

Canada only has a small participation in the Mexican market. Total exports to Mexico reached Cdn\$21.6 million in 1991. This amount, however, reflects a continuous increase since 1989. Canadian exports are highly concentrated in asbestos products, which accounted for 74 percent of total exports to Mexico in 1991 (see Table 2).

Canadian imports from Mexico amounted to Cdn\$50.3 million in 1991, and included gypsum, carpets of manufactured materials, worked monumental building stone, including marble, travertine and alabaster, glazed ceramic tiles and sanitary articles, electrical relays, switches and protective appliances.

### 3.2 Domestic Production

Mexico was, for many years, self-sufficient in the production of building products and materials. Only a few imports were needed to complement domestic production when it was temporarily unable to meet demand.

During the 1982-1983 and 1985-1986 economic crises, construction fell significantly, thereby reducing the demand for building materials. As the economy recovered, construction increased. It is slowly putting pressure on the domestic industry to supply construction materials.

Domestic production has continued to grow, albeit at a slower pace than imports (see Table 3). In 1988, it amounted to U.S.\$3.5 billion, grew by 7.3 percent in 1989 and by 4 percent in 1990 (see Table 4). Domestic production is expected to increase by 6.8 percent in 1991 and to continue increasing by 4 percent annually through 1994, to reach U.S.\$4.36 billion.

**Table 3: Apparent Consumption of Building Products and Materials (U.S.\$ millions)**

	1988	1989	1990	1991 <sup>e</sup>	1994 <sup>p</sup>
Production <sup>1</sup>	3,465.0	3,717.9	3,835.1	3,988.5	4,358.3
+ Imports <sup>2</sup>	227.7	308.4	514.5	586.2	780.2
- Exports <sup>2</sup>	727.5	855.3	601.3	639.4	719.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,965.2</b>	<b>3,171.0</b>	<b>3,748.3</b>	<b>3,935.3</b>	<b>4,419.3</b>

e = estimated, p = projected

Source: 1. Based on data from the National Institute for Statistics, Geography and Computers (INEGI) compiled by the National Chamber for the Construction Industry (CNIC).  
2. Based on data published by SECOFI.

**Table 4: Domestic Production**

	Unit	1988	1989	Jan-Sept 1990
Plywood	000 m <sup>2</sup>	13,738	14,468	11,564
Paints	000 l	47,742	49,078	41,515
Impermeabilizators	000 kg	39,785	33,490	21,187
Water tanks for WCs	pieces	761,794	744,668	571,515
WCs	sets	1,266	1,269	1,032
Sinks	pieces	492,001	595,041	479,575
Water containers	tons	21,822	25,916	25,538
Water heaters	pieces	359,759	417,308	420,587
PVC pipes & accessories	tons	14,660	16,924	17,082
Copper pipes	tons	30,896	33,697	20,362
Piping	tons	51,282	48,487	47,242
Grey Portland cement	000 tons	22,922	23,567	18,140
White cement	tons	383,713	437,915	343,201
Asbestos sheets	tons	106,672	139,781	121,778
Concrete	000 m <sup>3</sup>	2,240	2,072	1,879
Concrete plates	m <sup>2</sup>	229,449	166,860	199,059
Sleepers	000	829,033	437,262	415,027
Steel bars	tons	685,388	663,354	531,133
Steel profiles	tons	536,691	577,417	448,915
Steel fences & net	tons	56,568	66,944	60,657
Aluminium profiles	tons	22,133	23,732	19,037
Metal beams	tons	9,879	7,289	4,810
Bricks	000	44,114	105,711	88,541
Glass	tons	281,472	320,594	89,773
Floor tiles	000 m <sup>2</sup>	15,829	16,271	12,989
Outdoor tiles	000	39,820	38,498	32,172
Roof tiles	000	14,390	19,366	12,514
Wire & cable	tons	36,978	46,735	38,045

Source: INEGI

Mexico is also a major exporter of building products and materials, exporting U.S.\$601.3 million in 1990 (see Table 5). Mexico's exports have been decreasing because the recovering construction industry is demanding more of the domestic production.

**Table 5: Mexico's Most Important Exports in 1990**

Product	U.S.\$ millions
Iron and steel products	116.9
Cement	69.6
Floor & roof coverings (particularly tiles)	58.1
Electrical material	48.9
Wood and wood products	48.6
Copper products	39.9
Carpets	24.9
Gypsum	12.2
Water heaters	12.1
Builders' hardware	9.3
Glass products	5.8
Aluminium products	4.5