICATIONS

Source: ILO

The 100th ratification of the Maritime Labor Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) was celebrated with a ceremony at the headquarters of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva.

This means that over 96 per cent of the world's gross tonnage is now covered by this internationally agreed standard, which also applies to most of the world's seafaring supplying countries.

Oman became the 100th ILO member State to ratify the Convention. The Ambassador of Oman, Idris Abdul Rahman Al Khanjari, formally presented the ratification documents on March 29.

"The accession to the MLC, 2006 is a clear confirmation of the Sultanate of Oman's long tradition as a prominent maritime nation in the region. This ratification reaffirms my country's commitment to comply with the provisions of the Convention in order to achieve decent work for seafarers. We will spare no effort to protect the labor rights of seafarers," he declared.

ILO Director General Guy Ryder, who received the instrument of ratification, described this event as a milestone.

"It is a great pleasure to receive the 100th ratification of the MLC, 2006, and to witness how the Sultanate of Oman, a nation with a long maritime tradition, is showing the way for other countries in the region. Indeed, Oman becomes the first member of the Gulf Cooperation Council to join global efforts to ensure decent work for seafarers and fair competition for shipowners. This ratification constitutes a global milestone and is a celebration of the courage of seafarers, shipowners and governments who in 2006 dared to dream of an ILO Convention that would consolidate the 70 Conventions and Recommendations previously adopted. Since then, the Maritime Labor Convention has become a global reference for the maritime industry and the fourth pillar of the international maritime regime.

The Convention, adopted by ILO member states in February 2006, brought together a large number

of existing industry labor standards that no longer reflected contemporary living and working conditions, had low levels of ratification, or had low enforcement systems. and inadequate compliance. Bringing these often very detailed instruments together into one Convention makes it easier for countries to regulate and enforce industry norms and standards in a consistent manner globally.

"We welcome Oman's ratification of the Maritime Labor Convention," said Stephen Cotton, general secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation. "As the first Gulf State to adopt the MLC, Oman extends the Convention's protections not only to its own seafarers, but also to those who enter its ports and navigate through its strategically important waters. The MLC covers more than 96 percent of the world's fleet, protecting the rights, wages and conditions of 9 out of 10 seafarers in the world and the reliability of our global supply chains".

Guy Platte, Secretary General of the International Chamber of Shipping also highlighted the importance of the ratification. "Reaching 100 signatories in a historic milestone. As we have seen throughout the pandemic and crew change crisis, governments that have ratified this Convention must keep their word and act to protect the rights of seafarers. Now more than ever it is vital that a greater number of governments ratify this important Convention and I hope that we will soon reach 150 signatories to achieve compliance with the other three pillar conventions of the International Maritime Organization: SOLAS, STCW and MARPOL".*L&E*

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THE SLOWDOWN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN DEEPENS: IN 2022 A REGIONAL GROWTH OF 1.8% ON AVERAGE IS EXPECTED

Source: ECLAC

The economies of Latin America and the Caribbean face a complex situation in 2022 due to the war between Russia and Ukraine, which opened a new source of uncertainty for the world economy and is negatively affecting global growth, estimated at 3.3%, one percentage point less than what was projected before the start of hostilities. At the regional level, the lower expected growth will be accompanied by higher inflation and a slow recovery in employment.

According to new estimates released today by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) through this press release, in the current context where the conflict in Ukraine has exacerbated inflationary problems, increased volatility and financial costs, growth is expected average of 1.8% for the region. The economies of South America will grow 1.5%, those of Central

America plus Mexico 2.3%, while those of the Caribbean will grow 4.7% (excluding Guyana).

The new figures were delivered by the Acting Executive Secretary of the organization, Mario Cimoli, to the ambassadors of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC, for its acronym in English), during the meeting they held this Wednesday at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York.

According to ECLAC, it is also expected that the dynamics of world trade will be negatively affected by the armed conflict, which would cause a decrease in external demand from Latin America and the Caribbean. The region's main trading partners - the United States (USA), China and the European Union (EU) - will see lower growth rates than expected before the conflict. In the case of the US, growth

would be 2.8% (1.2 percentage points below what was projected prior to the conflict). For China a growth of 5% is projected (0.7 percentage points less than before the hostilities) and for the EU a growth of 2.8% is expected (1.4 percentage points less than what was expected before the conflict).

The war in Ukraine also caused an increase in the prices of basic products (commodities), mainly hydrocarbons, some metals, food, and fertilizers. This price increase is on top of cost hikes seen due to supply chain disruptions and exacerbated shipping disruptions. These increases have resulted in a boost in inflation worldwide, which in some countries has reached historical highs in 2022. Due to the persistence and increase in inflation, higher increases in interest rates are expected in developed countries.

The regional commission of the United Nations adds that the monetary adjustment of the countries of the North has accentuated the tightening of global financial conditions that has been observed in recent months, causing greater volatility in the financial markets, which, together with the increase to global risk aversion as a result of the conflict in Ukraine, has hurt capital flows to emerging markets. These trends could accentuate in the coming months, especially if inflationary pressures persist in developed economies, and the central banks of these economies deepen contractionary monetary policies, including increases in monetary policy rates and the reversal of monetary stimuli (purchase of assets).

As in the world, the inflationary dynamics in Latin America and the Caribbean have accelerated, ECLAC warns. As of March 2022, it is estimated that regional inflation was 7.5%, and many central banks in the region anticipate that inflation will remain high in the remainder of the year, due to the greater uncertainty in the external context that will be has been accentuated by the war in Ukraine, especially high international energy and food prices and disruptions in global supply chains, as well as persistently high transportation costs.

In response to rise in inflation, monetary policy of the central banks of the region has become more restrictive and most of them have raised the interest rate significantly, which in most cases has reached similar levels. to those observed in 2017.

The withdrawal of the fiscal impulse is expected to accelerate in 2022, in line with the evolution of macroeconomic conditions and the increase in financing costs. Public spending would contract, reinforcing the reduction observed in 2021, reducing the contribution of fiscal policy to growth.

Meanwhile, although the labor markets are showing signs of recovery, this has been slow and incomplete. By 2022, and in line with the expected slowdown in the growth rate of the region, the rate of job creation is expected to slow down. The joint action of greater labor participation, and a low rate of job creation, will drive a rise in the unemployment rate this year, warns ECLAC. *L&E*

Environmental



PANAMA CANAL RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR DECARBONIZING ITS OPERATIONS

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In the month in which Earth Day is commemorated, Panama was present with the action of the Panama Canal, receiving recognition for decarbonizing its operations.

In the event called "First delivery of recognition of Reduce Your Footprint (RTH) Corporate- and the Declaration of the 50 First of Notional Emissions Region", the leadership of the waterway in management of the carbon footprint in the year 2021.

The goal of decarbonization, to become carbon neutral by 2030, was officially announced in April 2021, the Panama Canal began measuring its carbon footprint in 2013, to better align its operations with global emission reduction goals to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The interoceanic route reinforced these efforts in 2016 with promotion of green transits through the Green Connection Environmental Recognition Program and by creating an Emissions Calculator in

2017, a tool that not only allows shipping companies to measure their greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) per route, but also strengthens Canal's analysis of the emissions produced by its own daily operations.

Since then, the Canal has established several programs to consolidate its value and position itself as a green route for maritime trade, from offering incentives for shipping companies with environmentally friendly vessels to partnering with communities in the Panama Canal watershed to ensure the sustainable use of the natural resources of the area.

The Panama Canal has also grown to become an active participant in industry discussions and forums, led by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to usher in of a more sustainable era for global shipping. *L&E*



YOUR PERSONALITY CAN PROTECT OR AGE YOUR BRAIN, ACCORDING TO A STUDY

Claudia Cubas
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Some personality traits could be a crucial factor in some people developing mild cognitive impairment in adulthood, according to a new study.

Being more conscientious and outgoing keeps mild cognitive impairment at bay longer, while having higher levels of neuroticism increases its odds, according to a study published Monday in the academic Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.

"Personality traits reflect relatively enduring patterns of thought and behavior, which may cumulatively affect engagement in healthy and unhealthy behaviors and thought patterns throughout life," lead author Tomiko Yoneda said in a statement. Postdoctoral student in Psychology at the University of Victoria, Canada.

"The accumulation of experiences throughout life may contribute to susceptibility to certain diseases or disorders, such as mild cognitive impairment, or contribute to individual differences in the ability to cope with age-related neurological changes," he added.

While this association is seen in clinical practice, it's hard to know which is "the chicken or the egg," said Dr. Richard Isaacson, director of the Alzheimer's Prevention Clinic at the Center for Brain Health at Schmidt School of Medicine, from Florida Atlantic University.

"Some specific traits may increase risk due to a lifetime of behaviors that predispose a person to developing cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease, or there could be a more direct biological

role related to early disease pathology," he said. Isaacson, who was not involved in the study.

"Neurosis is specifically a trait that comes to mind, and previous meta-analyses have also shown this. Rumination and worry are related to smaller brain volumes," he said in an email. "It's not clear if the stress/neuroinflammation pathway is driving this. There's no biomarker for this, so it's hard to test."

Key personality traits

One study looked at the personalities of nearly 2,000 people participating in the Rush Project on Memory and Aging, a longitudinal study of Chicago-area older adults that began in 1997. The study examined the role of three key personality traits: conscientiousness, extraversion and neuroticism, in how people coped with cognitive decline in old age.

Neurosis is a personality trait that affects the way a person copes with stress. Neurotic people approach life in a state of anxiety, anger, and shyness, often seeing minor frustrations as hopelessly overwhelming or threatening.

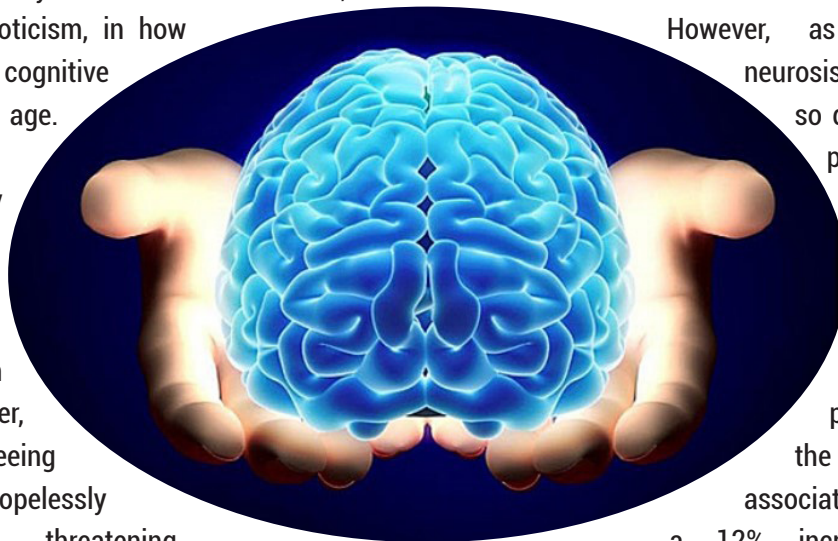
Conscientious people tend to have high levels of self-discipline and are organized and goal-directed, Yoneda said, while extroverts live with enthusiasm and are often assertive and sociable.

People with a high conscientiousness score or a low neurosis score were significantly less likely to develop mild cognitive impairment over the course of the study, Yoneda said.

Every additional six points a person scored on the conscientiousness scale was "associated with a 22% lower risk of moving from normal cognitive functioning to mild cognitive impairment," Yoneda said.

This could translate to an 80-year-old with a high degree of conscientiousness living two more years without cognitive problems, compared to those who scored low on that trait, according to the study.

According to the study, being more outgoing and socially involved seems to offer one more year of life without dementia. It also increased a person's ability to regain normal cognitive function after receiving a previous diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment, perhaps due to the benefits of socialization.



However, as levels of neurosis increased, so did the risk of progressing to cognitive decline: Every additional seven points on the scale "was associated with a 12% increased risk,"

Yoneda said, which could translate to the loss of at least one year of healthy cognition.

This study is not the first to show a connection between personality and brain function.

Previous research has shown that people who are more open to experiences, more thorough, and less neurotic have better cognitive scores on tests and experience less cognitive decline over time. *L&E*



Agenda Cultural

Por: Mariela de Sanjur
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THEATER

- Pacific Theater: tickets in panatickets.com y <https://teatropacific.net>
 - o Pinocchio El Musical, classic reinvented until May 8.
 - o Cheaters 2022, from May 3 to 22.
 - o One Two "El Show" Stand Up Comedy, on May 7.
- Nacional Theater: tickets in panatickets.com
 - o Mozarteando from April 29 to May 2.
 - El Angel Theater: tickets in panatickets.com
 - o Adventures of villains and princesses from March 13 to April 3.
 - La Plaza Theater: tickets 6258-3964 and panatickets.com
 - o The Theatrical Improvisation Show on May 9th.
 - o Boeing, Boeing 2 until May 14.
 - o El Zorro "El musical" from May 19 to 31.
 - Anita Villalaz Theater:
 - o The Seven Sins of Walking at Home on May 6, 7 and 8, tickets at verteatro.com
 - o Panama Burlesque Festival 2022 from May 12 to 13.
 - Nacional Theater: tickets in panatickets.com
 - o Mozarteando from April 29 to May 2.
 - o Youth Ballet Panama on May 4, 5 and 6.
 - o The Bridge from May 19 to 22.
 - Balboa Theater:
 - o A decent house from May 27 to 29.
 - Panama Canal Theater:
 - o Premiere of documentary "El alma de la Cuenca", a production that describes geographical and social particularities that characterize the six regions into which this area has been segmented, in order to facilitate implementation of the different socio-environmental programs aimed at its adequate management and protection of water resources.

Theater Digital Billboard: tickets www.verteatro.com

- "The Writer of Epitaphs"
- "Life's begins after a good cup of coffee"
- "God creates them and the Devil puts them together."
- "First Dates"
- "The diva"
- "Beware of the Tie"
- "The Witch SINDY NERO"
- "Dora and Prudence"
- "To bed with the thief"
- "Fourteen"

Pacific Theater digital billboard: tickets in <https://teatropacific.net>

- o "House in order"
- o "# My Domestic Life"
- o "No Forgiveness for Sins"
- o "Halloween with Polibanda and Puppets"
- o "Christmas Storytelling"
- o Livestream: "Artists by Artists 2021"

Virtual billboard of the Teatro la Estación:

- o Toxic Idyll, reservations: <https://forms.gle/5xdZP5BP5jcCoH7M8>

CONCERTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Celebration of the month of the Black Ethnicity.
- The 20th anniversary of the Kshamba Orchestra at Hotel Panama on May 28.
- Marc Anthony in "PaAlláVoy Tour" at the Rommel Fernández Stadium on May 4th. Tickets at

Panatickets.com

- Oceano Concert: Cógelo Suave tour at the Ateneo in the City of Knowledge on May 28, tickets at panatickets.com.

- Exhibition: Can Tech save the world? In the Plaza of the City of Knowledge from May 11 to June 10.
- IL DIVO Greatest Tour Hits Tour, Teatro Anayansi on May 20.

- Urban Latin Fest at the Figali Convention Center on May 28.

- May 12: Nurse's Day.
- May 12: International Mother's Day.
- May 13: Our Lady of Fatima.
- May 15 International Family Day.
- May 15: World Art Day.
- May 15: San Isidro Labrador.
- May 17: Accountant's Day.
- May 17: National Recycling Day.
- May 18: International Museum Day.
- May 18: Braids Day.
- May 21: Doctor's Day.
- May 22: The Holy Trinity.
- May 26: San Felipe Neri.
- May 30: Civic Day and Commemoration of the National Black Ethnic Group.
- May 30. Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- May 31: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. *L&E*

FAIRS

- Azuero International Fair in Villa de Los Santos from April 22 to May 2.

MUSEUMS

- MAC: WhatsApp 6598-0014
 - o Exhibition "Saving seeds in the hair" until May 15.
 - o Exhibition "The footprint of the rhea or how we transform silences".
 - o Exhibition "You cannot cover the sun with a finger" in the MAC container of Panama Pacifico.

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 1 Labor Day.
- May 1: International Mother's Day.
- May 4: Santa Monica.
- May 5: Commemoration of the Polvorín (1914), the firefighters pay tribute with a parade that begins in the Plaza 5 de Mayo.
- May 6: Saint Martin de Porres.
- May 7: Cartoonist's Day.



Alianzas alrededor del Mundo

Mitrani, Caballero, Rosso Alba, Francia, Ojam & Ruiz Moreno- ARGENTINA

Guevara & Gutiérrez S. C. Servicios Legales- BOLIVIA

Machado Associados Advogados e Consultores- BRASIL

DSN Consultants Inc- CANADÁ

Lewin & Wills Abogados- COLOMBIA

Rivera, Bolívar y Castañedas- PANAMÁ

Espinosa & Asociados- CHILE

Lawnetworker S.A. Asesores Legales- ECUADOR

Peter Byrne & Associates- ESTADOS UNIDOS

Machado Associados Advogados e Consultores- ESTADOS UNIDOS

Ortiz, Sosa, Ysusi y Cía., S.C.- MÉXICO

Estudio Rubio Leguía Normand & Asociados- PERU

Adsuar Muñoz Goyco Seda & Pérez-Ochoa, P.S.C.- PUERTO RICO

Pellerano & Herrera- REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

Alvarado & Asociados- NICARAGUA

Torres, Plaz & Araujo- VENEZUELA

Facio & Cañas- COSTA RICA

