

ANÁLISIS ECONÓMICO
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Perspectivas Económicas América Central 2019

América Central continuará siendo la subregión con mayor crecimiento en el 2019, dada su estrecha relación con el mercado estadounidense y los aún favorables precios de las materias primas.

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Perspectivas Económicas de América Central 2019

- *Las economías centroamericanas avanzarán a mayor ritmo que la región latinoamericana.*
- *La subregión se beneficiará del avance del mercado estadounidense y los aún favorables precios de las materias primas.*
- *Los países líderes serán Panamá y República Dominicana, seguidos de Honduras, Guatemala y Costa Rica.*

OTRO AÑO DE AVANCE

América Central continuará siendo la subregión con mayor crecimiento en el 2019, dada su estrecha relación con el mercado estadounidense y los aún favorables precios de las materias primas, sobre todo de los productos agrícolas.

Los países líderes serán Panamá y República Dominicana con crecimientos por encima de 5%, seguidos por Honduras, Guatemala y Costa Rica con crecimientos entre 3 y 3.5%. Así, la economía centroamericana reportará un crecimiento alrededor de 3% en el 2019, similar al registrado en 2018.

En Panamá el motor continúa siendo las grandes inversiones que se han derramado en el Canal y su consecuente efecto en actividades relacionadas (construcción, transportes, comunicaciones) aunado a la sólida actividad financiera y de servicios. El PIB panameño se acelerará de alrededor de 4% en 2018 a poco más de 5% en 2019. La estrecha relación de la economía panameña con el mercado estadounidense continúa siendo un motor impulsor de la actividad económica. Su ubicación estratégica le permite al país mantenerse como centro financiero regional y de atracción para los negocios internacionales.

Mientras tanto, la economía de República Dominicana continuará su avance sólido en el 2019, aunque con cierta moderación, que en parte responde al crecimiento más moderado en los Estados Unidos. La actividad turística continúa siendo un motor del crecimiento dominicano, aunado a la exportación de productos agrícolas.

Honduras, Guatemala y el Salvador mantendrán el ritmo de crecimiento mostrado en el 2018, apoyados por el flujo de remesas provenientes de sus trabajadores en los Estados Unidos. Esto explica en cierta medida el avance del mercado interno en estos países, básicamente por el impacto que dichos flujos tienen en familias de bajo ingreso, pero con una alta propensión al consumo. Las exportaciones de productos primarios continuarán beneficiando a sus economías.

En Costa Rica, la economía continuará avanzando a una tasa alrededor de 3%, similar a la reportada en 2018. Sin embargo, existe evidencia que indica que la actividad económica está dejando atrás la desaceleración que se inició a mediados del año pasado, por lo que la actividad tiene potencial para reportar tasas crecientes a partir del segundo trimestre del año.

El único país que se mantendrá en recesión es Nicaragua, aunque con una contracción económica menor a la caída de cerca de 4% en el 2018. La persistente turbulencia política que ha enfrentado el país, aunada a la profunda contracción que ha reportado el sector construcción desde el 2017, mantendrá a la economía nicaraguense en recesión.

ACERCA DEL AUTOR

Alfredo Coutiño es Director en Moody's Analytics, y es responsable del análisis y de los modelos y pronósticos para América Latina, así como también de la cobertura en tiempo real de las economías de la región. Alfredo es frecuentemente citado en los medios de prensa y en las publicaciones especializadas en economía y ha dado presentaciones en la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas y en la Asociación Americana de Economía. El Doctor Coutiño ha publicado artículos sobre econometría aplicada junto con el Doctor Lawrence Klein, Premio Nobel de Economía. Alfredo recibió su título de Doctor en Economía de la Universidad de Madrid, después de completar los estudios doctorales en la Universidad de Temple en Filadelfia.

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