

B. Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable.

C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

D. Risk Factors

You should carefully consider the following risks and uncertainties, and any other information appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report. The risks and uncertainties described below are intended to highlight risks and uncertainties that are specific to us. Additional risks and uncertainties, including those generally affecting Argentina and the industry in which we operate, risks and uncertainties that we currently consider immaterial or risks and uncertainties generally applicable to similar companies in Argentina may also impair our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

The information in this Risk Factors section includes forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of numerous factors, including those described in “Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Risk Factors Summary” above.

The following summarizes some, but not all, of the risks provided below. Please carefully consider all of the information discussed in this Item 3.D. “Risk Factors” in this Annual Report for a more thorough description of these and other risks:

- Risks Relating to Argentina
 - Argentina’s public debt;
 - high levels of public spending in Argentina;
 - risks inherent to any investment in a company operating in an emerging market such as Argentina;
 - economic volatility in Argentina;
 - the ongoing political instability in Argentina;
 - the impact of reforms and measures taken or to be taken by the Fernandez administration, including the Solidarity Law;
 - failure by Argentina to comply with the terms of the agreement with the IMF;
 - public health threats;
 - high levels of inflation and the lack of credibility regarding Argentina’s official inflation statistics;
 - restrictions on transfers of foreign currency;
 - fluctuations in the value of the peso;

lack of a transparent and rigorous framework for awarding and managing public contracts in Argentina and corruption allegations;

Government intervention in the Argentine economy;

Impact on the Argentine economy of economic developments in other markets;

Argentina's past default and litigation with holdout bondholders;

a sustained deterioration in the terms of trade given a decline in the global prices for Argentina's main commodity exports or an increase in the global prices for Argentina's main commodity imports;

further downgrades in the credit rating or rating outlook of Argentina; and

the Argentine government may mandate salary increases for private sector employees.

- Risks Relating to Our Business

failure or delay in the implementation of tariff increases and our inability to obtain tariff adjustments reflecting the increase in operating cost;

our operations are subject to extensive regulation;

failure to maintain our relationships with labor unions;

our ability to maintain our license for our regulated business;

our creditors may not be able to enforce their claims against us in Argentina;

the Government's strategies, measures and programs with respect to the natural gas transportation industry;

Government-mandated interruption of contracted firm transportation services;

a significant portion of our revenues is generated under natural gas transportation contracts that must be renegotiated and/or extended periodically;

our business may require substantial capital expenditures;

our Liquids production depends on the natural gas that arrives at the Cerri Complex through three main pipelines from the Neuquina, Austral and San Jorge natural gas basins;

measures taken by the Government on the supply of natural gas to the Cerri Complex;

fluctuations in market prices and the enactment of new taxes or regulations limiting the sales price of LPG and natural gasoline;

the continued spread of the COVID;

our ethane sales depend on the capacity of PBB Polisor S.R.L. ("**PBB**"), as the sole purchaser of our ethane production;

the delay in the collection of our sales receivables with customers and/or subsidies owed by the Government for the supply of LPG in the domestic market;

our failure to renew firm transportation contracts;

our Other services business depends significantly on the need of Vaca Muerta fields gas producers to evacuate untreated natural gas;

the affirmative and restrictive covenants in our currently outstanding indebtedness;

our insurance policies may not fully cover damage or we may not be able to obtain insurance against certain risks;

changes in the interpretation by the courts of labor laws that tend to favor employees;

risks related to litigation and administrative proceedings;

impact of environmental, occupational health and safety regulations;

we may face competition;

downgrades in our credit ratings;

cyberattacks or other risks related to new technologies;

mechanical or electrical failures and any resulting unavailability;

risks arising from natural disasters, catastrophic accidents and terrorist attacks;

failure to comply with anti-trust, anti-corruption, anti-bribery and anti-money laundering laws; and

inability to retain our employees or attract other skilled employees or contractors.

- Risks Relating to Our Shares and ADSs

shareholders outside Argentina may face additional investment risk from currency exchange rate fluctuations in connection with their holding of our shares or ADSs represented by ADRs;

our principal shareholders exercise significant control over matters affecting us, and may have interests that differ from those of our other shareholders;

sales of a substantial number of shares could decrease the market prices of our shares and the ADRs;

under Argentine law, shareholder rights may be fewer or less well defined than in other jurisdictions;

as a foreign private issuer we are exempt from certain rules that apply to domestic U.S. issuers;

changes in Argentine tax laws may adversely affect the tax treatment of our Class B Shares or ADSs;

holders of ADRs may be unable to exercise voting rights with respect to our Class B Shares underlying the ADRs at our shareholders' meetings;

holders of ADRs may be unable to exercise preemptive, accretion or other rights with respect to the Class B shares underlying the ADSs;

the NYSE and/or the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange (by delegated authority of BYMA) may suspend trading and/or delist our ADSs and common shares, respectively;

the price of our Class B Shares and the ADSs may fluctuate substantially; and

the relative volatility and illiquidity of the Argentine securities markets.

Risks Relating to Argentina

We are a stock corporation with limited liability (*sociedad anónima*) incorporated and organized under the laws of Argentina. Our financial condition and results of operations depend to a significant extent on economic, regulatory and political conditions prevailing in Argentina, the exchange rate between the peso and the U.S. dollar and the reference international prices of Liquids because a significant portion of our revenues (50% of our total consolidated revenues from sales for the year ended December 31, 2020), most of our capital expenditures, almost all of our debt obligations and the cost of natural gas used in our Liquids business are denominated in U.S. dollars, but substantially all of our assets are located in Argentina, and our functional currency is the peso.

Argentina's public debt may not be sustainable in the near future.

After the primary elections results of August 2019, the international markets casted doubt on Argentina's debt sustainability. In view of this, the country risk indicator raised to 2,200 basis points, topping-off a depreciation of bond prices. Also, on August 29, 2019 by Decree No. 596/2019 the Government announced a debt profiling consisting of (i) an extension on the payment term for short-term local bonds, only for institutional investors that will receive the full payment over terms of three and six months (15% on the original maturity date, 25% and 60% at 3rd and 6th month of the original maturity date, respectively), but not for natural persons who acquired the bonds before July 31, 2019, who will receive full payment on the maturity date; (ii) a proposal to the Argentine Congress of a bill to extend maturity dates of other local bonds, without reduction on the capital or interest; (iii) a proposal to extend the maturity dates of foreign bonds; and (iv) after achieving fiscal goals, the start of talks with the International Monetary Fund (the **"IMF"**) in order to reprofile the deadlines to reduce the default risk in 2020 and 2023.

As a result of the foregoing, Argentina's credit rating was downgraded in August 2019 and further downgraded in December 2019 to near-default status by both Fitch and S&P after the Government publicly stated that it would delay payments on its short-term dollar-denominated local debt.

Fitch cut Argentina's long-term issuer rating two notches to "restricted default" from CC, after the Government announced by decree that it would extend payments on U.S.\$9.1 billion in dollar-denominated Treasury bills until August 31, 2020. According to Fitch's criteria, Argentina has defaulted on its sovereign obligations, and this development constitutes a "distressed debt exchange". S&P also downgraded Argentina's credit rating to "selective default" from CCC-, while Moody's foreign issuer rating for Argentina is Caa2.

The government's decision to extend payments on its short-term notes constitutes the second such delay of payments in five months. In February 2020, the IMF has also publicly stated its concerns about the sustainability of Argentina's public debt and suggested that a definitive debt operation—yielding a meaningful contribution from private creditors—is required to help restore debt sustainability with high probability. As of the date of this Annual Report, Argentina's public debt load stands at U.S.\$323 billion, including loans from the IMF. Outstanding debt with private bondholders is approximately U.S.\$121 billion.

In addition, on March 13, 2020, the Minister of Economy requested the members of the Paris Club to postpone for one year the payment of U.S.\$ 2,100 million maturing on May 5, 2020. As of the date of this Annual Report, although the Paris Club has been receptive to rescheduling the payment requested by the National Government, it has not yet made public its acceptance of such request.

On April 21, 2020, the Argentine government launched an exchange offer with the aim of refinancing its external indebtedness in a manner which does not compromise the development and potential growth of Argentina over the next years. On August 17, 2020, the Argentine government submitted its modified bond restructuring offer to the SEC. On August 31, 2020, the Argentine government announced the results of its bond restructuring offer, announcing that holders owning 93.5% in principal amount of bonds outstanding and that this participation percentage was subsequently increased to 99% by virtue of the application of collective action clauses of the restructured bonds. Following the consummation of its bond restructuring offer, in September 2020 Fitch, Moody's and S&P upgraded Argentina's credit ratings to CCC, Ca and CCC+, respectively.

On August 8, 2020, Law No. 27,556 on the restructuring of the public debt instrumented in public securities denominated in U.S. Dollars and issued under Argentine law was enacted through an exchange transaction. Then, on August 18, 2020 and through Resolution No. 381/2020, the Ministry of Economy started the acceptance period of the restructuring offer, whose procedure was detailed in Law No. 27,556, which was in force until September 15, 2020. The "Net Present Value" paid for the exchanged securities was around U.S.\$53.5 for every U.S.\$100 of nominal value, discounted at an exit rate of 10%, for those securities issued during 2015-2019 and around U.S.\$59.5 for those previously issued in 2005 and 2010. Subsequently, after the end of the early acceptance period, on September 4, 2020, the Argentine government communicated that the invitation to exchange foreign currency denominated securities issued under Argentine law had an acceptance equivalent to 98.8% of the total outstanding principal amount of all eligible securities.

Further, the Fernandez administration has also undertaken a restructuring of domestic debt that resulted in a 130% foreign exchange premium and a loss of U.S.\$1,300 million international reserves to smooth the official exchange rate depreciation. Initially, foreign exchange controls were partially eased and the market responded positively, the foreign exchange premium was reduced to 85% and the international reserves loss was drastically reduced.

In addition, on August 26, 2020, the IMF issued Press Release No. 20/287, informing of the Argentine government's request to initiate negotiations on a new IMF-supported program. Subsequent releases were issued by the IMF's mission team for Argentina on November 20, 2020 and March 25, 2021 confirming that the IMF and the Government continue working on an economic program to help address Argentina's near- and medium-term challenges.

As of the date of this Annual Report, it is not possible to predict the impact that the measures relating to Argentina's debt restructuring nor any future economic plan that the Fernandez administration may implement will have on the Argentine economy. The Fernandez administration's attempt to stabilize the economy and reduce the fiscal deficit, the trade deficit, inflation, poverty, and country risk, have to date proved unsuccessful. Any further measures could be detrimental to the economy and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Moreover, difficulties by Argentina and Argentine issuers in accessing international capital markets continue. Without access to the international financial markets the Government may not have the financial resources to implement reforms and boost growth, which could have a significant adverse effect on the country's economy and, consequently, on our activities. Failure of Argentina to restructure its debt could cause Argentina to default in the payment of its public debt, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operation, and our ability to meet our financial obligations, as it could have a direct impact on our customers' ability to pay for our products and services, the demand for energy and our ability to access local and international markets to finance our operations and our growth. In addition, we cannot predict the outcome of any future restructuring of Argentine sovereign debt.

High levels of public spending in Argentina could generate adverse consequences for the Argentine economy.

In recent years, Argentina has substantially increased public expenditure. In 2016, government spending increased by 42.8% as compared to 2015, resulting in a primary fiscal deficit of 4.2% of GDP for 2015. In 2017, government spending increased by 25.9% as compared to 2016, resulting in a primary fiscal deficit of 3.8% of GDP for 2017. In 2018, government spending increased by 13.1% as compared to 2017 resulting in a primary fiscal deficit of 2.4% of GDP for 2018, but while the primary fiscal deficit decreased compared to 2017, the financial deficit (interest rates of the international debt with IMF) increased to 2.8%, resulting in a total deficit of 5.2% for the year 2018. In 2019, government spending increased by 36.2% as compared to 2018, resulting in a primary fiscal deficit.

The Government's primary fiscal balance could be negatively affected in the future if public expenditure continues to increase at a rate higher than revenues, due to, for example, social security benefits, financial assistance to provinces with financial problems and increased spending on public works and subsidies, including subsidies to the energy and transportation sectors. Further deterioration in fiscal accounts could negatively affect the government's ability to access the long-term financial markets.

In addition, as a consequence of the economic impact of the COVID, the Argentine government has increased public spending considerably, and has used money issuance as a tool to raise funds, the highest in the last 30 years. Primary fiscal deficit for 2020 resulted in 6.5% in terms of GDP.

In 2020, government spending increased by 52.7% as compared to 2019 resulting in Ps. 777,014 million.

In connection with the agreement entered into with the IMF in 2018, the Macri administration committed to address fiscal solvency and, thus, undertook steps to curb the fiscal deficit by reducing gas and transport subsidies and other expenses. However, these policies have led to higher prices and thus had a negative impact on consumer purchasing power. After assuming office, the Fernandez administration, within the framework of the Solidarity Law, taking care of the most vulnerable sectors, has taken a series of measures to reduce public spending.

The implementation of new measures in the future could also have negative effects. Furthermore, the federal government’s primary fiscal balance could be negatively affected if public expenditure increases faster than revenues in the future. Moreover, weaker fiscal results in Argentina than those envisaged could have a material adverse effect on Argentina’s economy.

The Government’s ability to access the long-term financial markets to finance such deficit is limited given the high levels of public sector indebtedness. The inability to access the capital markets to fund its deficit or the use of other sources of financing may have a negative impact on the economy and could limit the access to such capital markets for Argentine companies, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Certain risks are inherent in any investment in a company operating in an emerging market such as Argentina.

Argentina is an emerging market economy, and investing in emerging markets generally carries risks. These risks include political, social and economic instability that may affect Argentina’s economic results, which can stem from many factors. In general, Argentine economic conditions are dependent on a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, the following: (i) domestic production, international demand and prices for Argentina’s principal export commodities, (ii) the competitiveness and efficiency of domestic industries and services, (iii) the stability and competitiveness of the peso against foreign currencies and exchange controls, (iv) high interest and inflation rates, (v) Argentina’s fiscal and trade deficits, (vi) Argentina’s public debt level, (vii) foreign and domestic investment and financing, (viii) governmental policies and the legal and regulatory environment, including import and export contracts and tax provisions, (ix) consumption levels, (x) wage and price controls and (xi) political uncertainty and social unrest.

Any of these factors, as well as volatility in the capital markets, may adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Economic volatility in Argentina has adversely affected and may continue to adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations depend to a significant degree on macroeconomic, political, regulatory and social conditions in Argentina. The Argentine economy has experienced significant volatility in recent decades, characterized by periods of low or negative growth, high and variable levels of inflation and interest rates and currency devaluation. As a consequence, our business and operations have been, and could in the future be, affected from time to time, to varying degrees, by the high volatility in Argentina, which primarily results from economic and political developments and other material events affecting the Argentine economy, such as: inflation, price controls, fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates; currency devaluation; governmental policies regarding tariffs, spending and investment, and other regulatory initiatives increasing government involvement with economic activity; and international conflicts, social unrest and insecurity concerns.

In 2020, 2019 and 2018, the peso experienced a rapid devaluation against major foreign currencies, particularly against the U.S. dollar. In particular, in 2019, immediately after the preliminary presidential elections (*elecciones primarias, abiertas, simultáneas y obligatorias*), the peso suffered a significant devaluation. According to the exchange rate information published by the Banco Nación, the peso depreciated by 40.5% against the U.S. dollar during the year ended December 31, 2020 (compared to 58.9% and 102.2% in the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018). As a result of the peso's increased volatility, in 2020 and 2019, the Government announced several measures to control and restrict the ability of companies and individuals to exchange pesos for foreign currencies. Those measures include the requirement to obtain prior approval from the BCRA, which could eventually restrict the ability to exchange pesos for other currencies. Moreover, restrictions also apply to the acquisition of any foreign currency for holding as cash within Argentina and to transfer dividends abroad, among others. Additionally, the Government implemented a new tax at a rate of 30% on certain transactions involving the acquisition of foreign currency. For additional information see "Item 10. Additional Information—D. Exchange Controls."

The ability of the Government to stabilize the foreign exchange market and restore economic growth is subject to uncertainty. The continued depreciation of the peso and the failure to meet its obligations with IMF could have a material adverse effect on Argentina's economy and, consequently, our business, results of operations and financial condition.

In addition, this rapid devaluation has confronted inflationary pressures, evidenced by significantly higher fuel and food prices, among other indicators. Inflation in Argentina has contributed to a material increase in our operating costs, in particular labor costs, and negatively affected our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations. There can be no assurance that inflation rates will not escalate in the future, and the effects of measures adopted or that may be adopted in the future by the Government to control inflation are uncertain. See "*—Government intervention in the Argentine economy could adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations*" and "*—High levels of inflation and the lack of credibility regarding Argentina's official inflation statistics could negatively affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations.*"

The Argentine economy remains vulnerable, as reflected by the following economic conditions:

- inflation, which remains high, and may continue to be high in the future;
- volatility in real GDP, which according to the restated information released by INDEC grew by 2.7% in 2015, decreased by 2.1% in 2016, grew by 2.7% in 2017, decreased by 2.5% in 2018, decreased by 2.2% and 9.9% in 2019 and 2020, respectively;
- Argentina's public debt as a percentage of GDP, which remains high, and as of September 30, 2020, represented approximately 100.7% of the GDP;
- the discretionary increase in public expenditures that has resulted (and continues to result) in a fiscal deficit;
- high unemployment and informal employment rates;

- high exchange rate volatility;
- high fiscal and trade deficits;
- an inability to pay public debt and the reperfilation of debt maturities;
- limited access to funding in the local and international capital markets;
- agricultural exports, which fueled the economic recovery, have been affected by drought and lower prices than in prior years;
- fluctuations in international oil prices;
- unavailability of long-term credit to the private sector;
- the effects of a restrictive U.S. monetary policy, which could generate an increase in financial costs for Argentina;
- fluctuations in the BCRA's foreign currency reserves;
- uncertainty with respect to the imposition of exchange and capital controls;
- the abrupt fall in the value of sovereign bonds and a decline in consumer confidence or foreign direct investment;
- the public health concerns derived from COVID and its scale and duration discussed below, which remain uncertain, but could impact our earnings, cash flow, liquidity, and financial condition; and
- other political, social and economic events outside of Argentina that adversely affect the current growth of the Argentine economy.

After assuming office in December 2019, President Alberto Fernández announced that his administration would continue with the BCRA's zero currency issuance policy and increased taxes to finance the fiscal deficit. However, after COVID and the emergency measures taken by Fernandez's administration, it is, as yet, uncertain if these policies can be sustained and the effects that these measures will have on the fiscal deficit and on the economy in general.

A decline in international demand for Argentine products, a lack of stability and competitiveness of the peso against other currencies, a decline in confidence among consumers and foreign and domestic investors, a high rate of inflation and future political uncertainties, among other factors, may affect the development of the Argentine economy which could lead to reduced aggregate demand and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

As of the date of this Annual Report, the impact of the policies and measures adopted by the Government on the Argentine economy as a whole cannot be predicted. Also, we cannot predict the full future impact that changes in the application of the tax indexation procedure and related adjustments will have on our financial statements, or the effects on our effective tax rate or on our business, results of operations and financial condition. The factors described above, among other factors, may materially and adversely affect the development of the Argentine economy, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The ongoing political instability in Argentina may adversely affect the Argentine economy.

Argentina’s political and social environment has historically influenced, and continues to influence, the performance of the country’s economy. Political and social crises have affected and continue to affect the confidence of investors and the general public, which has historically resulted in economic deceleration and heightened volatility in securities with underlying Argentine risk. The recent political instability in Argentina has contributed to a decline in market confidence in the Argentine economy. Weak macroeconomic conditions in Argentina may continue in the upcoming years.

As from March 2020, as a consequence of the COVID, the Government has taken several measures in order to reduce its impact on public health. These measures intensified the slowdown in the Argentine economy. In the current context of recession and considering the weak financial situation of the country that is renegotiating the terms of its financial indebtedness with creditors, these measures could mean a further deterioration in Argentina’s public accounts and its macroeconomic and financial situation.

We cannot provide any assurance that future economic, social and political developments in Argentina, over which we have no control, will not impair our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

The impact of reforms and measures taken or to be taken as a result of the change of administration are uncertain.

Similar to the primary elections held in August 2019, following the announcement of the result of the elections held in October 2019, in which the coalition of the *Frente para Todos* party was elected over the coalition in which Mauricio Macri was a part, the peso suffered a significant depreciation against the U.S. dollar, and Argentine companies’ shares listed on the BYMA fell on the order of 38%. There was also an abrupt escalation of the country default risk above 2000 basis points. All the above-mentioned events set off a critical, negative shockwave in Argentine financial markets and generated economic instability which resulted in the adoption of several measures, taken not only by the former administration but also by the ruling party:

- **Alleviation measures.** On August 14, 2019, in order to reduce the effects of the worsening economic situation, the Government took the following measures: (i) a minimum wage increase of 20% and a special deduction for retirees and formal employees, together with an increase in the minimum income amount for federal income taxes, now at Ps.55,376 for “single” filing status and Ps.70,274 for “married with children”; (ii) a deduction of 50% in taxable fees for self-employed workers; (iii) an exemption from employee contributions for salaried employees with a net salary below Ps.60,000 (personal contributions 11% of net salary) during September and October, with a maximum of Ps.2,000 monthly; (iv) an exemption from tax contributions for simplified filers (*Monotributistas*) during September; (v) an increase of Ps.1,000 per child during September and October for beneficiaries of the universal child allowance (*asignación universal por hijo*); (vi) the establishment by the *Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos*, of a 10-year moratorium for small- and medium-sized companies (as well as for self-employed workers and simplified filers); and (vii) a 90-day freeze on gas prices. The fiscal cost of these measures reaches Ps.40,000 million.

- **Rate of 0% on the value-added tax of “basic food basket.”** By Decree No. 567/2019 published in the Official Gazette on August 16, 2019, the Government enacted that the sale of items in the “basic food basket” (*canasta básica de alimentos*) would be exempt from value added tax to final consumers. The products that are part of this basic food basket are: sunflower oil, corn and mix, rice, sugar, preserved fruits, vegetables and beans, corn flour, wheat flour, eggs, whole milk, skim milk, bread, bread-crumbs, dry pasta, *yerba mate*, *mate cocido*, tea, whole yoghurt and non-fat yoghurt. The exemption was in place until December 31, 2019.
- **Public Debt Reprofiting.** On August 29, 2019, the Executive Branch published Decree No. 598/2019, pursuant to which certain exceptional measures were adopted to relieve tension in the financial and foreign exchange markets. The measures consist of (i) an extension on the payment term for short-term local bonds, only for institutional investors that will receive the full payments in terms of three and six months (15% on original maturity date, 25% and 66% at 3rd and 6th month of the original maturity date, respectively) and not for natural persons who acquired the bonds before July 31, 2019, who will receive full payment on the maturity date; (ii) a proposal to the Argentine Congress of a bill to extend the maturity dates of other local bonds, without reduction on the capital or interest; (iii) a proposal to extend the maturity dates of foreign bonds; and (iv) after achieving fiscal goals, the start of talks with the IMF in order to reprofile the deadlines to reduce the default risk in 2020 and 2023.
- **Exchange control restrictions.** The Executive Branch reinstated restrictions on the foreign exchange market through the Emergency Decree No. 609/2019 (“**Decree 609**”), published in the Official Gazette on September 1, 2019, and since then has enacted subsequent exchange control restrictions. These exchange control restrictions remain in place. For additional information see “–Restrictions on transfers of foreign currency and the repatriation of capital from Argentina may impair our ability to pay dividends and distributions and investors may face restrictions on their ability collect capital and interest payments in connection with corporate bonds issued by Argentine companies” and “Item 10. Additional Information–D. Exchange Controls.”
- **Occupational Emergency.** Through Decree No. 34/2019 (“**Decree 34**”), on December 13, 2019, the Government of Alberto Fernández declared a public emergency in occupational matters for a term of 180 days. In case of dismissal without cause during said period, the affected worker will have the right to receive double compensation in accordance with current legislation. The Government went a step further amid the COVID pandemic, extending this measure on several occasions, most recently by Decree no. 39/2021, effective until December 31, 2021.
- **Solidarity Law.** On December 23, 2019, the National Congress enacted the Solidarity Law. This law declared a public emergency in economic, financial, fiscal, administrative, pension, tariff, energy, health and social matters, and, pursuant to the Argentine Constitution, the Solidarity Law delegates legislative powers to the Executive Branch. For additional information, see “Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects–A. Operating Results–Factors affecting our consolidated results of operations.”

- **Emergency Assistance Program for Work and Production.** Pursuant Decree No. 332/2020 of April 1, 2020 ("Decree 332"), the Fernández administration created the Emergency Assistance Program for Work and Production for employers and workers affected by the COVID health emergency. This program includes: (i) the postponement or reduction of up to 95% of the payment of certain employer contributions; (ii) a compensatory salary assignment; and (iii) a comprehensive unemployment benefit system. Decree No. 376/2020 of April 20, 2020 expands the subjects entitled to, and the benefits included in Decree 332, including: (i) zero rate credit facilities for certain eligible small taxpayers, workers and self-employed workers, with a subsidy of 100% of the total financial cost; (ii) expanding the scope of the compensatory salary assignment paid by the Government to all workers in the private sector; (iii) the authorization of the Argentine Guarantee Fund (FoGAR) to guarantee the credit facilities referred in (i); and (iv) an increase in the amount of unemployment insurance between Ps.6,000 and Ps.10,000. Decree No. 624/2020 of July 27, 2020 further amends the criteria to determine eligibility to the benefits of such assistance program. We have not taken advantage of this assistance program.
- **- Legal Regime of the Telework Contract.** On August 14, 2020, Law No. 27,555 was published, the purpose of which is to establish the minimum legal requirements for the regulation of the telework modality in those activities that, due to their nature and particular characteristics, allow it. This law incorporates to the employment contract regime approved by Law No. 20,744 certain provisions related to teleworking, such as working hours, work elements, and the rights and obligations of the worker, among other matters. The law will enter into force after the expiration of 90 days from the end of the period of validity of the social, preventive and mandatory isolation provided by Decree No. 297/2020 as amended. On January 20, 2021, Decree No. 27/2021 was published in the Official Gazette, which partially regulates Law No. 27,555. Said Decree delegates to the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security the issuance of the resolution that will determine the starting date of the 90-day period for the above mentioned Law to become effective.
- **Amendments to the Information and Communications Technology ("ICT") regime.** By means of Decree No. 690/2020 dated August 21, 2020, the Argentine Government introduced a series of amendments to the ICT Law No. 27,078. First, ICT services and access to telecommunications networks were assigned the character of public service in competition. Likewise, the regime for determining prices was modified. It is established that ICT service licensees will set their prices, which must be fair and reasonable, covering operating costs, aiming at an efficient provision and a reasonable operating margin. At the same time, prices will be regulated by the enforcement authority in the case of essential and strategic ICT public services in competition, providers based on the Universal Service and those determined by the enforcement authority for reasons of public interest. Also, the prices of ICT services - including subscription broadcasting and fixed or mobile telephony services - were frozen from July 31, 2020 until December 31, 2020. On December 18, 2020, the National Communications Entity (ENACOM) issued Resolution No. 1466/2020, which provided for an increase limited to services. Likewise, ENACOM issued Resolution No. 1467/2020 on December 21, 2020, whereby "Mandatory Universal Basic Services" were approved for the Basic Telephone Service, Mobile Communications Services, Internet Access Value Added Service, Pay TV services by subscription through physical, radioelectric or satellite link and Radio Broadcasting services by subscription through physical or radioelectric link (SRSVR) or satellite link, aimed at users who comply with certain conditions, essentially aimed at the most vulnerable sectors.

- **Judicial Reform Bill.** On July 29, 2020, the Executive Branch announced a judicial reform bill which consists of increasing the number of federal courts by creating 23 new federal courts and merging the federal criminal circuit with the federal economic criminal circuit. In addition, the proposed bill seeks the appointment of an advisory committee composed of legal experts to advise the executive branch on the operation of the judicial branch. The bill was approved by the Senate on August 28, 2020 and, as of the date of this Supplement, is pending discussion in the House of Representatives.
- **Oil&Gas upstream industry.** Certain measures were established in order to encourage oil and gas production. The most prominent refers to the establishment of the Argentine Natural Gas Production Promotion Plan - Supply and Demand Scheme 2020-2024 through Decree No. 892/2020 published on November 16, 2020. Further on May 19, 2020, Decree 488/2020 was published, through which a base price of US \$ 45 was set for the commercialization of a barrel of Medanito-type crude oil in the local market, containing also provisions relating to the aliquots applicable to export duties relating to products from the hydrocarbon industry.

The current administration also took several other measures to reduce the impact of public service tariffs on the economy. These measures included the freezing of tariffs, the pesification of electricity generation rates, and deferral of the payment of natural gas bills for certain consumers, among others. *For additional information see "Item 4. Our information.-B. Business overview.-Natural gas transportation."*

As of the date of this Annual Report, the impact that the aforementioned measures have had or will have on the Argentine economy, and on our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations as a whole, cannot be fully assessed or predicted. In addition, we cannot predict how the current administration will address certain political and economic issues that were central during the Macri administration, or the impact that any measures taken or to be taken by the Fernández administration in connection with these issues will have on the Argentine economy as a whole. Also, we cannot assure that the Government or any of its political divisions will not adopt additional changes and reforms in tax matters, or that these reforms and those that may be adopted in the future will not adversely affect our business, results of operations or financial condition.

The Solidarity Law and the measures that the new administration has implemented could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

The Solidarity Law declares, among other issues, the tariff and energy emergency, delegates to the Executive Branch broad legislative powers to ensure the sustainability of the public debt, regulates the tariff restructuring of the energy system through a renegotiation of the current Integral Tariff Renegotiation ("**RTI**") and reorders the regulators of the energy system, among others. Likewise, the rates of public utilities for natural gas will remain unchanged for a maximum period of 180 days (since December 23, 2019), which period has been extended by Decree No. 543/2020 ("**Decree 543**") and Decree No. 1020/2020 ("**Decree 1020**") until the RTI process concludes or the transitional tariff increase is put into effect.

This law also modified certain tax aspects previously modified by the administration of Mauricio Macri. As a result, the tax rate on personal property has been increased, a new 30% currency purchase tax has been created, and the previous changes in the income tax rates have been reversed, suspending the 25% reduction for the year beginning on January 1, 2020 and providing that the result of the tax inflation adjustment must be paid in six installments, instead of three installments, as previously established.

Additionally, and in order to meet the fiscal deficit, the pension adjustment system has been suspended by the Solidarity Law and finally modified by Law No. 27,609.

It is not possible to foresee the impact of this law or the measures that could be taken by the new administration at the national or provincial level, and the effect that such measures could have on the Argentine economy and on Argentina's ability to meet its financial obligations, which could negatively affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, we cannot assure you that economic, regulatory, social and political events in Argentina will not affect our business, financial condition or the results of our operations.

Failure to comply with the terms of the agreement with the IMF may adversely affect the Argentine economy and, as a result, our business.

In June 2018, the Government agreed with the IMF to implement a stand-by program for U.S.\$50,000 million for a period of 36 months.

The economic plan presented by the former administration to access this program sought to strengthen the country's economy by restoring market confidence through a coherent macroeconomic program that would reduce financing needs, place Argentina's public debt on a firm downward trajectory and strengthen the plan of inflation reduction through more realistic inflation targets and the strengthening of the BCRA's independence. The main parts of the economic plan were: (i) the restoration of market confidence, (ii) protection of the most vulnerable segments of society by adjusting the national budget for social protection, (iii) a strengthening of the credibility of the BCRA inflation targeting framework, and (iv) a progressive reduction of the impossibility of payment.

The IMF has held several rounds of meetings with the Government to discuss the recent macroeconomic developments and learn more about the economic plans and policies of the Fernandez Administration. The Argentine authorities are moving to address the difficult economic and social situation facing the country and have implemented a set of policies to address the rise in poverty, while also taking steps to stabilize the economy and secure a sustainable and orderly resolution of Argentina's debt situation.

More recently, President Alberto Fernandez and Argentina's Minister of Economy have stated the country's difficulty in canceling the country's debt with the IMF while requesting a reduction in the cost of IMF loans.

The outcome of negotiations with the IMF and Argentina's private creditors is uncertain and could have a material adverse effect in our business, results of operation and financial condition. The IMF and the authorities have stated that they will continue to engage closely, and further discussions are planned as the authorities continue defining their economic plans and policies.

As of the date of this Annual Report, we cannot predict exactly the outcome of such negotiations, what measures will be adopted to comply with the directives of the IMF or the consequences of these measures on the Argentine economy in general, or on our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations. Furthermore, we cannot predict that the measures that will be adopted in the future will enable Argentina to have sufficient funds to comply with its commitments to the IMF.

Public health threats could have an adverse effect on the Argentine economy and on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID a pandemic. In response, countries have adopted extraordinary measures to contain the spread of the virus, including imposing travel restrictions and closing borders, requiring closures of non-essential businesses, instructing residents to practice social distancing, issuing stay-at-home orders, implementing quarantines and similar actions. The ongoing pandemic and these extraordinary government measures are disrupting global economic activity and resulting in significant volatility in global financial markets. According to the IMF, the global economy has recently entered into a recession.

The Government has adopted multiple measures in response to the COVID pandemic, including a nationwide mandatory lockdown that began on March 19, 2020 that has been extended several times. The government has also required during the last months the mandatory shutdown of businesses not considered essential. Finally, on November 6, 2020, the government announced the end of the mandatory lockdown for the AMBA (the *Area Metropolitana de Buenos Aires* or "AMBA") and the beginning of the new phase of social distancing. However, COVID cases have risen over the last few months in several regions of the world and the rate of infections is still increasing. Lockdowns return to Europe as cases rise again. Spain, France, the United Kingdom and the United States have all recorded more than one million cases, and several others are seeing their highest number of new infections since the start of the pandemic.

As a consequence, on April 8, 2021, Executive Branch issued Decree No. 235/2021, supplemented by Decree No. 241/2021, which reimposes social restrictions including a 8pm-6am curfew in Autonomous City of Buenos Aires areas marked by high rates of contagion, and limits on residential social gatherings and outdoor events. Oil and gas workers are among those considered essential and exempt from circulation restrictions. The measures will remain in place until the end of April 2021.

In order to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID pandemic and mandatory lockdown and shutdown of non-essential businesses, the Argentine government has adopted social aid, monetary and fiscal measures. We cannot assure you whether these measures will be sufficient to prevent a severe economic downturn in Argentina, particularly if current conditions are prolonged and if Argentina's main trading partners are concurrently facing an economic recession. However, the Argentine government may have more limited resources at this time to support the country' s economy; the pandemic has struck at a time when Argentina is simultaneously struggling to emerge from a two-year recession.

These temporary measures included the issuance of stay-at-home orders, closures of non-essential businesses, prohibition of layoffs without cause and suspension of workers, among others. Although these measures may help attenuate the economic impact on the Argentine economy overall, they may have a negative impact on our business and results of operations.

Additionally, we face various risks arising from the economic impact of the pandemic and government measures which are difficult to predict accurately at this time, such as:

- The situation generated by COVID could cause a decrease in our revenues (ie. A reduction in the demand of our Liquids products) or an increase in our operating costs. As a result of financial turmoil in Argentina caused by disruptions in supply chains and public debt restructuring, we may experience difficulties in our ability to pay off our debts and other financial obligations as they become due. We could also face difficulties in accessing debt and capital markets and may be forced to refinance our indebtedness;
- An extended period of remote work by our employees could deplete our technological resources and result in or exacerbate certain operational risks, including an increased risk of cybersecurity. Remote work environments may be less secure and more susceptible to hacking attacks, including phishing and social engineering attempts to exploit the COVID pandemic; and
- COVID poses a threat to the well-being and morale of our employees. While we have implemented a business continuity plan to protect the health of our employees and we have contingency plans for key employees or executive officers who may become ill or unable to perform their duties for an extended period of time, such plans cannot anticipate all scenarios, and we may experience a possible loss of productivity or a delay in the deployment of certain strategic plans.

In addition, governmental authorities may recommend or impose additional measures that could cause further significant disruptions to business activity in general. We have also modified some of our business activities by changing our cleaning procedures, implementing remote work modalities and suspending certain business activities. The impact of the COVID on the financial markets has also negatively affected borrowing costs, hedging activities, liquidity and access to capital in general, which could limit our ability to obtain financing for our operations on a timely basis, on acceptable terms or at all.

In addition, the slowdown in economic activity caused by COVID and other internal factors and ongoing changes in customer habits may result in a decrease in energy demand even after the government measures have been lifted.

We are continuously monitoring the impact of the ongoing COVID pandemic on our Company. The ultimate impact of the pandemic on our business, results of operations and financial condition remains highly uncertain and will depend on future developments outside of our control, including the intensity and duration of the pandemic and the government measures taken in order to contain the virus or mitigate the economic impact. To the extent the COVID pandemic adversely affects our business, it may also have the effect of heightening many of the other risks described in this "Risk Factors" section. For additional information regarding the impact of COVID on our results and financial situation, see *"Item 5. Operating and Financial Results Review and Prospects—A. Operating Results."*

High levels of inflation and the lack of credibility regarding Argentina's official inflation statistics could negatively affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Pursuant to Argentine law, the INDEC is the only institution in Argentina entitled to publish official nationwide statistics. In addition, inflation has undermined the Argentine economy and the Government's ability to stimulate economic growth. In the past, there have been concerns regarding the accuracy of the INDEC statistics. In 2007, the INDEC changed the way it calculated inflation statistics such as CPI and WPI.

Despite consultations between the Government and the IMF regarding the reliability of the INDEC’s statistics, in February 2013, the IMF Executive Board issued a declaration of censure against Argentina in connection with Argentina’s breach of its obligations to provide information to the IMF under the Articles of Agreement and called on Argentina to adopt remedial measures to address the inaccuracy of inflation and GDP data without further delay.

On February 13, 2014, the INDEC released a new inflation index (the “**IPCnu**”) that measured prices on goods across the country, replacing the previous index that only measured inflation in the urban sprawl of the City of Buenos Aires. The IPCnu, together with the GDP calculation, was reviewed by the IMF. During 2015, the IMF ruled that these indicators did not comply with its statutes, so it maintained an ongoing review process. Concerns regarding statistics in Argentina remained until January 8, 2016, when Decree No. 55/2016 and the declaration of a state of administrative emergency in the national statistical system and in the INDEC until December 31, 2016, was issued. Following this declaration, the INDEC ceased publishing statistical data until a rearrangement of its technical and administrative structure was finalized on December 31, 2016.

On June 29, 2016, the INDEC published recalculated historical GDP data, modifying the previously released data and substituting the IPCnu. Following the publication of revised data, on November 9, 2016, the Executive Board of the IMF concluded consultation with, and lifted its censure of, Argentina.

The INDEC discontinued the publication of data from November 2015 through May 2016 following the declaration of a state of administrative emergency in the national statistical system. During that period, the INDEC released alternative CPI figures based on data published by the Province of San Luis and the City of Buenos Aires. In June 2016, the INDEC resumed publication of monthly data.

Certain private economists have estimated significantly higher inflation rates than those published by the INDEC for the period from 2007 to 2015. The uncertainty relating to the inaccuracy of the economic indexes and rates may lead to a lack of confidence in the Argentine economy and may, in turn, limit our ability to access credit and capital markets, which could adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

According to information published by the INDEC, in 2020, 2019 and 2018, CPI registered an increase of 36.1%, 53.8% and 47.6%, respectively. In 2020, 2019 and 2018, the WPI increased by 35.4%, 58.5% and 73.5%, respectively. Additionally, in 2020, the CPI increased, 2.3%, 2.0%, 3.3%, 1.5%, 1.5%, 2.2%, 1.9%, 2.7%, 2.8%, 3.8, 3.2% and 4.0% in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December, respectively, and the WPI increased 1.5%, 1.1%, 1.0%, (1.3) %, 0.4%, 3.7%, 3.5%, 4.1%, 3.7%, 4.7%, 4.2% and 4.4% during the same months. During January, February and March 2021, inflation remained at high levels, where the CPI increased by 4.0%, 3.6% and 4.8%, respectively, on a month-to-month basis.

High inflation rates affect Argentina’s foreign competitiveness and social and economic inequality, negatively impact employment, consumption and the level of economic activity, and undermine confidence in Argentina’s banking system, which could further limit the availability of and access by local companies to domestic and international credit. Inflation rates could escalate in the future, and there is uncertainty regarding the effects that the Government’s measures to control inflation may have. Increased inflation could adversely affect the Argentine economy, which in turn may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Inflation has, in the past, materially undermined the Argentine economy and the government's ability to foster conditions that would permit stable growth. Currently, Argentina faces inflationary pressures, evidenced by significantly higher fuel, energy and food prices, among other factors. Increases in inflation rates could accelerate in the future, and there is uncertainty regarding the effects that the measures adopted, or that may be adopted in the future, by Argentina to control inflation may have.

As discussed elsewhere in this Annual Report, given that the Argentine economy has been considered as hyperinflationary, since July 1, 2018, we have applied IAS 29 in our Financial Statements, which requires that the financial statements of an entity whose functional currency is that of a hyperinflationary economy, regardless of whether they are based on the historical cost method or the current cost method, be expressed in terms of the current unit of measurement at the reporting date of the reporting period. See *"Presentation of Financial and Other Information—Financial Statements and Basis of Preparation."*

In recent years, the Government has taken certain measures to curb inflation, such as implementing price controls and limiting wage increases. We cannot assure you that inflation rates will not continue to increase in the future or that any measures taken or that may be taken by the Fernández administration to control inflation will be effective or successful. High inflation rates continue to be a challenge for Argentina. Significant increases in inflation rates could have a material adverse effect on Argentina's economy and, in turn, could increase our operating costs, in particular labor costs, and could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Because Natural Gas Transportation business segment sales represented 42% of our total revenues during the year 2020, and are denominated in pesos, any further increase in the rate of inflation not accompanied by a parallel increase in our tariffs would decrease our revenues in real terms and adversely affect our results of operations. Further, as a consequence of the application of IAS 29, maintaining monetary assets generates loss of purchasing power; *provided* that such items are not subject to an adjustment mechanism that compensates to some extent such loss. This loss is booked in the statement of comprehensive income.

Restrictions on transfers of foreign currency and the repatriation of capital from Argentina may impair our ability to pay dividends and distributions and investors may face restrictions on their ability collect capital and interest payments in connection with corporate bonds issued by Argentine companies.

On September 1, 2019, the BCRA issued Communication "A" 6,770, which established various rules for exports of goods and services, imports of goods and services, foreign assets, non-resident operations, financial debt, debts between residents, profits and dividends, and information systems. The Communication was issued in response to the publication of Decree No. 609/2019 (**"Decree 609"**), pursuant to which the Argentine government implemented foreign exchange regulations. Decree 609 sets forth the obligation to convert the value of goods and services exported into Pesos in the local financial system, in accordance with terms and conditions established by the BCRA. These exchange control restrictions remain in effect due to Decree No. 91/2019.

Additionally, on December 5, 2019 the BCRA issued Communication "A" 6,844, setting forth the consolidated set of rules governing foreign trade and exchange ("Exterior y Cambios" in Spanish). Among other restrictions, Communication "A" 6,844 requires prior authorization from the BCRA for the pre-cancellation of debts corresponding to imports of goods and services. For overdue or on-demand debts for the import of goods with related parties abroad outstanding as of August 31, 2019, the importer must request authorization from the BCRA if the debts exceed U.S.\$2 million per month.

BCRA authorization is also required for payments of services with related parties abroad. Prior authorization from the BCRA is required for the "constitution of foreign assets" (e.g., purchase of foreign currency, among others) by legal entities, local governments, mutual funds, trusts and other vehicles. Additionally, individuals must request authorization from the BCRA for the "formation of foreign assets," family aid and the granting of guarantees in derivative transactions, when those items exceed U.S.\$200 in the calendar month, among other circumstances.

With respect to financial debt, borrowers must enter and settle in the foreign exchange market new financial debts from abroad that are disbursed from September 1, 2019. Compliance with this requirement must be proved to access the foreign exchange market and cancel the principal and interest. Communication "A" 6,844 also requires companies to obtain prior authorization from the BCRA before transferring profits and dividends abroad, as a general rule.

Likewise, Communication "A" 6,854, issued on December 27, 2019 established that rules incorporated into the consolidated text of the regulations on foreign trade and exchange other than those applicable for export of goods and services, as set forth in Communication "A" 6,844, shall remain in full force and effect as from December 31, 2019.

Subsequently, the BCRA issued Communication "A" 7,030, through which it established that for the purpose of accessing the Exchange market for the realization of certain transactions such as (i) payment of imports and other purchases of goods abroad, (ii) purchase of foreign currency by residents with specific application, (iii) payment of profits and dividends, (iv) payment of capital and interest on financial indebtedness, among others, the entity shall have the prior consent of the BCRA unless it has an affidavit from the client stating that at the time of access to the exchange market: (i) all of its foreign currency holdings in the country are deposited in accounts in financial institutions and that it does not have liquid external assets available; and (ii) undertakes to liquidate on the exchange market, within five working days of its making available, those funds that it receives abroad arising from the collection of loans granted to third parties, the collection of a term deposit or the sale of any type of asset, where those funds have been acquired after May 28 2020.

On the other hand, the Communication provides that until June 30, 2020 (a period subsequently extended until July 31, 2020, by Communication "A" 7052) when accessing the market for payment of imports of goods or for the cancellation of debts arising from the import of goods, the BCRA must pre-approve the transaction unless the entity has: (i) a customer's affidavit stating that the total amount of payments associated with its imports of goods during 2020 does not exceed the amount by which the importer would have access to the exchange market that was officialized between January 1, 2020 and the day leading up to accessing the exchange market; and (ii) documentation that allows the company in question to verify compliance with the remaining requirements established for the operation by the exchange regulations. At the same time, the Communication provides that until June 30, 2020 (a period subsequently extended until July 31, 2020, by Communication "A" 7,052) prior approval of the BCRA will be required for access to the foreign market for the cancellation of financial indebtedness principal services with the foreign sector where the creditor is a counterparty linked to the debtor.

As for transactions corresponding to foreign market outflows, the Communication amends from 30 to 90 days the period within which (i) no sales of securities with liquidation in foreign currency or transfers thereof to foreign entities can be performed, and (ii) no local sales of securities with liquidation in foreign currency or transfers thereof to entities abroad can be performed, in this case, counted from the moment the foreign market was accessed.

On September 15, 2020, Communication "A" 7,106 established that companies must refinance maturities of financial debt principal in the period from October 15, 2020 to March 31, 2021. In this sense, the Central Bank will give access to companies for up to 40% of maturities and companies must refinance the rest within at least two years or should be cancelled using currency already in possession of the Company. Furthermore, Resolution No. 862/2020 of the CNV established a three-day "parking" requirement for both transfers of securities from local accounts abroad. As a result of all the exchange restrictions mentioned and all those that may be issued in the future by the BCRA in the context of the exercise of its powers, it is clarified that there may be potential "holdouts" in the context of the restructurings that Argentine companies are obliged to carry out with the consequent possible claims. The Central Bank measure, would, in many cases, result in non-compliance or a default on corporate debt denominated in U.S. dollars. It will be a challenge for issuers of corporate debt denominated in U.S. dollars to fully quantify the implications of Communication "A" 7,106. In order to fulfill the requirements of this regulation, a refinancing plan for financial debt due for registration until December 31, 2020 must be submitted to the Argentine Central Bank before September 30, 2020. For maturities to be registered between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021, the plan must be submitted at least 30 calendar days prior to the maturity of the principal to be refinanced, which implies a risk to obtain financing for new productive projects. As a consequence, there could be an increase in the spreads of corporate bonds. In addition, since June 2020, through Communication "A" 7,030, companies could no longer access to the MULC to cancel financial debt between companies in advance. It is also noted that such possible proposals for restructurings will fully comply with the requirements established by the applicable and current regulations, as long as the non-compliance brings the application of the foreign exchange criminal law to the members of the board of directors. These decisions resulted in a notorious sell off of sovereign bonds, which led to a 7% daily fall. The Central Bank sold U.S.\$1,318 million the following five weeks, in order to keep the exchange rate depreciation at desirable levels. Due to this unsustainable situation, the Government decided to partially ease the restrictions by reducing the interval between bond transactions and the resulting currency exchange between pesos and dollars from fifteen to three days, and also by repealing the aforementioned prohibition for non-residents. The Central Bank purchased U.S.\$608 million in the spot market in December 2020.

As a result of the tightening of exchange controls, the difference between the official exchange rate, which is currently used for commercial and financial transactions, and other secondary exchange rates that implicitly arose as a result of certain transactions commonly carried out in the capital market ("MEP" or "contado con liquidación" dollar) widened considerably, creating a gap of approximately 67% with the official exchange rate as of December 31, 2020. The Government could maintain a single official exchange rate or create multiple exchange rates for different types of transactions, substantially changing the exchange rate at which we purchase foreign currency to repay its foreign currency denominated indebtedness. In addition, the imposition by the government of additional exchange controls and restrictions and/or other measures in response to capital outflows or devaluation of the Peso could weaken public finances. Such a weakening of public finances could have an adverse effect on the Company's results of operations and financial condition.

As of the date of this Annual Report, the restrictions outlined above remain in place. Such measures may negatively affect Argentina's international competitiveness, discouraging foreign investments and lending by foreign investors or increasing foreign capital outflow which could have an adverse effect on economic activity in Argentina, and which in turn could adversely affect our business and results of operations. Any restrictions on transferring funds abroad imposed by the government could undermine our ability to pay dividends on our ADSs in U.S. dollars. Furthermore, these measures may cause delays or impose restrictions on the ability to collect payments of capital and interest on bonds issued by us. The challenge will be to achieve acceptance by creditors, in accordance with the BCRA regulations mentioned above, especially when it has highly diversified and retail creditors.

Fluctuations in the value of the peso may also adversely affect the Argentine economy, our financial condition and results of operations.

Since January 2002, the peso has fluctuated significantly in value and generally depreciated against the U.S. dollar, with adverse consequences to our business. A substantial increase in the value of the peso against the U.S. dollar could also present risks for the Argentine economy, since it may lead to a deterioration of the country's current account balance and the balance of payments. Between 2011 and December 2015, the Government strengthened exchange controls in response to an increase of capital outflows as compared to inflows and to a drop in the commercial surplus. However, these controls were not able to prevent the decrease of the international reserves of the BCRA between 2012 and 2015. In the past, a decrease in the BCRA's reserves resulted in Argentina being vulnerable to inflation and external shocks, affecting the country's capacity to overcome the effects of an external crisis.

After several years of moderate fluctuations in the exchange rate, on December 17, 2015, Macri's administration implemented certain measures, including the lifting of most of the foreign exchange controls. After these measures were taken, the value of the peso could freely fluctuate against the U.S. dollar.

Subsequently, in May 2018, the peso experienced a rapid devaluation against the main foreign currencies, particularly the U.S. dollar. As a result of the greater volatility of the peso, the Government announced several measures to restore market confidence and stabilize the value of the peso. In this regard, on December 31, 2018, the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar increased by 102.1%, from Ps.18.649 to Ps.37.7.

After the primary elections (*elecciones primarias, abiertas, simultáneas y obligatorias*) held in August 2019, the peso experienced again a rapid devaluation against the main foreign currencies, particularly the U.S. dollar. Since then, the Government has imposed several restrictions on the foreign exchange market. An unofficial U.S. dollar trading market has developed in which the peso/U.S. dollar exchange rate is significantly higher than the rate in the foreign exchange market.

As a consequence of the imposition of exchange controls, the spread between the official exchange rate and other secondary exchange rates implicitly resulting from certain common capital market transactions ("dólar MEP" or "contado con liquidación") has widened significantly, reaching a value of more than 100% in October 2020.

As of December 31, 2020, the total amount of principal and accrued but unpaid interest under our consolidated U.S. dollar-denominated indebtedness was U.S.\$ 521 million.

We cannot predict the future exchange rate between peso and the U.S. dollar, or how any fluctuation may affect our operational costs denominated in U.S. dollars.

Further depreciation of the peso against the U.S. dollar would likely result in a material adverse effect on our business because of our exposure to financial debt in U.S. dollars. In addition, future devaluations could result in higher inflation, reduce real wages and adversely affect the Government's ability to honor its foreign debt obligations. The depreciation of the Peso can also negatively impact businesses whose success is dependent on domestic market demand, and adversely affect the Government's ability to honor its foreign debt obligations.

A substantial increase in the exchange rate of the Peso against foreign currencies of the Peso against the U.S. dollar also represents risks for the Argentine economy since it may lead to a deterioration of the country’s current account balance and the balance of payments which may have a negative effect on GDP growth and employment, and reduce the revenue of the Argentine public sector by reducing tax revenue in real terms, due to its current heavy dependence on export taxes.

A lack of a transparent and rigorous framework for awarding and managing public contracts in Argentina and corruption allegations have affected and continue to affect Argentina.

Argentina is ranked 78 out of 179 in Transparency International’s 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index and 126 of 190 in the World Bank’s Doing Business 2020 report. As of the date of this Annual Report, there are various ongoing investigations into allegations of money laundering and corruption being conducted by the Office of the Argentine Federal Prosecutor, including one of the largest investigations known as the Notebooks Investigation (*Los Cuadernos de las Coimas*) (the **“Notebooks Investigation”**). Numerous former members of different agencies of Argentina as well as senior officers and owners of companies holding government contracts or concessions have confessed to committing allegedly prohibited acts or have faced or are currently facing allegations of corruption and money laundering as a result of the Notebooks Investigation. Certain former government officials have confessed or are alleged to have accepted bribes by means of kickbacks on contracts granted by the government to several infrastructure, energy and construction companies. In addition, these funds were unaccounted for or not publicly disclosed and were allegedly used to personally enrich certain individuals. Several senior politicians, including former members of the Argentine Congress, the former Vice President of Argentina and high-ranking executives and officers and owners of major companies in Argentina have been arrested on account of various charges relating to corruption, have entered into agreements with prosecutors (*Acuerdos de Colaboración*) to confess and/or provide sensitive information in exchange for a possible reduction of sentences upon conviction, and have resigned or been removed from their positions. The potential outcome of the Notebooks Investigation, as well as other ongoing corruption and money laundering investigations, is uncertain, but the Notebooks Investigation has already had an adverse impact on the image and reputation of those companies whose owners or officers have been implicated, and more generally on international investors’ perception of the Argentine economy, political environment, capital markets and the infrastructure sector in Argentina.

Recognizing that the failure to address these issues could increase the risk of political instability, distort decision making processes and adversely affect Argentina’s international reputation and ability to attract foreign investment, the Macri administration announced several measures aimed at strengthening Argentina’s institutions, enhancing the integrity of public officials and reducing corruption. These measures included the reduction of criminal sentences in exchange for cooperation with the government in corruption investigations, increased access to public information, the seizing of assets from corrupt officials, increasing the powers of the Anticorruption Office (*Oficina Anticorrupción*) and the passing of a new public ethics law, among others. The Government’s ability to implement these initiatives is uncertain.

There can be no assurance that the implementation of these measures by Argentina will be successful or even sufficient in strengthening Argentina’s institutions, enhancing the integrity of public officials, stopping institutional deterioration and preventing corruption. We cannot control or predict whether such investigations or allegations will lead to further political or economic instability or whether new allegations against government officials, members of the Argentine Congress, judges or owners or officers of other companies will arise, nor can we predict the outcome of any such allegations and their effect on the Argentine economy, which may be adverse.

Government intervention in the Argentine economy could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

In addition to the economic factors described above, our business and operations have been, are and could in the future be affected by actions taken by the Government through the implementation of new or amended laws and regulations, such as nationalizations, expropriations, forced divestiture of assets, amendments to or renegotiation or revocation of a license, restrictions on production, imports and exports, exchange and/or transfer restrictions, including those relating to dividend payments, direct and indirect price controls, tax increases, changes in the interpretation or application of tax laws and other retroactive tax claims or challenges, cancellation of contractual rights and delays or denials of governmental approvals.

There have been examples of government intervention in the economy, including through the implementation of expropriation and nationalization measures, price controls and exchange controls.

In 2008, the Government absorbed and replaced the former private pension system with a public “pay as you go” pension system. As a result, all resources administered by the private pension funds, including significant equity interests in a wide range of listed companies, were transferred to a separate fund (*Fondo de Garantía de Sustentabilidad* or “**FGS**”) to be managed by the Administración Nacional de la Seguridad Social (“**ANSES**”). ANSES is entitled to designate government representatives to the boards of directors of these companies. FGS currently holds 24.6% of our outstanding capital stock and has two representatives on our Board of Directors. On November 19, 2020, Law 27,574 was published in the Official Gazette, which regulates the role of the representatives of the FGS in those companies in which it has a stake, providing that the FGS will dictate the rules that are necessary in order to regulate their appointment, function, responsibility, performance and remuneration, which has been regulated by Decree No. 1041/2020 and ANSES Resolution No. 57/2021.

For additional information regarding rules and regulations that govern our relationship with FGS, see “Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions.”

In May 2012, the Argentine Congress passed Law No. 26,741, which declared hydrocarbons, production, industrialization, transport and marketing to be activities of public interest and primary goals of Argentina, and empowered the Government to take the necessary measures to achieve such goals. Law No. 26,741 expropriated 51% of the shares of YPF S.A. (“**YPF**”). Our business and operations in Argentina may also be adversely affected by measures adopted by the Government to address inflation and promote sustainable growth. For example, if we are not permitted to pass increases in the costs of our services and labor along to customers through the tariffs we charge due to the imposition of price controls, those costs could negatively affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations. See “*Risks Relating to Our Business—Failure or delay in the implementation of tariff increases could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations. In addition, our inability to obtain tariff adjustments reflecting the increase in operating cost could harm the development of our Natural Gas Transportation business segment.*”

More recently, due to the economic and political instability in Argentina, the Government took certain measures, for example, it issued Decree No. 566/2019, which affects fuel prices for a period of 90 days. Additionally, in June 2020, President Alberto Fernandez announced a project to intervene and expropriate the cereal exporting company Vicentin SAIC ("**Vicentin**") under which the national public administration would take control of, 51% of Vicentin, which is in creditor competition as a result of the company's ARS 350 million debt with state-owned Banco Nacion. However, on June 19, 2020, the holder of the civil and commercial court, responsible for carrying out Vicentin's call for creditors, decided to restore the company's original board of directors in office for 60 days and to give the status of mere viewers to the interveners appointed by the administration of Alberto Fernandez.

In the past the Government has also adopted numerous measures to directly or indirectly control the access by private companies and individuals to foreign trade and foreign exchange markets, such as restricting free access to these markets and imposing the obligation to repatriate and sell within the local foreign exchange market all foreign currency revenues obtained from exports. These regulations have been recently reinstated, preventing or limiting us from offsetting the risk derived from our exposure to the U.S. dollar and the access to foreign exchange market.

Historically, actions of the Government concerning the economy, including decisions regarding interest rates, taxes, price controls, wage increases, increased benefits for workers, exchange controls and potential changes in the market of foreign currency, have had a substantial adverse effect on Argentina's economic growth.

In 2012 and again in 2013, the Argentine Congress established new regulations providing for increased intervention in the capital markets by the Government. On May 9, 2018, the Macri administration approved an amendment to the Law of Productive Financing, including amendments to the Capital Markets Law of Argentina No. 26,831 (the "**Capital Markets Law**"), which, among other things, limited the scope of intervention by the CNV in public companies.

It is widely reported by private economists that expropriations, price controls, exchange controls and other direct involvement by the Argentine government in the economy have had an adverse impact on the level of investment in Argentina, the access of Argentine companies to international capital markets and Argentina's commercial and diplomatic relations with other countries. If the level of government intervention in the economy continues or increases, the Argentine economy and, in turn, our business, results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected.

As of the date of this Annual Report, we cannot predict the results of such measures or the impact of these measures on the hydrocarbons development in Argentina. We are also unable to predict whether the Government will take any additional measures that may negatively affect Argentina's hydrocarbons market.

A low-growth and high-inflation rates scenario continues and is likely going forward, as a result of the accumulation of macroeconomic imbalances over recent years, the actions of the Government in regulatory matters and challenging conditions in the international economy. We can offer no assurance that policies implemented by the Government will not adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Argentina is an emerging market economy that is highly sensitive to local political developments that have had an adverse impact on the level of investment in Argentina and the access of Argentine companies to the international capital markets. Future developments may adversely affect Argentina's economy and, in turn, our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

We cannot provide any assurance that we will be able to access foreign exchange markets or that these measures will not cause fluctuations in the value of the peso. The setting of certain exchange controls and other future economic, social and political developments in Argentina, over which we have no control, may adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations. For additional information on developments relating to exchange controls, see "Item 10. Additional Information—D. Exchange Controls."

The Argentine economy may be adversely affected by economic developments in other markets and by more general effects, which could have a material adverse effect on Argentina's economic growth.

Argentina's economy is vulnerable to external shocks that could be caused by adverse developments affecting its principal trading partners and emerging markets. A significant decline in the economic growth of any of Argentina's major trading partners (including Brazil, the European Union, China and the United States) as a result of the COVID pandemic is having a material adverse impact on Argentina's trade balance and, therefore, adversely affect Argentina's economic growth. Economic slowdowns have led to declines in Argentine exports in the last few years. Specifically, fluctuations in the price of the commodities sold by Argentina and a significant revaluation of the peso against the U.S. dollar could harm Argentina's competitiveness and affect its exports.

The economy in Brazil, one of the main import and export markets for Argentina, has experienced rising negative pressure because of political uncertainty and the effects of the COVID, putting pressure on the products that Argentina exports to that country and its competitiveness. Argentine foreign trade is highly dependent on the Brazilian economy; thus, a poor performance of Brazil's economy could lead to the deterioration of Argentina's trade balance. Additional Brazilian political and economic crises could negatively affect the Argentine economy.

Financial and securities markets in Argentina are also influenced by economic and market conditions in other markets worldwide. U.S. monetary policy has significant effects on capital inflows and asset price movements in emerging market economies. Increases in U.S. interest rates result in the appreciation of the U.S. dollar and decreases in prices for raw materials, which can adversely affect commodity-dependent emerging economies.

Additionally, a slowing of China's GDP growth has led to a reduction in exports to this Asian country, which in turn has caused oversupply and price declines in certain commodities. Decreases in exports have a material adverse effect on Argentina's public finances due to the loss of taxes on exports, causing an imbalance in the country's exchange market.

On January 31, 2020, the United Kingdom left the European Union on the terms of the withdrawal agreement concluded between the United Kingdom and the EU Council. The withdrawal agreement allowed for a transition period during which the United Kingdom's trading relationship with the European Union remained largely unchanged. This transition period ended on December 31, 2020. The European Parliament must still approve the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement while the European Council has already approved the provisional application of the agreement. As of the date of this Annual Report, uncertainty remains over the United Kingdom's future relationship with the European Union. The continued uncertainty over the Brexit process has caused, and is anticipated to continue to cause, volatility in the financial markets, which may in turn have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

At the end of 2015, the U.S. Federal Reserve began increasing its reference interest rate following more than five years of an interest rate close to zero, moving away from its post-2008 crisis stimulus campaign. This trend was reversed as a result of the COVID pandemic. The U.S. Federal Reserve target reference rate is currently between 0% and 0.25%.

In addition, recent presidential elections in the United States have created uncertainty regarding United States policies related to energy, trade, tariffs, immigration and foreign affairs. This uncertainty has generated instability and adversely affected Argentina's economy. Any changes in United States trade policy could trigger retaliatory actions by affected countries and trading blocs, including China and the European Union, resulting in "trade wars," increased costs for goods exported to the United States and additional volatility and instability globally.

Although economic conditions vary from country to country, investors' perceptions of events occurring in other countries have in the past substantially affected, and may continue to substantially affect, capital flows into and investments in securities from issuers in other countries, including Argentina. International investors' reactions to events occurring in one market sometimes demonstrate a "contagion" effect, in which an entire region or class of investment is disfavored by international investors. Argentina could be adversely affected by negative economic or financial developments in other countries, which in turn may have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, the financial markets have also been affected by the March 2020 oil production crisis resulting from OPEC's failure to reduce production. Any of these factors could depress economic activity and restrict our access to suppliers and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Certain economic policies of the former government administration in Argentina, including foreign exchange restrictions, led in the past to a reduction in exports and foreign direct investments, to a decline in national tax revenues and to an inability to access international capital markets. There can be no assurance that the Argentine financial system and securities markets will not be adversely affected by policies that may be adopted by the government in the future or by events in the economies of developed countries or in other emerging markets. A slowdown in economic activity in Argentina would adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Argentina’s past default and litigation with holdout bondholders may limit our ability to access international markets.

Argentina’s history of defaults on its external debt and the protracted litigation with holdout creditors, summarized below, may reoccur in the future and prevent Argentine companies such as us from accessing the international capital markets readily or may result in higher costs and more onerous terms for such financing, and may therefore negatively affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Following the default on its external debt in 2001, Argentina sought to restructure its outstanding debt by offering holders of the defaulted bonds two opportunities to exchange them for newly issued debt securities, in 2005 and again in 2010. Holders of approximately 93% of Argentina’s defaulted debt participated in the exchanges. Nonetheless, a number of bondholders held out from the exchange offers and pursued legal actions against Argentina in the courts of the United States and several other countries.

After almost 15 years of litigation, and following the beginning of Mr. Macri’s administration, in February 2016, Argentina negotiated and reached settlement agreements with almost all of its holdout creditors. As required by the settlement, on March 31, 2016, the Argentine Congress voted to repeal Law No. 26,017 (known as *Ley Cerrojo*) and Law No. 26,984 (known as *Ley de Pago Soberano*), which prohibited Argentina from offering to the holdouts better conditions than those offered in the debt swaps of 2005 and 2010. On April 13, 2016, Argentina announced that it would proceed with a new bond offering of up to U.S.\$12.5 billion to repay the holdouts. After issuing U.S.\$16.5 billion of new bonds to international investors, on April 22, 2016, Argentina notified the competent U.S. court that it had made full payment under the settlement agreements with the holdout creditors. Although the size of the claims involved has decreased significantly, litigation initiated by bondholders that have not accepted Argentina’s settlement offer continues in several jurisdictions.

However, even though Argentina has successfully accessed the international capital markets since the settlement, there continues to be a risk that the country will not attract the foreign direct investment and financing needed to restart the investment cycle and achieve sustainable rates of economic growth. If that occurs, Argentina’s fiscal condition could be adversely affected, which could lead to more inflation and undermine the government’s ability to implement economic policies designed to promote growth. The difficulty of sustaining economic growth over time with reasonable price stability could result in a renewed episode of economic instability.

In addition, the foreign shareholders of several Argentine companies (including us), together with public utilities and certain bondholders that did not participate in the exchange offers described above, filed claims with the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (“**ICSID**”), alleging that the emergency measures adopted by the Government in 2002 did not meet the just and equal treatment requirements of several bilateral investment treaties to which Argentina is a party. Several of these claims have been resolved against Argentina. Claimants have also filed claims before arbitral tribunals under the rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and under the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce. Several awards have been issued against Argentina and several cases are still ongoing.

As of December 31, 2020, Argentina’s public debt amounted to U.S.\$ 335 billion. The Solidarity Law, among other things, delegates to the Executive Branch legislative powers to create conditions to ensure the sustainability of public debt. On February 12, 2020, the Argentine Congress enacted the Law No. 27,544 for the Restoration of the Sustainability of the Public Debt issued under Foreign Law, which granted the Ministry of Economy the power to restructure the Government external public debt.

On February 13, 2020, U.S.\$1.6 billion of dual currency bonds issued by Argentina’s government matured. During February 2020, the Government launched an offer to exchange the dual currency bonds with new peso-denominated bonds due in 2021, but only about 10% of the aggregate principal amount of the dual currency bonds was tendered. Following the failure of the exchange offer, the Government sought to sell another peso-denominated bond, but ultimately terminated that plan. The Government then issued Decree No. 141/2020, pursuant to which it postponed the payment of principal and suspended the accrual of interest under the dual currency bonds until September 30, 2020.

On March 10, 2020, Decree No. 250/2020 was issued. It confirms the proposal of the Government to restructure approximately U.S.\$69 billion of public debt. Issued on April 6, 2020, Decree No. 349/2020 postpones until December 31, 2020 principal and interest payments of certain Argentine public local debt. Finally, on April 17, 2020, the Government made a proposal for debt restructuring to foreign bondholders.

On April 21, 2020, the Argentine government launched an exchange offer with the aim of refinancing its external indebtedness in a manner which does not compromise the development and potential growth of Argentina over the next years. On August 17, 2020, the Argentine government submitted its modified bond restructuring offer to the SEC. On August 31, 2020, the Argentine government announced the results of its bond restructuring offer, announcing that holders owning 93.5% in principal amount of bonds outstanding and that this participation percentage was subsequently increased to 99% by virtue of the application of collective action clauses of the restructured bonds.

Moreover, difficulties in accessing Argentina’s international credit may have an impact on our company as the Argentine government postponed the maturity dates of its bonds, and cut interest rates.

Also, ongoing situations, such as the claims before the ICSID, and the economic policy measures adopted by the Government, or any future default of Argentina regarding its financial obligations may harm Argentine companies’ ability to obtain financing. Financial conditions of such access could be disadvantageous to Argentine companies and, therefore, may adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

A sustained deterioration in the terms of trade given a decline in the global prices for Argentina’s main commodity exports or an increase in the global prices for Argentina’s main commodity imports, as well as adverse weather conditions affecting the production of Argentina’s main commodity exports, could have an adverse effect on Argentina’s economic growth.

High commodity prices have contributed significantly to an increase in Argentine exports, which has in turn led to an increase in government revenues received from export taxes. However, the reliance on the export of certain commodities, such as soybeans, has made the Argentine economy vulnerable to fluctuations in commodity prices, and, consequently, the Argentine economy could be adversely affected if trading conditions decline.

In addition, adverse weather conditions, such as floods or droughts, could affect the production of the main agricultural commodities produced by Argentina, which account for a significant portion of its export revenues. Moreover, higher oil prices could lead to an increase in government expenditures. The drought experienced during the summer months of 2018 dramatically reduced the yield from Argentina's soybean crop. Most recently, after the outbreak of the COVID and the slowdown in the demand for and supply of products around the globe, stock markets and the prices of the main commodities have declined dramatically.

Besides, in March 2020, after a failure to reach an agreement between the members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries ("OPEC") and Russia to stabilize the oil market, Saudi Arabia decided to increase its oil production. This decision, at a time when oil demand is falling due to the impact of COVID in the global trading and economy, has triggered the most important decline in the oil price since 1991, of around 36%. This fall in the international prices of oil and its derivatives has added to the fragile macroeconomic situation in Argentina, generating uncertainty regarding the production and development of natural gas in the country, especially in the Vaca Muerta area. In December 2020, OPEC and its oil-producing allies agreed to increase production by 500,000 barrels per day beginning in January. This will bring the total production cuts at the start of 2021 to 7.2 million bpd. The group exerts considerable influence over world energy markets. In recent months, OPEC+ has sought to navigate its way through a historically tumultuous period, including an unparalleled collapse in oil prices, a massive fuel demand shock amid the COVID crisis, a Saudi-Russia price war and Qatar's departure from OPEC. There can be no assurances about the impact of this agreement or about measures that the Government may take in response to key macroeconomic variables, particularly on the energy sector.

Decisions relating to international oil prices could have a negative impact on Argentina's economy as, to achieve a fiscal surplus, the country should develop new production projects, such as Vaca Muerta formation, increase its revenues and maintain its ability to service its sovereign debt. Either of these results would adversely impact Argentina's economic growth and, therefore, our financial condition and results of operations.

Further downgrades in the credit rating or rating outlook of Argentina could impact the rating of our securities or adversely affect the market price of our securities.

In August 2018, Moody's revised its outlook of Argentina's long-term and short-term sovereign credit rating to Caa2, primarily as a result of the sharply weaker economic activity and uncertain prospects for multiyear fiscal consolidation and market financing availability as IMF funds are used up, posing risks to sovereign debt sustainability. In addition, on August 29, 2019, S&P downgraded Argentina's long-term and short-term sovereign credit ratings from "B" to "SD," primarily as a result of an erosion of the Argentine debt profile, the economic growth trajectory and the dynamics of inflation, against the backdrop of the implementation of a challenging economic adjustment program. Fitch, Moody's and S&P increased Argentina's credit rating in September 2020 following the successful refinancing of Argentina's external bonds. However, there can be no assurance that Argentina's credit rating or rating outlook will not be downgraded in the future, which could have an adverse effect on the rating of our securities or adversely affect the market price of our securities.

The Argentine government may mandate salary increases for private sector employees, which would increase our operating costs.

In the past, the Government has passed laws, regulations and decrees requiring companies in the private sector to maintain minimum wage levels and provide specified benefits to employees. Argentine employers, both in the public and private sectors, have experienced significant pressure from their employees and labor organizations to increase wages and to provide additional employee benefits. Due to high levels of inflation, employees and labor organizations regularly demand significant wage increases.

Through Decree No. 610/2019 a staggered increase of the minimum salary was approved as follows: (i) Ps.14,125 as of August 1, 2019; (ii) Ps.15,625 as of September 1, 2019; and (iii) Ps.16,875 as of October 1, 2019. In addition, the Argentine government has arranged various measures to mitigate the impact of inflation and exchange rate fluctuation in wages. In December 2019, Decree 34, doubled legally-mandated severance pay for termination of employment. The Government went a step further amid the COVID pandemic, and issued Decree No. 329/2020, restricting the ability to terminate employment with or without cause for 60 business days, prorogued it for 60 additional business days by Decree No. 624/2020. Also, in January 2020, the Argentine government issued Decree No. 14/2020 which established a general increase for all employees of Ps.3,000 in January 2020, and an additional amount of Ps.1,000 in February 2020 (total Ps.4,000 effective as of February 2020).

Risks Relating to Our Business

Failure or delay in the implementation of tariff increases could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations. In addition, our inability to obtain tariff adjustments reflecting the increase in operating cost could harm the development of our Natural Gas Transportation business segment.

All of our net revenues from the Natural Gas Transportation public service (which represented 42% of total net revenues during 2020) are attributable to contracts, which are subject to Government regulation. Prior to the enactment of the Public Emergency and Foreign Exchange System Reform Law No. 25,561 (the **“Public Emergency Law”**), our tariffs were stated in U.S. dollars, adjusted on a semiannual basis by reference to the U.S. Producer Price Index (**“PPI”**), and further adjusted every five years, based on the efficiency of, and investments in, our gas transportation business. The Public Emergency Law, however, eliminated tariff indexation, and public service tariffs were converted into pesos and fixed at an exchange rate of Ps.1.00 per U.S.\$1.00, even though the peso was devaluating significantly against the U.S. dollar.

Sustained inflation in Argentina since 2002, without any corresponding increase in our natural gas transportation tariffs until recently, has adversely affected, and continued inflation would continue to adversely affect, our Natural Gas Transportation revenues, net revenues and financial condition.

In addition, since 2002, the peso has fluctuated in value and generally depreciated against the U.S. dollar, adversely affecting our results and financial position. In particular, because all of our debt is denominated in U.S. dollars, significant devaluations of the peso may adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

On March 30, 2017, ENARGAS issued Resolution No. 4362/2017 (**“Resolution 4362”**), which approved a staged tariff increase which contemplates an aggregate transportation tariff increase of 214.2% and an aggregate access and use charge (**“CAU”**) increase of 37%. This staged increase is structured to provide the same economic benefits to us as if the increases had been fully effective on April 1, 2017. Pursuant to this resolution, we must also execute a capital expenditures program for a five-year period (from April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2022), which contemplates investments of Ps.6,786 million (in nominal value at December 31, 2016, adjustable by the WPI) to improve the operation and maintenance of the pipeline system (the **“Five-Year Plan”**).

On March 27, 2018, through Decree No. 250/2018 (“**Decree 250**”), the Executive Branch ratified the tariff structure under Resolution 4362, following the approval of several governmental authorities, including the Argentine Congress. Decree 250 concludes the renegotiation process of our License with the Government which lasted more than 17 years.

In addition, Resolution 4362 contemplates a non-automatic semiannual adjustment mechanism for the natural gas transportation tariff to reflect changes in WPI, which must be approved by ENARGAS evaluating the evolution of the economic circumstances. On April 1, 2019, ENARGAS analyzed the evolution of the WPI adjustment index for the period August 2018–February 2019 in order to establish the biannual adjustments applicable to our tariffs.

As a consequence of Argentina’s economic condition, and together with other measures taken by the Government, on September 3, 2019, the Secretary of Hydrocarbon Resources (“**SHR**”) (formerly the Federal Energy Bureau) issued Resolution No. 521/2019 (“**Resolution 521**”), which defers the semiannual adjustment corresponding to October 1, 2019, to January 1, 2020. During 2019 and 2020, according to the RTI, we were entitled to receive two tariff increases, each year, in order to compensate us for inflation, which affects our operating costs. We have only received a tariff increase in April 2019.

The tariff increases mentioned above were not granted to us within the framework of the Solidarity Law and the subsequent decrees issued by the Executive Branch that determined the freezing of our tariff schedule and the beginning of a new RTI process. In this context, and within the framework of Decree No. 1020, the Executive Branch started the renegotiation of the RTI (concluded in 2018), which may not exceed 2 years. Until then, the renegotiation agreements in force are suspended. Such renegotiation remains in the power of ENARGAS and subject to confirmation by the Executive Branch.

In addition, Decree 1,020 extends the tariff freeze for an additional period of 90 calendar days or until transitory tariffs are approved. On March 16, 2021, a public hearing was held to discuss the transitory tariff increases. As of the date of issuance of this Annual Report we do not receive any transitory tariff increase.

See “*Item 4. Our Information–B. Business Overview–Natural Gas Transportation–Regulatory Framework*” below for more information.

In the past, we have suffered from our inability to receive tariff increases, which meant the deterioration of our financial and economic condition. Also, we have received insufficient tariff increases to compensate for the increases in our operating costs due to inflation. Our inability to bill these increases, as stipulated in our License, in a timely manner, and to obtain future tariff adjustments in line with the increase in our costs could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Further, we cannot assure you that the current negotiations with the Government under the framework of the Solidarity Law will provide us with a tariff schedule that permits us to compensate the increases in our operating costs. Failure by the Government to timely comply with agreements resulting from the RTI process could negatively affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Moreover, as of the date of this Annual Report, we are unable to predict which measures will be taken by the Fernández administration in connection with the tariff system, or if such system will be amended, adversely affecting our financial situation and our results of operations.

Further, we cannot assure you that the current negotiations with the Government under the framework of the Solidarity Law will provide us with a tariff schedule that permits us to compensate the increases in our operating costs. Failure by the Government to timely comply with agreements resulting from the RTI process could negatively affect our results of operations and financial condition.

We cannot predict whether additional operating restrictions or mandatory investments could be imposed on us in the future nor the outcome from the renegotiation process of the current RTI stated by the Solidarity Law. If such outcome is adverse to us, our results of operations and financial condition could be negatively affected.

Our operations are subject to extensive regulation.

The Argentine oil and gas industry is subject to extensive government regulation and control. As a result, our business is to a large extent dependent upon regulatory and political conditions prevailing in Argentina and our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations may be adversely affected by regulatory and political changes in Argentina. Therefore, we face risks and challenges relating to government regulation and control of the energy sector, including those set forth below and elsewhere in these risk factors:

- limitations on our ability to increase prices or to reflect the effects of higher domestic taxes, increases in operating costs or increases in international prices of natural gas and other hydrocarbon fuels and exchange rate fluctuations on our domestic prices;
- risks in connection with the former and current incentive programs established by the Government for the oil and gas industry, such as the natural gas additional injection stimulus program and cash collection of balances with the Government;
- legislation and regulatory initiatives relating to hydraulic stimulation and other drilling activities for non-conventional oil and gas hydrocarbons, which could increase our cost of doing business or cause delays and adversely affect our operations; and
- the implementation or imposition of stricter quality requirements for hydrocarbon products in Argentina.

In recent years, the Government has made certain changes in regulations and policies governing the energy sector to give absolute priority to domestic supply at stable prices in order to sustain economic recovery. As a result of the above-mentioned changes, for example, on days during which a gas shortage occurs, exports of natural gas (which are also affected by other government curtailment orders) and the provision of gas supplies to industries, electricity generation plants and service stations selling compressed natural gas are interrupted for priority to be given to residential consumers at lower prices. The Expropriation Law of Argentina has declared the achievement of self-sufficiency in the supply of hydrocarbons, as well as in the exploitation, industrialization, transportation and sale of hydrocarbons, a national public interest and a priority for Argentina. In addition, its stated goal is to guarantee socially equitable economic development, the creation of jobs, the increase of the competitiveness of various economic sectors and the equitable and sustainable growth of the Argentine provinces and regions. Moreover, we cannot assure you that changes in applicable laws and regulations, or adverse judicial or administrative interpretations of such laws and regulations, will not adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Failure to maintain our relationships with labor unions may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

A significant portion of our workforce is represented by labor unions, and the majority of our non-unionized employees have the same employment benefits as unionized employees. While we believe we have enjoyed satisfactory relationships with all of the labor organizations that represent our associates, and we believe our relationships with labor organizations will continue to be satisfactory, labor-related disputes may still arise. In particular, labor lawsuits are common in the energy sector in Argentina, and industry-wide organized actions by unionized employees in the industry, such as blockages in the access to facilities and route cuts have occurred in the past. We have suffered interruptions as a result of our employees joining such organized activities. We cannot assure you that future business interruptions resulting from strikes and other organized activities by our employees would not have a significant adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

The collective bargaining agreements with our unions are valid for one year. Currently, we have a collective bargaining agreement in effect for the period from April 2021 to March 2022.

However, we cannot assure you that we will not suffer business interruptions or strikes in the future as a result of collective actions by our employees. We have insurance that covers terrorism and organized actions against our assets, among other items, for a total insured amount of U.S.\$50,000,000 with a deductible per event of U.S.\$500,000, but we cannot assure you that our insurance coverage will be sufficient to cover damages and losses caused by the organized actions of our employees.

In addition, in the past, the Government has enacted laws and regulations forcing private companies to maintain certain wage levels and to provide additional benefits to their employees. We cannot assure you that in the future the Government will not increase wages or require additional benefits for workers or employees or that unions will not pressure the Government to demand such measures. All wage increases, as well as any additional benefits, could result in increased costs and adversely affect our results of operations.

Our regulated business is dependent on our ability to maintain our License, which is subject to revocation under some circumstances.

We conduct our Natural Gas Transportation business pursuant to the License, which authorizes us to provide natural gas transportation services through the exclusive use of the southern natural gas transportation system in Argentina. Our License may be revoked in certain circumstances based on the recommendation of ENARGAS. Revocation of our license would require an administrative proceeding, which would be subject to judicial review. Reasons for which our License may be revoked include:

- repeated failure to comply with the obligations of our License and failure to remedy a significant breach of an obligation in accordance with specified procedures;

- total or partial interruption of service for reasons attributable to us that affects transportation capacity during the periods stipulated in our License;
- sale, assignment or transfer of our essential assets or the placing of encumbrances thereon without ENARGAS’ prior authorization, unless such encumbrances serve to finance extensions and improvements to the gas pipeline system;
- our bankruptcy, dissolution or liquidation;
- cessation and abandonment of the provision of the licensed service, an attempt to assign or unilaterally transfer our License in full or in part without the prior authorization of ENARGAS, or relinquishing our License, other than in the cases permitted therein; and
- delegation of the functions granted in such contract without the prior authorization of ENARGAS, or the termination of such agreement without regulatory approval of a new contract.

If our License were revoked, we would be required to cease providing natural gas transportation services. The impact of a loss of our License on our business, financial condition and results of operations would be material and adverse. Additionally, certain changes to the License could result in a default under our outstanding debt instruments.

Our creditors may not be able to enforce their claims against us in Argentina.

We are a stock corporation with limited liability (*sociedad anónima*), incorporated and organized under the laws of Argentina. Substantially all of our assets are located in Argentina.

Under Argentine law, foreign judgments may be enforced by Argentine courts; *provided* that the requirements of Articles 517 through 519 of the Federal Code of Civil and Commercial Procedure are met. Foreign judgments cannot violate principles of public policy (*orden público*) of Argentine law, as determined by Argentine courts. It is possible that an Argentine court would deem the enforcement of foreign judgments ordering us to make a payment in a foreign currency outside of Argentina to be contrary to Argentine public policy if at that time there are legal restrictions prohibiting Argentine debtors from transferring foreign currency outside of Argentina. Although currently there are no legal restrictions prohibiting Argentine debtors from transferring foreign currency outside of Argentina to satisfy principal or interest payments on outstanding debt that has been previously reported to the BCRA, we cannot assure you that the Government or an Argentine court will not impose such restrictions in the future.

In addition, under Argentine law, attachment prior to execution and attachment in aid of execution will not be ordered by an Argentine court with respect to property located in Argentina and determined by such courts to be utilized for the provision of essential public services. A significant portion of our assets may be considered by Argentine courts to be dedicated to the provision of an essential public service. If an Argentine court were to make such a determination with respect to any of our assets, unless the Government ordered the release of such assets, such assets would not be subject to attachment, execution or other legal process as long as such determination stands, and the ability of any of our creditors to realize a judgment against such assets may be adversely affected.

The Government's strategies, measures and programs with respect to the natural gas transportation industry could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Since 1992 and after the privatization of several state companies, until the economic crisis in 2002, the Government reduced its control over the natural gas transportation industry. After the economic crisis in 2002 the Government increased its role in the energy sector implementing strict regulations and increasing its intervention. Intervention primarily included the expansion of our pipeline through the creation of trust funds and the interruption and redirection of natural gas firm transportation services (including the diversification of natural gas supply from our liquids processing plant located at General Cerri Complex, in the Province of Buenos Aires ("Cerri Complex")).

In the past, natural gas distribution companies, including us, were prohibited from passing through price increases to consumers. Producers of natural gas, therefore, had difficulty implementing wellhead natural gas price adjustments that would increase the costs of distribution companies, which caused such producers to suffer a sharp decline in their rate of return on investment activities. As a result, natural gas production was not sufficient to meet the increasing demand. Likewise, until 2016, the lack of tariff adjustments for natural gas transportation companies caused a decrease in the profitability of such companies.

In light of these events, the Government implemented a number of strategies, measures and programs aimed at mitigating the energy crisis and supporting the recovery of the Argentine economy generally. With respect to the natural gas industry, these strategies, measures and programs included, among others, the expansion of our pipeline through the creation of financial trust funds used as vehicles to facilitate financing of those investments ("Gas Trusts"). For more information on the pipeline expansions, please see "Item 4. Our Information-B. Business Overview-Natural Gas Transportation -Pipeline Operations-Pipeline Expansions." Although the expansion projects described above have not adversely affected our results of operations or financial condition, we cannot assure you that future, or even present, expansion projects will not have such adverse effects.

In the context of the outbreak of COVID, and in order to address the health and economic consequences generated by the pandemic, the Government issued the Decree No. 311/2020, which established that, among other companies, the natural gas distribution companies may not suspend or cut off the respective services to certain users, in case of default or non-payment of up to three consecutive or alternate invoices, with due dates from March 1, 2020, including users with current cut-off notices. This measure, together with the isolation measures imposed, implied certain delays in the receipt of collections related to the natural gas transportation business segment billings which, although it has improved recently, it cannot be guaranteed that this situation will continue in time.

As for natural gas production, in 2020 there was a 8.6% year-on-year drop, due to the limiting effects of the preventive and mandatory social isolation on the activity, combined with a higher autumn temperature. In this context, the Government established the 2020-2024 natural gas scheme through Decree No. 892/2020 signed on November 13, 2020 (the "Plan Gas.Ar"), which, after the first adjudication, determined an increase in the cost of natural gas at the point of entry ("PIST") to the transportation system for thermal generation and for gas distributors. Further, in 2020 the production and the price of natural gas at wellhead in the Neuquina basin maintained the trend described at the national level. These decreases, together with the macroeconomic situation in Argentina, continue to generate uncertainty regarding the production and development of natural gas in the Vaca Muerta area.

We cannot predict what other measures will be adopted by the Government to combat the COVID pandemic, nor the effect that such measures may have on our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Government-mandated interruption of contracted firm transportation services.

In 2004, the Executive Branch issued Presidential Decree No. 181/04, directing the Federal Energy Bureau to have a system of priority pursuant to the demand of natural gas customers, regardless of whether those customers have contracted under a firm transportation contract or a firm natural gas supply contract. Pursuant to ENARGAS Resolution No. 1,410/2010, due to the lack of sufficient natural gas provision, natural gas transportation service (including to those with firm transportation contracts) may be interrupted and/or relocated in order to service priority demand customers.

On June 1, 2016, the former Ministry of Energy issued Resolution No. 89/2016, which required ENARGAS to develop a procedure to amend and supplement ENARGAS Resolution No. 1,410/2010 and establish daily operating conditions for the transportation and distribution systems. It also established a methodology to satisfy the demand for natural gas of those customers classified as “high-priority.”

On June 5, 2016, ENARGAS issued Resolution No. I/3833/2016, creating the “Supplementary Procedure for Gas Requests, Confirmations and Control.” According to this resolution, if any gas transportation and distribution company finds that the transportation capacity is not sufficient to supply priority demand customers, such company shall summon an emergency committee composed of company and ENARGAS representatives. This emergency committee shall determine adjustments to be made to the daily natural gas deliveries in order to address such shortage, considering the availability of natural gas and the demands of residential consumers and power plants.

On June 26, 2018, ENARGAS issued Resolution No. 124/2018, which replaced Resolution No. 716/1998 and incorporated content from the repealed Resolution No. 1,410/2010 and Resolution No. 3,833/2016. Additionally, this resolution established the Internal Rules of Dispatch Centers (*Reglamento Interno de los Centros de Despacho*).

Although neither our results of operations nor our financial condition have been materially adversely affected by transportation service interruptions in recent years, we cannot assure you that similar interruptions will not materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations. As of the date of this Annual Report there are some unresolved disputes with one of our clients (Profertil S.A.), in respect of service interruptions between 2007 and 2013. In that action, through Resolution No. 306/2009, ENARGAS ruled in our favor, finding that there was a shortage in the supply of natural gas. However, we cannot assure you that future interruptions of supply to our firm natural gas transportation clients will not lead to further legal action, which could have a significant adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Additionally, we cannot predict whether new measures requiring the interruption or relocation of the natural gas transportation service will be taken. If such measures are implemented, we could be subject to legal actions initiated by those affected by such measures.

A significant portion of our revenues is generated under natural gas transportation contracts that must be renegotiated and/or extended periodically.

In 2020, 81% of our average daily natural gas deliveries were made under long-term firm transportation contracts. As of December 31, 2020, our long-term firm natural gas transportation contracts had a remaining weighted average life of approximately 11 years; our long-term firm natural gas transportation contracts with our top five costumers had a remaining weighted average life of approximately eight years. We cannot assure you that we will be able to extend or replace these contracts when they expire or that the terms of any renegotiated contracts will be as favorable as the existing contracts. In particular, our ability to extend and/or replace contracts could be adversely affected by factors we cannot control, including:

- Argentine natural gas transportation regulations;
- international oil and gas prices;
- timing, volume and location of new market demand;
- competition from alternative energy sources;
- supply and price of natural gas in Argentina;
- demand for natural gas in the markets we serve; and
- availability and competitiveness of alternative gas transportation infrastructure in the markets we serve.

Additionally, most of our transportation contracts include a clause allowing for the termination of the relevant contract before the expiration of its term by any of the parties, in case of (i) breach of the other party, or (ii) an extended event of force majeure.

We commercialize ethane through a long-term agreement recently concluded with PBB for a ten-year period. We have short-term contracts with international traders for LPG and natural gasoline sales.

If we are unable to renew, extend and/or replace these contracts, if we renew them on less favorable terms or if any such contract is terminated before the expiration of its term, our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations may be negatively affected.

Our business may require substantial capital expenditures for ongoing maintenance requirements and the expansion of our installed transportation capacity; we could be unable to make such expenditures due to the lack of financing.

Resolution 4362 states that we must execute the Five-Year Plan involving capital expenditures of Ps.6,786 million (in nominal value at December 31, 2016, adjustable by WPI) for the period from April 2017 to March 2022.

As part of the measures adopted to reduce the impact of COVID and in order to adapt our business plan to the economic expectations of Argentina, we have implemented a reduction in the current investment plans, without affecting those security measures, which allows us to guarantee continuity in the development of our activities.

The natural gas transportation service is an activity involving significant amounts of capital expenditures in order to improve the operation and maintenance of the pipeline system. Incremental capital expenditures may be required to fund maintenance of our pipeline system. Furthermore, capital expenditures will be required to finance current and future expansions of our transportation capacity. If we are unable to finance any such capital expenditures in terms satisfactory to us or at all, our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations may be adversely affected. In addition, our financing ability may be limited by market restrictions on financing availability for Argentine companies. See “–Argentina’s past default and litigation with holdout bondholders may limit our ability to access international markets.”

In the past, expansion projects by the Government have not had adverse effects over our results of operations and financial condition. However, we cannot assure you that future expansion projects will not adversely affect our business.

Our Liquids production depends on the natural gas that arrives at the Cerri Complex through three main pipelines from the Neuquina, Austral and San Jorge natural gas basins. The flow and heating value of this natural gas are subject to risks that could materially adversely affect our Liquids and midstream business segment.

Argentina relies heavily on natural gas. However, its natural gas reserves are declining. Despite the decline in 2015 and 2016, the volume of natural gas that has been produced from the Neuquina basin has increased. Although production volume increased in recent years, it had previously decreased between 2009 and 2013 and it is possible that natural gas production will again decrease in the future, which would adversely affect our Liquids business segment by reducing the amount of natural gas flowing to the Cerri Complex and, therefore, the amount of Liquids we produce. In addition, the reduction in the production of natural gas could affect the flow of natural gas provided for our midstream services.

In 2020, 61% of the natural gas transported by our system originated in the Neuquina basin with the remainder primarily from the Austral basin. Since 2009, the quality and volume of natural gas injected from the Neuquina basin has been lower (as a consequence of the reduction of natural gas production in this basin) and not appropriate for processing in the Cerri Complex, negatively impacting our level of output from this facility. As a consequence of this lower output of natural gas from the Neuquina basin, we have had to buy natural gas at higher prices, causing an increase in the cost of Liquids production and commercialization activities for our own account reducing our profit from these activities. In addition, competition might affect the volume and quality (i.e., gas with lower liquids content) of natural gas arriving at the Cerri Complex.

In 2009, nonconventional natural gas was discovered in the Vaca Muerta field of the Neuquina basin by YPF. Exploration and exploitation of this natural gas reserve involved high extraction costs. Argentina’s national natural gas production has steadily increased in the past three years, largely due to the increased production of shale from the Vaca Muerta formation. Because of the measures taken by the Government to ensure production levels throughout the country, during 2016 and 2015, natural gas production increased approximately 4.9% and 3.4%, respectively. However, in 2017 natural gas production slightly declined by 0.9% primarily as a result of the termination of certain incentive programs implemented. In 2018 natural gas production increased by 5.3% with respect to 2017, and on December 31, 2019 it reached its peak production compared to the last 10 years.

During 2020, Argentina's natural gas production decreased (8.6%), interrupting the series of increases recorded during the last few years. This decline was due to the limiting effects of the preventive and mandatory social isolation on the activity, combined with a higher autumn temperature.

More recently, and as a consequence of the force measures carried out in the province of Neuquén that prevent the normal operation in the fields of the area, there are delays in the operation and drilling of wells by the main natural gas producers of Vaca Muerta and the province, which could imply a delay and a shortage of natural gas that such companies had committed to provide within the framework of the Plan Gas.Ar. This situation could mean that in the winter months when there is an increase in the demand for natural gas by those priority sectors, the flow of natural gas to the Cerri Complex could be affected.

However, after the freezing of fuel prices and the current economic situation that Argentina is experiencing, there is uncertainty regarding the investments that natural gas producers can make in that area. The Plan Gas.Ar establishes the need to guarantee the supply of natural gas demand while establishing incentives to make immediate investments for the maintenance and/or growth of production in the productive basins, where the natural gas producers must commit themselves to achieve a production curve that guarantees the maintenance and/or increase of the current levels.

We cannot assure you, however, that this new natural gas resource at the Neuquina basin, or the Plan Gas.AR, or any other measures taken by the Government to increase natural gas production and supply, will be successful in increasing Argentine natural gas reserves or production and, if unsuccessful, our midstream or Liquids Production and Commercialization businesses could be adversely affected.

Measures taken by the Government may have an adverse effect on the supply of natural gas to the Cerri Complex and the margins we are able to obtain from our Liquids business, which may adversely affect the results in our Liquids Production and Commercialization segment and, as a result, our overall business and results of operations.

Due to regulatory, economic and government policy factors, our domestic gasoline, diesel, natural gas and other fuel prices and related services have differed substantially from prevailing international and regional market prices for such products and services. Our ability to increase prices in connection with international price or domestic cost increases, including those resulting from the peso devaluation, has been limited from time to time. The prices that we are able to obtain for our products and services affect the viability of investments in expansion capacity and processing facilities and, as a result, the timing and amount of our capital expenditures for such purposes.

Although our Liquids production and commercialization activities are not subject to regulation by ENARGAS, with the aim to give priority to domestic supply, the Government has taken certain regulatory actions in recent years that have affected our Liquids business. For example, in April 2005, the Government enacted Law No. 26,020, which set the framework by which the SHR may establish regulations to cause LPG suppliers to guarantee sufficient supply of LPG in the domestic market at low prices. Law No. 26,020 creates a price regime pursuant to which the SHR periodically publishes reference prices for LPG sold in the local market. It also sets forth LPG volumes to be sold in the local market.

We participate in two programs created by the Government under this framework, which provide for the payment of compensation based on the difference between the price set by the Government and the export parity price. Over recent years, this compensation has been paid to us with significant delays. For further information, see *“Item 4. Our Information–B. Business Overview–Liquids Production and Commercialization.”*

On March 25, 2020, after COVID pandemic, the Executive Branch issued Decree No. 311/2020, which determines that the maximum reference price for LPG sold in the domestic market will remain at their values in force at such date for a 180-day period.

Also, we cannot assure you that we will be able to maintain or increase the domestic prices of our products, and limitations on our ability to do so would adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations. Similarly, we cannot assure you that LPG prices in Argentina will track increases or decreases in the international or regional markets.

Our Liquids business is highly dependent on the supply of natural gas to the Cerri Complex at reasonable prices that allow for reasonable profit margins. In past years, the Federal Energy Bureau increased the natural gas price paid by industrial users and increased the price at which we purchase natural gas to be processed in the Cerri Complex. For further information, see, *“Item 4. Our Information–B. Business Overview–Liquids Production and Commercialization.”*

During 2017, the Government initiated a process to converge natural gas prices with those in the international market, which finally occurred in October 2017 when prices were liberalized. However, during 2018, due to a combination of internal and external factors, the increase in natural gas and fuel prices was significant which meant that the intended liberalization was unsuccessful.

During 2018, the Government introduced several changes to the process by which the natural gas is acquired for the electric energy generators. Among them, modifications were introduced to the regulations through which Compañía Administradora del Mercado Mayorista Eléctrico S.A. (*“CAMMESA”*), a government-controlled company, had to provide this supply to the power plants. Finally, on November 6, 2018, the Secretary of Energy issued Resolution No. 70/2018, which returned to power generators the ability to purchase their own natural gas supply. Most of the power generators recovered the ability to do so, therefore, the price of natural gas purchased under the bidding processes decreased further because of the competition for demand in the low consumption season and in an environment with oversupply and economic recession.

Since December 2018, the government again decreased the natural gas price reference for power generation based on the supply basin of origin. As a result, during 2019, CAMMESA called for several bidding processes under the same conditions which resulted in even lower natural gas prices for generation.

The prices at which power plants or CAMMESA acquire natural gas can be considered a reference to determine the price of natural gas acquired as shrinkage gas (*“RTP”*) by us, which is why any additional increase in the costs of our Liquids Production and Commercialization segment may adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

As described above, actions taken by the Government during winter periods of recent years resulted in natural gas being redirected away from certain users, including the Cerri Complex, toward priority users, including residential customers. See “*—The Government’s strategies, measures and programs with respect to the natural gas transportation industry could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities and our ability to meet our financial obligations.*” To a lesser extent, during the winter of 2016 and 2017, processing at the Cerri Complex was interrupted because of continued governmental actions to ensure natural gas supply to the domestic market, but thanks to the development of Vaca Muerta formation, during the three years ended December 31, 2020, we did not register any interruption in the supply of natural gas in the Cerri Complex.

In addition, regarding natural gas producers, the Government has recently introduced measures to moderate the impact of fuel prices in the economy. The prices that natural gas producers are able to obtain for oil and natural gas affect the viability of investments in new exploration, development and refining and, as a result, the timing and amount of our projected capital expenditures for such purposes. Any diversion of the supply of natural gas from the Cerri Complex may require us to purchase natural gas from third parties to supply our Liquids business, which may result in increased costs. If we are unable to purchase natural gas from other sources, the volume of our Liquids productions may decrease.

After the first award of volumes and prices carried out on December 3, 2020, under the framework of Plan Gas.Ar, an increase in the natural gas price at the Point of Entry to the Transportation System (the “PIST” after its acronym in Spanish) for thermal generation and for natural gas distributors was verified, which is highly likely to affect industrial users, which will ultimately impact the costs of natural gas consumed in the Cerri Complex, thus affecting our operating margins. However, such plan would allow the drop in production levels that has been recorded in recent periods to be reversed in order to sustain our gas processing business at the Cerri Complex.

It is uncertain whether in the future measures taken by the Government or other measures that could adversely affect our business, results of operations and ability to meet our financial obligations will be implemented. It is also uncertain the impact of the Solidarity Law, regulations to be issued under its framework or whether our regulatory obligations may be increased, which could result in higher taxes, amendments to the tariff structure, or any other obligations that could increase our costs and adversely affect our financial situation.

Fluctuations in market prices and the enactment of new taxes or regulations limiting the sales price of LPG and natural gasoline may affect our Liquids business.

We extract LPG and natural gasoline from natural gas delivered to the Cerri Complex and sell LPG and natural gasoline. As a result of the deterioration of our Natural Gas Transportation segment, operations relating to our Liquids production and commercialization have represented more than 50% of our total net revenues between 2004 and 2017. Since 2009, the international market for Liquids generally has been favorable, driven by strong international prices for LPG and natural gasoline. However, in 2015, as a consequence of weaker demand from emerging markets as well as higher production levels and export capacity due to the development of shale gas fields in the United States of America, our average liquids sales prices were lower than the ones recorded previously.

Regarding the price of energy, during the first months of 2020 and as a result of the complex global scenario caused by COVID, the international reference prices of the products we export suffered sharp drops, which were later reduced as the global health and economic situation stabilized, with the exception of butane, which experienced a significant increase in the last days of the year due to a decrease in global stock levels. In this sense, the average price drops of propane, butane and natural gasoline were 15%, 16% and 31%, respectively, as compared to the year 2019. However, as of the last quarter of 2020 and subsequent to December 2020, international prices recovered sharply, even surpassing the prices in effect at the end of 2019.

In recent years, the Government issued a series of measures, which significantly affected our Liquids Production and Commercialization segment. Since 2002, LPG and natural gasoline exports have been subject to a withholding tax on exports. After several regulatory modifications, in March 2008, the Government introduced a “sliding-scale” regime for LPG and natural gasoline, where the withholding tax rate applicable to exports of LPG and natural gasoline (as a percentage) would vary in the same proportion as the variation in the international reference prices.

At the beginning of 2015, to reduce the impact of the sharp decrease in the international reference prices for LPG and natural gasoline, the Government reduced to 1% the applicable rate of withholding tax for exports, maintaining the “sliding-scale” regime in case international prices were higher than a certain level set by the Federal Energy Bureau. This regime was in effect until January 7, 2017. Finally, on September 3, 2018, the Executive Branch issued Decree No. 793/2018, which set a new tax on exports framework.

For further information, see “Item 4. Our Information–B. Business Overview–Liquids Production and Commercialization.”

In addition, after the issuance of Resolutions Nos. 1,982/11 and 1,991/11 (the “Gas Charge Resolutions”), the natural gas processing charge created by Decree No. 2,067/08 (the “Natural Gas Processing Charge”) increased from Ps.0.049 to Ps.0.405 per cubic meter of natural gas effective from December 1, 2011, representing a significant increase in our variable costs of natural gas processing.

In order to avoid an adverse effect on our Liquids business, we initiated legal proceedings against Decree No. 2,067/08 and the Gas Charge Resolutions, including the Government, ENARGAS and the former *Ministerio de Producción y de Planificación Federal, Inversión Pública y Servicios* (the “MPFIPyS”) as defendants.

On March 28, 2016, the former Ministry of Energy issued Resolution No. 28 (“Resolution 28”), which instructs ENARGAS to take all the necessary measures to reduce to zero the Natural Gas Processing Charge starting April 1, 2016. Since that date, we have not been required to pay for the Natural Gas Processing Charge. However, Resolution 28 did not invalidate the Natural Gas Processing Charge or Gas Charge Resolutions for the period in which they were in force, for which reason the judicial action is still ongoing. On March 26, 2019, we were served notice of the first instance judgment rendered in the proceedings, which upholds the legal action filed by us and declares the unconstitutionality of Executive Decree No. 2,067/08, MPFIPyS Resolution No. 1451/08 and the Gas Charge Resolutions, and Section 53 and 54 of Act No. 26,784 (General budget of the National Public Administration for the fiscal year 2013), as well as of any other act aimed at enforcing Executive Decree No. 2,067/08, and therefore declares invalid said regulations. On March 29, 2019, the National Secretariat of Energy appealed the judgment, which appeal was granted on April 3, 2019. On December 1, 2020, the judge resolved to extend the injunction (*medida cautelar*) for six months, or until the award becomes final. For additional information, see “Item 8. Financial Information–A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information–Legal and Regulatory Proceedings–Tax Claims.”

Any new regulations regarding the cost and availability of the natural gas used in the production of Liquids and the effect of the continuing decline or volatility in international prices of LPG or natural gasoline could cause our operating margins to drop significantly and materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations. In addition, the Government could modify the current taxes and export/import regulations in a manner that could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

The continued spread of the COVID may continue to negatively affect the global economy, energy demand and our business.

The recent COVID pandemic has introduced uncertainty in a number of areas of our business, including our operational, commercial and financial activities. It has also impacted negatively, and may continue to impact negatively, global economic activity, demand for energy including LNG and funds flows and sentiment in the global financial markets. The long-term effects to the global economy and the Company of the COVID pandemic are difficult to assess or predict, and may include a further decline in the market prices of our Shares and ADSs, risks to employee health and safety, risks for the deployment and logistic of our services and reduced sales mainly in the Liquids business segment. Our share price has recently declined significantly, due in part to the impact of the COVID. The ongoing spread of the COVID may continue to negatively affect our business, our operations, including the development of natural gas in Argentina, and our financial position and prospects which will depend on the severity of the health emergency and the success of the measures taken and those that will be taken in the future. . However, given the Company's financial situation, it is not currently expected that the aforementioned events will affect the continuity of the business and, therefore, it is estimated that it will be able to continue to meet its financial commitments in the near future.

We also could not assure the duration and consequences of COVID or any other disruptions that may arise in government intervention or other measures, or the possibility of other economic effects on the stock market, foreign exchange rates and otherwise. Any such negative impact could result in a material adverse effect on our business, liquidity, financial conditions, results of operations and trading price of our common shares and ADSs.

Our ethane sales depend on the capacity of PBB, as the sole purchaser of our ethane production.

Between 2005 and 2015, we sold all our ethane to PBB under a long-term agreement that expired on December 31, 2015, which was subsequently renewed on an annual basis until May 1, 2018, and then on a monthly basis until September 6, 2018, the date on which we entered into a new agreement with PBB. The agreement is retroactive as of May 1, 2018, and will expire on December 27, 2027.

Pursuant to this agreement, the ethane price is calculated in U.S. dollars and is subject to adjustments, the natural gas price, the quality of the ethane shipped by us and transportation tariffs and charges, among others. This agreement also includes take or pay (“**TOP**”) and deliver or pay (“**DOP**”) commitments for minimum annual quantities. Under these terms, if one party does not comply with the applicable TOP or DOP condition, that party will be required to compensate the other party.

During 2019, PBB suffered several adverse operational conditions that affected its capacity to purchase our ethane production. We cannot assure you that these adverse conditions affecting PBB will not recur in the future or that PBB will be able to satisfy its obligations under the new purchase agreement. Likewise, in the event that we are not able to renegotiate such agreement at maturity on terms similar to those in effect, our financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected.

The delay in the collection of our sales receivables with customers and/or subsidies owed by the Government for the supply of LPG in the domestic market could adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Our main natural gas transportation customers are natural gas distribution companies whose tariff increases are set in accordance with the renegotiation processes of their licenses. Also, in some cases, their collections may depend on governmental regulations requiring them to finance the collections of their customers or even to recover their receivables from the Government.

Through Resolution No. 336, the payment of 22% of the bills issued from July 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019 to residential customers of natural gas was deferred. More recently, as a consequence of COVID and the measures adopted by the Government to reduce its impact, we have suffered delays in the collection of our credit receivables, either due to the stoppage of activities, or to the measures adopted by the BCRA regarding the making of bank payments and compensations. Although these circumstances may be temporary, as of the date of issuance of this Annual Report, it is not possible to predict if they could repeat in future and their real impact on our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations. If the cash flow generated by operations significantly declines, we may face difficulties in achieving our growth plans and projects, or may experience delays in the payments to our suppliers or financial debt which could negatively impact our financial condition and result of operations.

Also, under the framework of the Solidarity Law, the Government suspended the increase of tariffs for natural gas distribution companies which could negatively impact their operational costs, including their ability to pay for natural gas transportation services provided by us.

The failure of our clients to recover their receivables may cause them to incur delays or default in their payment obligations with us under our natural gas firm transportation contracts. In the future, we may be subject to delays in collections and payment obligations. We cannot assure you that our natural gas distribution customers in Argentina will not default on or otherwise breach their obligations to us in the future, and therefore negatively impact our financial situation.

In addition, we participate in the programs created by the Government to guarantee the supply of LPG at reasonable prices in the domestic market. Participation in these programs implies that the Government must compensate us when resources are allocated to the domestic market instead of us. Over recent years, this compensation has been paid with significant delays and there is no certainty about the continuance of such programs under the Fernandez administration.

During the fiscal years 2019 and 2020, we received the amount of Ps.150 million and Ps. 638 million, respectively, as subsidies of the programs mentioned above. Pursuant to the programs referred to above, as of December 31, 2020, the Government is required to pay to us Ps. 303 million.

If the SHR were (i) not able to pay or redeem such accrued compensation in cash or cash equivalents, or (ii) not able to make such payments or redemptions according to our estimated schedule, our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations would be adversely affected.

Our failure to renew firm transportation contracts could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

We cannot assure you that our natural gas firm transportation contracts will be renewed in whole or in part in our existing routes or by our current customers. We may not be able to renew some natural gas transportation contracts in light of the changes in the supply of natural gas from the Neuquina basin. The terms of our gas firm transportation contracts vary based on different factors. If we are unable to renew our natural gas firm transportation contracts as they mature, our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations would be adversely affected. See “*Our Liquids production depends on the natural gas that arrives at the Cerri complex through three main pipelines from the Neuquina, Austral and San Jorge natural gas basins. The flow and caloric power of this natural gas are subject to risks that could materially adversely affect our Liquids and midstream business segment.*”

The affirmative and restrictive covenants in our currently outstanding indebtedness could adversely restrict our financial and operating flexibility and subject us to other risks.

The terms of our outstanding indebtedness provide for numerous affirmative and restrictive covenants that limit our ability to, among other things:

- incur or permit to exist certain liens;
- incur additional indebtedness;
- pay dividends or make other restricted payments;
- make capital investments and other investments;
- enter into sale and lease-back transactions;
- enter into transactions with affiliates;
- sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of assets; and
- consolidate, amalgamate, merge or sell all or substantially all of our assets.

These restrictions may limit our ability to operate our businesses and may prohibit or limit our ability to enhance our operations or take advantage of potential business opportunities as they arise. The breach of any of these covenants by us or the failure by us to meet any of these conditions could result in a default under any or all of such indebtedness. Our ability to comply with these covenants may be affected by events beyond our control, including prevailing economic, financial and industry conditions and the renegotiation of the public works and licenses process. In addition, if we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow from operations, we may be required to refinance outstanding debt or to obtain additional financing. We cannot assure you that a refinancing would be possible or that any additional financing would be available or obtained on acceptable terms.

Our insurance policies may not fully cover damage or we may not be able to obtain insurance against certain risks.

As of December 31, 2020, our physical assets are insured for up to U.S.\$2,297 million and for the loss of profit resulting from the material damages by an amount of U.S.\$409 million, these coverages being subject to certain deductibles for both material damages and loss of profit.

We maintain insurance policies intended to mitigate our losses due to customary risks. These policies cover our assets against loss for physical damage and loss of revenue, and also third-party liability. However, we cannot assure you that the scope of damages suffered in the event of a natural disaster or catastrophic event would not exceed the policy limits of our insurance coverage. We maintain all-risk physical damage coverage for losses resulting from, but not limited to, earthquakes, fire, explosions, floods, windstorms, strikes, riots, mechanical breakdowns and business interruption. Our level of insurance may not be sufficient to fully cover all losses that may arise in the course of our business or insurance covering our various risks may not continue to be available in the future. In addition, we may not be able to obtain insurance on comparable terms in the future. We may be materially and adversely affected if we incur losses that are not fully covered by our insurance policies or if we are required to disburse significant amounts from our own funds to cover such losses.

Changes in the interpretation by the courts of labor laws that tend to favor employees could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

In addition to our employees, we rely on a number of third-party service providers to outsource certain services. We follow very strict policies to control the compliance by such third-party service providers with their labor and social security obligations. However, due to changes in the interpretation by the courts of labor laws that tend to favor employees in Argentina, companies' labor and social security obligations toward their own employees and employees of third-party service providers have significantly increased. As a result of the foregoing, potential severance payment liabilities have significantly increased, and in the event any third-party service provider fails to duly comply with its labor and social security obligations towards its employees, we may be faced with litigation by employees of such third-party service provider to hold us liable for the payment of any labor and social security obligations defaulted on by any such third-party service provider. Therefore, our labor costs may increase as our indemnification responsibilities and costs expand, adversely affecting the results of our operations.

We may be exposed to risks related to litigation and administrative proceedings that could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations in the event of an unfavorable ruling.

We are part of administrative proceedings and judicial claims, some of which have been pending resolution for several years. Our business may expose us to litigation relating to labor, environmental, health and safety matters, regulatory, tax and administrative proceedings, governmental investigations, tort claims and contract disputes and criminal prosecution, among other matters. In the context of these proceedings, we may be required to pay fines or money damages and we also may be subject to complementary sanctions or injunctions affecting our ability to continue our operations. While we may contest these matters vigorously and make insurance claims when appropriate, litigation and other proceedings are inherently costly and unpredictable, making it difficult to estimate accurately the outcome of actual or potential litigation or proceedings. Although we may establish provisions, as we deem necessary, the amounts that we reserve could vary significantly from any amounts we actually pay due to the inherent uncertainties in the estimation process.

For additional information on the material proceedings in which we are involved, see “Item 8. Financial Information–A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information–Legal and Regulatory Proceedings.”

Our operations are subject to environmental, occupational health and safety regulations.

We operate an extensive network of natural gas pipelines, including numerous compressor plants, the Cerri Complex and the logistic and storage facilities of Puerto Galván. All these facilities are located throughout the territory of Argentina and are subject to federal and provincial laws, as well as to the supervision of governmental agencies and regulatory authorities in charge of enforcing environmental laws and policies. We operate in compliance with applicable laws and in accordance with directives issued by ENARGAS. For this reason, it is possible that we could be subject to controls, which could result in penalties imposed on us.

We utilize a certified safety, occupational health, environment and quality management system in accordance with international standards ISO 14001, ISO 9001 and OHSAS 18001. It includes operational controls that are documented and monitored regularly. However, we cannot assure you that these controls will be effective or that our time of response to incidents will be adequate.

In addition, future regulation may require us to comply with additional safety, occupational health, environmental and quality controls or standards. We cannot assure you that, in the future, additional regulation could be issued requiring us to make new investments in order to comply with such safety, health and environmental laws and regulations.

We may face competition.

Historically, the construction and operation of natural gas processing plants located in the Province of Neuquén has increased competition in our Liquids sector as our customers could satisfy their product demand with alternative suppliers. In the past, we have been able to mitigate this competition by entering into agreements with natural gas producers that limited their ability to make investments in natural gas processing plants. For example, at the end of 2000, Compañía MEGA S.A. (“**MEGA**”), a *sociedad anónima* owned by YPF, Petrobras International Braspetro B.V. and Dow Investment Argentina S.A., finished building and began operation of a gas processing plant with a capacity of approximately 1.3 Bcf/d, located in the Province of Neuquén. Although the construction of this gas processing plant initially resulted in lower volumes of gas arriving at the Cerri Complex, we have been able to undertake measures to substantially mitigate any negative impact of the MEGA plant. However, there is a risk that additional gas processing at the MEGA plant could result in lower volumes or lesser quality gas arriving at the Cerri Complex in the future, or that other projects that may be developed upstream of the Cerri Complex could adversely affect our revenues from Liquids production and commercialization services.

Although the construction of gas processing plants upstream of the Cerri Complex requires significant investments, additional gas processing facilities may be constructed that similar to the MEGA plant, could result in lower volumes or inferior natural gas quality of the natural gas arriving at the Cerri Complex in the future. Therefore, the development of these new projects could adversely affect our revenues from Liquids production and commercialization services. In order to guarantee access to natural gas to be processed in the Cerri Complex we have obtained the commitment of natural gas producers to not build natural gas processing plants upstream of the Cerri Complex during the term of such long-term agreements.

Regarding our other services business segment, we operate in a market with strong participants, many of which may have extensive and diversified know-how or operating experience and financial resources similar to or significantly greater than ours. While it is still unclear the future measures to be taken by the current administration regarding its energetic policy, the development of the natural gas industry in Argentina is essential for the country's economic growth. All future business that our competitors or we can develop will depend on the production of natural gas. The Government (or any other entity on its behalf) might not issue the necessary regulations to encourage natural gas producers to develop new projects involving natural gas output.

As a result of the above, an increased number of competitors could reduce their prices which could make our investments not profitable. In addition, an increase in competition could affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations. This would adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Additionally, our principal competitor in the gas transportation business is Transportadora de Gas del Norte S.A. ("**TGN**"). We compete with TGN on a day-to-day basis for natural gas interruptible transportation services and from time to time for new natural gas firm transportation services made available as a result of expansion projects to the natural gas distribution companies to which both we and TGN are either directly or indirectly connected (Camuzzi Gas Pampeana S.A., Metrogas S.A. and Naturgy Argentina S.A.). We compete directly with TGN for the transportation of natural gas from the Neuquina basin to the greater Buenos Aires area. In addition, in the future other participants may successfully penetrate our market and connect with our main customers which could affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

The Secretary of Energy published, on March 7, 2019, Resolution No. 82/2019 ("**Resolution 82**"), which sets the terms and conditions for future tenders that aim to increase the transportation capacity of natural gas. Additionally, through Resolution 437, the Secretary of Energy started a public bidding process to grant a new license for the construction of a pipeline and all necessary facilities to provide natural gas services between the Neuquén Province and Argentina's coastline. On December 30, 2020, the Secretary of Energy enacted Resolution No. 448/20 cancelled the aforementioned public bidding process.

The construction of a new pipeline by a third party could affect our results of operations as the interruptible natural gas transport volumes and the availability of natural gas that arrives at the Cerri Complex for processing could be diminished.

Downgrades in our credit ratings could have negative effects on our funding costs and business operations.

Our credit ratings are assigned to us based on information furnished by us or obtained by the credit rating agencies from independent sources and are also influenced by the credit ratings of Government bonds and general views regarding the Argentine financial system as a whole. The credit ratings are subject to revision, suspension or withdrawal by the credit rating agencies at any time. A downgrade, suspension or withdrawal in our credit ratings could result in, among other things, the following: (i) increased funding costs and other difficulties in raising funds, (ii) the need to provide additional collateral in connection with financial transactions, and (iii) the termination or cancellation of existing agreements. As a result, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

Our business has become increasingly dependent on digital technologies to conduct day-to-day operations and we may be subject to cyberattacks or other risks related to new technologies.

We depend on a variety of internet-based data processing, communication, and information exchange platforms and networks. Although we have extended our security policy to cover industrial systems, reinforcing our defenses in case of denial of service and increasing the monitoring of suspicious activities, our technologies, systems and networks and those of our business associates are exposed to cyberattacks and other cybersecurity incidents in the normal course of business, which could lead to disruptions in critical systems (such as our electronic flow measurement ("SCADA/EFM") system and distributed control systems), the unauthorized release of confidential or protected information, corruption of data or other disruptions of our business operations. As a consequence of COVID we extended remote work environments which may be less secure and more susceptible to hacking attacks, including phishing and social engineering attempts to exploit the COVID pandemic.

Additionally, we enter into contracts with several third parties to provide our customers with data processing and communication services. Therefore, if information security is breached, or if one of our employees or external service providers' breaches compliance procedures, information could be lost or misappropriated, which may affect us, damage others or result in potential litigation.

There has recently been an increased level of attention focused on cyberattacks against large corporations that include, but are not limited to, obtaining unauthorized access to digital systems for purposes of misappropriating cash, other assets or sensitive information, corrupting data, or causing operational disruption. Cybersecurity incidents, such as computer break-ins, "phishing," identity theft and other disruptions, could negatively affect the security of information stored in and transmitted through our computer systems and network infrastructure, which may result in significant liability to us in excess of insurance coverage and may cause existing and potential customers to refrain from doing business with us.

In addition, the methods used to obtain unauthorized access, disable or degrade service or sabotage systems are constantly evolving and may be difficult to anticipate or to detect. Thus, certain cyber incidents, such as surveillance, may remain undetected for an extended period. To our knowledge, we have not experienced any material losses relating to cyberattacks; however, as cyberattacks continue to evolve, there can be no assurance that we will not suffer any cyberattack in the future that could affect our operations and/or our financial condition.

Our information technology infrastructure is critical to the efficient operation of our business and is essential to our ability to perform day-to-day operations. Breaches in our information technology infrastructure or physical facilities, or unauthorized access or other loss of information or other disruptions, could result in damage to our assets, safety incidents, legal claims, potential liability or the loss of contracts, damage our reputation, and could have a material adverse effect on our operations, financial position and results of operations.

Our natural gas transportation systems and processing facilities are subject to the risk of mechanical or electrical failures and any resulting unavailability may affect our ability to fulfill our contractual and other commitments and thus adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Our natural gas transportation systems and processing facilities are at risk of mechanical or electrical failures and may experience periods of unavailability affecting our ability to comply with our contracts with customers. Any unplanned unavailability of our natural gas transportation systems and processing facilities may adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations, as we may be subject to fines or penalties under our contracts with customers.

Our business is subject to risks arising from natural disasters, catastrophic accidents and terrorist attacks.

Our transportation systems and processing facilities or the third-party infrastructure that we rely on may be damaged by flooding, fires and other catastrophic disasters arising from natural or accidental or intentional human causes. We could experience severe business disruptions, significant decreases in revenues based on lower demand as a result of catastrophic events, or significant additional costs to us not otherwise covered by business interruption insurance clauses. There may be a significant time lag between a major accident, catastrophic event or terrorist attack and our definitive recovery from our insurance policies, which typically carry nonrecoverable deductible amounts, and in any event are subject to caps per event. In addition, any of these events could adversely affect the demand of natural gas by some of our customers and of consumers generally in the affected market. Some of these considerations, among others, could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, the value of our securities, and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

We are subject to anti-trust, anti-corruption, anti-bribery and anti-money laundering laws. Failure to comply with these laws could result in penalties, which could harm our reputation and have an adverse effect on our business.

We are subject to anti-trust, anti-corruption, anti-bribery and anti-money laundering laws. Although we maintain policies and processes intended to comply with these laws, including a review of our internal control over financial reporting, we cannot ensure that these compliance policies and processes will prevent intentional, reckless or negligent acts committed by our officers or employees. If our officers or employees fail to comply with any applicable anti-trust, anti-corruption, anti-bribery or anti-money laundering laws, they may be subject to criminal, administrative or civil penalties and other remedial measures, which could have material adverse effects on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

In addition, we are subject to economic sanctions regulations that restrict our dealings with certain sanctioned countries, individuals and entities. There can be no assurance that our internal policies and procedures will be sufficient to prevent or detect all inappropriate practices, fraud or violations of law by our affiliates, employees, directors, officers, partners, agents and service providers or that any such persons will not take actions in violation of our policies and procedures. Any violations by us of anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws or sanctions regulations could have a material adverse effect on our reputation, business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

Our ability to operate our business may suffer if we are unable to retain our employees or attract other skilled employees or contractors.

Our current and future performance and the operation of our business are dependent upon the contributions of our senior management and our skilled team of engineers and other employees. We depend on our ability to attract, train, motivate and retain key management and specialized personnel with the necessary skills and experience. Further, COVID poses a threat to the well-being and morale of our employees. There is no guarantee that we will be successful in retaining and attracting key personnel and the replacement of any key personnel could be difficult and time-consuming. The loss of the experience and services of key personnel or the inability to recruit suitable replacements and additional staff could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Risks Relating to Our Shares and ADSs

Shareholders outside Argentina may face additional investment risk from currency exchange rate fluctuations in connection with their holding of our shares or ADSs represented by ADRs. Exchange controls imposed by the Government may limit our ability to make payments to the Depositary in U.S. dollars, and thereby limit ADR holders’ ability to receive cash dividends in U.S. dollars.

We are an Argentine company and any future payments of dividends on our shares will be denominated in pesos. The peso has historically fluctuated significantly against many major world currencies, including the U.S. dollar. A depreciation of the peso would likely adversely affect the U.S. dollar or other currency equivalent amount of any dividends paid on our shares and could result in a decline in the value of our shares and ADRs as measured in U.S. dollars.

From 2011 to December 2015, Argentine companies were required to obtain prior approval from BCRA and Argentine tax authorities in order to engage in certain foreign exchange transactions. In September 2019 the Government reinstalled the above previous measures and since then has implemented additional exchange control restrictions. Thus, our shareholders’ ability to receive cash dividends in U.S. dollars was limited by the ability of the Depositary for our ADR program to convert cash dividends paid in pesos into U.S. dollars. Under the terms of our Deposit Agreement for the ADRs, to the extent that the Depositary can in its judgment, and in accordance with local exchange regulations, convert pesos (or any other foreign currency) into U.S. dollars on a reasonable basis and transfer the resulting U.S. dollars outside of Argentina, the Depositary will as promptly as practicable convert or cause to be converted all cash dividends received by it in pesos on the deposited securities into U.S. dollars. If in the judgment of the Depositary this conversion is not possible on a reasonable basis (or is not permitted by applicable Argentine laws, regulations and approval requirements), the Depositary may distribute the pesos received or in its discretion hold such currency uninvested without liability for interest thereon for the respective accounts of the owners entitled to receive the same. As a result, if the exchange rate fluctuates significantly during a time when the depositary cannot convert the foreign currency, you may lose some of the value of the dividend distribution.

In the event that the BCRA does not grant the applicable authorization, we reserve the right to agree with the Depositary the reasonable legal measures for the effective payment of dividends to ADR holders who reside outside of Argentina. As a result, such ADR holder may not timely receive the full dividend distribution or receive at all any such distribution.

Our principal shareholders exercise significant control over matters affecting us, and may have interests that differ from those of our other shareholders.

As of the date of this Annual Report, our controlling shareholder is CIESA, which holds 51% of our common stock. FGS holds 24.0% of our common stock. Local and foreign investors hold the remaining ownership of our common stock. CIESA is under co-control of: (i) Pampa Energia S.A. (**“Pampa Energía”**), which holds 10% of CIESA’s common stock, (ii) PHA S.A.U. (**“PHA”**), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Pampa Energia (in process of merger with Pampa Energia) which holds 40% of the share capital of CIESA, and (iii) Grupo Inversor Petroquímica S.L. (member of GIP Group, controlled by the Sielecki family; **“GIP”**), and PCT L.L.C. (**“PCT”**), which directly and indirectly through PEPCA S.A. (**“PEPCA”**) holds a 50% of the common stock of CIESA.

We cannot assure you that the interests of our principal shareholders will not diverge from the interests of our other investors. See *“Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions.”*

Sales of a substantial number of shares could decrease the market prices of our shares and the ADRs.

CIESA holds 51% of our Class “A” shares. Pursuant to the *Pliego de Bases y Condiciones para la Privatización de Gas del Estado S.E.* (the **“Pliego”**), CIESA may not reduce its shareholding below 51% of our share capital without the competent authorities’ approval. The market prices of our common shares and ADRs could decline as a result of sales by our existing shareholders, such as the ANSES, or of any other significant shareholder of common shares or ADRs in the market, or the perception that these sales could occur.

Under Argentine law, shareholder rights may be fewer or less well defined than in other jurisdictions.

Our corporate affairs are governed by our By-laws, the General Companies Act and Law No. 26,831, which differ from the legal principles that would apply if we were incorporated in a jurisdiction in the United States or in other jurisdictions outside Argentina. In addition, rules governing the Argentine securities markets are different and may be subject to different enforcement in Argentina than in other jurisdictions.

As a foreign private issuer we are exempt from certain rules that apply to domestic U.S. issuers.

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Exchange Act applicable to foreign private issuers. Under U.S. securities laws, as a foreign private issuer we are exempt from certain rules that apply to domestic U.S. issuers with equity securities registered under the Exchange Act, including rules regarding proxy statements and short-swing profits. We are also exempt from many of the corporate governance requirements of the New York Stock Exchange.

Changes in Argentine tax laws may adversely affect the tax treatment of our Class B Shares or ADSs.

Pursuant to Law No. 26,893, the sale, exchange or other transfer of shares and other securities is subject to capital gains tax at a rate of 15% when the purchaser and the seller are not Argentine residents. When both the purchaser and the seller of our Class B Shares or ADRs are non-residents, the purchaser is required to pay the capital gains tax in addition to the purchase price of the Class B Shares or ADSs. In addition, if the purchaser is legally liable for capital gains taxes in Argentina, then the purchaser will likely not be entitled to receive any tax credit in the United States in respect of the payment of any such taxes.

On December 29, 2017, the Macri Administration enacted, through Decree No. 1112/2017, a tax reform (the “**Tax Reform**”). The Tax Reform provides that only the results from sales, transfers or dispositions of shares, securities representing shares and certificates of deposit of shares that are carried out through stock exchanges or stock markets authorized by the CNV under conditions that guarantee the principle of price/time priority of the offers obtained by individuals and undivided estates resident in Argentina shall be exempted.

The foregoing exemption shall also be applicable to foreign beneficiaries to the extent that said beneficiaries do not reside in and the funds do not come from non-cooperative jurisdictions. Decree No. 279/2018 provides that until the decree of the Income Tax Law of Argentina regulates the definition of non-cooperative jurisdiction, the white list established in Decree No. 589/2013 (dated 05/27/2013) will be applicable to determine if a jurisdiction is non-cooperative jurisdiction.

The Tax Reform also establishes an exemption for such foreign beneficiaries on the sale of share certificates issued outside of Argentina that represent shares issued by Argentine companies which have been granted with a public offering authorization by the CNV (i.e., ADRs). The exemptions will only apply if the foreign beneficiaries do not reside in and the funds do not arise from “non-cooperating” jurisdictions.

Pursuant to Decree No. 279/2018, if the foreign beneficiary resides in a non-cooperative jurisdiction or the funds come from a non-cooperative jurisdiction, the capital gains tax rate is 35%.

Whereas, previously, if the sale was carried out between non-Argentine residents the non-Argentine resident purchaser was responsible for paying the tax when the seller was a non-resident, currently it is the seller, through their legal representative domiciled in Argentina, who is responsible for paying the tax, except when the purchaser is a resident individual or legal entity. If the seller does not have a legal representative, the tax should be paid by the seller according to Decree No. 279/2018.

Further rulemaking or interpretation of the amended income tax law by the Argentine tax authority may adversely affect the tax treatment of our Class B Shares or ADSs.

Holders of ADRs may be unable to exercise voting rights with respect to our Class B Shares underlying the ADRs at our shareholders’ meetings.

We will treat the Depositary for all purposes as the shareholder with respect to the shares underlying the ADRs. As a holder of ADRs representing the ADRs being held by the Depositary in your name, you will not have direct shareholder rights and may exercise voting rights with respect to our Class B Shares represented by the ADRs only in accordance with the Deposit Agreement. There are no provisions under Argentine law or under our By-laws that limit the exercise by ADR holders of their voting rights through the Depositary with respect to the underlying Class B Shares. However, there are practical limitations on the ability of ADR holders to exercise their voting rights due to the additional procedural steps involved in communicating with these holders. ADR holders may be unable to exercise voting rights with respect to our Class B Shares underlying the ADRs as a result of these practical limitations.

Holders of ADRs may be unable to exercise preemptive, accretion or other rights with respect to the Class B shares underlying the ADSs.

Holders of ADSs may not be able to exercise the preemptive or accretion rights relating to the shares underlying the ADSs unless a registration statement under the Securities Act is effective with respect to those rights or an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act is available. We are not obligated to file a registration statement with respect to the shares relating to these preemptive rights, and we cannot assure you that we will file any such registration statement. Unless we file a registration statement or an exemption from registration is available, holders may receive only the net proceeds from the sale of their preemptive rights by the depositary or, if the preemptive rights cannot be sold, they will be allowed to lapse. As a result, U.S. holders of Class B Shares or ADSs may suffer dilution of their interest in our company upon future capital increases.

In addition, under the General Companies Act, foreign companies that own shares in an Argentine corporation are required to register with the Superintendency of Corporations (*Inspección General de Justicia* or the “IGJ”) in order to exercise certain shareholder rights. Voting rights in a Shareholder meeting can be exercised through duly instituted agents, as is regulated by Law No. 26,831. If you own our Class B Shares directly (rather than in the form of ADSs) and you are a non-Argentine company and you fail to register with the IGJ, your ability to exercise your rights as a holder of our Class B Shares may be limited.

The NYSE and/or the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange (by delegated authority of BYMA) may suspend trading and/or delist our ADSs and common shares, respectively, upon occurrence of certain events relating to our financial situation.

The NYSE and/or the BYMA may suspend and/or cancel the listing of our ADSs and common shares, respectively, in certain circumstances, including upon the occurrence of certain events relating to our financial situation.

The NYSE may in its sole discretion determine on an individual basis the suitability for continued listing of an issue in the light of all pertinent facts. Some of the factors mentioned in the NYSE Listed Company Manual, which may subject a company to suspension and delisting procedures, include: “unsatisfactory financial conditions and/or operating results,” “inability to meet current debt obligations or to adequately finance operations,” and “any other event or condition which may exist or occur that makes further dealings or listing of the securities on the NYSE inadvisable or unwarranted in the opinion of NYSE.”

We cannot assure you that the NYSE and/or BYMA will not commence any suspension or delisting procedures. A delisting or suspension of trading of our ADSs or common shares by the NYSE and/or BYMA, respectively, could adversely affect our results of operations and financial conditions and cause the market value of our ADSs and common shares to decline.

The price of our Class B Shares and the ADSs may fluctuate substantially, and your investment may decline in value.

The trading price of our Class B Shares is likely to be highly volatile and may be subject to wide fluctuations in response to factors, many of which are beyond our control. Such factors include:

- fluctuations in our periodic operating results;

- changes in financial estimates, recommendations or projections by securities analysts;
- changes in conditions or trends in our industry;
- events affecting equities markets in Argentina;
- legal or regulatory measures affecting our financial conditions;
- departures of management and key personnel; or
- potential litigation or the adverse resolution of pending litigation against us or our subsidiaries.

The stock markets in general have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of the companies involved. We cannot assure you that trading prices and valuations will be sustained. These broad market and industry factors may materially adversely affect the market price of our Class B Shares and the ADSs, regardless of our operating performance. Market fluctuations, as well as general political and economic conditions in Argentina, such as recession or currency exchange rate fluctuations, may also adversely affect the market price of our Class B Shares and the ADSs. In particular, currency fluctuations could impact the value of an investment in Argentina. Although our ADSs listed on the NYSE are U.S. dollar-denominated securities, they do not eliminate the currency risk associated with an investment in an Argentine company.

For example, due to various factors (including, but not limited to, the abrupt variation in the exchange rate in Argentina) prices of equity securities in Argentina have decreased substantially since 2018, which prompted investors to dispose of their investments in Argentina resulting in further downward pressure on the price of equity securities. Future sales of substantial amounts of our Class B Shares and ADSs, or the perception that such future sales may occur, may result in additional pressure on the price of our Class B Shares and ADSs. Also, future sales of treasury shares, may also have a negative impact on the price of our Class B Shares and ADSs.

Following periods of volatility in the market price of a company's securities, that company may often be subject to securities class-action litigation. This kind of litigation may result in substantial costs and a diversion of management's attention and resources, which would have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

The relative volatility and illiquidity of the Argentine securities markets may substantially limit the ability to sell the Class B Shares underlying the ADSs on the BYMA at the price and time desired by the shareholder.

Investing in securities that trade in emerging markets, such as Argentina, often involves greater risk than investing in securities of issuers in the United States, and such investments are generally considered to be more speculative in nature. The Argentine securities market is substantially smaller, less liquid and more concentrated and can be more volatile than major securities markets in the United States, and is not as highly regulated or supervised as some of these other markets. There is also significantly greater concentration in the Argentine securities market than in major securities markets in the United States. Accordingly, although shareholders are entitled to withdraw the Class B Shares underlying the ADSs from the depositary at any time, the ability to sell such shares on the BYMA at a price and time shareholders might want may be substantially limited.