

Colombian peso closes at record low on political uncertainty

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BOGOTA, Nov 1 (Reuters) - The Colombian peso closed below 5,000 to the dollar for the first time on Tuesday as investors await decisions by the Federal Reserve and amid local uncertainty over the leftist government's economic policies.

The peso's plunge places it in stark contrast to other Latin American currencies like Mexico's peso and Brazil real, which are among the best performing currencies globally against the dollar this year, though political and economic risks exist for both.

Colombia's peso fell 1.54% to 5,014 to the dollar in a highly volatile session.

Leftist President Gustavo Petro, who took office in August, has pledged to raise an additional \$4 billion in tax revenue next year through higher taxes on individuals and oil and coal, drawing industry criticism.

The tax reform, which would levy additional duties of up to 10% on coal and up to 15% on crude oil when average prices go above a certain level, is set to be voted on this week.

The peso has been further damaged by uncertainty over whether Petro, who was elected on promises to transition away form hydrocarbons, will reverse a ban on new oil contracts

And last week, state-controlled oil company Ecopetrol replaced the head of its board of directors, just one day after his appointment, in a further blow to the peso.

"The strong increases in the interest rates on the part of the Fed, the risk of a coming recession and the loss of confidence because of political uncertainty have resulted in a depreciation of the currency," In On Capital said in a note.

Foreign investors have been influenced by "mixed signals from some members of the government with respect to the protection of investment in the country", it added.

Finance Minister Jose Antonio Ocampo attributed the peso's fall to outside factors.

"Everything from yesterday and today is a product of uncertainty over how much the Federal Reserve will raise the interest rate, and not just that, but the reaction of other rates...the 10-year rates, which are more relevant for us," Ocampo told journalists.

The peso has depreciated 25% over the course of 2022. (Reporting by Nelson Bocanegra and Carlos Vargas, writing by Julia Symmes Cobb, editing by Angus MacSwan and Mark Heinrich)

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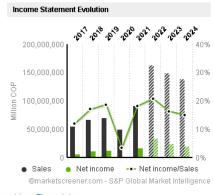
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Trends	Bullish	Bearish	Bearish	

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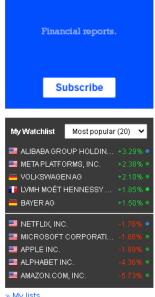
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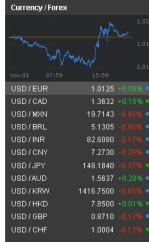
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