

## SUBSECTORS

### IMPORTED FOOD AND BEVERAGES

Despite the influx of foreign capital and technology over the past six years, Mexico is still a net importer of food and beverage products. Imports have risen steadily since Mexico formally reduced its barriers to trade in 1987 and 1988 and reached US \$3.4 billion in 1993.

The surge in imports has been driven by Mexico's inability to meet domestic demand for basic products such as meat, milk, oils, and sugar. Imports of liquors and spirits have also contributed to this trade imbalance as have specialty products and luxury food items such as cheeses and salmon.

In spite of these capacity limitations, Mexico has substantial exports of some specific processed food and beverage products.

The most important export products are:

- canned fruits, vegetables and abalone
- frozen shrimp and lobster
- processed coffees
- fruit juices
- beer and liquor

Total exports of food and beverages in 1993 were US \$1.6 billion.

### IMPORTS OF PROCESSED FOOD AND BEVERAGES, 1993

Product	US \$ thousands
meat	569,552
powdered milk	406,759
other oils and fats	276,854
special food preparations	260,691
canned vegetables	119,861
pig skin	85,658
butter	69,318
animal fat	83,213
liquors and spirits	104,990
other	1,380,264
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,357,160</b>

Source: Derived from the Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior (Bancomext), Mexican Trade Commission.