

## Remittances and transnational households. BBVA

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INTER tips ... 2006  
en información económica  
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Alejandro Neut. Remittances and Transnational households. BBVA, US Economic Research Department. October 2006, 5 p.

In recent years, a spectacular rise in the flow of remittances to most emerging economies, and to Latin America in particular, has generated plenty of analysis among researchers and heated debates among policy makers and other institutions.

The numbers are eye openers: remittances to emerging economies have increased six fold during the last 15 years. While in 1990 there was an estimated 31 billion dollars of remittances sent to developing countries, many analysts estimate that flows will surpass 200 billion dollars in 2006 (equivalent to 6.7% of imports and 7.5% of total investments in emerging economies). From this estimated total, around 60 billion are expected to flow to Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>1</sup>. Within this region, Mexico is no doubt the largest recipient, expecting around US\$25 billion dollars in remittances destined for 1.4 million Mexican households. This amount is 25% more than the US\$20.04 billion dollars received in 2005.

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