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Chapter 1

158

1.1 158.guide

Texified version of data for Mexico.

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Mexico

1.2 158.guide/Mexico

Mexico

Geography (Mexico)
 People (Mexico)
 Government (Mexico)
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1.3 158.guide/Geography (Mexico)

Geography (Mexico)

=====

Location:

Central America, between Guatemala and the US

Map references:

North America, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

1,972,550 km²

land area:

1,923,040 km²

comparative area:

slightly less than three times the size of Texas

Land boundaries:

total 4,538 km, Belize 250 km, Guatemala 962 km, US 3,326 km

Coastline:

9,330 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf:

200 nm or the natural prolongation of continental margin

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

claims Clipperton Island (French possession)

Climate:

varies from tropical to desert

Terrain:

high, rugged mountains, low coastal plains, high plateaus, and desert

Natural resources:

petroleum, silver, copper, gold, lead, zinc, natural gas, timber

Land use:

arable land:

12%

permanent crops:

1%

meadows and pastures:
 39%
 forest and woodland:
 24%
 other:
 24%
 Irrigated land:
 51,500 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 subject to tsunamis along the Pacific coast and destructive earthquakes in
 the center and south; natural water resources scarce and polluted in north,
 inaccessible and poor quality in center and extreme southeast;
 deforestation; erosion widespread; desertification; serious air pollution ←
 in
 Mexico City and urban centers along US-Mexico border
 Note:
 strategic location on southern border of US

1.4 158.guide/People (Mexico)

People (Mexico)

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Population:
 90,419,606 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 1.97% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 27.67 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 4.82 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -3.15 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 28.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 72.55 years
 male:
 68.99 years
 female:
 76.3 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 3.25 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Mexican(s)
 adjective:
 Mexican
 Ethnic divisions:
 mestizo (Indian-Spanish) 60%, Amerindian or predominantly Amerindian 30%,
 Caucasian or predominantly Caucasian 9%, other 1%
 Religions:

nominally Roman Catholic 89%, Protestant 6%
 Languages:
 Spanish, various Mayan dialects
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 87%
 male:
 90%
 female:
 85%
 Labor force:
 26.2 million (1990)
 by occupation:
 services 31.7%, agriculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing 28%, commerce
 14.6%, manufacturing 11.1%, construction 8.4%, transportation 4.7%, mining
 and quarrying 1.5%

1.5 158.guide/Government (Mexico)

Government (Mexico)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 United Mexican States
 conventional short form:
 Mexico
 local long form:
 Estados Unidos Mexicanos
 local short form:
 Mexico
 Digraph:
 MX
 Type:
 federal republic operating under a centralized government
 Capital:
 Mexico
 Administrative divisions:
 31 states (estados, singular - estado) and 1 federal district* (distrito, ←
 federal);
 Aguascalientes, Baja California, Baja California Sur, Campeche,
 Chiapas, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Colima, Distrito Federal*, Durango,, ←
 Guanajuato, Guerrero,
 Hidalgo, Jalisco, Mexico, Michoacan, Morelos, Nayarit,
 Nuevo Leon, Oaxaca, Puebla, Queretaro, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosi,
 Sinaloa, Sonora, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Tlaxcala, Veracruz, Yucatan, ←
 Zacatecas
 Independence:
 16 September 1810 (from Spain)
 Constitution:
 5 February 1917
 Legal system:

mixture of US constitutional theory and civil law system; judicial review ←
of
legislative acts; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations
National holiday:
Independence Day, 16 September (1810)
Political parties and leaders:
(recognized parties) Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Fernando ←
Ortiz
Arana; National Action Party (PAN), Carlos CASTILLO; Popular Socialist ←
Party
(PPS), Indalecio SAYAGO Herrera; Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD),
Roberto ROBLES Garnica; Cardenist Front for the National Reconstruction
Party (PFCRN), Rafael AGUILAR Talamantes; Authentic Party of the Mexican
Revolution (PARM), Carlos Enrique CANTU Rosas; Democratic Forum Party (PFD) ←
Pablo Emilio MADERO; Mexican Ecologist Party (PEM), Jorge GONZALEZ Torres
Other political or pressure groups:
Roman Catholic Church; Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM); ←
Confederation
of Industrial Chambers (CONCAMIN); Confederation of National Chambers of
Commerce (CONCANACO); National Peasant Confederation (CNC); Revolutionary
Workers Party (PRT); Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants
(CROC); Regional Confederation of Mexican Workers (CROM); Confederation of
Employers of the Mexican Republic (COPARMEX); National Chamber of
Transformation Industries (CANACINTRA); Coordinator for Foreign Trade
Business Organizations (COECE); Federation of Unions Providing Goods and
Services (FESEBES)
Suffrage:
18 years of age; universal and compulsory (but not enforced)
Elections:
President:
last held on 6 July 1988 (next to be held August 1994); results - Carlos
SALINAS de Gortari (PRI) 50.74%, Cuauhtemoc CARDENAS Solorzano (FDN) ←
31.06%,
Manuel CLOUTHIER (PAN) 16.81%; other 1.39%; note - several of the smaller
parties ran a common candidate under a coalition called the National
Democratic Front (FDN)

1.6 158.guide/Government (Mexico 2. usage)

Government (Mexico 2. usage)

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Senate:
last held on 18 August 1991 (next to be held midyear 1994); results -
percent of vote by party NA; seats in full Senate - (64 total) PRI 62, PRD
1, PAN 1
Chamber of Deputies:
last held on 18 August 1991 (next to be held midyear 1994); results - PRI
53%, PAN 20%, PFCRN 10%, PPS 6%, PARM 7%, PMS (now part of PRD) 4%; seats -
(500 total) PRI 320, PAN 89, PRD 41, PFCRN 23, PARM 15, PPS 12
Executive branch:
president, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

bicameral National Congress (Congreso de la Union) consists of an upper chamber or Senate (Camara de Senadores) and a lower chamber or Chamber of Deputies (Camara de Diputados)

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court of Justice (Corte Suprema de Justicia)

Leaders:

Chief of State and Head of Government:

President Carlos SALINAS de Gortari (since 1 December 1988)

Member of:

AG (observer), CARICOM (observer), CCC, CDB, CG, EBRD, ECLAC, FAO, G-3, G ←
-6,
G-11, G-15, G-19, G-24, G-77, GATT, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICFTU, IDA ←
,
IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM (observer), ISO, ITU ←
,
LAES, LAIA, LORCS, NAM (observer), OAS, OPANAL, PCA, RG, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO ←
,
UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:

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consulates general:

Ciudad Juarez, Guadalajara, Monterrey, Tijuana

consulates:

Hermosillo, Matamoros, Mazatlan, Merida, Nuevo Laredo

Flag:

three equal vertical bands of green (hoist side), white, and red; the coat of arms (an eagle perched on a cactus with a snake in its beak) is centered in the white band

1.7 158.guide/Economy (Mexico)

Economy (Mexico)

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Overview:

Mexico's economy is a mixture of state-owned industrial facilities (notably oil), private manufacturing and services, and both large-scale and traditional agriculture. In the 1980s, Mexico experienced severe economic difficulties: the nation accumulated large external debts as world ←
petroleum
prices fell; rapid population growth outstripped the domestic food supply; and inflation, unemployment, and pressures to emigrate became more acute. Growth in national output, however, has recovered, rising from 1.4% in 1988 to 4% in 1990 and 3.6% in 1991 and coming in at 2.6% in 1992. The US is Mexico's major trading partner, accounting for almost three-quarters of its exports and imports. After petroleum, border assembly plants and tourism ←
are
the largest earners of foreign exchange. The government, in consultation with international economic agencies, has been implementing programs to stabilize the economy and foster growth. For example, it has privatized ←
more
than two-thirds of its state-owned companies (parastatals), including banks ←
.
In 1991-92 the government conducted negotiations with the US and Canada on ←
a
North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which was still being ←
discussed
by the three countries in early 1993. In January 1993, Mexico replaced its old peso with a new peso, at the rate of 1,000 old to 1 new peso. Notwithstanding the palpable improvements in economic performance in the early 1990s, Mexico faces substantial problems for the remainder of the decade - e.g., rapid population growth, unemployment, and serious pollution ←
,
particularly in Mexico City.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$328 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

2.6% (1992)

National product per capita:

\$3,600 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

11.9% (1992)

Unemployment rate:

14%-17% (1991 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$58.9 billion; expenditures \$48.3 billion, including capital expenditures of \$6.5 billion (1991); figures do not include state-owned companies

Exports:

\$27.5 billion (f.o.b., 1992 est.)

commodities:

crude oil, oil products, coffee, shrimp, engines, motor vehicles, cotton, consumer electronics

partners:

US 74%, Japan 8%, EC 4% (1992 est.)

Imports:

\$48.1 billion (c.i.f., 1992 est.)
 commodities:
 metal-working machines, steel mill products, agricultural machinery,
 electrical equipment, car parts for assembly, repair parts for motor
 vehicles, aircraft, and aircraft parts
 partners:
 US 74%, Japan, 11%, EC 6% (1992)
 External debt:
 \$104 billion (1992 est.)
 Industrial production:
 growth rate 5.5% (1991 est.); accounts for 28% of GDP
 Electricity:
 27,000,000 kW capacity; 120,725 million kWh produced, 1,300 kWh per capita
 (1992)

1.8 158.guide/Economy (Mexico 2. usage)

Economy (Mexico 2. usage)

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Industries:
 food and beverages, tobacco, chemicals, iron and steel, petroleum, mining,
 textiles, clothing, motor vehicles, consumer durables, tourism
 Agriculture:
 accounts for 9% of GDP and over 25% of work force; large number of small
 farms at subsistence level; major food crops - corn, wheat, rice, beans;
 cash crops - cotton, coffee, fruit, tomatoes; fish catch of 1.4 million
 metric tons among top 20 nations (1987)
 Illicit drugs:
 illicit cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis continues in spite of ↔
 active
 government eradication program; major supplier to the US market; continues
 as the primary transshipment country for US-bound cocaine from South ↔
 America
 Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$3.1 billion; Western (non-US)
 countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$7.7 billion;
 Communist countries (1970-89), \$110 million
 Currency:
 1 New Mexican peso (Mex\$) = 100 centavos
 Exchange rates:
 market rate of Mexican pesos (Mex\$) per US\$1 - 3.100 (January 1993), 3,198
 (November 1992), 3,018.4 (1991), 2,812.6 (1990), 2,461.3 (1989), 2,273.1
 (1988); note - the new pesos replaced the old pesos on 1 January 1993; 1 ↔
 new
 pesos = 1,000 old pesos
 Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.9 158.guide/Communications (Mexico)

Communications (Mexico)

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Railroads:

24,500 km total

Highways:

212,000 km total; 65,000 km paved, 30,000 km semipaved or cobblestone,
62,000 km rural roads (improved earth) or roads under construction, 55,000
km unimproved earth roads

Inland waterways:

2,900 km navigable rivers and coastal canals

Pipelines:

crude oil 28,200 km; petroleum products 10,150 km; natural gas 13,254 km;
petrochemical 1,400 km

Ports:

Acapulco, Altamira, Coatzacoalcos, Ensenada, Guaymas, Manzanillo, Mazatlan,
Progreso, Puerto Vallarta, Salina Cruz, Tampico, Tuxpan, Veracruz

Merchant marine:

58 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 858,162 GRT/1,278,488 DWT; includes 4
short-sea passenger, 2 cargo, 2 refrigerated cargo, 2 roll-on/roll-off, 31
oil tanker, 4 chemical tanker, 7 liquefied gas, 1 bulk, 5 container

Airports:

total:

1,841

usable:

1,478

with permanent-surface runways:

200

with runways over 3,659 m:

3

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

35

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

273

Telecommunications:

highly developed system with extensive microwave radio relay links;
privatized in December 1990; connected into Central America Microwave
System; 6,410,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 679 AM, no FM, 238 TV, ←
22

shortwave; 120 domestic satellite terminals; earth stations - 4 Atlantic
Ocean INTELSAT and 1 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT

1.10 158.guide/Defense Forces (Mexico)

Defense Forces (Mexico)

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Branches:

National Defense (including Army and Air Force), Navy (including Marines)

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 22,201,567; fit for military service 16,205,926; reach
military age (18) annually 1,049,729 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP