

take heart

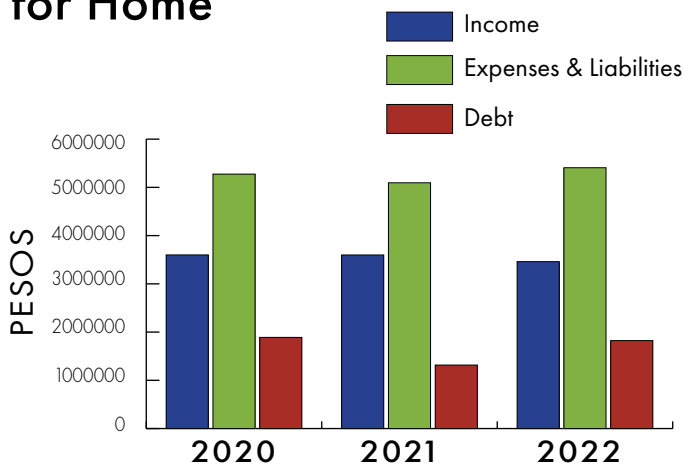
Mandatory wage hike influences our debt

In the last two years, the minimum wage in Mexico went up by about 50%. This is equal to a monthly salary of \$489 USD in the Northern Border Zone, the border states. These mandatory raises also resulted in an increased tax burden on employers, as payroll taxes amount to approximately 50% of salaries paid. The result is a total increased cost to employers of about 75% for employee salaries. This is especially tough for micro and small businesses; 85 percent of businesses in Mexico are this size. Some shops are not implementing the salary bumps. For those that do, the raised costs are forcing a need to fund budgets elsewhere. We are glad our staff is receiving salary hikes. However, these wage increases have affected our debt growth. (See below.)



Omar helping with acts of service, carrying donated food. He and his sister have lived with us since 2020. They may spend the rest of their childhoods in our home.

Year End Closing Balances for Home



Corn tortilla prices have risen 47% in Baja California since 2020. Baja California has some of the highest tortilla costs, second only to Sonora. They are used in many traditional Mexican dishes including tacos, enchiladas, burritos, tostadas, chilaquiles, quesadillas, and more.