

KEY FACTS

Official name: Estados Unidos Mexicanos (United Mexican States)

Head of State: President Enrique Peña Nieto (PRI) (elected 1 July, inaugurated 1 Dec 2012)

Head of government: President Enrique Peña Nieto (PRI) (from 1 Dec 2012)

Ruling party: Pacto por Mexico (Pact for Mexico) led by Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) (Institutional Revolutionary Party) and including the Partido Acción Nacional (PAN) (National Action Party) and the Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD) (Democratic Revolutionary Party) (from 2 Dec 2012)

Area: 1,958,201 square km

Population: 114.87 million (2012) (112,336,538; 2010, census figure)

Capital: Mexico City (DF)

Official language: Spanish

Currency: Mexican peso (Mex\$) = 100 centavos

Exchange rate: Mex\$12.76 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$10,247 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 3.95% (2012)*

GDP: US\$1,177.12 billion (2012)*

Labour force: 46.20 million (2009)

Unemployment: 4.80% (2012)* (plus additional underemployment)

Inflation: 4.11% (2012)*

Oil production: 2.91 million bpd (2012)

Natural gas production: 58.50 billion cum (2012)

Balance of trade: US\$350.00 million (2012)

Annual FDI: US\$20.36 billion (2011)

* estimated figure

Mexico



Mexicans finally saw some respite from a deteriorating social cohesion in the latter part of 2012 and early 2013. One way and another, the three major drug groups – Los Zetas, the Gulf cartel and La Familia Michoacana – have all had to reconsider their *modus operandi*. The Sinaloa cartel appeared unaffected and able to continue its turf war against Los Zetas, a conflict which accounted for much of Mexico's violence. It was rumoured that Los Zetas were unlikely to abandon their feud with the Sinaloa cartel as to do so would immediately be interpreted as a sign of weakness by their rivals.

During the presidential campaign, Sr Peña had indicated that if elected he would focus less on the drug gangs and more on the general lawlessness that affected every Mexican. This was seen by many as a risky strategy, as it not only risked losing the progress made against the gangs, but also risked being perceived as a sign of government weakness and half heartedness. It would be very easy for the

government to allow the cartels to regain the ground lost under President Calderón. The arrest of the leader of Los Zetas was a major success for the new government and was felt could herald the disintegration of one of the world's most brutal criminal groups, though not necessarily a drop-off in the killings. Miguel Treviño Morales was detained by Mexican marines just outside the border city of Nuevo Laredo after a low-flying navy helicopter forced his vehicle to stop. Nicknamed 'Z-40', Treviño was accompanied by two other men in a vehicle which contained eight assault rifles, 'large amounts of ammunition' and no less than US\$2 million.

The arrest of Treviño was the first high-profile success on President Peña's watch. In the previous seven years the violence was estimated to have killed more than 80,000 people. The Zetas had played a central role in the violence from the start, maintaining an intense rivalry with the Sinaloa cartel, headed by Mexico's most famous trafficker, Joaquín 'El Chapo' Guzmán. Originally formed in the

late 1990s as a kind of special forces unit within the Gulf cartel from a core group of military deserters, the Zetas have been credited with injecting a new professionalism and savagery into turf wars that has since been copied by other cartels. The group, that had split from the Gulf cartel in 2010, also pioneered the diversification of crimes under cartel control, including mass extortion and kidnapping networks.

In mid-2011, the federal government ended non-selective targeting of the cartel leaders and began to select the leaders of the more violent criminal organisations, principally the Zetas. This shift in strategy may have induced the leaders of less violent gangs to employ less violent methods even leading to a modest, but steady decline in homicides. While states near the US border have registered larger reductions in violence, states in the centre of Mexico have registered increases. Increased kidnapping, robbery and extortion are all designed to maintain and increase revenue flows for the criminal organisations. Implicit in the operation are political patrons and acquiescent police chiefs. This has inevitably led to competition between mafias and criminal organisations for the loyalty of 'friendly' politicians and compliant police officers.

Good fences, good neighbours?

In 2013 the US Department of Homeland Security expected to complete the final parts of a nearly 700 mile (1,100km) fence and wall along the Mexican border, intended to curb the entry of Latin Americans in search of work and to block the flow of drugs feeding the North American market. The barrier is to cover one-third of the US's entire southern frontier with Mexico. In parts it is a steel mesh fence about five metres high, in some places topped by coils of barbed wire; in others it is a solid steel wall. The remaining 1,300 miles of border are to be protected by a 'virtual fence' – a network of electronic sensors, cameras, towers and high-flying drones.

Mexico is a country where obvious and common features of society can provide blunt indicators to national problems. One such feature is the fact that Mexico has one of the highest per capita consumption figures for sugar rich soft drinks in the world. Per capita consumption of CocaCola is reportedly higher than in the United States and in mid-2013 Mexico was reported to have overtaken the US in levels of adult obesity, although it still lagged behind the levels found in some island nations and parts of the Middle East.

Mexican medical workers and academics have been expressing concern about their country's dubious distinction, noting that some Mexicans remain malnourished while others are becoming obese. The obesity levels place an inevitable strain on medical resources and in the longer term on government finances. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reported that 32.8 per cent of Mexicans suffered from obesity, compared to 31.8 per cent of Americans. Mexico's enthusiastic adoption of processed foods and the replacement of the country's traditional diet with 'fast' food have contributed to what amounts to a severe nation-wide obesity problem.

Peña makes his mark

In his first six months in office (although elected in July 2012 he was not inaugurated until 1 December), Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto achieved an impressive number of reforms. Much of this success was due to a cross party alliance named the Pacto por México (Pact for Mexico). However, in mid-2013 President Peña found himself facing an array of opposition to his reform agenda. Although the Pact had allowed Sr Peña to make progress with reforms to Mexico's corruption prone telecommunications and television legislation and to make a start on ending the entrenched corruption of its

education system, the bridge too far emerged as the proposed reforms of Mexico's state-owned bureaucratic energy giant, Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex). The eighth largest oil producer in the world, Mexico is a major non-Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) oil producer and a significant source of US oil imports. However, a lack of investment and the failure to keep abreast of new technologies has meant that Mexico's oil production has declined of late, as has its position as a net oil exporter to the United States.

Pemex has something of an iconic status within the Mexican economy. Created in 1938 following the nationalisation (aka expropriation) of the assets of the foreign oil companies present in Mexico, it has traditionally been seen – particularly by many Mexican politicians, as a symbol of national progress and independence. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth – the reality is that Mexican politicians have long regarded Pemex as an inviolate cash cow, providing Mexico's governments with a large chunk of their income. Reforming Pemex has now become a divisive issue that threatens to end cross party agreement. Mr Peña's reforms have provided a number of opposition parties with the perfect platform from which to describe themselves as protecting their country's economic heritage.

KEY INDICATORS						Mexico
	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	106.68	107.55	112.34	*113.74	*114.87
Gross domestic minus gold	US\$bn	1,090.00	874.90	1,039.10	1,154.80	*1,177.12
GDP per capita	US\$	10,217	8,135	9,566	10,153	*10,247
GDP real growth	%	1.5	-6.3	5.6	3.9	*3.9
Inflation	%	5.1	5.3	4.2	3.4	*4.1
Unemployment	%	4.0	5.5	5.4	5.2	*4.8
Industrial output	% change	0.5	-7.6	6.0	–	–
Agricultural output	% change	3.1	-2.2	3.3	–	–
Oil output	'000 bpd	3,157.0	2,979.0	2,598.0	2,938.0	2,911.0
Natural gas output	bn cum	54.9	58.2	55.3	52.5	58.5
Coal output	mtoe	5.5	5.3	4.5	7.6	6.6
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	291,343.0	229,783.0	298,473.0	349,946.0	371,378.0
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	308,603.0	234,385.0	301,482.0	351,116.0	371,028.0
Balance of trade	US\$m	-17,261.0	-4,602.0	-3,009.0	-1,171.0	350.0
Current account	US\$m	-15,889.0	-5,734.0	-1,949.0	-9,671.0	*-9,249.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	95,126.0	99,589.0	120,262.0	132,962.0	160,413.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	93,994.0	94,103.0	114,884.0	126,659.0	153,473.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	11.12	13.51	12.64	11.87	12.94
* estimated figure						

The economy

In its overview of the Mexican economy, the World Bank strikes an optimistic note, observing that 'Mexico has a huge potential for accelerating economic growth.' According to the Bank, Mexico 'maintained a strong growth of 3.9 per cent during 2012. This has been supported by both external and internal demand, with a firmer expansion in services. Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow 3.5 per cent during 2013 with a recovery in 2014'. However, the Bank concluded with the warning note that 'Long-term issues include the need to advance reforms to boost growth and to address fiscal challenges associated with a decline in oil revenues and spending pressures from health and pensions.'

Politics

Unsurprisingly, the 2012 presidential campaign had seen substantial opposition to the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) (Institutional Revolutionary Party), particularly on the part of Mexico's younger voters. For them, the PRI represented the vested interests of the past, rather than the possibility of a reformed, modern democracy that reflected their concerns and interests. Although many of those opposed to the PRI had no obvious political affiliation, Mexico's seasoned left wing politician Andrés Manuel López Obrador was seen as the opposition's focal point, particularly in respect of the proposed reforms to Mexico's energy sector.

Following the election, Sr López parted company with the Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD) (Democratic Revolutionary Party) to create a new political movement, the Movimiento Regeneración Nacional (Morena) (Movement of National Regeneration) which appeared to strike a chord with many PRD members, who upped sticks and joined Morena. The new party appears to have gained substantial support from Mexico's younger generation.

After the 2012 general election (held at the same time as the presidential) in which the PRI won 212 out of the 500 seats in the Congreso de la Unión (Congress (of the Union)) President Peña set about forming the Pacto por México (Pact for Mexico) with the Partido Acción Nacional (PAN) (National Action Party), the PRD and one or two smaller opposition parties. Many Mexicans were sceptical about the likely outcome as they considered Mexico's vested interests – its trades unions and monopolies – to be simply intractable.

The ruling PRI has particularly close links to the unions, which made significant labour reforms unlikely. However, the day after his inauguration on 1 December, the Pacto came into being, allowing a government to be formed.

Energy

The amount of oil produced in Mexico has steadily decreased since 2004 due to natural production declines from Cantarell and other large offshore fields. The onus on arresting or reversing production declines falls squarely on the shoulders of Pemex, the state-owned oil company, due to constitutional limits on foreign involvement in the exploration, production and ownership of the nation's hydrocarbon resources. Nonetheless potential reforms could liberalise the sector and promote greater foreign investment.

Oil is a crucial component of Mexico's economy. The oil sector generated 16 per cent of the country's export earnings in 2011, according to Mexico's Banco de México (the central bank), a proportion that has declined over time. More significantly, earnings from the oil industry (including taxes and direct payments from Pemex) accounted for 34 per cent of total government revenues in 2011. Declines in oil production have a direct impact upon the country's economic output and the government's fiscal health, particularly as refined product consumption and import needs grow.

According to the United States government's Energy Information Administration (EIA) Mexico's total energy consumption consists mostly of oil (2.07 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2012), followed by natural gas (83.7 billion cubic metres (bcm)). Natural gas is increasingly replacing oil as a feedstock in power generation. However, Mexico is a net importer of natural gas, so higher levels of natural gas consumption will likely depend upon more imports from either the United States or via liquefied natural gas (LNG) from other countries. All other fuel types contribute relatively small amounts to Mexico's overall energy mix. Most of Mexico's non-hydro renewables consumption is attributable to traditional biomass, the use of which is important in rural areas albeit difficult to quantify accurately, but the country also has noteworthy geothermal and wind energy sectors.

Mexico produced an average of 2.91 million bpd of total oil liquids during 2012. Crude oil accounted for around 2.55 million bpd, or 86 per cent of total output,

with the remainder attributable to lease condensate, natural gas liquids and refinery processing gain. Mexico's oil production has been relatively stagnant since 2009 and the minor decreases that have occurred mark an improvement from the more drastic declines that began around the middle of the last decade. Mexico is a large but declining net crude exporter and is a net importer of refined petroleum products. Its most important trading partner is the United States, which is the destination for most of its crude oil exports and the source of most of its refined product imports.

According to the *Oil & Gas Journal* (OGJ), Mexico had 11.4 billion barrels of proven oil reserves as of the end of 2012. Most reserves consist of heavy crude oil varieties, with the largest concentration of reserves occurring offshore in the southern part of the country, especially in the Campeche Basin. There are also sizable reserves in Mexico's onshore basins in the northern parts of the country.

Mexico nationalised its oil sector in 1938 when Pemex was created as the sole oil operator in the country. Pemex is the largest company in Mexico and one of the largest oil companies in the world. The energy sector is regulated by the Secretaría de Energía (SENER), while the Comisión Nacional de Hidrocarburos (CNH) provides additional oversight of Pemex and its oil and gas activities.

Legislation enacted in 2008 permits Pemex to create incentive-based service contracts with foreign oil companies. At the same time Pemex was given greater autonomy, including the ability to establish more flexible mechanisms for procurement and investment. In March 2011, Pemex announced Mexico's first production licensing round in more than 70 years, with 20 blocks tendered to international bidders. The foreign firms have no ownership rights over any oil they produce, but they are expected to provide Mexican fields with much needed technological improvements. The first three service contracts under the new framework, which provides incentives to contractors for increased production, were awarded in August 2011 for relatively small, mature fields in Tabasco state. Debates about the future direction of Mexico's oil sector featured prominently in the 2012 presidential election that was won by Enrique Peña Nieto, who had included energy reform as one of the planks of his campaign platform.

Most of Mexico's oil production occurs in the Bay of Campeche of the Gulf of Mexico, near the states of Veracruz,

Tabasco and Campeche. The two main production centres in the area include Cantarell and Ku-Maloob-Zaap (KMZ), which is heavy and marketed as the Maya blend. Additional increased volume comes from the fields off the coast of Tabasco state, where the oil produced is of a lighter crude. In total, approximately 1.9 million bpd – or three-quarters – of Mexico's crude oil is produced offshore in the Bay of Campeche. Due to the concentration of Mexico's oil production offshore, any tropical storms or hurricanes passing through the area can easily disrupt oil operations.

Offshore

Mexico is believed to possess considerable hydrocarbon resources in the deep-water Gulf of Mexico, which have not yet been commercially developed. Pemex has been drilling deepwater exploratory wells since 2006 and made its first significant find in the Perdido Fold Belt, near the US border, in August 2012. In February 2012, the United States and Mexico signed a Trans-boundary Hydrocarbon Agreement concerning the development of oil and gas reservoirs that extend across their maritime border. The agreement establishes a co-operative process and legal framework for safely managing and jointly utilising trans-boundary reserves and ended the moratorium on exploration and production in the Western Gap.

Onshore

Onshore fields represent only around 25 per cent of Mexico's total crude oil production. Most of this production consists of light or superlight oil in the southern part of the country, especially in the states of Tabasco and Veracruz, where more than 80 per cent of Mexico's onshore production occurs. The largest oilfield in the south is Samaria-Luna.

The most notable onshore prospect in the north is the Aceite Terciario del Golfo (ATG) project, which is better known as Chicontepec. Located to the north-east of Mexico City, Pemex has heavily invested in and promoted Chicontepec as a potentially significant source of future production, with 442 million barrels of proven crude oil reserves and 11 billion more barrels of probable and possible reserves. Production averaged only 53,000bpd in 2011 and stood at about 70,000bpd in late 2012.

Despite its promise, Chicontepec has failed to live up to expectations due to the unique technical challenges associated with its development. In fact, Chicontepec

is not a single field but a formation that consists of dozens of small fields, spread over hundreds of square miles, which are highly fractured and at low pressure. As a result, many costly development wells are necessary, recovery rates are low and decline rates are high. Moreover, the region does not yet have much of the supporting infrastructure necessary for large-scale oil development. Pemex hopes to increase production dramatically through an aggressive drilling program and aspires to pump 300,000bpd from Chicontepec by the next decade. However, many industry analysts expect production to peak far earlier and at a much lower level, unless significant foreign investment is allowed. Mexico's energy regulator, CNH, has raised concerns about the project's profitability and Pemex's development plan, given that Chicontepec accounts for a significant share of the company's exploration and production budget.

Outlook

The EIA expects Mexican oil production to continue declining over the next decade, assuming no dramatic changes in policy or technology. The EIA forecasts that Mexican oil production will decrease further by 50,000–100,000bpd by the end of 2013, a slightly steeper rate of decline than that experienced for most of 2012. Although the shortage of investment in Mexico is expected to lead to a mid-term decline, Mexico has the potential resources to support a long-term recovery in total production, primarily in the Gulf of Mexico. In 2011 the EIA projected that total Mexican liquid fuels would sink to approximately 1.4 million bpd in 2025, before increasing slowly to 1.7 million bpd. The production rebound depends entirely on the development of resources in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico and the extent and timing of a recovery will depend in part on the level of economic access granted to foreign investors and operators. Pemex does not currently have the technical capability or financial means to develop potential deepwater projects in the Gulf of Mexico or shale oil deposits in the north.

According to Mexican authorities the country exported 1.29 million bpd of crude oil in 2012, down slightly from 2011, when EIA estimated that it was the world's tenth largest crude oil exporter. The United States is the destination for the vast majority – approximately 85 per cent – of Mexico's oil exports, which arrive via tanker. Most Mexican crude oil exports into the United States are of the Maya

blend, while Mexico retains most of the output from its lighter crude streams – Isthmus and Olmeca – for domestic consumption. The United States will continue to attract the bulk of Mexico's oil exports due to the countries' close proximity to each other and because the US Gulf Coast possesses the sophisticated refineries necessary to process heavier Maya crudes.

The EIA notes that Mexico is typically among the top three exporters of oil to the United States. In 2011, the United States imported 1.1 million bpd of crude oil from Mexico, behind Canada and Saudi Arabia. Mexico's crude oil exports to the United States had risen steadily through the 1980s and 1990s, before peaking in 2004 at 1.6 million bpd. The volume of crude oil that the United States imported from Mexico in 2011 was 4.5 per cent below the levels of the year before and the second-lowest level since 1995, reflecting the steady decline in Mexico's crude oil production, its rising domestic fuel demand and other developments related to US supply.

Natural gas

Mexico has considerable natural gas resources, but its production pales in comparison to other North American countries and the development of its unconventional shale gas resources is proceeding slowly. Mexico's import needs are rising as production stagnates and demand increases, particularly in the electricity sector. Consequently, Mexico will rely on increased pipeline natural gas imports from the United States and LNG from other countries.

According to the *British Petroleum Statistical Review of World Energy June 2013*, Mexico had 12.7 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of proven natural gas reserves as of the end of 2012. The southern region of the country contains the largest share of proven reserves. However, the northern region will likely be the centre of future reserves growth, as it contains almost ten times as much probable and possible natural gas reserves as the southern region.

Mexico has one of the world's largest shale gas resource bases, which could support increased levels of natural gas reserves and production. According to an initial EIA assessment, Mexico has an estimated 681tcf of technically recoverable shale gas resources – the fourth largest of any country examined in the study. The figure of technically recoverable shale gas resources is far smaller than the total resource base due to the geologic complexity and discontinuity of Mexico's onshore

shale zone and other assessments are more pessimistic about the country's true potential. Most of Mexico's shale gas resources are in the north-east and east-central regions of the country. The Burgos Basin accounts for two-thirds of Mexico's technically recoverable shale gas resources. Burgos includes parts of the Eagle Ford shale play, which is considered to be Mexico's most promising prospect and has been a prolific source of production in Texas.

Risk assessment

Politics	Fair
Economy	Good
Regional stability	Good

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

The Olmecs inhabited the country around 3,500 years ago, their civilisation reaching its peak about 1200 BC. By AD 500–600, the Mayas had risen to prominence and Teotihuacan (where Mexico City now stands) was thriving, with 200,000 inhabitants.

1519 The Spanish, and Hernan Cortés, arrived. The Aztecs were the dominant culture.

1810–21 The Spanish colony became independent. Conflicts with the US and France ensued.

1876–1910 The Porfirio Díaz dictatorship, known as the *Porfiriato*, led to a series of revolutions and coups.

1910 The Epic Revolution, led by Emiliano Zapata, began

1911 Porfirio Díaz was overthrown. Francisco Madero, a liberal and one of the revolutionary leaders, became president. He introduced land reform and labour legislation. Political unrest continued with Zapata leading a peasant revolt in the south.

1913 Madero was assassinated.

Victoriano Huerta seized power.

1914 Huerta resigned. He had been viewed with suspicion by the United States for his alleged pro-German sympathies. Huerta is succeeded by General Venustiano Carranza, preventing the re-emergence of the *Porfiriato*.

1917 Mexico's modern liberal constitution was adopted, enshrining land reform and labour rights.

1920 Carranza was assassinated. Civil war broke out.

1929 President Plutarco Elías Calles created the Partido Nacional Revolucionario (PNR) (National Revolutionary Party), a multi-class party that developed institutionalised mechanisms which enabled and controlled popular participation in government.

1934 General Lázaro Cárdenas became president and restructured the PNR, renaming it the Partido de la Revolución Mexicana (PRM) (Party of the Mexican Revolution). He also created official unions for workers and peasants, which were controlled by the official party.

1939 Disenchanted middle-class conservatives launched the Partido de Acción Nacional (PAN) (National Action Party).

1940 Leon Trotsky was assassinated in Mexico.

1946 Miguel Alemán became president and renamed the ruling party the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) (Institutional Revolutionary Party), signifying the final transition from the ideals of the revolution to liberal capitalism and a corporatist state.

1968 Growing disenchantment with authoritarian politics and rising urban poverty led to a series of mass demonstrations, culminating in a massacre of several hundred peaceful demonstrators, most of them young students.

1970 Luis Echeverría Álvarez became president, seeking to calm political turbulence through increased state spending and bolstering the power of trade unions.

1976 José López Portillo was appointed president. Oil revenues were used to borrow additional capital to initiate a rapid transition towards industrial development.

1982 A debt crisis was sparked by an economic recession in the US which left Mexico unable to obtain enough loans to service existing debts. A programme of economic stabilisation and structural adjustment was initiated under the administration of President Miguel de la Madrid.

1988 The PRI split. The left-wing *corriente democrática* joined a coalition of minor parties to back the presidential candidacy of Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, son of former president, Lázaro Cárdenas. Despite massive electoral fraud, Cárdenas still managed to come second behind the PRI's Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

1992 As part of Mexico's commitments in the run-up to the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta), Salinas effectively repealed Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution which had guaranteed land reform.

1994 The Zapatistas led an uprising in Chiapas state in response to the treatment of indigenous peasants and neo-liberal economic policy. The Zapatistas attracted worldwide sympathy and attention was fixed on the effects of Mexico's economic policy and Nafta on the growing number of Mexican poor. The PRI's presidential candidate, Luis Donaldo Colosio, was murdered; many believed the killing was carried out by members of his own party.

1994 Ernesto Zedillo of the PRI won the presidential election amid accusations of dirty tricks and vote buying.

2000 PAN won parliamentary elections, the PRI lost the presidency and its majority in the Senate, as well as its status as the party with the largest number of seats in the lower house. The break with PRI rule was historic, as the party, including its previous incarnations, had enjoyed continuous office since 1929.

2001 The Senate unanimously approved a constitutional bill granting autonomy to indigenous people.

2002 Roberto Madrazo won the elections for the leadership of PRI.

2005 Six prison officers were murdered and all high security jails were put on alert, following an escalation of tension between the authorities and drug gangs.

2006 Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa (PAN) narrowly won the presidential election. The president declared war on drug cartels, with a new federal police force and thousands of troops deployed to the western state of Michoacán.

2007 Over 75,000 people protested in Mexico City and more in other locations, at the rapid rise in prices of basic foodstuffs. Tortillas, the staple food particularly among the poor, had risen by 40 per cent in the previous months and at a rate far faster than inflation in general. The price increases were largely due to the cost of maize imports from the US where such produce has been redirected for use in bio-fuel.

2008 There were 1,400 deaths due to organised drug cartels recorded in the first five months, bringing to 4,000 the number of drug trafficking related deaths since the beginning of the police crackdown in 2006. The navy seized a makeshift submarine smuggling almost six tonnes of cocaine to the US, while the army seized 12 tonnes of marijuana in Tijuana.

2009 The first case of a worldwide flu virus (H1N1) epidemic, characterised as a 'mild' strain, was reported in Mexico. The virus rapidly infected over 1,500 people in 20 countries and killed 26 people. The PRI made impressive gains by winning 241 seats in elections for the Chamber of Deputies, and became the leading political party in the coalition government.

2010 Amid an upsurge in drug-related gang violence gubernatorial and mayoral elections were held in 14 out of the 31 states of Mexico. The PRI won the majority of states in contention.

2011 In January the governorship election in Guerrero was won by Angel Aguirre of the left wing Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD (Democratic Revolutionary Party)); Manuel Añorve of the opposition PRI was runner-up. Thousands of demonstrators

joined marches in over 20 cities around the country in April to protest against drug related violence since President Calderón began deploying the army to fight the cartels in 2006. The PRI retained the governorship of Mexico State in the July election. General elections were set for 2012. A drought, the worst since the 1930s, left lakes and reservoirs low by the end of 2011. Agricultural output was affected as communities and farms became dangerously low on water, with the risk of food insecurity for many of the most vulnerable in Mexico. In a speech in December, President Calderón declared that organised crime posed an 'open threat' to Mexico's democracy, as drug gangs were attempting to manipulate political elections, with reports of intimidation of voters and candidates by armed thugs.

2012 On 1 May parliament unanimously voted approval for the provision of compensation for victims of organised crime. A new national body will record crimes such as kidnapping and forced disappearances and oversee the legal, medical and financial support of the victims and families. Since 2006 an estimated 50,000 people have died from drug-related organised crime. Presidential and parliamentary elections took place on 1 July. Enrique Peña Nieto (PRI) was declared the winner although Andrés Manuel López Obrador (PRD) his closest rival did not concede defeat. On 3 July, Lopez Obrador challenged the early results saying the voting had been 'plagued by irregularities'. Results of the presidential election were finally released on 13 July following a recount in around two-thirds of all polling stations. Enrique Peña Nieto (PRI) won 39.1 per cent of the vote, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (PRD) won 32.43 per cent. In September, the results of the Chamber of Deputies (Camara de Diputados) election showed that the PRI had won 207 seats (out of 500), PAN 114 and PRD 100. In the Senate (Camara de Senadores) PRI won 52 seats (out of 128), PAN 38 and PRD 22. On 1 November, a new 25km metro line was opened linking Tlahuag (a semi-rural terminal) to Mexico City. The US\$1.8 billion Line 12 (Golden line) interchanges with four other metro lines. Enrique Peña Nieto was inaugurated as president on 1 December, with a promise to boost the economy and deal with drug related violence. 2013 Congress passed a bill aimed at making the telecommunications industry more competitive on 30 April. The reform is expected to challenge America Movil company (owned by Carlos Slim, said to be the world's richest man), which controls two-thirds of the phone market. On 15 July the government reported that Miguel Angel Trevino Morales, head of

the brutal Zetas drug cartel, had been captured. In August President Nieto put forward proposals for reforms to the oil industry, opening up the sector to private investment. Pemex can no longer fund the exploration and development needed to maintain current levels of production and it is hoped that the reforms would attract both domestic and foreign investment.

Political structure

Constitution

The political system established by the 1917 constitution emphasises presidential power.

Mexico is a federal republic of 31 states and one federal district (Mexico City). States are divided into municipalities. State governors are directly elected every six years. Deputies of state legislatures hold office for three years. The states are empowered to raise taxes and introduce and enforce state laws.

In order to register for federal elections, political parties must have a total of at least 65,000 party members and must have 3,000 supporters per state in at least 16 states or 300 party members per constituency in at least half of the constituencies which return deputies elected by majority vote. Alternatively, a party may be allowed conditional registration if it has been active for four years. This conditional registration can be converted to official registration if the party then obtains at least 1.5 per cent of the vote. In 1989, a law was adopted giving a party obtaining 35 per cent of the vote in a general election an absolute majority in the chamber of deputies.

Form of state

Federal presidential democratic republic

The executive

The president is directly elected by majority vote for a period of six years and takes office on 1 December of the election year, but is unable to stand for a second term.

The president is assisted by a cabinet (usually 19 members), one of whom is the governor of the Federal District (the administrative area which includes the capital, Mexico City), the attorney general for the country as a whole and the attorney general for the Federal District. The cabinet is appointed by the president.

The president also appoints the judges of the supreme court and higher courts of justice, the senior officers of the armed forces and diplomats, but these appointments are subject to approval by the Senate.

National legislature

The Congreso de la Union (Congress (of the Union)) is a bicameral legislature comprising the Cámara de Diputados (Chamber of Deputies) and the Senado de la República (Senate). Membership of

the Chamber of Deputies is per 200,000 citizens and in 2009 there were 500 *diputado federal* (federal deputies), of which 300 are directly elected in single-seat districts. The remainder are elected by proportional representation from party lists and not tied to districts. All members of the Chamber of Deputies are elected for only one three-year term. The Senate (upper chamber) has 128 members. Each state (31) and the federal district elects senators by relative majority (64 in number) based on a winning vote; an additional 32 senators are elected as runners up in the vote and a further 32 seats are divided among the parties in proportion to their share of the national vote. All members of the Senate are elected for only one six-year term. In 2013 the Pacto por México (Pact for Mexico) set out a number of electoral reforms, including shortening the length of time between the election of a president (July) and the inauguration (December) to an inauguration date of 15 September. A bill sent to Congress by then President Felipe Calderón in 2009 which would reduce the number of members of both chambers had still not been passed by 2013.

Legal system

Under the 1917 constitution, the judiciary is independent of the executive and legislative bodies, but in practice the judiciary tends not to oppose the president.

The judicial system is divided into federal and state judiciaries.

The federal system has both ordinary and constitutional jurisdiction. It consists of the 21-member supreme court (which deals with penal, administrative, civil and labour cases), collegiate circuit courts (cases regarding an individual's constitutional rights) and unitary circuit courts (appeals). There are 12 collegiate circuits and nine unitary circuits. There are 68 district courts.

Last elections

1 July 2012 (parliamentary and presidential)

Results: Chamber of Deputies: Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) (Institutional Revolutionary Party) won 212 seats (out of 500), Partido Acción Nacional (PAN) (National Action Party) 114, Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD) (Democratic Revolutionary Party) 104, Partido Verde Ecologista de México (PVEM) (Ecologist Green Party of Mexico) 29, Partido del Trabajo (PT) (Labor Party) 15, Partido Nueva Alianza (PNA or Panal) (New Alliance Party) 10, Movimiento Ciudadano (MC) (Citizens' movement) 16. Turnout was over 62.44 per cent. Senate (2012): PRI 57 seats (out of 128) PAN 38, PRD 23, PVEM four, PT four,

PNA two, MC one. Turnout was 62.3 per cent.

Presidential: Enrique Peña Nieto (PRI) won 39.1 per cent of the vote, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (PRD) 32.43 per cent, Josefina Vázquez Mota (PAN) 26.04 per cent, Gabriel Quadri de la Torre (Partido Nueva Alianza (PNA) (New Alliance Party)) 2.36 per cent. Turnout was 63.1 per cent.

Next elections

2015 (chamber of deputies); 2018 (presidential and senate)

Political parties

Ruling party

Pacto por México (Pact for Mexico) led by Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) (Institutional Revolutionary Party) and including the Partido Acción Nacional (PAN) (National Action Party) and the Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD) (Democratic Revolutionary Party) (from 2 Dec 2012)

Main opposition party

Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD) (Democratic Revolutionary Party)

Population

114.87 million (2012) (112,336,538; 2010, census figure)

About 35 per cent of the total population is under 15 years of age.

Last census: 12 June 2010: 112,336,538

Population density: 51 inhabitants per square km (2000). Urban population 78 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 1.5 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) 10,000–12,000 (UNHCR 2004)

Ethnic make-up

Mestizo (mixed Indian-European) (55 per cent), Amerindian (29 per cent), European origin (16 per cent).

Religions

Roman Catholic (89 per cent), Protestant (6 per cent).

Education

Compulsory education is provided free of charge. Primary schooling lasts for six years; secondary education (which begins at age 12), is divided into two cycles of three years. Students either follow an academic or technical programme of education, which can lead on to higher education or specialised training. In 1985, the government reorganised state education with priority given to literacy. A high proportion of spending has traditionally gone into higher education, with much of this devoted to adult literacy. While higher education has received relatively strong funding, the school system suffers from low teachers' pay, a consequent lack of teacher motivation and poor

equipment. There is a high student drop-out rate from schools. Legal restrictions on religious education have reduced the willingness of the Catholic Church to provide education on a fee-paying basis. However, the falling birth rate has relieved some pressure on the school system. The student-teacher ratio, which reached a high point of 35.67 in 1964, improved during the 1980s and 1990s and was 27 by 2002.

At university level the private sector is active, although most Mexicans still attend state universities where fees are low. Standards are variable but often good. However, only a minority of students attending university complete their studies.

Literacy rate: 91 per cent adult rate; 97 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

Compulsory years: Six to 16

Enrolment rate: 106 per cent gross primary enrolment of relevant age group (including repeaters); 64 per cent gross secondary enrolment; 16 per cent in tertiary education (World Bank).

Pupils per teacher: 27 in primary schools (World Bank)

Health

Access to clean drinking water is available to over 80 per cent of the population. About half of the hospitals belong to the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (IMSS) (Mexican Institute for Social Security).

HIV/Aids

HIV prevalence: 0.3 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 74 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:

2.3 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef)

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 16 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012); about 7.5 per cent of children aged under five are malnourished (World Bank).

Welfare

Social welfare is administered primarily by the IMSS and financed by contributions from employees, employers and the government. Some institutions, such as Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex) (Mexican Petroleum), the military and the Federal Electricity Commission, have their own systems. About half of the working population is covered by social security. There is no unemployment benefit.

Since 1997, Mexicans have been able to sign up with private pension fund administrators, bypassing the IMSS, notorious for its inefficiencies as a state operator. The previous government led by the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) (Institutional Revolutionary Party) transferred the pension system from a state-funded

pay-as-you-go basis to a scheme where private fund administrators compete for workers' pension contributions.

Main cities

Mexico City (capital, estimated population 8.4 million in 2012, 2,240 metres above sea-level), Ecatepec (1.7m), Puebla (1.5m), Guadalajara (1.5m), Ciudad Juárez (1.4m), Tijuana (1.3m), León (1.3m), Zapopan (1.2m), Monterrey (1.1m), Nezahualcóyotl (1.1m).

Languages spoken

Native American languages spoken include Náhuatl, Maya and Zapoteco. Some English is spoken in business centres.

Official language/s

Spanish

Media

The French-based Reporters Without Borders stated in 2008 that Mexico was the worst country in the Americas for violence against journalists reporting on organised crime. The authorities and the judiciary were considered hostile and unresponsive.

Press

With a population of over 100 million people the daily readership of newspapers is only around three million, which reviewers have ascribed to the politically biased nature of the press.

Dailies: In Spanish, the most influential newspapers include *Reforma* (www.reforma.com), *Excélsior* (www.exonline.com.mx), *La Jornada* (www.jornada.unam.mx) and *Diario de México* (www.diariodemexico.com.mx). The Organización Editorial Mexicana (www.oem.com.mx) publishes many newspapers throughout the country including *El Sol de Mexico*, *La Prensa* and one of the mass circulation newspapers on sport *Ovaciones*.

Weeklies: In Spanish, *Milenio* (www.milenio.com), *Proceso* (www.proceso.com.mx) and *Transición* (www.grupotransicion.com.mx) are influential political and analytical magazines. Other general interest magazines include *Siemprele* (www.siempre.com.mx) and *Vértigo* (www.revistavertigo.com).

In English, *Baja Times* (www.bajatimes.com), *Guadalajara Reporter* (<http://guadalajarareporter.com>), *Gringo Gazette* (www.gringogazettenorth.com) published in northern Mexico and from Mexico City *The News* (www.thenewsmexico.com).

Business: There are several publications available, which although carry a majority of business and financial news also cover more tabloid stories, including, in Spanish *El Economista* (<http://eleconomista.com.mx>), *Mundo Ejecutivo*

(<http://ejecutivo.mundoejecutivo.com.mx>), *Expansion* (www.cnnexpansion.com), *Siglo 21* (www.siglo21.com.mx), *El Financiero* (www.elfinanciero.com.mx) and *Biz News* (www.biznews.com.mx) of North Mexico.

Periodicals: In Spanish, *Etcétera* (www.etcetera.com.mx) is a current affairs magazine.

Broadcasting

The huge, multinational, media group, Televisa (www.televisa.com.mx) was the first Latin American oligopoly producing Spanish language programmes for transmission worldwide. Since the introduction of modern media technology from satellite, internet and digital platforms Televisa's dominant hold has been broken.

Radio: There are well over 1,200 local radio stations, of which many are operated by the 35 regional networks in operation.

Grupo Radio Centro

(<http://radiocentro.com.mx>) is one of the largest networks, broadcasting from Mexico City; Grupo ACIR

(www.grupoacir.com.mx) is another, as is W Radio (www.wradio.com.mx) operated by the Televisa Group. Instituto Mexicano de la Radio (IMER) (www.imer.com.mx) is the state-run radio station, with an external service via short-wave.

Television: The popularity of watching television has become a leading pastime. There are over 400 television stations with a complex structure of interaction between regulators and TV providers, which critics have said has disadvantaged the interests of the masses.

Televisa (www.televisa.com.mx) a national network, with many affiliates, has the highest ratings. TV Azteca

(www.tvazteca.com) is the second rated TV network. Public TV includes Once TV (<http://oncetv-ipn.net>) is an educational channel and Televisión Metropolitana (Canal 22) (www.canal22.org.mx) is a cultural network.

Digital broadcasting began in 2004 and analogue television is expected to be closed down in 2022. Most TV stations broadcast via satellite providing hundreds of channels from which to choose.

National news agency: NTMX (Notimex)

Other news agencies: El Universal (in Spanish): www.agenciauniversal.com.mx Agencia Mexicana de Noticias (in Spanish): www.agenciamn.com

Economy

Mexico's economy is a diverse mixture of modern hi-tech, an interdependent manufacturing base that relies on trade with the US, and subsistence agriculture that is not part of the formal economy. Exports are the mainstay of the economy providing around 60 per cent of GDP with over 75

per cent of all commodities exported to the US. In return Mexico derives around 40 per cent of all foreign direct investment (FDI) from the US; total FDI was US\$19.44 billion in 2011. The downturn in the US economy impacted on Mexico in two ways – first as the US reduced its imports, and secondly, because 10 per cent of the population lives and works abroad, mostly in the US. Remittances from migrant workers, an important factor in Mexico's GDP, amounted to US\$22 billion (2.1 per cent of GDP) in 2010 and was estimated to have reached US\$23.6 billion in 2011.

As a member of the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) Mexico's manufacturing base serves not only its large domestic market but also the huge US market. A large number of the world's major companies are present in Mexico, using the cheaper labour market for manufacturing-based industries, driven by the initial growth of the *maquiladoras* (in-bond assembly lines) and the development of import-export business, particularly in the car and light manufacturing industries. Asian electronics companies, for instance, proliferate in the west coast state of Baja California, which is host to a multitude of operations run by companies based in the Far East. Ironically the rise of Chinese exports direct to the US has begun to have an adverse effect on Mexican exports.

GDP growth in 2008 was 1.2 per cent, but in 2009 the economy fell into recession with negative growth of -6.3 per cent. A recovery was achieved in 2010 with GDP growth of 5.6 per cent as world trade expanded. Government revenue is typically 22 per cent of GDP, of which hydrocarbons account for around 8 per cent; the non-oil sector remains constant at around 14 per cent.

Economic reforms were undertaken by the Partido Acción Nacional (PAN) government in 2010 to reduce external public debt. Unemployment in the formal sector has remained fairly constant at around 3.5 per cent since 2004, but as the recession struck unemployment rose to 4 per cent in 2008 and higher to 5.5 per cent in 2009 and then 5.4 in 2010. Informal and underemployment is much higher at around 25 per cent and is prone to external shocks.

Proven oil reserves were 11.4 billion barrels at the end of 2011, with production of 2.93 billion barrels of oil per day; without new oil finds, production is falling. Proven natural gas reserves were 400 billion cubic metres (cum) at the end of 2011, with production of 52.5 billion cum. However, consumption in the same period was 68.9 billion cum which is supplied by imports.

External trade

Mexico is a member of the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta), with the United States and Canada. Mexico has also signed free trade agreements with the European Union, the Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-Cafta) and Japan.

The economy is heavily dependent on trade, and foreign trade accounts for around 60 per cent of GDP, of which 80 per cent is carried on with the US. There are free economic zones, *maquiladoras*, where semi-manufactured and duty-free goods are assembled and shipped directly to the US. A leading *maquiladoras* product was finished garments but heavy competition from Asian manufacturers has resulted in a drop in production since 2005.

Mexico is a leading world exporter of many minerals and agricultural products as well as petroleum and natural gas.

Imports

Principal imports are metalworking machines, steel mill products, agricultural machinery, electrical equipment, capital machinery for car assembly and aircraft building and parts.

Main sources: US (49.9 per cent of total in 2012), China (15.5 per cent), Japan (4.8 per cent).

Exports

Principal exports are manufactured and assembled goods, petroleum and oil products, vehicles and auto parts, silver, cotton, corn, oranges and other fruits, vegetables and coffee, mercury, zinc and fluorite.

Main destinations: US (77.6 per cent of total in 2012), Canada (2.9 per cent), Spain (1.9 per cent)

Agriculture

Approximately 5 per cent of Mexico's total GDP is attributable to the agricultural sector. Despite this relatively low percentage contribution to GDP, the labour intensive nature of the agricultural sector ensures that it employs up to a quarter of the total workforce.

Farming is small-scale and frequently inefficient. About 50 per cent of total cultivatable land (estimated at 19 million hectares) is held by *ejidos*, rural communities farming on small individual/collective lots. There are few large commercial farms except in export-oriented vegetable-producing regions of the north-west. The principal food crops are maize (over 50 per cent of harvested area and 60 per cent of total grain production), sorghum, wheat, rice, barley, potatoes, soya beans and dry beans. The production of basic foodstuffs can be severely affected by drought, insufficient irrigation (less than 30 per cent of cultivated land is irrigated)

and underdeveloped marketing and infrastructural back-up. Supplies of food grain in particular have not kept up with the demands imposed by rapid population growth. Principal export crops are coffee, cotton, fresh fruit, honey, sugar, tobacco and tomatoes. Exports of cattle are also important.

Mexico's membership of the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) has affected the farming sector, with the US dominating trade.

A sharp frost in February 2011 caused the loss of around four million tonnes of corn (16 per cent of the annual national harvest) in Sinaloa State in northern Mexico. Efforts to re-sow the crops were undertaken within two weeks, but the loss could increase the price of corn tortillas, the staple diet for the majority of the population; increases that had caused food riots in previous years.

A drought, the worst since 1930s, left lakes and reservoirs low by the end of 2011. Agricultural output was affected as communities and farms became dangerously low on water, with the risk of food insecurity for many of the most vulnerable in Mexico. The drought was forecast to last into 2012.

Mexico's level of fish production is relatively high, with demand being met almost entirely by domestic production. Imports represent only 8.2 per cent of total sea-food consumption.

Shrimps, tuna, mackerel, bass, perch, bonito, shark, oysters have risen in importance in the Mexican fishing sector. The leading fish producing states – Sinaloa, Sonora, Baja California, Veracruz and Baja California Sur – contribute to approximately 65.2 per cent of the country's total catch. Annually 70 per cent of the total catch comes from the Pacific Ocean compared to 30 per cent from the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and non-coastal states.

Approximately 55.2 million hectares of Mexico's total landmass is covered by forests and the country is endowed with vast resources of soft and hard woods. Around 4 per cent of the country's total forested area is protected.

Most forestry products are produced for domestic consumption, mainly softwood sawnwood and wood-based panels.

Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector is an important economic activity in Mexico, accounting for a significant proportion (29 per cent) of total GDP. About one fifth of total employment is accounted for by the sector.

The *maquiladoras* (in-bond assembly lines) make, assemble or process components and raw materials bought 'in-bond' from the US which are then re-exported

duty-free. The growing importance of *maquiladora* exports to the US has made the Mexican economy more exposed to US demand.

On 30 March 2012, Ford Motor Company (of the US) announced that it would be investing US\$1.3 billion in a new production plant in Hermosillo, creating around 1,000 jobs. The new assembly line should meet the growing demand for the Ford Fusion (hybrid car) and Lincoln MKZ (luxury car) models.

Tourism

Mexico was the home of two pre-European civilisations, as well as being one of the first European settlements in the Americas. As a result there is a wealth of archaeological and historic sites included on Unesco's World Heritage List. Mexico is also a top destination for visitors from South and North America who wish to enjoy beach resort holidays, particularly Mexico's premier resort of Cancun (ranked first as the international destination by Orbitz (US online travel company) in 2011).

The introduction of niche marketing has had a threefold advantage of spreading the development of tourist facilities, extending the season of tourists visiting and providing greater value-added holidays. The specific recommendations include ecotourism (sightseeing, marine life and wildlife), culture (cuisine and wines, carnivals and history) and others, such as sports, family holidays and wedding venues.

There were 22.4 million visitors in 2010, and 11.4 million foreign visitors in the first six months of 2011, with the expectation of a greater number than 2010 by the end of the year.

Travel and tourism contributed an average 14.4 per cent of GDP over 2006–09, falling to 13 per cent in 2010 as the effects of the global economic recession impacted on tourism. Real growth in the industry has been negative (2008–11) and despite the improvement in the numbers of visitors in 2010–11, visitor receipts remain weak (US\$14.6 billion in 2008, US\$12.4 billion in 2010, US\$11.8 billion in 2011). Employment in the industry has matched the downturn with an average 16.9 per cent (7.36 million jobs) of total employment (2006–09) falling to 14.2 per cent (6.53 million jobs) in 2010 and 13.7 per cent (6.35 million) in 2011.

By 2012 the number of deaths caused by rival drug gangs and the inability of the government to prevent them has given Mexico a bad image. Visitors who might otherwise explore the country with its wealth of history are more likely to stay in well-appointed resorts.

Environment

In November 2007, the worst flooding in recorded history struck in the southern state of Tabasco affecting more than two million people and trapping around 300,000 in their homes. With 70 per cent of the state underwater it was estimated that the entire state's crop production was lost. Dozen of people were killed in neighbouring Chiapas State where the rain caused mud slides and buried a village. When foreign aid began to arrive distribution was found to be particularly difficult as the roads were unusable.

Mining

Mining is an important industry in Mexico and the country is a major producer of gold, silver and base metals. Mexico accounts for approximately 17 per cent of total world production of silver, 38 per cent of celestite production and 29 per cent of bismuth production. The mining sector continues to attract significant foreign investment, the vast majority of which comes from the US and Canada.

There are four major domestic producers: Industrias Peñoles, Grupo Industrial Menera Mexico, Empresas Frisco and Luismin. The main mining states are Sonora, Coahuila, Zacatecas, Chihuahua, Baja California Sur, San Luis Potosí, Durango and Guanajuato.

Hydrocarbons

Proven oil reserves were 11.4 billion barrels in 2011, with production at 2.9 million barrels per day (bpd). Mexico is a significant oil producer and the oil sector is vital to the country's economy, providing around 40 per cent of government revenue. However, oil production in Mexico's largest oil field, Cantarell (located offshore in the Gulf of Mexico) which in 2003 was 2.1 million bpd, had plummeted to 772,000bpd by 2009. Without new sources of oil, not only will the economy be adversely affected but Mexico could become a net importer of oil by 2020.

The state-owned *Petróleos Mexicanos* (Pemex) is one of the world's largest multinational oil corporations. It has exclusive rights to oil exploration and production and is the sole supplier of petroleum products in Mexico. The majority of oil exports are taken by the US, supplied either by pipeline or tanker.

Although Mexico is not a member of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), government policy has often been to cut production in line with OPEC targets in an effort to increase world prices.

Mexico has the eleventh-largest refining capacity in the world, which has improved the country's export potential, with six refineries and a total capacity of 1.6 million

bpd in 2011. Despite government plans to increase refinery capacity by 350,000bpd, hurricane damage has led to unscheduled shut-downs and static annual capacity.

In February 2012, the US and Mexico signed an agreement to co-operate on developing the deep-water oil and gas fields that straddle their mutual border in the Gulf of Mexico.

Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) lost around US\$350,000 every day in 2010 from lost production of natural gas due to threats and violence from drug gangs operating in northern Mexico, centred on the Burgos gas field near the east Texas border.

Proven gas reserves were 400 billion cubic metres (cum) in 2011, with production at 52.5 billion cum. However, consumption was 68.9 billion cum and Mexico had to import the balance, either by natural gas pipelines from Canada and the US or by liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Egypt, Trinidad and Tobago and Nigeria. Most gas production is associated with oil extraction. Although Pemex dominates the upstream gas industry, the downstream sector has undergone liberalisation which allows private companies to participate in gas transportation, storage and distribution. There are two LNG re-gasification plants in operation with another under construction and more, smaller facilities planned. In June 2011, TransCanada Corporation completed the Guadalajara Pipeline, to carry up to 14.2 million cubic metres of natural gas 310 kilometres from the LNG regasification terminal near Manzanillo (Colima State) to the city of Guadalajara (Jalisco State). The gas will be used primarily to run a series of gas-fired electricity generators in the city. Mexico has proven coal reserves of 1.2 billion tonnes, mostly located in Coahuila in the north-east. Over 850 million tonnes are made up of anthracite, mainly used for steel production, with around 350 million tonnes in electricity generation.

In August 2013 President Nieto put forward proposals for reforms to the oil industry, opening up the sector to private investment. Pemex can no longer fund the exploration and development needed to maintain current levels of production and it is hoped that the reforms would attract both domestic and foreign investment.

Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 53.8 gigawatts in 2007, generating 243 billion kilowatt hours (kWh). Around 80 per cent of total electricity generated comes from conventional thermal sources, in particular from natural gas, with coal providing 10 per cent; hydropower accounts for around 10 per cent, while fuel oil and diesel have fallen in use. Alternative

sources of energy, such as wind, solar and biomass, make up the remainder.

A contract to upgrade the sole nuclear power plant was let in 2007 and should provide 20 per cent of generating capacity when completed.

Independent power producers (IPPs) have become a major source of investment in the Mexican electricity sector. The government shut down the state-owned Luz y Fuerza del Centro energy company in October 2009, following losses of US\$32.5 billion over 2003–08. Around 25 million customers were hastily transferred to other electricity providers across the country. Mexico exports electricity to the US and is a participant of the Sistema de Interconexion Electrica para America Central (Siepac) to connect power grids with Guatemala and Belize and an integrated Central American electric power market.

In June 2011, TransCanada Corporation completed the Guadalajara Pipeline, to carry up to 14.2 million cubic metres of natural gas 310 kilometres from the LNG regasification terminal near Manzanillo (Colima State) to the city of Guadalajara (Jalisco State). The gas will be used primarily to run a series of gas-fired electricity generators in the city.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

Bolsa Mexicana de Valores (BMV) (Mexico Stock Exchange)

Commodity exchange

Mercado Mexicano de Derivados (Mexican Derivatives Exchange) (MexDer)

Banking and insurance

Mexico's banking and financial services sector is now well established, following privatisation in 1990. The sector had previously been nationalised in 1982. There are three main types of account held in Mexican banks; peso denominated checking accounts, US dollar checking accounts and certificates of deposit. Banco de México issues currency, controls monetary policy and is responsible for exchange rates and national reserves. Participation of the private sector is encouraged in a capital market involving leasing, mutual funds, insurance and brokerage. The banking crisis of 1995 caused by the turmoil of peso devaluation, resulted in the closure of several banks. The government was forced to inject huge amounts of emergency capital into the system. Mexico had 44 banks, 13 of which were government-owned. Banamex is the country's largest bank, and comprises the operations of Citigroup and Banacci, which merged in August 2001.

Central bank

Banco de México

Main financial centre

Mexico City

Time

Central Mexico: GMT minus six hours (daylight saving, minus five hours)

Northern Mexico: GMT minus seven hours (daylight saving, minus six hours)

Sonora State: GMT minus seven hours (no daylight saving)

Baja State: GMT minus eight hours (daylight saving minus seven hours)

Geography

Mexico has a northern frontier of 2,400km with the US and a southern frontier of 885km with Guatemala and Belize. It has a coastline of 2,780km on the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean and of 7,360km on the Pacific and the Gulf of California.

Mexico comprises a great variety of terrain, ranging from swamp to desert, from tropical lowland jungle to high alpine vegetation and from thin, arid soils to others so rich that they can support three crops a year. More than half the country is at an altitude of over 1,000 metres and much is over 2,000 metres.

The centre is flanked by an eastern and a western range of mountains running roughly parallel to the coasts. The northern part of the plateau is low, arid and thinly populated. The southern section of the central plateau is crossed by a volcanic range of mountains. The mountainous southern end of the plateau, the heart of Mexico, has ample rainfall and although comprising only 14 per cent of the land, it holds nearly half the country's population. Mexico City lies in a small high basin measuring 50 square km.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

Varies with altitude. Tropical southern region and coastlands are hot and wet, while the highlands of the central plateau are temperate. Temperature in Mexico City ranges from 5–25 degrees Celsius (C) with occasional sharp frosts in winter (December–February).

Climate and vegetation depend on altitude. The *tierra caliente* (hot area) takes in the coastal and plateau lands below 750 metres. The *tierra fria* (cold zone) is from 2,000 metres upwards. The climate of the inland highlands is mostly mild, but with sharp changes of temperature between day and night, sunshine and shade. Generally, winter is the dry season and summer the wet season. There are only two areas where sufficient rain falls all year round. The first lies south of Tampico, the capital of Tamaulipas state, along the lower slopes of the Sierra Madre Oriental and across the isthmus of

Tehuantepec into Tabasco state, and the second along the Pacific coast state of Chiapas. The two areas represent about 12 per cent of the total surface area. Apart from these favoured regions, the rest of Mexico is arid.

Dress codes

People generally dress smartly in Mexico City. Shorts are worn only at holiday resorts. Dress codes for business and leisure are usually the same as those of Europe. There is little central heating and moderately warm clothing is needed in the winter, particularly at night. The capital, Mexico City, is 2,240 metres above sea level. At lower altitudes temperatures can be very high and lightweight clothing is essential.

Entry requirements

Requirements for Mexico are complex and comprehensive guidance should be obtained from consular sections of local embassies before departure, any infringement of regulations can result in fines and expulsion.

Passports

Required for all.

Visa

The regulations for entry into Mexico are complex and visitors are advised to confirm all aspects of visa requirements before travelling. Visas are not required by those using a tourist card, which are issued only to tourists and are valid for 30 days. All other visitors require visas. Business visas are divided into two, 'lucrative' and 'non-lucrative', and applications must be accompanied by a business letter of accreditation stating the nature of business, proof of sufficient funds for length of stay and a full itinerary, plus an invitation from a local company. See www.inm.gov.mx and follow the links, in English, to *I would like to visit Mexico* for full details, or www.mexonline.com for more general information.

Currency advice/regulations

The import and export of local currency is unrestricted up to the equivalent amount of US\$10,000; amounts greater than this must be declared. The import of foreign currency is unlimited but must be declared as export is limited to the amount declared on arrival. The export of gold coins is prohibited.

Many establishments in cities or tourist areas accept payment in US dollars.

Travellers cheques in US dollars are readily accepted in most banks, hotels and commercial outlets.

Customs

There are sometimes rigorous searches for drugs, firearms or large sums of currency, and expensive jewellery or electronic equipment may attract attention and demands for customs duty. There are

restrictions on the import of motor vehicles.

Prohibited imports

Fresh meat, particularly pork, fish, fruit, vegetables, flowers and seeds are prohibited unless a permit is obtained before travelling. Firearms and ammunition require an import licence.

Archaeological artifacts may not be exported.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required if arriving from an infected area.

Advisable precautions

Diphtheria, tuberculosis, hepatitis A and B, typhoid, tetanus and polio vaccinations. Malaria risk exists in some rural areas – prophylaxis recommended. There is a rabies risk. Dengue fever is endemic in northern regions.

Bottled water and water supplied from taps marked 'drinking/sterilised water' in hotels can be drunk without precautions. All other water should be regarded as potentially contaminated.

Mexico City is at 2,250 metres (7,400ft), and visitors may take some time to acclimatise to the altitude. The levels of pollution in Mexico City are extremely high and can be a health threat.

Health insurance is advised. Medical facilities are good and pharmacies are permitted to diagnose and treat minor ailments.

Hotels

There are six classified types of hotels, of five stars and an additional *Gran Turismo*, with maximum rates set by the government.

Mexico City is one of the biggest cities in the world, so location is very important. The main hotels are in the business, financial and commercial area along Reforma Avenue. It is advisable to book in advance especially during the high season and to confirm the booking in writing. There is a levy of 15 per cent VAT and 2 per cent accommodation tax added to bills – unless the visitor is from overseas travelling for meetings and conventions and fairs, who have confirmed their migratory status, use a credit card and make their arrangements through the event's organisers then VAT is exempt. Tipping is usually 10 per cent.

Credit cards

Visa and Mastercard are readily accepted, however there is a government tax of 6 per cent on transaction. ATMs are widely available.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 5 Feb (Constitution Day), 21 Mar (Birthday of Benito

Juárez), 1 May (Primero de Mayo), 5 May (Battle of Puebla Day), 1 June (Navy Day), 20 Nov (Revolution Day), 25 Dec (Christmas Day).

Religious holidays are celebrated by adherents.

Variable dates

Carnival (Jan/Feb, five days)

Working hours

Hours of business in Mexico City are variable and hours in other parts of the country vary considerably according to the climate and local custom.

Banking

Mon–Fri: 0900–1600; larger branches in Mexico city may open Mon–Fri: 0800–1900; Sat 0800–1200. Small town branches may only open Mon–Fri 0800–1330.

Business

Mon–Fri: 0800–1800; lunch is taken anywhere between 1300–1500, for up to two hours.

Government

Mon–Fri: 0800–1500.

Shops

Mon–Sat: 1000–1800/1900.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

GSM 900 and 1900 services are available in highly populated areas only.

Electricity supply

120V AC, 60 cycles. Two-pin flat plugs (as in USA) are used.

Social customs/useful tips

During the working day moderate punctuality is appreciated although some lateness is tolerated. It is acceptable to arrive late for evening social occasions which often continue well into the night.

Mexicans are patient, courteous and hospitable and will often treat visiting foreigners with polite reserve. An effort to speak Spanish is much appreciated. Otherwise it is advisable not to presume too much until you know the people concerned fairly well.

Tipping in hotels, restaurants and bars is expected since service charges are not added to the bill. A normal tip is 15 per cent. If service has been very good, 20 per cent should be given.

Security

It is unwise to carry large sums of money or valuables in Mexico City, where the number of assaults is rising.

Visitors should be wary of walking through neighbourhood streets during festivities. Many Mexicans own guns and they tend to fire them in the air to celebrate, especially towards evening.

Armed robbery in urban areas is a risk.

Short-term opportunistic kidnapping is

common. Visitors should exercise care when using ATMs.

Getting there

Air

National airline: Aeroméxico (AM) and Mexicana (MX)

International airport/s: Mexico City-Benito Juárez (MEX), 13km south of city; duty-free shops, restaurants, bank, *bureau de change*, 24-hour refreshments, chemist, tourist information, 24-hour left luggage, post office, first aid (with vaccinations for cholera and yellow fever available) car hire.

A taxi to the city takes about 45 minutes. Prepaid taxi tickets are available from the 'Authorised Taxi Service' booth in baggage reclaim; authorised taxis are white and mustard yellow with an aeroplane logo. Travellers are strongly advised to take an authorised, prepaid taxi and to always lock taxi doors when inside.

Major hotels run shuttle minibuses from the airport. There is also a train and regular airport bus to the city centre.

Other airport/s: Acapulco (ACA) 26km from city; Guadalajara (GDL) 20km from city; Monterrey (MTY) 24km from city. All include restaurant, bank and car hire facilities; and access by taxi and bus.

Airport tax: Approximately US\$21, which may be included in the ticket price, transit passengers are exempt.

Surface

Road: There are roads into Mexico from the US, Belize and Guatemala. Drivers should note that permission is required to bring a car into Mexico for longer than 72 hours.

Rail: Connections with Mexico can be made from any city in the US or Canada. All trains are provided with pullman sleepers, restaurant cars and club cars and most are air conditioned.

Water: Regular passenger ships run from the US and South America. There are also riverboat services from Flores and Tikal (Guatemala) to Palenque, Chiapas in Mexico. Enquire locally for further details.

Main port/s: Gulf of Mexico coast: Altamira, Cd del Carmen, Coatzacoalcos, Pto Madero, Tampico, Veracruz; Pacific coast: Acapulco, Ensenada, La Paz, Lázaro Cardenas, Mazatlán, Manzanillo, Puerto Vallarta, Salina Cruz, Santa Rosalia.

Getting about

National transport

Air: There is a comprehensive network of daily scheduled services between main commercial centres.

Road: There are 95,000km of paved roads, about half of which are operated by the federal government, and the other half by the state governments. There are also more than 5,600km of toll roads,

which are operated by private companies. Mexico's roads carry more than 85 per cent of the nation's overland freight and almost all intercity passengers.

Buses: There are three kinds, first- and second-class and local. It is advisable to book seats in advance in Baja California. Buses with odd numbers run north-south, while even numbered run east-west. Peribus services circulate Mexico City.

Rail: Rail services include special first-class, regular first-class and second-class. Routes include Guadalajara to Mexico City; Monterrey to Mexico City; Mexico City to Veracruz to Tapachula; Ciudad Juárez to Chihuahua. Services are slower than buses but electrification is in progress. There are sleeper services between Mexico City and Guadalajara, Monterrey, Veracruz, Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mérida. It is advisable to book well in advance.

Water: There are regular ferries from the mainland at Quaymas in Sonora, to Santa Rosalía in Baja California Sur. There are services to the Caribbean Islands of Isla Mujeres and Cozumel.

City transport

Taxis: Taxis are usually fitted with meters, but these are often not used. Agree fare in advance. No tip is necessary.

Fixed route taxis can be identified by lime-green colour, rank taxis by coral and those with no fixed route by yellow. There are around 17 fixed routes. The number of fingers held out of a taxi window indicates the number of seats left.

Special tourist taxis, *turismo*, have English-speaking drivers.

The safest means of transport is a *taxi de sitio* – dial-a-cab services which charge about double the metered street taxi rates, but which are still cheap by international standards. These can be found outside every hotel.

It is best to carry a map of Mexico City as taxi drivers cannot be relied on to know their way around the huge city.

Buses, trams & metro: The Mexico City Metro, with eight lines, is excellent, but often crowded. Runs 0500–0000 Mon–Sat; opens 0700 (Sun). Maps are not displayed at all stations, but can be obtained at Insurgentes station.

There is also a small tramway network, and extensive bus and trolley bus services. The latter system has been modernised, and also has a flat fare. There is a state-run bus and trolley bus service in Guadalajara, with trolley buses running in tunnels, and also extensive private bus services.

The Monterrey City metro system (called *Metrorey*) has two lines with 25 stations, with more under construction, which runs from Sun–Sat: 0500–2400.

Car hire

Car hire is widely available, with or without a driver, but often expensive. A foreign licence is acceptable. Car hire is not recommended for business travellers or tourists because of excessive traffic, aggressive drivers, and counter-pollution measures which mean that on certain days of the week, driving is off limits.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling (IDD) code for Mexico is +52, followed by area code and subscriber's number:

Acapulco	744	Mexico City	55
Chihuahua	614	Monterrey	81
Ciudad Juárez	656	Oaxaca	951
Durango	618	Puebla	222
Guadalajara	33	Tampico	833
León	477	Torreón	817
Mérida	999	Veracruz	229

Useful telephone numbers

Police: 060

Fire/ambulance: 078

Highway emergency: 078

Locatel (service to locate missing persons or stolen cars): (55) 5658-1111.

Sectur (24-hour help to tourists in trouble): (55) 5250-0123

Chambers of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce Mexico, Lucerna 78, Colonia Juárez, 06600 México, DF (tel: 5141-3800; fax: 5703-3908; e-mail: amchammx@amcham.com.mx).

British Chamber of Commerce in Mexico, 30 Río de la Plata, 6500 México, DF (tel: 5256-0901; fax: 5211-5451; e-mail: britchamexico@britchamexico.com).

Chihuahua Cámara Nacional de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo, 1800 Avenida Cuauhtemoc, 31020 Chihuahua (tel: 416-0000; fax: 415-1928; e-mail: cfn@infosel.net.mx).

Confederación de Cámaras Nacionales de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo, 144 Balderas, Colonia Centro, 06079 México, DF (tel/fax: 5722-9300; e-mail: sistemas@concanacored.com).

Guadalajara Cámara Nacional de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo, 4095 Avenida Vallarta, Fraccionamiento Camino Real, 45000 Guadalajara (tel: 3880-9090; fax: 3880-9097; e-mail: direccion@canacogdl.com.mx).

Nations of the World: A Political, Economic and Business Handbook

Juarez Cámara Nacional de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo, 4505 Avenida Henry Dunant y Avenida M Diaz, 32315 Ciudad Juarez (tel: 113-707; fax: 112-674; e-mail: canacojr@hotmail.com).

Mexico City Cámara Nacional de Comercio, 42 Paseo de la Reforma, Colonia Centro, 06048 México, DF (tel: 535-2502; fax: 703-2958; e-mail: presidencia1@ccmexico.com.mx).

Puebla Cámara Nacional de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo, 2704 Avenida Reforma, 72160 Puebla (tel: 480-705; fax: 480-800; e-mail: canacopu@axtel.net.mx).

Banking

Banamex, Actuario Robero Medellín 800, Colonia Santa Fé, 01219 México, DF (tel: 1226-2639; tel: 5999-2888).

Bancomer, Montes Urales 620, Colonia Lomas de Chapultepec, 11000 México, DF (tel: 5201-2264; fax: 5238-7790).

Banorte, Periférico Sur 4355, Colonia Jardines en la Montaña, 14210 México, DF (tel: 5169-9300; fax: 5169-9460).

Bitel, Paseo de la Reforma 156, Juarez, 06600 México DF (tel: 5721-5715; fax: 5721-3846).

Santander Mexicano, Prolongación Paseo de la Reforma 500, Colonia Lomas de Santa Fé, 01210 México, D F (tel: 5257-8000; fax: 5629-4742).

Scotiabank Inverlat, Manuel Avila Camacho 1, 11009 México, DF (tel: 5229-2053; fax: 5395-9050).

Central bank

Banco de México, Avenida 5 de Mayo 1, Colonia Centro, Delegación Cuauhtémoc, 06059 (tel: 5237-2000; fax: 5237-2070; e-mail: sidaoui@banxico.org.mx).

Stock exchange

Bolsa Mexicana de Valores (BMV) (Mexico Stock Exchange), www.bmv.com.mx

Commodity exchange

Mercado Mexicano de Derivados (Mexican Derivatives Exchange) (MexDer) www.mexder.com

Travel information

Benito Juárez International Airport, Av Capitán Carlos León s/n Col Peñón de los Baños Del Venustiano Carranza, México, DF CP 15620 (tel: 5571-3600; fax: 5726-0107).

Fondo Nacional de Fomento al Turismo (FONATUR) 22nd Floor, Insurgentes Sur 800, Colonia del Valle, 03100 México DF (tel: 5687-0567/8; fax: 5687-5058, 5682-5058; email: ibotas@fonatur.gob.mx; internet: www.fonatur.gob.mx).

Infotour, Zona Rosa, Amberes 54, Mexico City (tel: 5525-9380).

Ministry of tourism

Secretaría de Turismo (SECTUR) Presidente Mazaryck 172, Colonia Polanco, 11570 México DF (tel: 5250-8555; fax: 5250-4406 (general enquiries), 5254-0942 (marketing), email: correspondencia@mexico-travel.com; internet: www.mexico-travel.com).

National tourist organisation offices

Consejo de Promoción Turística de México, Mariano Escobedo 550, 11580 Mexico DF (tel: 5258-1090/2; email: cptmex@infosel.net.mx; internet: www.visitmexico.com).

Ministries

Ministry of Agrarian Reform (SRA), Tepozteco 36, 1er Piso, Col Vertiz Narvarte, 03020 Mexico (tel: 5579-6094; fax: 5579-3767).

Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Livestock (SAGAR), Av Insurgentes Sur 476, 50. piso, Col Roma Sur, 06700 Mexico (tel: 5584-0808; fax: 5584-1177).

Ministry of Communication and Transport (SCT), Xola y Av Universidad, Cuerpo C, PB, Col Narvarte, 03028 Mexico (tel: 5538-5148; fax: 5519-9748).

Ministry of Defence (SEDENA), Blvd Manuel Avila Camacho y Av Industria Militar, Col Lomas de Sotelo, 11600 Mexico (tel: 5395-6766; fax: 5557-1370).

Ministry of Education (SEP), Brasil 31, PB oficina 115, Col Centro, 06029 Mexico (tel: 5329-6827; fax: 5329-6822).

Ministry of Energy (SE), Av Insurgentes Sur 552, 1er. Piso, Col Roma Sur, 06769 Mexico (tel: 5584-4304; fax: 5564-9782).

Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP), República de El Salvador 47, PA, Col Centro, 06080 Mexico (tel: 5709-6675; fax: 5709-3272).

Ministry of Fishing, Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAP), Anillo Periférico Sur 4209, 3er Piso, Col Jardines en la Montaña, 14210 Mexico (tel: 5628-0891; fax: 5628-0780).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE), Eje Central Lázaro Cardenas 257, ala 'A', 1er Nivel, Col Guerrero, 09600 Mexico (tel: 5782-3660; fax: 5327-3025).

Ministry of Health (SSA), Liejia 8, 50 piso, Col Juárez, 06600 Mexico (tel: 5553-7670; fax: 5286-5497).

Ministry of the Interior (SG), Abraham Gonzalez 48, PB, Col Juárez, 06699, Mexico (tel: 5535-2718; fax: 5535-9952).

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (STPS), Periférico Sur 4271, Edificio A,

1er Nivel, Col Fuentes del Pedregal, 14149, Mixico (tel/fax: 5645-3715).

Ministry of Naval Affairs (SM), Eje 2 Oriente 861, Tramo Heroica Escuela Naval Militar, Col Los Cipreses, Coyoacan, 04830 Mexico (tel: 5684-8188; fax: 5679-6411).

Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL), Av Constituyentes 947-B, PB, Col Belén de las Flores, 01110 Mexico (tel: 5515-4508; fax: 5272-0118).

Ministry of Trade and Industry (SECOFI), Av Alfonso Reyes 30, 20 piso, Col Condesa, 06140 Mexico (tel: 5729-9193; fax: 5729-9314).

Other useful addresses

Asociación Nacional de importadores y Exportadores de la República Mexicana, Monterrey 130, Col Roma Sur, 06700, Mexico, DF (tel: 5564-9379; fax: 5584-5317).

Asociación Nacional para el Fomento de las Exportaciones Mexicanas, Ed de las Instituciones 702, Ocampo 250 Poncente Apartado 64100, Monterrey NL (tel: 5428-010, 422-143, 422-154; fax: 528-207).

Asociación de Personal Técnico para Conferencias Internacionales AC, Universidad 1855-502, Mexico 20, DF (tel: 5550-0170).

British Embassy, Lerma 71, Col. Cuauhtemoc, 06500 Mexico City (207-2569, 207-2089/2149; fax: 5207-2593, 207-7672).

Comptroller General (SECOGEF), Av Insurgentes Sur 1735, PB Ala Norte, Oficina 39, Col Guadalupe Inn, 01020 Mexico (tel: 5662-2762; fax: 5662-4511).

Confederación de Cámaras Industriales de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, Manuel Maria Contreras 133, 8, Cuauhtemoc, 06597, Mexico DF (tel: 5546-9053; fax: 5535-6871).

Consejo Nacional de Comercio Exterior, Tiaxcala 177 Desp 803, Apartado 06100, Mexico DF (tel: 5286-8744, 286-8798; fax: 5211-8465).

Dirección General de Telecomunicaciones, Lázaro Cárdenas 567 11 Piso Ala Norte, Col Navarrete, 03020 Mexico, DF (tel: 5519-4049, 530-3492, 519-0908; fax: 5559-9812).

Instituto de Intérpretes y Traductores SA, Rio Rhin 40, 06500 Mexico 5, DF (tel: 5566-7722, 566-8312).

Instituto Mexicano del Petróleo, Avenida Eje Central Lázaro Cardenas 152, 07730 Apartado 14-805, Mexico 14, DF (tel: 5567-6600).

International Telegraph Office, Balderas 14-18 Colon, Mexico DF.

Mexican Embassy (USA), 1911 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20006 (tel: (+1-202) 728-1600; fax: (+1-202) 728-1698; e-mail: mexembusa@aol.com).

Mexican Investment Board MIB, Paseo de la Reforma No. 915, Lomas de Chapultepec, 11000 Mexico (tel: 5202-7804; fax: 5328-9930).

Mexican Stock Exchange, Paseo de la Reforma 255, Colonia Cuauhtemoc, 06500 Mexico (tel: 5726-6600; fax: 5726-6805).

Pemex (Petróleos Mexicanos), Avenida Marina Nacional 329, Mexico 17, DF (tel: 5250-2611, 254-2044).

Public Telex Office, Vallejo y Norte 45, Mexico 2, DF/San Bartolo Naucaplan, Mexico 16, DF.

Secretariat of State for Commerce and Industrial Development, Alfonso Reyes 30, Mexico, DF (tel: 5286-1823, 211-0036; fax: 5286-0804).

Secretariat of State for Energy, Mines and Federal Industry, Insurgentes Sur 552, 3, 06769 Mexico, DF (tel: 5564-9790; fax: 5574-3396).

Secretariat of State for Finance and Public Credit, Palacio Nacional, 1 Patio Mariano, 06066 Piso ofna 3045, Mexico, DF (tel: 5518-5420; fax: 5542-2821).

US Embassy, PO Box 3087, Paseo de la Reforma 305, Colonia Cuauhtemoc, 06500 Mexico City, DF (tel: 5211-0042; fax: 5207-8938).

National news agency: NTMX (Notimex) Morena 110, Col del Valle, Delg. Benito Juárez CP 03100 México DF (internet: www.notimex.com.mx).

Other news agencies: El Universal (in Spanish): www.agenciaeluniversal.com.mx

Agencia Mexicana de Noticias (in Spanish): www.agenciamn.com

Internet sites

Comunicación Mass Media de Mexico (Spanish): <http://www.mexnews.com>

Comprehensive information site: <http://www.mexonline.com>

Central bank <http://www.banxico.org.mx>

El Heraldo newspaper <http://www.heraldo.com.mx>

General directory <http://www.mexicoweb.com.mx>

General guide <http://www.mexconnect.com>

Mexicana: airline <http://www.mexicana.com>

Mexican government agencies, chambers of commerce and other trade institutions (English) <http://www.mexicosi.com>

Statistics: <http://www.inegi.gob.mx>

Stock exchange <http://www.bmv.com.mx>

Travel & tourism information <http://www.go2mexico.org.mx>

Travel & tourism information <http://www.visitmexico.com>