

Box 1: A Measurement of the Level of Negative Foreign Exchange Mismatches of Real Sector Companies in Colombia in 2022 - Financial Stability Report, First Half of 2023

Download Keep in mind

The main purpose of these documents is to provide semiannual information on the vulnerabilities and risks of the financial system. The views presented and potential errors are the sole responsibility of the authors and their contents do not compromise the Board of Directors of *Banco de la República*

AUTHOR OR EDITOR Álvaro David Carmona Duarte Adrián Martínez Osorio Jorge Niño Cuervo Publication Date: Wednesday, 4 of September 2024

During 2022, Colombian companies that resorted to international financing sources faced interest rate increases and a sharp depreciation of the peso against the dollar (21%). This may have important implications for the balance sheets of real sector companies with a negative exchange rate mismatch since this raises the foreign vulnerability of the economy through its effects on investment, growth, liquidity, and solvency.

In order to typify this phenomenon and have a general overview of the private and public real sector companies that show it, this box describes the recent results of this phenomenon. The second stage of this exercise quantified the impact that the negative exchange rate mismatch could have on companies' balance sheets and on the risk they could transmit to the financial sector. For this stage, it is necessary to have the information from the 2022 financial statements. However, at the time this box was prepared that information was not available. That is why an update of the exercise will be presented in the next Financial Stability Report.

This box consists of three parts: the first is this introduction; the second describes the results with the analysis divided between private sector companies (section 2.1) and public sector companies (section 2.2), and the third corresponds to the conclusion. The main results of this overview show a growth in the negative exchange rate mismatch for real private sector companies driven mainly by higher long-term debt and it's mostly held by companies operating in the transportation, warehousing, and communications; manufacturing; commerce, and services sectors. With respect to public sector firms, there was a reduction in their negative mismatch in 2022 with respect to 2021 which was due, in particular, to the establishment of financial investments abroad by these companies in the hydrocarbon sector.