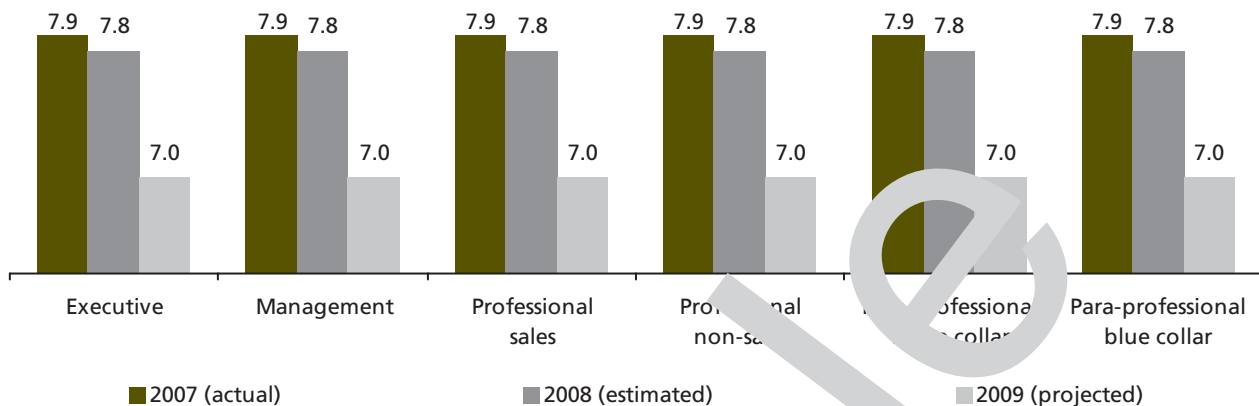


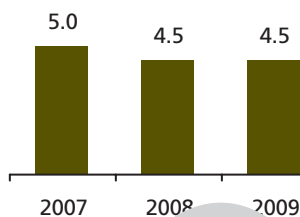
## Pay changes by career level, 2007–2009 (%)



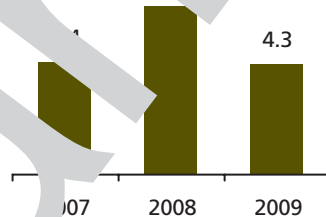
Note: Figures are median values.

## Economic trends, 2007–2009

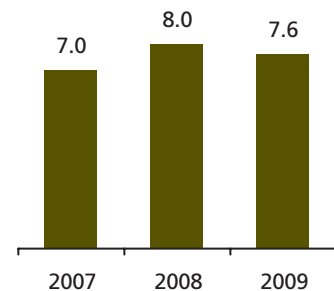
### GDP growth (%)



### Inflation (%)



### Unemployment (%)

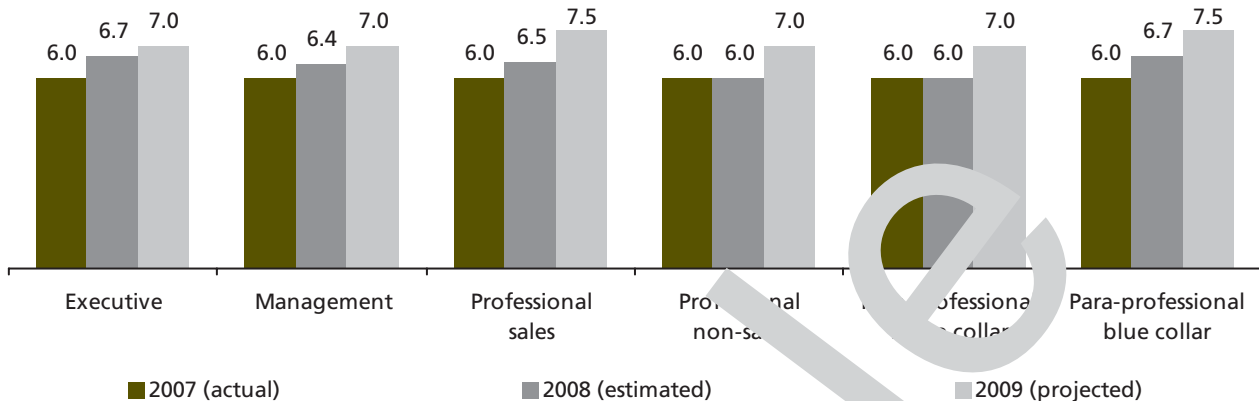


Financial analysts of the Chilean economy indicate that its economic policies will remain stable throughout 2008–2009. There is some speculation that rising inflation along with monetary tightening may lead to a down private consumption. GDP is expected to slow to a modest 4.5% in 2008, remaining at this rate throughout most of 2009 as well.

The Central Bank's move to control the peso risk is seen as compounding the inflation crisis. The bright spot in the economy continues to be the sustained demand and high prices for copper, which will help the nation post strong surpluses. Monetary tightening is also seen as a way to address rising inflation. The nation is likely to witness inflation rates in excess of 5% throughout the year, settling somewhere around the 6.6% mark towards the end of 2008.

The expansion of Chile's workforce, partly due to the growing presence of women in the labour market, has helped in controlling the employment index near the 8% mark.

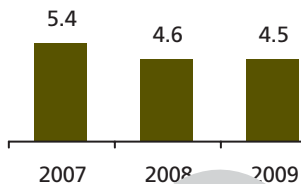
## Pay changes by career level, 2007–2009 (%)



Note: Figures are median values.

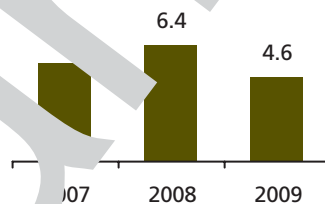
## Economic trends, 2007–2009

### GDP growth (%)



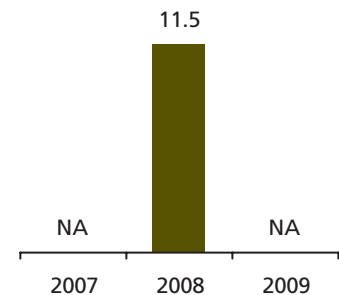
The Colombian economy continues its stable stride ever since President Alvaro Uribe came to power in 2002. With Uribe continuing in power until the end of 2010, it seems that economic policymakers will remain prudent. Growth pressures of spending could widen the public-sector deficit in 2008–2009. Following the impact of the US slowdown, the Colombian GDP will definitely slow down to 4.6% in 2008 and hover around 4.5% in 2009.

### Inflation (%)



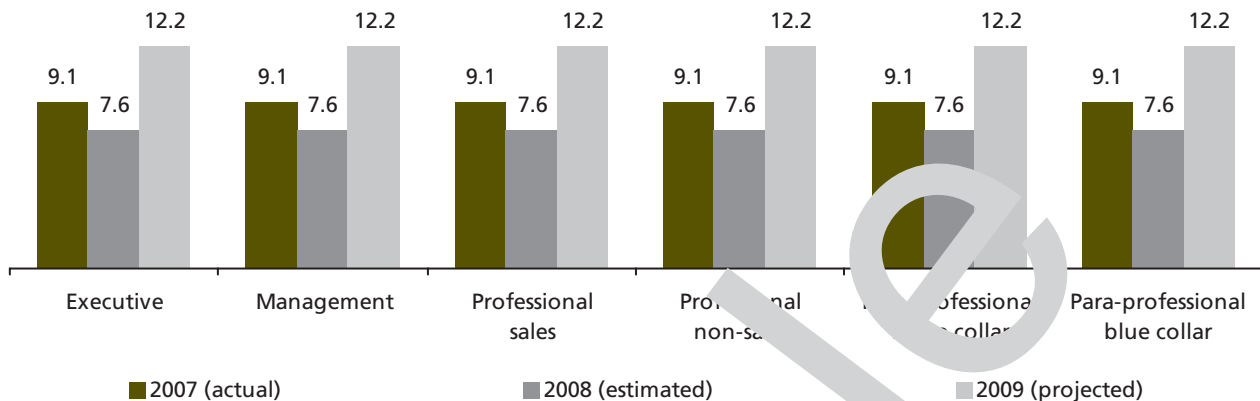
The Central Bank of Colombia has maintained its intervention to check inflation. The inflation rate for this economy continues well above its target range of 3.5–5.0% for the current year. Rising food prices, together with growing domestic demand, will continue to exert inflationary pressures this year. Indications suggest that inflation will hover around the 6.4% mark in 2008 and decrease to 4.6% in 2009.

### Unemployment (%)



The unemployment rate in Colombia has constantly decreased from 20% to 11% since President Alvaro Uribe came to power. The continuous growth of local demand and the improved macroeconomic indicators have increased local production and direct foreign investments, and thus the demand for work labour. There is no official or unofficial forecast for this indicator.

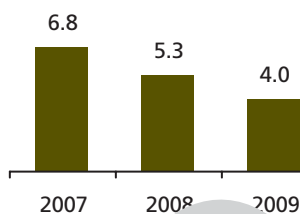
## Pay changes by career level, 2007–2009 (%)



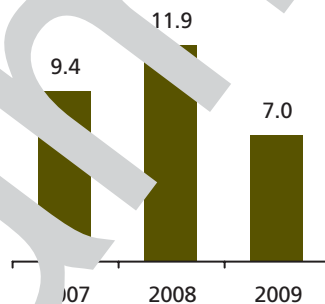
Note: Figures for 2007 and 2008 are median values. Figures for 2009 are average (mean) values.

## Economic trends, 2007–2009

### GDP growth (%)



### Inflation (%)



### Unemployment (%)



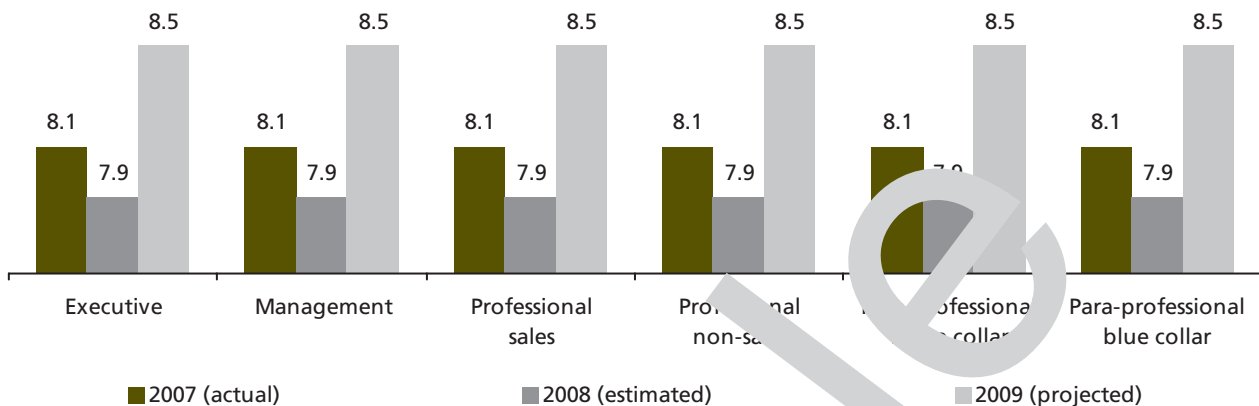
The pace of economic reforms continues even while preparations are underway to meet a Central American Free Trade Agreement. However, since Costa Rica is heavily dependent on the US market for 35–40% of its total exports, a slowdown in the US will definitely impair growth forecasts and prospects in Costa Rica this year. Financial experts indicate even slower GDP growth for 2009.

High inflationary pressures have been addressed to a large extent over the last three years, effecting a reduction in inflation from a high of 14% in 2005 to 9.4% in 2006, it continues to remain much above target levels. High fuel prices and increasing commodity prices will remain a challenge in reducing inflation further this year. Estimates indicate that inflation could remain at 7% in 2009.

Costa Rica has all the essentials to attract multinationals to begin their business operations. A huge pool of skilled workers and lower tax rates make it an attractive destination for outsourcing. The unemployment rate for 2007 was 4.8% and it is estimated to be at similar levels in 2008, around 4.9%. The government is planning to implement reforms to improve the country's education system during 2008–2009, which could improve employment prospects over the longer term.

# Dominican Republic

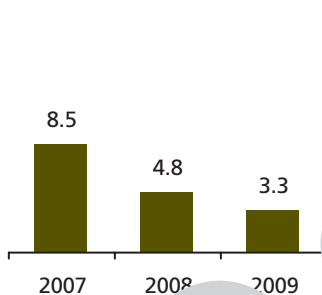
## Pay changes by career level, 2007–2009 (%)



Note: Figures for 2007 and 2008 are median values. Figures for 2009 are average (mean) values.

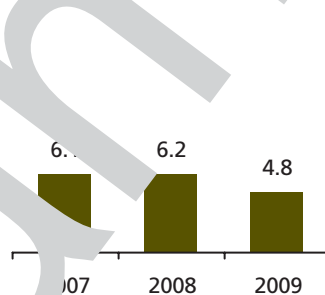
## Economic trends, 2007–2009

### GDP growth (%)



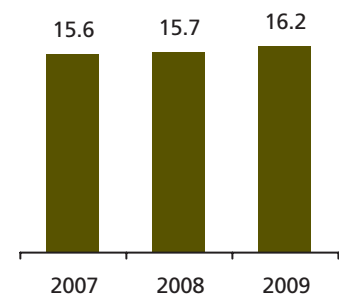
The Dominican Republic is heavily dependent on the US economy, and hence the nation is likely to bear the brunt of the US slowdown for most of 2008. GDP is set to slide down to 4.8% this year even as economic policy formulation moves towards fiscal consolidation and improvements in the financial sector, energy sector and governance. This slowdown is also likely to make further fiscal consolidation challenging.

### Inflation (%)



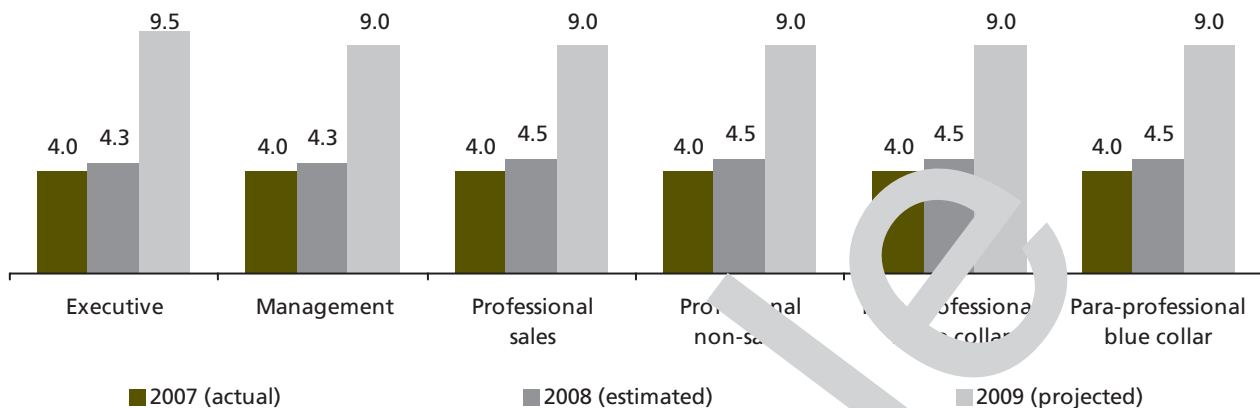
After modest 4.2% inflation rates in 2005, current rates have shot up to the six-point range in the current year. The rate should subside to 4.8% in 2009 even as the current weakening exchange rate will further impact the widening current-account deficit.

### Unemployment (%)



After having decreased in 2007 compared to a year earlier in the light of the strong economic growth, the unemployment rate in the Dominican Republic is expected to remain at similar levels in 2008, averaging 15.8%. A small increase is forecast for 2009 with the unemployment rate reaching 16.2%.

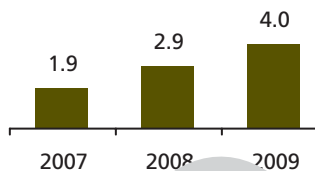
## Pay changes by career level, 2007–2009 (%)



Note: Figures for 2007 and 2008 are median values. Figures for 2009 are average (mean) values.

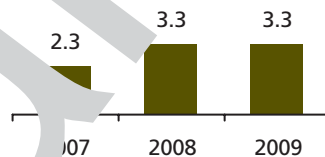
## Economic trends, 2007–2009

### GDP growth (%)



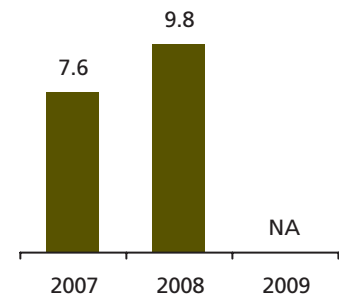
During 2006, declining foreign investments, chiefly in the consumer goods and pharmaceuticals sectors, had decreased GDP growth. It is not likely to pick up in much 2008, with GDP expected to be around a very modest 2.9%. Adverse conditions and the US economic slow-down are further expected to keep growth at this value in 2008.

### Inflation (%)



Inflation is expected to increase from last year, mainly due to a rise in food prices and a slow increase in domestic consumption. This trend could be ameliorated through “dollarisation” as well as huge petrol subsidies. Money inflow into the economy from Ecuadorians living abroad continues to rise, but it remains to be seen whether this can prevent the erosion of the current-account surplus risks.

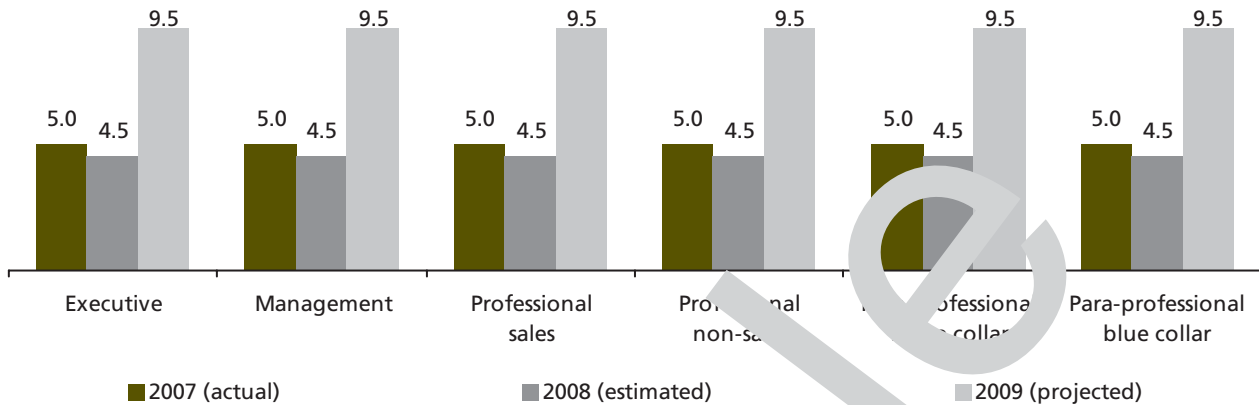
### Unemployment (%)



The Ecuadorian labour market remains volatile as a result of recent measures taken by the government, impairing both hourly work and subcontracting systems.

The government predicts unemployment to rise as a result of the reaction of companies faced with new conditions imposed, which significantly increase the local labour and operational costs.

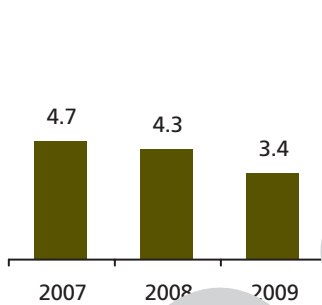
## Pay changes by career level, 2007–2009 (%)



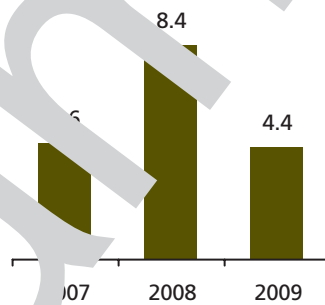
Note: Figures for 2007 and 2008 are median values. Figures for 2009 are average (mean) values.

## Economic trends, 2007–2009

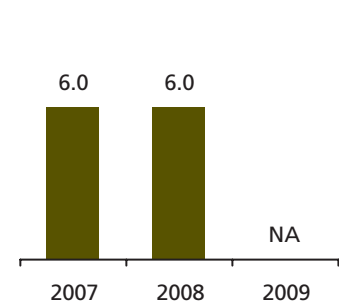
### GDP growth (%)



### Inflation (%)



### Unemployment (%)



The beginning of 2008 has seen positive economic activity in El Salvador. However, the Central Bank has decided to cut down overall expectations of GDP growth during the current year to 3%, largely due to the US slowdown and its sequential impact on the economy. Growth is expected to slow to 3.4% in 2009 due to a downward trend in consumer spending as well as investments.

Rising oil prices remain a major challenge in all attempts to quell the risk of rising inflation. This, together with the upward pressure of food prices, will keep inflation at a relatively high rate throughout the current year. Attempts on the part of the government to reduce the fiscal stimulus are unlikely to remediate rising inflationary pressures significantly.

El Salvador continues to face a labour shortage due to increased emigration of skilled and unskilled workers to the US. In 2007, unemployment rates were 6% and are estimated to be the same in 2008.