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Working Paper Graphing and measuring Covid's first wave impact on the Bolivian economy

Documento de Trabajo, No. 202104

Provided in Cooperation with: Instituto de Investigaciones Socio-Económicas (IISEC), Universidad Católica Boliviana

Suggested Citation: Barja Daza, Gover (2021) : Graphing and measuring Covid's first wave impact on the Bolivian economy, Documento de Trabajo, No. 202104, Universidad Católica Boliviana, Instituto de Investigaciones Socio-Económicas (IISEC), La Paz

This Version is available at: https://hdl.handle.net/10419/259524

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Por:

Gover Barja Junio, 2021

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Citación sugerida: Barja, G. (2021). *Graphing and measuring Covid's first wave impact on the Bolivian economy* (IISEC-UCB Documento de Trabajo 202104). La Paz, Bolivia: Instituto de Investigaciones Socio-económicas. Disponible en: *http://www.iisec.ucb.edu.bo/assets_iisec/publicacion/202104.pdf*.

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GRAPHING AND MEASURING COVID'S FIRST WAVE IMPACT ON THE BOLIVIAN ECONOMY

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June 22, 2021

Abstract

The Bolivian monthly index of economic activity along with ARMA models are used in an attempt to graph and measure the impact of Covid's pandemic on the Bolivian economy. The accumulated difference between the observed and counterfactual values show an overall 12.6% loss of economic activity in the 10 months from February to November 2020 of the first Covid wave, with a tilted W-shape short-run recovery just before the beginning of the second wave in December 2020. Break-down into the twelve Bolivian economic sectors show wide heterogeneity in depth of impact and speeds of recovery during the same period.

Keywords: Covid-19, Interrupted time series analysis, ARMA-GARCH models, Bolivia. **Classification JEL:** C22, O54, E32, E37, Y10

1 Introduction

News about the pandemic originated by the coronavirus Covid-19 reached Bolivia in February 2020. The first two confirmed cases were registered in March 10 and the first three deaths were registered in March 28. By March 17 the government declared a national strict quarantine, extended twice and ending May 10th. The so called "dynamic and conditioned" or simply flexible quarantine began May 11, extended twice and ended August 31. Post confinement recommendations began immediately after in September. Figure 1 shows the entire period of the shock to the Bolivian society and economy, beginning the moment of the Covid's news arrival in February and into the average daily change of Covid cases in its first wave, with peaks in July and August, to its ending by November 30th with an accumulated 144,708 cases (8,957 deaths, 121,702 recovered and 14,049 active). The pandemic's second wave began immediately after in December and continued over into 2021. This article concentrates only on the first wave's 10-month shock to the economy from February to November 2020.



Figure 1: Daily average number of Covid-19 cases in 2020

Source: Bolivia segura.

Government decisions at the national and subnational levels, as well as decisions by civil society down to every family and person, all subject to their own restrictions, initially sought self-protection to avoid contagion and loss of life, particularly from March to May. However, the very same decisions had a predictable but inevitable secondary effect, that of loss of economic activity, which in most cases meant loss of household income particularly of the self-employed and in many cases it meant unemployment. The government tried to alleviate the loss of income from the strict quarantine with several cash transfers, however it soon became evident not only that the amounts transferred would not be enough but the transfers themselves would not be a financially sustainable strategy. Complementary policies were also issued directed at alleviating the costs of producing and living which helped in sharing of the welfare loss with other economic actors (banks and rentiers) at least for some time. Later decisions by government, organized civil society and individuals, particularly from June to the end of the year, were to rather let each search for their own best equilibrium between health and work. Decisions that changed rapidly based on the observed behavior of the pandemic itself. Simultaneously there were a myriad of other actions by subnational governments and organized civil society, as well as many stories of adaptation, entrepreneurship and collaboration. This brief description of how Bolivian society reacted to the pandemic is an important part of the same shock to the economy contained within Figure 1 during the 10 months of the first wave from February to November.

Internationally the Covid pandemic affected all countries, directly and indirectly, as each reacted in different ways to find their own best equilibrium between protecting their citizens' health from cross border contagion and at the same time maintaining supply chains and different degrees of trade activity which adapted to changing policy conditions connected to the evolution of Covid in each country and throughout the world, therefore affecting global travel, transportation, prices and trade. This is also part of the shock experienced by the Bolivian economy, like all other countries, expressed in drops in the value of exports and imports as well as changes in capital flows.

Summarizing, the Covid pandemic shock is understood here as comprising both, Covid's contagion dynamics itself as well as fear of contagion dynamics. The latter expressed in world reactions as well as within country reactions by government, civil society, families and individuals, which in turn have impacted the functioning of the economy in every country along with impacts on all society's affairs beyond economics. This papers begins with the belief that the net economic effect from the Covid pandemic shock has been ultimately captured in the Bolivian Monthly General Economic Activity Index (IGAE in Spanish), published by the Bolivian National Institute of Statistics (INE in Spanish). Based on this index, the purpose of this paper is first to graph and measure the magnitude of Covid's impact on the overall Bolivian economic activity and second, graph and measure the magnitude of Covid's impact on every economic sector.

The methodology conceives Covid as a natural experiment and analyzes it from a time series perspective by seeking to measure the distance between the time series of the observed economic activity with Covid, to the time series of its counterfactual without Covid. The counterfactual is built from a forecast of economic activity without Covid using ARMA-type time series models based on all past information, previous to Covid, therefore producing a counterfactual average series within confidence intervals. The objective is modest in the sense that the resulting impact measure includes all changes in the macro and micro economy caused by Covid as well as all policy and society's reactions to Covid, without identifying which actions worked better than others or discussing pre-Covid conditions or governance quality by economic sectors, but rather to simply record the graphical behavior of both the observed and the counterfactual series for its visualization and compute their accumulated distance as a measure of the impact's magnitude.

Key results are that the difference between the observed and average counterfactual time series show a 12.64% loss in overall economic activity during the first wave's 10-month period from February to November, with a tilted W-shape short-run recovery. The breakdown by the economy's twelve sectors show the communications and agricultural sectors did not experience any impact but rather were highly resilient. While the rest on average simply lost, with minerals -34.94% and construction -34.49% the most damaged, followed by transportation -20.91% and restaurants & hotels -20.68%, manufactures - 14.79% and commerce -12.04%, finance -9.53% and utilities -9.12%. The impact on the oil & gas and government sectors could not be determined. A high recovery rate across sectors did happen however

characterized by heterogeneity in the sense that most did not follow the overall economy recovery shape, but rather followed different speeds, times and magnitudes thus affecting economic connections across sectors to some unknown degree. The question of how prepared was each sector to quickly change to its digital counterpart or how much digital adaptation was able to occur during the pandemic as well as work-health decisions within each sector are probably key to understand the heterogeneous recovery towards the end of the first wave.

Besides the monthly IGAE data, INE also publishes the monthly rates of variation and the monthly accumulated rates of variation for the overall economy and all economic sectors. However, the accumulated measures produced in this paper differ in three fundamental ways from those produced by INE. First, the reference for computing variations is the counterfactual rather than the observed data 12 months ago, noticing that both respect the natural seasonality in the data resulting from the Bolivian economic structure. Second, the counterfactual for 2020 is produced from a forecast based on all past information, therefore it also captures the decreasing growth tendency that would have been observed in 2020 assuming no fundamental change in the economic context and policies. Up to 2019 this context was characterized by a twin fiscal and balance of payments deficit resulting from the end of the economic boom since 2013, parallel to the end of high international commodity prices. Similar assumption is implicitly made by INE but applied to the observed data 12 months ago as its reference, therefore not including the growth tendency that would have been observed in 2020. Third, INE's accumulated rates of variation are not provided within confidence intervals. As a result, the average numbers produced in this paper tend to be higher compared to those produced by INE with key additional gains, that of a better graphical visualization of the impact's cumulative magnitude and monthly evolution in relation to the overall economy, by economic sectors and within confidence intervals.

Besides this introduction, section 2 explains the data and methodology in more detail while sections 3 and 4 present the pandemic's impact measure and graphical visualization by economic sectors and overall economy. The last section summarizes along with final comments.

2 Methodology and data

A natural experiment is an event or intervention whose circumstances were not under the control or manipulation of researchers, but where interpretation of evidence and causal inference must be drawn with care due to potential lack of randomness (Craig et al., 2012). This perspective of a natural experiment requires pre shock and post shock observations, where a clear identification of comparable treatment and control groups are necessary. The Covid-19 pandemic is unique and can be understood as a natural experiment, however, given that its effects on the world economy has been so large, wide and profound at the same time, it has simply affected everyone and everything directly or indirectly by generating a cascade of multiple interacting changes in world society, well beyond the purely economic sphere but including it. For this reason, a pure control group does not really exist under the traditional randomized control trial perspective particularly if the objective is to measure the overall economic impact of Covid for a country.

As an alternative this paper's proposal is to adopt a time series perspective. When the time series of an aggregate economic variable like IGAE experiences a shock it automatically generates two paths, the

one affected by the shock and expressed in the actual or observed behavior of the series and the one that the time series would have followed if the shock did not happen or counterfactual. The counterfactual is obtained from the best forecast of the series based on all its past information. The cumulative distance overtime between these two series would be the natural measure of the shock's impact. This way of computing impact has the advantage of not requiring that the shock itself be expressed in a complex set of treatment-type variables that must enter a regression equation.

Three important caveats are needed to complement the argument. First, for true impact attribution it must be observed that no other unrelated shocks impacted the same time series at the same time (like the November 2019 political shock that could have been carried over to 2020) or at least it should be possible for those other shocks to be controlled away. Second, the effect of all planned or unplanned changes in society's behavior directly or indirectly related to the original shock (Covid pandemic), are captured within the outcome variable IGAE and therefore are already considered part of the impact measure without need to separate the contribution of each and every change. Third, time series must be long enough and their characteristics of non-stationarity and autocorrelation in the mean and variance must be considered and treated with care for reliable average measurements and their confidence intervals.

This perspective falls within the quasi-experimental class of interrupted time series (ITS) analysis mostly used in health policy research (Hudson et al, 2019), but where the problems of non-stationarity, autocorrelation and seasonality must be taken into account (Schaffer et al, 2021). However, instead of computing impact as changes in the level and trend of the outcome variable, the proposal here is to compute the accumulated distance between the observed and counterfactual series.

This paper uses ARMA-type models to forecast a key economic time series based on all of its past information, previous to the external shock, in order to obtain the counterfactual path or time series under the assumption of no shock. ARMA models were popularized by Box and Jenkins (1970) and Box, Jenkins and Reinsel (1994) for time series analysis and forecasting. A key advantage of ARMA-type models is their ability to capture the natural regularities in a time series by way of the autocorrelation and moving average contained in it as well as seasonal operators. Other advantage is the possibility to include deterministic-type variables like seasonal dummies that can also help capture natural regularities contained in the data or in some cases explain extreme observations, and tendency-type variables that can help capture natural linear or quadratic trends in the data. An additional advantage of these type of models is their natural expansion to GARCH-type models in case observed volatility in the time series is an issue. ARCH and GARCH models where originally introduced by Engle (1982) and Bollerslev (1986) respectively, and have evolved into many different variants over time.

The following is a representation of the basic ARMA (p, q) – GARCH (r, s) model:

$$y_{t} = \gamma + \sum_{i=1}^{p} \rho_{i} y_{t-i} + \varepsilon_{t} + \sum_{j=1}^{q} \alpha_{j} \varepsilon_{t-j}$$
$$\varepsilon_{t} \sim N(0, \sigma_{t}^{2})$$

$$\sigma_t^2 = heta + \sum_{i=1}^r eta_i arepsilon_{t-i}^2 + \sum_{j=1}^s \delta_j \sigma_{t-j}^2$$

The first expression is an ARMA model or equation of a stationary time series y_t against a linear combination of its own past p periods plus a linear combination of the innovation term q periods past; ε_t is the innovation term or regression residuals and γ is a constant term but can also include deterministic seasonal dummy variables and other explanatory variables. The ARMA process provides a way to model the evolution of the conditional mean of y_t . Assuming the regression residuals ε_t are normally distributed with zero mean and a time varying variance σ_t^2 , then the second expression is a GARCH model or equation of the time varying variance σ_t^2 against a linear combination of its own past s periods plus a linear combination of squared residuals ε_t^2 for r periods past. The GARCH process provides a way to model the evolution of the conditional wariance of y_t . The combined ARMA (p, q) – GARCH (r, s) is a way to model the conditional mean and conditional variance of a time series together and the model itself is estimated simultaneously by maximum likelihood methods.

The econometric strategy in the context of the IGAE times series of the overall economy index and the sector indexes that compose it, in a first stage, is to estimate ARMA-GARCH models for the stationary transformation of each of them individually in search for parsimonious models with highest R-square and normally distributed white noise residuals in their mean and variance, and in a second stage use each model to forecast the levels of each time series index for the period of interest. This forecast would be referred to as the counterfactual or without Covid. It is expected that each sector and overall indexes will produce specific models adjusted to capture own seasonal and structural particularities, however it is expected that most models will not require estimation of a GARCH. The minimum mean squared error forecast is the conditional expectation and forecasts into the future are computed recursively based on the model equation. A prediction interval is also desirable for each point forecast to establish significance.

In a third stage the strategy is to produce a graphical representation of the counterfactual against the observed times series index with Covid to visualize the magnitude of Covid's impact as well as against the graph of variations of Covid cases (with planned and unplanned society's reaction within it) for graphical visualization of the moments of greater impact. The measure of Covid's impact itself is computed as a percent loss of economic activity which would be the difference between the observed and counterfactual time series in levels applied to each sector and overall indexes during the period of the first wave from February to November 2020.

Regarding data source, the IGAE time series (overall and by sectors) can be freely downloaded within INE's webpage (link provided in the references), which also contains its methodology and sources of information.

3 Covid's impact on overall economic activity

The monthly rhythm and evolution of the Bolivian General Economic Activity Index (IGAE) is presented in Figure 2 showing some characteristics: First, it has been growing at an annual average rate of 3.95% for the five-year period from 2015-2019, although with a decreasing tendency since 2013 as shown by the monthly growth rate of a Hodrick-Prescott smoothed IGAE series (HP rate) up to December 2019. Second, the index follows an annual regularity or seasonality with January, February and March the months of low activity, from April to August the months of intermediate activity, and from September to December the months of high activity. Third, there is a noticeable significant break in its tendency and seasonal pattern starting February 2020 caused by Covid-19. This last part of the series is referred to as IGAE with Covid.



Figure 2: IGAE's behavior and the 2020 Covid disruption

Source: INE.

The question is how the IGAE series would have looked like or would have behaved if Covid-19 didn't happen. This is the counterfactual series needed only for the period from February to November 2020. Following the econometric strategy presented above, the order of integration and estimated model for the global IGAE index are presented in Annex A and B. Figure 3 is the result of the exercise where the yellow dashed line shows the first wave of monthly variations of confirmed Covid cases, reaching its maximum between the months of July and August, while the previous months from mid-March to early May were of strict quarantine. The blue line corresponds to the evolution of IGAE as it was observed and registered by INE, including the November 2019 political conflict and the pandemic experience from February to the end of November 2020 when the first wave ended (the second wave began immediately after in December 2020). While the orange line is a forecast from November 2019 to November 2020 representing how the IGAE index would have behaved if the political conflict nor the pandemic had occurred. The forecast begins in November 2019 rather than February 2020 in order to eliminate the potential contamination from the November political conflict that impacted the economy that month and whose economic consequences might have been carried over onto 2020.



Figure 3: Covid's impact on overall IGAE

The visual difference between the orange and blue lines shows the magnitude of the pandemic's impact on the Bolivian economic activity for the period of ten months between February and November 2020. The series with Covid (blue) changed starting February, showing a significant fall of economic activity particularly between April and May during the strict quarantine; a fall in a magnitude not experienced before in the history of the series. While the orange line within dotted confidence intervals is the counterfactual series that reproduces with precision the seasonal behavior and tendency that would have occurred without Covid, taking into account all past information of IGAE. The short-run recovery behavior began U-shaped, but because of the setback between June to August, when Covid's contagion expanded and reached its highest peaks of registered cases, it ended with a W-shape tilted and prolonged to the right. The figure also shows the economic impact of the political conflict in November 2019 with an immediate V-shape recovery. The fact that the observed and counterfactual are basically the same in December 2019 and January 2020 provides some confidence that the rest of the observed series is free from that contamination during 2020, at least in the economic sphere but certainly was not so in the political sphere.

Computation of the impact itself is obtained by subtracting the blue line from the orange line; the area between what actually happened compared to what would have happened without Covid. This way of measuring impact is conceptually different to subtracting today's observed value respect to its value 12 months ago. This last would not be a measure of impact since it does not take into account that the economy would have continued growing during 2020 at the rhythm and tendency it was growing given the domestic and international context and the economy's structure. Table 1 shows the accumulated IGAE would have grown up to 3,315.64 points but grew only up to 2,896.66 which establishes the pandemic's impact at an average accumulated 12.64% loss of economic activity in the period between February to November 2020.

Note: Variations in Covid cases are measured on the right axis. Source: Own.

Month	IGAE with Covid	IGAE without Covid	Points difference	Accumulated rate
20M2	278.23	283.30 (±2*4.03)	-5.07	-1.79%
20M3	302.75	319.37 (±2*4.82)	-16.62	-3.60%
20M4	238.71	336.12 (±2*5.40)	-97.41	-12.69%
20M5	242.28	330.57 (±2*5.65)	-88.29	-16.34%
20M6	280.16	337.23 (±2*5.99)	-57.07	-16.46%
20M7	276.10	323.02 (±2*6.09)	-46.92	-16.14%
20M8	280.43	329.19 (±2*6.48)	-48.76	-15.94%
20M9	319.77	352.80 (±2*7.17)	-33.03	-15.05%
20M10	344.61	358.90 (±2*7.56)	-14.29	-13.72%
20M11	333.62	345.14 (±2*8.45)	-11.52	-12.64%
Accumulated	2,896.66	3,315.64 (±2*61.63)	-418.98	
		Pandemic's impact \Rightarrow	-12.64%	
	(95%	confidence interval) \Rightarrow	(-15.77%, -9.26%)	

 Table 1: Computing Covid-19's impact on overall IGAE

Note: In parenthesis $\pm 2 * S.E.$ is a 95% confidence interval. Source: Own.

4 Covid's impact by major economic sectors

The IGAE index is also a weighted average of 12 major sectors of economic activity, each with own index, therefore it is possible that all sectors might have experienced different degrees of economic activity loss due to the pandemic, different compared to the global, and it is also possible that some sectors might have benefited or at least where more resilient than others. Following the same methodological approach of comparing observed behavior to its counterfactual from February to November 2020, this section presents Covid's impact sector by sector. In every case forecasts begin in November 2019 rather than February 2020 in order to eliminate the potential contamination of the counterfactual from the November 2019 political conflict that impacted the economy that month which might have been carried over to 2020 and impacted each sector differently.

4.1 Agriculture

The monthly rhythm and evolution of economic activity in the Bolivian agricultural sector is followed by the Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing index (AGRO for short) within the IGAE index. Figure 4 presents the AGRO index time series showing it was growing at an annual average rate of 5.61% for the 5-year period from 2015-2019, following an annual seasonality with March and April the months of highest economic activity and December and January the months of lowest economic activity. In this case there is no noticeable break in its tendency nor seasonality pattern since February 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic began. Nevertheless, that part of the series is called AGRO with Covid.



Figure 4: AGRO's behavior and the 2020 Covid's disruption

How the AGRO series would have behaved if Covid-19 didn't happen? The order of integration and estimated time series model for the agricultural sector are presented in Annex A and B. Figure 5 is the result of the exercise where the blue line corresponds to the evolution of the agricultural sector with Covid and the orange line corresponds to the sector without Covid or counterfactual, within dotted confidence intervals. The visual difference between the two lines show the small to negligible magnitude of the pandemic's impact on the agricultural sector for the period of ten months from February to November 2020, with a clear difference concentrated only in May and June but fully recovering by July, while the months of March and April of highest sector activity were basically not affected by the strict quarantine months. The November 2019 political event didn't affect this sector either.

Table 2 shows the accumulated AGRO sector index would have grown up to 2,991.44 points but grew only up to 2,917.97 which establishes the pandemic's impact at an accumulated average of 2.46% loss of economic activity for the period between February to November 2020. However, the range of the confidence interval rather suggests the pandemic didn't have an impact on this sector, thus the agricultural sector was highly resilient during the pandemic's first wave.



Figure 5: Covid's impact on the agricultural sector

Note: Variations in Covid cases are measured on the right axis. Source: Own.

Month	AGRO with Covid	AGRO without Covid	Points difference	Accumulated rate
20M2	208.86	213.69 (±2*5.56)	-4.83	-2.26%
20M3	407.30	408.14 (±2*11.02)	-0.84	-0.91%
20M4	406.85	412.64 (±2*11.57)	-5.49	-1.11%
20M5	283.82	306.61 (±2*8.94)	-22.79	-2.55%
20M6	306.63	329.09 (±2*9.93)	-22.46	-3.40%
20M7	231.65	237.02 (±2*7.36)	-5.37	-3.26%
20M8	220.79	220.62 (±2*7.07)	0.17	-2.91%
20M9	291.91	295.51 (±2*9.70)	-3.60	-2.70%
20M10	301.10	305.23 (±2*10.30)	-4.13	-2.55%
20M11	259.06	262.90 (±2*11.39)	-3.84	-2.46%
Accumulated	2,917.97	2,991.44 (±2*92.83)	-73.47	
		Covid's impact \Rightarrow	-2.46%	
		(Confidence interval) \Rightarrow	(-8.16%, +4.00%)	

Table 2: Computing Covid's impact on the agricultural sector

Note: In parenthesis $\pm 2 * S.E.$ is a 95% confidence interval. Source: Own.

4.2 Oil and Gas

The monthly rhythm and evolution of economic activity in the Bolivian oil and gas sector is followed by the Crude Oil and Natural Gas index (GAS for short) within the IGAE index. Figure 6 presents the GAS time series showing two characteristics: First, it has been decreasing at an annual rate of 5.25% for the five-year period from 2015-2019, following an annual seasonality, at least up to 2017, with November the month of highest economic activity and February and April the months of lowest economic activity. Second, the seasonal pattern had already broken since 2018 and became more volatile during 2019 therefore is not possible to visually know much of the higher volatility observed in 2020 might be due to the pandemic since February 2020. Nevertheless, that part of the series is called GAS with Covid.



Figure 6: GAS's behavior and the 2020 Covid's disruption

How the GAS series would have behaved if Covid-19 didn't happen? The order of integration and estimated time series model for the oil and gas sector are presented in Annex A and B. The observed volatility of the series since 2018 has made it hard to obtain a reliable model in this case, affecting forecast accuracy. Figure 7 is the result of the exercise where the blue line corresponds to the evolution of the oil & gas sector with Covid and the orange line corresponds to the oil & gas sector without Covid or counterfactual. However, the range of the dotted confidence interval produced for the counterfactual series is too wide and contains the observed series itself, therefore, except for the month of April, it is not possible to reliably comment on the visual difference between the orange and blue lines. It is not possible to conclude anything about the November political event either. Table 3 shows the accumulated oil & gas sector index would have increased up to an average of 3,509.67 points, but because of the pandemic it only increased to 3,115.91 points, resulting in an accumulated average loss of 11.22% of economic activity in the period between February to November 2020. However, the confidence interval for this average is too wide and contains zero, reflecting again the fact that the model is not able to accurately distinguish a difference between the observed and counterfactual series. In this case the pandemic's impact on the oil & gas sector cannot be determined. More information is needed.



Figure 7: Covid's impact on the oil and gas sector

Note: Variations in Covid cases are measured on the right axis. Source: Own.

Month	GAS with Covid	GAS without Covid	Points difference	Accumulated rate
20M2	270.84	317.95 (±2*39.42)	-47.11	-14.82%
20M3	275.60	345.76 (±2*48.05)	-70.16	-17.67%
20M4	177.83	289.23 (±2*42.96)	-111.40	-24.00%
20M5	267.57	346.85 (±2*54.08)	-79.28	-23.69%
20M6	321.38	356.96 (±2*59.07)	-35.58	-20.74%
20M7	344.75	361.11 (±2*64.38)	-16.36	-17.84%
20M8	352.18	364.27 (±2*68.65)	-12.09	-15.62%
20M9	334.41	370.38 (±2*73.12)	-35.97	-14.82%
20M10	360.23	376.38 (±2*77.86)	-15.97	-13.55%
20M11	411.12	380.95 (±2*82.39)	-30.17	-11.22%
Accumulated	3,115.91	3,509.67 (±2*609.97)	-393.76	
		Covid's impact \Rightarrow	-11.22%	
	(95%	confidence interval) \Rightarrow	(-34.12%, +36.08%)	

Table 3: Computing Covid's impact on the oil and gas sector

Note: In parenthesis $\pm 2 * S.E.$ is a 95% confidence interval. Source: Own.

4.3 Metalic and non-metalic minerals

The monthly rhythm and evolution of economic activity in the Bolivian mining sector is followed by the Metallic and Non-Metallic Minerals index (MINE for short) within the IGAE index. Figure 8 presents the MINE time series showing two characteristics: First, it has been growing at an annual average rate of 0.95% for the five-year period from 2015-2019, and up to 2019 the series doesn't seem to contain any annual seasonality, or not immediately visible, nor specific months of higher and lower economic activity, but rather the series appears quite random with a slight upward linear trend. Second, there is a noticeable significant drop in the series beginning February 2020 caused by Covid's pandemic. That part of the series is MINE with Covid.



Figure 8: MINE's behavior and the 2020 Covid's disruption

How the MINE series would have behaved if Covid-19 didn't happen? The order of integration and estimated time series model for the mineral sector are presented in Annex A and B. For this sector it was not possible to improve the forecasting accuracy beyond a model with an R2 of 56.8% based only on its past information, given its lack of clear regularities as observed in other sectors, therefore the estimated loss of economic activity can only be taken as a gross approximation. Figure 9 is the result of the exercise where the blue line corresponds to the evolution of the sector with Covid and the orange line corresponds to the sector without Covid or counterfactual, within dotted confidence intervals. The visual difference between the orange and blue lines show the dramatic magnitude of the pandemic's impact on the mineral sector for the period of ten months between February and November 2020, mostly concentrated in the strict quarantine months of March, April and May. The sector initiated a V-shaped recovery up to June only to fall back again during the peak contagion months of July and August, and finally ending with a tilted W-shaped recovery. The November confidence interval suggest there might be no difference between the observed and counterfactual values, thus the sector might have been able to fully recover by that month. The width of the confidence intervals from November 2019 to February 2020 suggest no clear difference between the observed and counterfactual series, thus it is not possible to establish with accuracy how the November 2019 political conflict affected this sector and how fast it recovered from it.

Table 4 shows the accumulated mineral sector index could have increased up to 2,496.55 points, but because of the pandemic ended up with only 1,624.21 points, therefore experimenting a dramatic loss of economic activity in the accumulated average order of 34.94% in magnitude in the period between February to November 2020, within a range from a worst scenario of a 44.1% loss to a best scenario of a 22.2% loss. By May when the strict pandemic quarantine was ending the sector had already accumulated an average of 49% loss of activity.



Figure 9: Covid's impact on the mining sector

Note: Variations in Covid cases are measured on the right axis. Source: Own.

Month	MINE with Covid	MINE without Covid	Points difference	Accumulated rate
20M2	229.98	221.92 (±2*17.26)	8.06	3.63%
20M3	168.09	224.23 (±2*18.57)	-56.14	-10.78%
20M4	13.43	235.22 (±2*19.94)	-221.79	-39.61%
20M5	68.21	260.15 (±2*22.09)	-191.94	-49.05%
20M6	202.95	254.89 (±2*20.98)	-51.94	-42.94%
20M7	156.13	274.91 (±2*22.21)	-118.78	-42.99%
20M8	143.33	246.23 (±2*19.87)	-102.90	-42.82%
20M9	194.17	271.34 (±2*22.28)	-77.17	-40.86%
20M10	213.48	252.80 (±2*20.71)	-39.32	-38.00%
20M11	234.44	254.87 (±2*20.56)	-20.43	-34.94%
Accumulated	1,624.21	2,496.55 (±2*204.48)	-872.34	
		Covid's impact \Rightarrow	-34.94%	
	(95%	\Rightarrow confidence interval) \Rightarrow	(-44.10%, -22.20%)	

Table 4: Computing Covid's impact on the mining sector

Note: In parenthesis $\pm 2 * S.E.$ is a 95% confidence interval. Source: Own.

4.4 Manufacture industries

The monthly rhythm and evolution of economic activity in the Bolivian manufacturing sector is followed by the Manufacturing Industries index (MANUF for short). Figure 10 presents the MANUF time series showing two characteristics: First, it has been growing at an annual average rate of 4.55% for the fiveyear period from 2015-2019, following an annual seasonality with the months from April to November of highest economic activity and in recent years particularly concentrated between August to October, and from January to March the months of lowest economic activity, particularly February. Second, there is a noticeable significant break in its tendency and seasonal pattern since February 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic began. This part of the series is MANUF with Covid.



Figure 10: MANUF's behavior and the 2020 Covid's disruption

How the MANUF series would have behaved if Covid-19 didn't happen? The order of integration and estimated time series model for the manufacturing sector are presented in Annex A and B. Figure 11 is the result of the exercise where the blue line corresponds to the evolution of the manufacturing sector with Covid and the orange line corresponds to the sector without Covid or counterfactual, within dotted confidence intervals. The visual difference between the orange and blue lines show the significant magnitude of the pandemic's impact on the manufacturing sector for the period of ten months between February and November 2020, but mostly concentrated on the whole period from April to October, and following a tilted reversed L-shape full recovery up to November. The observed difference in November 2019 is due to the impact of the political instability event on economic activity that month and from which the sector recovered quickly. Table 5 shows the accumulated manufacturing sector index could have increased up to 3,334.44 points, but because of the pandemic ended up with only 2,841.35 points, therefore experimenting an accumulated average loss of economic activity in the order of 14.79% in magnitude, again in the period from February to November 2020. By May when the strict pandemic quarantine was ending the sector had already accumulated an average of 18.92% loss of economic activity.



Figure 11: Covid's impact on the manufacturing sector

Note: Variations in Covid cases are measured on the right axis. Source: Own.

Month	MANUF with Covid	MANUF without Covid	Points difference	Accumulated rate
20M2	261.60	269.99 (±2*5.52)	-8.39	-3.11%
20M3	269.70	292.01 (±2*6.11)	-22.31	-5.46%
20M4	210.48	314.92 (±2*6.75)	-104.44	-15.41%
20M5	241.02	335.17 (±2*7.24)	-94.15	-18.92%
20M6	259.83	339.71 (±2*7.26)	-79.88	-19.92%
20M7	285.20	345.32 (±2*7.20)	-60.12	-19.47%
20M8	297.13	358.88 (±2*7.62)	-61.75	-19.11%
20M9	324.99	362.11 (±2*7.55)	-37.12	-17.88%
20M10	351.17	372.24 (±2*7.92)	-21.07	-16.36%
20M11	340.23	344.08 (±2*8.44)	-3.85	-14.79%
Accumulated	2,841.35	3,334.44 (±2*89.86)	-493.09	
		Covid's impact \Rightarrow	-14.79%	
	(9:	5% confidence interval) \Rightarrow	(-18.30%, -10.96%)	

 Table 5: Computing Covid's impact on the manufacturing sector

Note: In parenthesis $\pm 2 * S.E.$ is a 95% confidence interval. Source: Own.

4.5 Electricity, gas and water

The monthly rhythm and evolution of economic activity in the Bolivian utilities sector is followed by the Electricity, Gas and Water index (UTILITIES for short). Figure 12 presents the UTILITIES time series showing two characteristics: First, it has been growing at an annual average rate of 4.36% for the five-year period from 2015-2019, following an annual seasonality with April, May and particularly October to December being the months of highest economic activity, while February, March and July the months of lowest economic activity. Second, there is a break in the seasonal pattern beginning February 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic began. This part of the series is UTILITIES with Covid.



Figure 12: UTILITIES's behavior and the 2020 Covid's disruption

How the UTILITES series would have behaved if Covid-19 didn't happen? The order of integration and estimated time series model for the utilities sector are presented in Annex A and B. Figure 13 is the result of the exercise where the blue line corresponds to the evolution of the utilities sector with Covid and the orange line corresponds to the sector without Covid or counterfactual, within dotted confidence intervals. The visual difference between the orange and blue lines show the magnitude of the pandemic's impact on this sector for the period of ten months between February and November 2020, mostly concentrated on the months from April to September, but managing a full recovery of its growth path by October and November. The observed difference in November 2019 represents the impact of the political instability event on economic activity that month from which the sector recovered immediately. Table 6 shows the accumulated utilities sector index could have increased up to 4,300.50 points, but because of the pandemic ended up with only 3,908.47 points, therefore experimenting an accumulated average loss of economic activity in the order of 9.12% with August the month of highest accumulated loss of activity (11.71%).



Figure 13: Covid's impact on the utilities sector

Note: Variations in Covid cases are measured on the right axis. Source: Own.

Month	UTILITIES with Covid	UTILITIES without Covid	Points difference	Accumulated rate
20M2	341.57	339.43 (±2*5.29)	2.14	0.63%
20M3	341.88	339.13 (±2*5.27)	2.75	0.72%
20M4	382.15	455.16 (±2*6.96)	-73.01	-6.01%
20M5	376.03	467.37 (±2*7.15)	-91.34	-9.96%
20M6	360.33	428.50 (±2*6.82)	-68.17	-11.22%
20M7	329.44	381.92 (±2*6.39)	-52.48	-11.62%
20M8	354.70	404.44 (±2*6.94)	-49.74	-11.71%
20M9	390.30	430.51 (±2*7.67)	-40.21	-11.40%
20M10	508.35	516.49 (±2*9.45)	-8.14	-10.05%
20M11	523.72	537.55 (±2*11.67)	-13.83	-9.12%
Accumulated	3,908.47	4,300.50 (±2*73.60)	-392.03	
		Covid's impact \Rightarrow	-9.12%	
		(95% confidence interval) \Rightarrow	(-12.12%, -5.89%)	

 Table 6: Computing Covid's impact on the utilities sector

Note: In parenthesis $\pm 2 * S.E.$ is a 95% confidence interval. Source: Own.

4.6 Construction industry

The monthly rhythm and evolution of economic activity in the Bolivian construction sector is followed by the Construction Industries index (CONS for short). Figure 14 presents the CONS time series with some characteristics: First, it has been growing at an annual average rate of 4.73% for the five-year period from 2015-2019, following a clear annual seasonality with December the month of highest economic activity and February the month of lowest. Second, there is a noticeable change in its tendency and seasonal pattern since February 2020 when Covid's pandemic began. This part of the series is referred to as CONS with Covid.



Figure 14: CONS's behavior and the 2020 Covid's disruption

How the CONS series would have behaved if Covid-19 didn't happen? The order of integration and estimated time series model for the construction sector are presented in Annex A and B. Figure 15 is the result of the exercise where the blue line corresponds to the evolution of the construction sector with Covid and the orange line to the sector without Covid or counterfactual, within dotted confidence intervals. The visual difference between the two lines show the pandemic's impact on this sector for the period of ten months between February to November 2020, mostly concentrated on the months from April to July, months were the sector was usually picking up, then from August to November the sector almost managed to reach its growth path level. Since the latter are months of high regular activity the sector was able to avoid greater economic loss. Earlier the sector was affected very little by the November 2019 political instability event. Table 7 shows that the accumulated construction sector index could have increased up to 4,276.75 points, but because of the pandemic only reached 2,801.75 points, therefore experimenting a dramatic accumulated average loss of economic activity in the order of 34.49% in magnitude in the period between February to November 2020, with June the month of highest accumulated loss of activity (58.1%).



Figure 15: Covid's impact on the construction sector

Note: Variations in Covid cases are measured on the right axis. Source: Own.

Month	CONST with Covid	CONST without Covid	Points difference	Accumulated rate
20M2	136.59	186.55 (±2*7.46)	-49.96	-26.78%
20M3	158.82	248.90 (±2*9.75)	-90.08	-32.16%
20M4	89.64	371.47 (±2*14.84)	-281.83	-52.28%
20M5	89.56	367.41 (±2*14.92)	-277.85	-59.58%
20M6	104.01	375.99 (±2*15.48)	-271.98	-62.68%
20M7	251.59	431.22 (±2*17.78)	-179.63	-58.10%
20M8	395.93	494.65 (±2*20.57)	-98.72	-50.48%
20M9	570.48	659.15 (±2*28.98)	-88.67	-42.70%
20M10	423.40	481.26 (±2*20.45)	-57.86	-38.62%
20M11	581.73	660.16 (±2*32.32)	-78.43	-34.49%
Accumulated	2801.75	4276.75 (±2*182.56)	-1475.00	
		Covid's impact \Rightarrow	-34.49%	
	(95	$\%$ confidence interval) \Rightarrow	(-39.64%, -28.37%)	

 Table 7: Computing Covid's impact on the construction sector

Note: In parenthesis $\pm 2 * S.E.$ is a 95% confidence interval. Source: Own.

4.7 Commerce

The monthly rhythm and evolution of economic activity in the Bolivian commerce sector is followed by the Commerce index (COM for short). Figure 16 presents the COM time series showing two characteristics: First, it has been growing at an annual average rate of 4.51% for the five-year period 2015-2019 following an annual seasonality with the months from April to June of highest economic activity, particularly June, and with January and February the months of lowest economic activity. Second, there is a noticeable significant break in its tendency and seasonal pattern since February 2020 when Covid's pandemic began. This part of the series is COM with Covid.



Figure 16: COM's behavior and the 2020 Covid's disruption

How the COM series would have behaved if Covid-19 didn't happen? The order of integration and estimated time series model for the commerce sector are presented in Annex A and B. Figure 17 is the result of the exercise where the blue line corresponds to the evolution of the commerce sector with Covid and the orange line to the sector without Covid or counterfactual, within dotted confidence intervals. The visual difference between the two lines show the pandemic's impact on the commerce sector for the period of ten months between February and November 2020, but mostly concentrated on April and May, months that usually are of high economic activity. By June it almost fully recovered following a U-shape but the increase in Covid's cases in July and August finally determined a W-Shape full recovery by November. The observed difference in November 2019 is due to the impact of the political instability event on the sector's economic activity that month and from which it recovered quickly. Table 8 shows the accumulated commerce sector index could have increased up to 3,007.34 points, but because of the pandemic only increased to 2,645.35 points, therefore experimenting an accumulated average loss of economic activity in the order of 12.04% in magnitude in the period between February to November 2020, with May the month of highest accumulated loss (19.86%).



Figure 17: Covid's impact on the commerce sector

Note: Variations in Covid cases are measured on the right axis. Source: Own.

Ta	ble	8 :	Computing	Covid's	impact	on the	commerce sector
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Month	COM with Covid	COM without Covid	Points difference	Accumulated rate
20M2	244.65	242.65 (±2*2.80)	2.00	0.83%
20M3	300.82	311.64 (±2*3.61)	-10.82	-1.59%
20M4	201.19	328.17 (±2*4.02)	-126.98	-15.39%
20M5	210.25	311.63 (±2*4.02)	-101.38	-19.86%
20M6	323.56	338.75 (±2*4.39)	-15.19	-16.46%
20M7	273.93	304.00 (±2*4.09)	-30.07	-15.38%
20M8	263.13	296.34 (±2*4.11)	-33.21	-14.80%
20M9	276.80	306.07 (±2*4.42)	-29.27	-14.14%
20M10	276.33	288.99 (±2*4.32)	-12.66	-13.11%
20M11	274.59	279.10 (±2*4.90)	-4.51	-12.04%
Accumulated	2645.25	3007.34 (±2*40.68)	-362.09	
		Covid's impact \Rightarrow	-12.04%	
	(95%	confidence interval) \Rightarrow	(-14.36%, -9.59%)	

Note: In parenthesis $\pm 2 * S.E.$ is a 95% confidence interval. Source: Own.

4.8 Trasnport

The monthly rhythm and evolution of economic activity in the transportation sector is followed by the Transport and Storage index (TRANS for short). Figure 18 presents the TRANS time series showing two characteristics: First, the sector has been growing on average at an annual rate of 4.48% for the five-year period from 2015-2019 following an annual seasonality of high economic activity from May to December with August its highest, and low economic activity from January to April with February its lowest. Second, there is a noticeable significant break in its tendency and seasonal pattern since February 2020 when Covid's pandemic began. This part of the series is TRANS with Covid.



Figure 18: COM's behavior and the 2020 Covid's disruption

How the TRANS series would have behaved if Covid-19 didn't happen? The order of integration and estimated time series model for the transport sector are presented in Annex A and B. Figure 19 is the result of the exercise where the blue line corresponds to the evolution of the transport sector with Covid and the orange line without Covid or counterfactual, within dotted confidence intervals. The visual difference between the two lines shows the pandemic's impact on the transport sector for the period of ten months between February and November 2020, but mostly concentrated on the period from March to September, months that usually are of high to the highest level economic activity. Some recovery began in June and July, however the increase in Covid's cases in July and August finally determined a W-Shape recovery up to October. The observed difference in November 2019 is due to the impact of the political instability event on the sector's economic activity and from which it recovered immediately. Table 9 shows the accumulated transport sector index could have increased up to 3,618.06 points, but because of the pandemic only increased to 2,861.62 points, therefore experimenting an average loss of economic activity in the order of 20.91% in magnitude in the period between February to November 2020, with August the month of highest accumulated loss of activity of close to 25%.



Figure 19: Covid's impact on the transport sector

Note: Variations in Covid cases are measured on the right axis. Source: Own.

Month	TRANSP with Covid	TRANSP without Covid	Points difference	Accumulated rate
20M2	297.26	286.29 (±2*9.31)	10.97	3.83%
20M3	313.98	352.76 (±2*12.55)	-38.78	-4.35%
0M4	180.83	324.48 (±2*12.56)	-143.65	-17.79%
20M5	237.82	378.11 (±2*15.64)	-140.29	-23.24%
20M6	298.38	363.70 (±2*15.99)	-65.32	-22.11%
20M7	296.45	390.80 (±2*18.17)	-94.35	-22.49%
20M8	257.00	400.81 (±2*19.54)	-143.81	-24.64%
20M9	297.62	375.61 (±2*19.16)	-77.99	-24.13%
20M10	362.33	369.70 (±2*19.35)	-7.37	-21.61%
20M11	319.95	375.80 (±2*21.47)	-55.85	-20.91%
Accumulated	2861.62	3618.06 (±2*163.73)	-756.44	
		Covid's impact \Rightarrow	-20.91%	
	(9	05% confidence interval) \Rightarrow	(-27.47%, -13.04%)	

 Table 9: Computing Covid's impact on the transport sector

Note: In parenthesis $\pm 2 * S.E.$ is a 95% confidence interval. Source: Own.

4.9 Communications

The monthly rhythm and evolution of economic activity in the communications sector is followed by the Communications index (INFO for short). Figure 20 presents the INFO time series showing two characteristics: First, the sector has been growing at an annual average rate of 4.26% for the five-year period from 2015-2019, following an annual seasonality with the months from July to January of high economic activity with January the highest, and low economic activity from February to June with March the lowest. Second, there is no noticeable break in its tendency nor its seasonal pattern since February 2020 when Covid's pandemic began. Nevertheless, this part of the series is INFO with Covid.



Figure 20: COM's behavior and the 2020 Covid's disruption

How the INFO series would have behaved if Covid-19 didn't happen? The order of integration and estimated time series model for the communications sector are presented in Annex A and B. Figure 21 is the result of the exercise where the blue line corresponds to the evolution of the communications sector with Covid and the orange line to the sector without Covid or counterfactual, within dotted confidence intervals. The visual difference between the two lines shows the pandemic did not have a negative impact on this sector during the ten months first wave period from February to November 2020, but rather it might have benefited from it a bit during the months from April to June. In effect, the percent gain in economic activity beyond its counterfactual is computed in Table 10, where the accumulated communications sector index should have increased up to 6,190.13 points, but because of the pandemic it increased more to 6,274.20 points, therefore experimenting an accumulated average gain in economic activity in the order of 1.36% in magnitude. However, its confidence interval suggests no impact at all, although the interval has a bias towards the positive. In fact, June is the month of highest average accumulated economic gain (2.20%). Also the November 2019 political instability event didn't have any impact on this sector.



Figure 21: Covid's impact on the communications sector

Note: Variations in Covid cases are measured on the right axis. Source: Own.

Tab	le 1	10:	Computing	$C \alpha$	ovid	s	impact	on	the	communic	cations	sector
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Month	INFO with Covid	INFO without Covid	Points difference	Accumulated rate
20M2	570.74	567.31 (±2 * 4.47)	3.43	0.61%
20M3	470.4	461.44 (±2 * 3.59)	8.96	1.21%
20M4	632.89	620.02 (±2 * 5.00)	12.87	1.53%
20M5	632.53	616.76 (±2 * 4.86)	15.77	1.81%
20M6	528.15	508.15 (±2 * 4.08)	20.00	2.20%
20M7	718.69	715.32 (±2 * 5.75)	3.37	1.85%
20M8	714.41	712.85 (±2 * 5.68)	1.56	1.57%
20M9	670.52	660.81 (±2 * 5.43)	9.71	1.56%
20M10	681.18	675.73 (±2 * 5.49)	5.45	1.46%
20M11	654.69	651.74 (±2 * 7.42)	2.95	1.36%
Accumulated	6274.20	6190.13 (±2*51.77)	84.07	
		Covid's impact \Rightarrow	1.36%	
	(95%	confidence interval) \Rightarrow	(-0.31%, +3.08%)	

Note: In parenthesis $\pm 2 * S.E.$ is a 95% confidence interval. Source: Own.

4.10 Financial establishments, insurance and real state

The monthly rhythm and evolution of economic activity in the financial sector is followed by the Financial Establishments, Insurance and Real Estate index (FINAN for short). Figure 22 presents the FINAN time series showing two characteristics: First, the sector has been growing at an annual average rate of 5.68% for the five-year period from 2015-2019, following an annual seasonality of highest economic activity in May and June and lowest in August and October. Second, there is a noticeable break in its tendency and seasonal pattern since February 2020 when Covid's pandemic began. This part of the series is FINAN with Covid.



Figure 22: FINAN's behavior and the 2020 Covid's disruption

How the FINAN series would have behaved if Covid-19 didn't happen? The order of integration and estimated time series model for the finance sector are presented in Annex A and B. Figure 23 is the result of the exercise where the blue line corresponds to the evolution of the finance sector with Covid and the orange line to the sector without Covid or counterfactual, within dotted confidence intervals. The visual difference between the two lines show the pandemic's impact on the sector for the period of ten months between February and November 2020, but mostly concentrated on the months of April, May and June usually of highest economic activity. The sector did manage to recovered its regular seasonal pattern from July to November, however just below its counterfactual level due to the July-August pandemic peaks. The November 2019 political instability event basically didn't have an impact on this sector. The percent loss in economic activity is computed in Table 11 where the accumulated communications sector index could have increased up to 4,322.35 points, but because of the pandemic only increased to 3,910.64 points, therefore experimenting a 9.53% average accumulated loss in economic activity with monthly accumulated loses just above 10% from May to September.



Figure 23: Covid's impact on the finance sector

Note: Variations in Covid cases are measured on the right axis. Source: Own.

Month	FINAN with Covid	FINAN without Covid	Points difference	Accumulated rate
20M2	407.83	417.86 (±2*8.27)	-10.03	-2.40%
20M3	396.5	421.56 (±2*8.40)	-25.06	-4.18%
20M4	392.8	461.67 (±2*9.45)	-68.87	-7.99%
20M5	415.21	491.50 (±2*10.24)	-76.29	-10.06%
20M6	422.62	481.17 (±2*10.11)	-58.55	-10.50%
20M7	382.51	421.29 (±2*8.98)	-38.78	-10.30%
20M8	347.42	385.82 (±2*8.53)	-38.40	-10.26%
20M9	411.66	451.05 (±2*10.16)	-39.39	-10.06%
20M10	346.57	369.82 (±2*8.31)	-23.25	-9.70%
20M11	387.52	420.60 (±2*9.85)	-33.08	-9.53%
Accumulated	3,910.64	4,322.35 (±2*92.33)	-411.71	
		Covid's impact \Rightarrow	-9.53%	
	(95)	$\%$ confidence interval) \Rightarrow	(-13.23%, -5.49%)	

Table 11: Computing Covid's impact on the financial sector

Note: In parenthesis $\pm 2 * S.E.$ is a 95% confidence interval. Source: Own.

4.11 Public administration services

The monthly rhythm and evolution of economic activity in the public sector is followed by the Public Administration Services index (GOV for short). Figure 24 presents the GOV time series showing two characteristics: First, the sector has been growing at an annual average rate of 5.88% for the five-year period from 2015-2019, following an annual seasonality with December the month of highest economic activity and from January to April and November of lowest. Second, there is a noticeable break in its seasonal pattern since February 2020 when Covid's pandemic began. This part of the series is GOV with Covid.



Figure 24: GOV's behavior and the 2020 Covid's disruption

How the GOV series would have behaved if Covid-19 didn't happen? The order of integration and estimated time series model for the government services sector are presented in Annex A and B. Figure 25 is the result of the exercise where the blue line corresponds to the evolution of the government sector with Covid and the orange line to the sector without Covid or counterfactual, within dotted confidence intervals. The visual difference between the two lines show the pandemic's impact on this sector for the period from February to November 2020, mostly concentrated on the months from April to August which include months of usually low and high economic activity. However, not all of the monthly differences appear to be true departures from the counterfactual due to the confidence interval width. The months of April. May and August do show evidence of negative impacts from the pandemic. Forecast accuracy might be affected by the December extreme observation which the model does capture. Nevertheless, by September the sector fully reaches its counterfactual seasonal pattern and level following what appears a W-shape recovery. The November 2019 political instability event basically didn't have an impact on this sector.

The percent loss in economic activity is computed in Table 12 where the accumulated government sector index could have increased up to 3,410.62 points, but because of the pandemic it increased to 3,310.64 points, therefore experimenting a small accumulated average of 2.93% loss in economic activity with August the month of highest accumulated loss (4%). However, in the end the range of the confidence interval (mostly negative) for this accumulated average suggests no impact at all, even though there is evidence of negative impact. In this case the pandemic's impact on the Government sector cannot be determined. More information is needed.



Figure 25: Covid's impact on the government sector

Note: Variations in Covid cases are measured on the right axis. Source: Own.

Month	GOV with Covid	GOV without Covid	Points difference	Accumulated rate
20M2	331.01	329.35 (±2*6.53)	1.66	0.50%
20M3	328.4	326.08 (±2*6.74)	2.32	0.61%
20M4	301.62	325.17 (±2*6.97)	-23.55	-2.00%
20M5	299.73	327.76 (±2*7.29)	-28.03	-3.64%
20M6	330.47	338.34 (±2*7.80)	-7.87	-3.37%
20M7	339.98	353.86 (±2*8.45)	-13.88	-3.47%
20M8	337.11	362.37 (±2*8.94)	-25.26	-4.00%

360.74 (±2*9.17)

347.82 (±2*8.96)

339.12 (±2*9.70)

3410.62 (±2*80.55)

Covid's impact \Rightarrow

-1.10

-0.29

-3 97

-99.98

-2.93%

(-7.31%, +1.88%)

-3.51%

-3.13%

-2.93%

 Table 12: Computing Covid's impact on the government sector

Note: In parenthesis $\pm 2 * S.E.$ is a 95% confidence interval. Source: Own.

359.64

347.53

335.15

3310.64

20M9

20M10

20M11

Accumulated

4.12 Restaurant, hotels and community, social, personal and domestic services

(95% confidence interval) \Rightarrow

The monthly rhythm and evolution of economic activity in the restaurants and hotels sector is followed by the Restaurant, Hotels and Other Community, Social, Personal and Domestic Services index (RHO for short). Figure 26 presents the RHO time series showing two characteristics: First, the sector has been growing at an annual average rate of 4.26% for the five-year period from 2015-2019 prior to the pandemic, following an annual seasonality with highest economic activity in December and January and low economic activity from February to April with March its lowest. Second, there is a dramatic break in its tendency and seasonal pattern since February 2020 when Covid's pandemic began. This part of the series is RHO with Covid.



Figure 26: RHO's behavior and the 2020 Covid's disruption

How the RHO series would have behaved if Covid-19 didn't happen? The order of integration and estimated time series model for the restaurants and hotels sector are presented in Annex A and B. Figure 27 is the result of the exercise where the blue line corresponds to the evolution of the RHO sector with Covid and the orange line to the sector without Covid or counterfactual, within dotted confidence intervals. The visual difference between the two lines show the pandemic's impact on the restaurants and hotels sector for the period of ten months from February to November 2020, particularly hit between the eight months from April to November with April, May and June the worst. Though it began with a U-shape recovery staring July, in the end it could not reach its counterfactual level not even by November. The observed drop and immediate recovery in November 2019 is due to the political instability event that month. The average percent loss in economic activity is computed in Table 13 where the accumulated restaurants and hotels sector index could have increased up to 2,705.35 points, but because of the pandemic only increased to 2,145.82 points, therefore experimenting an average accumulated economic loss in the order of 20.68% in magnitude with accumulated monthly loses above 20% since May.



Figure 27: Covid's impact on the restaurants & hotels sector

Note: Variations in Covid cases are measured on the right axis. Source: Own.

			D 1 / 1100	
Month	RHS with Covid	RHS without Covid	Points difference	Accumulated rate
20M2	261.45	263.21 (±2*1.36)	-1.76	-0.67%
20M3	247.93	261.89 (±2*1.26)	-13.96	-2.99%
20M4	157.33	261.56 (±2*1.25)	-104.23	-15.25%
20M5	164.41	268.88 (±2*1.31)	-104.47	-21.26%
20M6	172.19	270.49 (±2*1.35)	-98.30	-24.34%
20M7	200.41	274.41 (±2*1.39)	-74.00	-24.79%
20M8	219.42	276.57 (±2*1.40)	-57.15	-24.18%
20M9	235.55	277.35 (±2*1.40)	-41.80	-23.01%
20M10	244.21	275.36 (±2*1.49)	-31.15	-21.68%
20M11	242.92	275.63 (±2*2.71)	-32.71	-20.68%
Accumulated	2145.82	2705.35 (±2*14.92)	-559.53	
		Covid's impact \Rightarrow	-20.68%	
	(95% (confidence interval) \Rightarrow	(-21.55%, -19.80%)	

Table 13: Computing Covid's impact on the restaurants and hotels sector

Note: In parenthesis $\pm 2 * S.E.$ is a 95% confidence interval. Source: Own.

5 Summary and concluding thoughts

Table 14 is a summary of Covid's impact on the Bolivian economy globally and by economic sectors. The difference between the observed and counterfactual time series produces an average global economic activity loss of 12.64% during the 10-month period from February to November (last row in the Table). This loss means it cannot be recovered or in other words Bolivians are either 12.64% poorer or less rich. Recovery means the degree at which the economy has reached the counterfactual level of production and growth path which would have happened if the economic crisis caused by the Covid pandemic did not occur. The sooner the economy recovers the sooner the economy stops loosing economic wealth. The last column shows that by November the overall economy recovered on average 96.7% of

its expected counterfactual level of activity for that month.

Sector of economic activity	Covid's impact	Average degree of
	_	recovery by
		November
Communications	No impact (slight positive bias)	Highly resilient
	No impact	TT: 1.1 '1' /
Agriculture, investock, forestry, nunting and lisning	(slight negative bias)	Hignly resilient
Electricity, and water	-9.12%	Enll
Electricity, gas and water	(-12.12%, -5.89%)	ruli
Financial actablichments, insurance and real actate	-9.53%	02.10%
Financial establishments, insurance and real estate	(-13.23%, -5.49%)	92.1%
Commerce	-12.04%	Full
Commerce	(-14.36%, -9.59%)	rull
Manufacture industry	-14.79%	Full
Wandracture moustry	(-18.30%, -10.96%)	I ull
Restaurants hotels and communal social personal	-20.68%	88.1%
and domestic services	(-21.55%, -19.80%)	00.170
	-20.91%	
Transport and storage	(-27.47%, -13.04%)	85.1%
Construction	-34.49%	99 1 <i>0</i> /-
Construction	(-39.64%, -28.37%)	00.170
Matalic and non-matalic minerals	-34.94%	Full
Wretane and non-metane minerals	(-44.10%, -22.20%)	Tull
Public administration services	Undetermined	Full
Crude oil and natural gas	Undetermined	Undetermined
Overall ICAE	-12.64%	06 7%
	(-15.77%, -9.26%)	90.770

 Table 14: Summary of Covid's impact by economic sectors and overall IGAE

Note: 95% confidence interval in parenthesis. Source: Own.

The breakdown of Covid's impact into the 12 economic sectors, also from February to November, show that only the communications and agricultural sectors were not impacted by the pandemic but rather were highly resilient. While the rest simply lost, with minerals and construction the most damaged (-34.94% and -34.49%), followed by transportation and restaurants & hotels (-20.91% and -20.68%), manufacture industries and commerce (-14.79% and -12.04%), and finance and utilities (-9.53% and -9.12%). The pandemic's impact on the oil & gas and government sectors could not be determined. However, at the same time, by the end of the first wave in November most sectors were able to recover fully or at levels above 85%. Full recovery in all sectors would have taken some short additional time, however that possibility did not happen due to the pandemic's continuation with new waves beginning in December 2020 and going well into 2021 without a clear ending.

Recovery across sectors was heterogeneous in the sense that most sectors did not follow exactly the global tilted W-shape economic recovery within the 10-month period from February to November 2020, but rather followed different speeds, times and magnitudes affecting economic connections across sectors and the overall structure of the economy. These disconnections among sectors may become an important operating issue in a prolonged pandemic scenario, which will force its own adjustment and structural change.

The question of how prepared was each sector to quickly change to its digital counterpart or how

much digital adaptation was able to occur during the pandemic is probably important to understand the heterogeneous recovery. The decision of many to simply go out and work versus work from home either partially or fully digitized is also important to understand that heterogeneous recovery. The large Bolivian base of self-employed, micro and small enterprises are predominantly contact-intensive and they operate basically in all sectors of the economy, particularly in agriculture, commerce, transportation, construction, mining, oil & gas downstream, manufacturing, and restaurants & hotels. At the same time, most of the management and administrative staff from all sectors are currently operating either partially or fully digitized, as well as service sectors like utilities, communication & information services, finance, insurance & real estate services, and education services. Many more services within each sector could have their digital counterpart operating soon enough, particularly most government services.

As in all crisis there are good and bad outcomes, certainly the loss of economic activity, which was this paper's emphasis, qualifies as a bad one but the digital transformation it brought all over the economy and beyond qualifies as a good outcome for the present and the future. In some cases, it required the deepening and expansion of digitalization but in most cases it meant the introduction of digitalization, learning by doing and a slow initiation at the challenge of the economy's digital transformation. In any case, the Bolivian economy was quite behind in the adoption, and much less so in the research & development, of the new digital technologies and the innovation possibilities they bring which ultimately are expressed in efficiency gains, transparency, its focus on people's preferences and needs, new business models and customer experience, new government service models and citizen experience, the appearance of prosumers, and all the cultural changes it brings, in other words the expansion of economic, social, political and cultural freedoms, however not without its own particular problems like privacy and security concerns and more generally regulatory concerns as well as the potential widening of the digital divide at least in its initial stage.

Moving forward, in the short-run, despite individual efforts at adjusting our way of working and living and despite social efforts at adapting our economy to minimize the loss of economic activity under pandemic, the solution to the Covid pandemic lies outside the economic sphere and Bolivia's own efforts at tackling it, it also lies in the world's management of the pandemic, the politics of cooperation among nations and surely Covid economics too. The worldwide new waves of the pandemic with new Covid variants along with progress in the vaccination front, is still going on in 2021 within the natural world's climate and seasons, and it might take an additional year or two to finally end the pandemic worldwide, however, all of its accumulated economic consequences may take much longer.

The long-term solution to the source of the problem, Covid contagion, depends on how the Bolivian society tackles the issue, whether with a passive attitude of permanently waiting for the rescue from the international community and their vaccines or a proactive attitude by fully accepting the problem as an opportunity to enter into technology transfer and own research & development in the biological sciences with a long term view connected to international research centers.

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Annexes

Annex A: Order of integration

Overall IGAE or economic sector variable	Order of integration
IGAE	I(1)
Agriculture, livestock, forestry, hunting and fishing	I(1)
Crude oil and natural gas	I(1)
Metalic and non-metalic minerals	I(0)
Manufacture industry	I(1)
Electricity, gas and wáter	I(1)
Construction	I(1)
Commerce	I(1)
Transport and storage	I(1)
Communications	I(1)
Financial establishments, insurance and real estate	I(1)
Public administration services	I(1)
	I(1)
Restaurants, hotels and community, social, personal and domestic services	2018m1 2019m12

Annex B: ARMA models by sectors and overall IGAE

Dependent Variable Method: ARMA Maximu Sample: 2009M01 202 Convergence achieve	: D(LOG(IGAE)) um Likelihood ((19M10 (130 obseu ed after 40 iteu	DPG - BHHH) cvations) cations		
Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
С	-0.009577	0.004011	-2.387680	0.0185
AR(12)	0.904805	0.048239	18.75657	0.0000
MA(1)	-0.511206	0.082990	-6.159818	0.0000
MA(12)	-0.246195	0.086876	-2.833852	0.0054
R-squared	0.972078	Residuals Q-S	Stat (36), p-valu	es > 5%
Adjusted R-squared	0.970232	Residuals squ	ared Q-Stat (36)	, p-values > 5%
Jarque-Bera p-value	e 0.313532			
Includes monthly du	 ummies D1, D3, I	 04 and D9 with p	 -values < 1%	

Includes monthly dummies D1, D3, D4 and D9 with p-values < 1% Source: Own. Dependent Variable: D(LOG(AGRO)) Method: ML - ARCH Sample (adjusted): 2009M02 2019M10 (129 observations) Convergence achieved after 48 iterations -----Variable Coefficient Std. Error z-Statistic Prob. _____ AR(12) 0.841591 0.045587 18.46137 0.0000 MA(1)0.110223 -3.520952 0.0004 -0.388089 -0.238512 0.082985 -2.874170 0.0041 MA(2) _____ Variance Equation _____ 0.000239 6.27E-05 3.808688 0.0001 С RESID(-1)² 0.376272 0.195340 1.926243 0.0541 _____ 0.994266 Residuals Q-Stat (36), p-values > 5% R-squared Adjusted R-squared 0.993780 Sq.Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5% Jarque-Bera p-value 0.650577 _____ Includes monthly dummies D2, D3, D5, D7, D8, D9, D11, D12 with p-values < 1% Source: Own.

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Dependent Variable: D(LOG(GAS)) Method: ML ARCH - Normal distribution (OPG - BHHH / Marquardt steps) Sample (adjusted): 2008M04 2019M10 (139 observations) Convergence achieved after 83 iterations $GARCH = C(10) + C(11) * RESID(-1)^2 + C(12) * GARCH(-1)$ _____ Variable Coefficient Std. Error z-Statistic Prob. _____ -4.397733 LOG(GARCH) -0.002920 0.000664 AR(1) -0.280405 0.092722 AR(2) -0.418124 0.091477 0.0000 0.0025 -3.024155 0.091477 0.089191 -4.570827 0.0000 0.151993 1.704127 0.0884 MA(8) _____ Variance Equation 0.000855 0.000418 С 2.045383 0.0408 0.214416 RESID(-1)² 0.590830 2.755527 0.0059 GARCH(-1) 0.308559 0.154223 2.000734 0.0454 _____ 0.675317 Residuals Q-Stat (36), p-values > 5% R-squared Adjusted R-squared 0.655337 Sq.Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5% Jarque-Bera p-value 0.020798 _____ _____ Includes monthly dummies D2-D5 and D12 all with p-values < 1%

Source: Own.

Dependent Variable: LOG(MINE) Method: ARMA Maximum Likelihood (BFGS) Sample: 2008M01 2019M10 (142 observations) Convergence achieved after 5 iterations _____ Variable Coefficient Std. Error t-Statistic Prob. _____ AR(4) 0.235857 0.096853 2.435203 0.0163 0.195402 0.092906 2.103225 0.0374 MA(7) _____ 0.568387 Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-vales > 5% R-squared Adjusted R-squared 0.517004 Sq. Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5% Jarque-Bera p-value 0.478436 -----Includes monthly dummies D1 to D12; @trend; all with p-values < 1% Source: Own.

Dependent Variable: D(LOG(MANU))							
Method: ARMA Maximum Likelihood (OPG - BHHH)							
Sample: 2008M02 2019M10 (141 observations)							
Convergence achieve	d after 23 iter	rations					
Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.			
AR(12)	0.578234	0.066545	8.689314	0.0000			
AR(8)	-0.181618	0.083483	-2.175503	0.0314			
MA(1)	-0.794484	0.083608	-9.502498	0.0000			
MA(5)	-0.190759	0.068803	-2.772532	0.0064			
R-squared	0.931281	Residuals Q-S	Stat(36). p-valu	es > 5%			
Adjusted R-squared	0.924839	Sa. Residuals	s Q-Stat(36), p-	values > 5%			
Jarque-Bera p-value	0.347179	1	(, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				
Includes monthly du	 mmies D1, D2, I	 D3, D4, D5, D7,	D10, D11 all wi	 th p-values < 2%			

Source: Own.

Dependent Variable: D(LOG(ELEC))								
Method: ARMA Ma	1ethod: ARMA Maximum Likelihood (OPG - BHHH)							
Sample: 2008M02	2019M10 (141 o	bservations)						
Convergence ach	ieved after 39	iterations						
Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.				
AR(12)	0.444018	0.083367	5.326047	0.0000				
MA(1)	-0.677429	0.090227	-7.508063	0.0000				
MA(2)	-0.299033	0.085631	-3.492102	0.0007				
MA(7)	0.279710	0.051024	5.481892	0.0000				
R-squared	0.991371	Residuals Q-Sta	t(36), p-values 🔅	> 5%				
Adjusted R-squared 0.990335		Sq. Residuals Q	-Stat(36), p-val	ues > 5%				
Jarque-Bera p-v	alue 0.519388							
Includes monthl	v dummies D1 to	D12 (except D3)	all with p-value	 es < 1%				

Includes monthly dummies D1 to D12 (except D3) all with p-values < 1% Source: Own.

Dependent Variable: D(LOG(CONST)) Method: ARMA Maximum Likelihood (OPG - BHHH) Sample: 2008M02 2019M10 (141 observations) Convergence achieved after 33 iterations

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
AR(12)	0.329997	0.082331	4.008173	0.0001
AR(1)	-0.703209	0.077426	-9.082340	0.0000
AR(2)	-0.322065	0.075286	-4.277892	0.0000
AR(11)	-0.201662	0.061895	-3.258130	0.0014
MA(3)	-0.266988	0.106940	-2.496606	0.0139
MA(4)	-0.277080	0.088729	-3.122766	0.0022

R-squared0.995392Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5%Adjusted R-squared0.994797Sq. Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5%Jarque-Bera p-value0.838791

Includes monthly dummies D1 to D12 (except D5, D6) all with p-values < 1% Source: Own.

Dependent Variable: D(LOG(COM)) Method: ARMA Maximum Likelihood (OPG - BHHH) Sample: 2008M02 2019M10 (141 observations) Convergence achieved after 25 iterations

Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
-0.166988	0.062369	-2.677404	0.0084
0.747448	0.070906	10.54134	0.0000
-0.302107	0.088785	-3.402695	0.0009
-0.188322	0.089389	-2.106768	0.0372
0.993625	Residuals Q-Stat	t(36), p-values 🔅	> 5%
ed 0.992802	Sq. Residuals Q	-Stat(36), p-valu	ues > 5%
ue 0.788609.			
	Coefficient -0.166988 0.747448 -0.302107 -0.188322 0.993625 ed 0.992802 ue 0.788609	Coefficient Std. Error -0.166988 0.062369 0.747448 0.070906 -0.302107 0.088785 -0.188322 0.089389 0.993625 Residuals Q-Sta ed 0.992802 Sq. Residuals Q ue 0.788609	Coefficient Std. Error t-Statistic -0.166988 0.062369 -2.677404 0.747448 0.070906 10.54134 -0.302107 0.088785 -3.402695 -0.188322 0.089389 -2.106768 0.993625 Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values 2.200000000000000000000000000000000000

Includes monthly dummies D1 to D12 all with p-values < 1% Source: Own.

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Dependent Variable: D(LOG(TRANSP)) Method: ML ARCH - Normal distribution (BFGS / Marquardt steps) Sample (adjusted): 2009M02 2019M10 (129 observations) Convergence achieved after 100 iterations _____ Variable Coefficient Std. Error z-Statistic Prob. _____ -0.327558 0.035219 -9.300594 0.0000 AR(1) -0.0426000.018317-0.1755910.033902 AR(4) -2.325723 0.0200 AR(11) 0.033902 -5.179390 0.0000 0.1700310.030302-0.1700300.00000.5001180.03793013.185360.0000 AR(12) _____ Variance Equation _____ С 8.87E-05 2.58E-05 3.438458 0.0006 RESID(-1)² 0.781960 0.265773 2.942213 0.0033 _____ R-squared 0.966045 Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5% Adjusted R-squared 0.962853 Sq. Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5%

Jarque-Bera p-value 0.931277

Includes monthly dummies D1 to D7 and D9 all with p-values < 1% Source: Own. Dependent Variable: D(LOG(INFO)) Method: ARMA Maximum Likelihood (OPG - BHHH) Sample: 2008M02 2019M10 (141 observations) Convergence achieved after 33 iterations

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
DIC09	0.013177	0.002450	5.378951	0.0000
AR(12)	0.759838	0.058691	12.94638	0.0000
AR(5)	0.129701	0.068842	1.884033	0.0619
MA(1)	-0.687188	0.071047	-9.672287	0.0000
MA(4)	-0.223363	0.066210	-3.373548	0.0010
MA(12)	0.289597	0.073185	3.957071	0.0001
MA(16)	-0.184532	0.064619	-2.855685	0.0050

R-squared 0.998958 Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5% Adjusted R-squared 0.998814 Sq. Residuals Q-Stat(36), not all p-values > 5% Jarque-Bera p-value 0.524326

Includes monthly dummies D1 to D12 (except D1, D8) all with p-values < 1% Source: Own.

Dependent Variable: D(LOG(FINAN)) Method: ARMA Maximum Likelihood (OPG - BHHH) Sample: 2009M08 2019M10 (123 observations) Convergence achieved after 36 iterations

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
AR(1)	-0.316769	0.088668	-3.572504	0.0005
AR(4)	-0.286514	0.085306	-3.358653	0.0011
AR(5)	-0.236629	0.101734	-2.325947	0.0220
AR(11)	-0.324281	0.098587	-3.289282	0.0014
MA(2)	-0.253050	0.109542	-2.310079	0.0229
MA(7)	-0.180325	0.085114	-2.118622	0.0365
MA(12)	0.239759	0.118092	2.030266	0.0449

R-squared 0.987732 Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5% Adjusted R-squared 0.985469 Sq. Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5% Jarque-Bera p-value 0.340365

Includes monthly dummies D1 to D12, all with p-values < 1% Source: Own.

Dependent Variable: D(LOG(GOV)) Method: ARMA Maximum Likelihood (OPG - BHHH) Sample: 2009M01 2019M10 (130 observations) Convergence achieved after 23 iterations _____ Variable Coefficient Std. Error t-Statistic Prob. ------APR10 -0.029986 0.006455 -4.645435 0.0000 0.041033 0.125289 0.858361 3.053374 0.0028 AR(1)

 0.041033
 3.053374

 0.034992
 24.53048

 0.080689
 -3.468640

 0.093575
 -2.637899

 AR(12) 0.0000 -0.279880 0.0007 MA(3) MA(2) -0.246841 0.0094 MA(11) -0.178547 0.097102 -1.838757 0.0684 _____ 0.985670 Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5% R-squared Adjusted R-squared 0.984723 Sq. Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5% Jarque-Bera p-value 0.935542 _____ Includes monthly dummies D1 and D12 with p-values < 1% $\,$ Source: Own.

Dependent Variable: D(LOG(REST))
Method: ML ARCH - Normal distribution (BFGS / Marquardt steps)
Sample (adjusted): 2009M02 2019M10 (129 observaciones)
Convergence achieved after 48 iterations
@SQRT(GARCH)^1.9 = C(8) + C(9)*ABS(RESID(-1))^1.9 + C(10)
@SQRT(GARCH(-1))^1.9 + C(11)@SQRT(GARCH(-2))^1.9

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	z-Statistic	Prob.

С	0.000765	0.005930	0.129040	0.8973
AR(12)	1.025489	0.040451	25.35112	0.0000
MA(1)	-0.420388	0.103700	-4.053881	0.0001
MA(2)	-0.211226	0.098782	-2.138308	0.0325
MA(3)	-0.251800	0.080848	-3.114472	0.0018
MA(4)	-0.048509	0.068862	-0.704443	0.4812
MA(11)	0.286187	0.030788	9.295422	0.0000

Variance Equation

C(8)	1.58E-05	4.68E-06	3.375305	0.0007
C(9)	0.329818	0.181737	1.814813	0.0696
C(10)	0.456946	0.243773	1.874471	0.0609
C(11)	-0.360013	0.221971	-1.621888	0.1048

R-squared 0.842402 Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5% Adjusted R-squared 0.834651 Sq. Residuals Q-Stat(36), p-values > 5% Jarque-Bera p-value 0.723555

Sourse: Own.