

## COAHUILA

Coahuila is to the west of Nuevo León with a 1995 population of 2.2 million. The city of Torreón includes almost half the population, and another quarter live in the capital, Saltillo. The state is known as one of the most productive cattle-raising areas in Mexico. The *maquiladora* zones along the American border are host to a diversified manufacturing industry. In particular, several large multinational automobile and agricultural implement manufacturers have operations there. They include Chrysler, General Motors, Renault and John Deere.

An excellent highway system connects the main cities with the United States. There is a major crossing over the Río Grande at Piedras Negras, and another at Ciudad Acuña. Metal products is the leading industry, followed by food products, and apparel. The Sabinas Basin in the centre of the state is the location of Mexico's largest coal deposits. Mines in the state provide regional steel producers with both coal and iron ore.

## TAMAULIPAS

Tamaulipas is east of Nuevo León with a 1995 population of 2.5 million. About half the population lives in towns along the American border. The largest city is Matamoros, just across the Río Grande from Brownsville, Texas. It is connected by modern freeway to Monterrey, Saltillo and Torreón. Nuevo Laredo, the most important of Mexico's border crossings for Canadian goods, is located in the northwest corner of the state, north of Monterrey. The capital is Ciudad Victoria, with a population of almost 250,000. The state has almost 500 kilometres of coastline on the Gulf of Mexico. A proposed intercoastal waterway will provide a protected route running the length of the state, along the Gulf coast, from the industrial complex at Tampico/Altamira to Brownsville, Texas.

The Tampico/Altamira/Madero area at the southeastern tip of the state is a major petroleum and petrochemical centre. Fourteen major Mexican and American producers operating in Altamira are responsible for 60 percent of Mexico's private sector petrochemical production. The *Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex)*, the national oil company, petrochemical complex at Reynosa, on the American border, is one of those recently designated for partial privatization.

The state has important oil and natural gas resources, and *Pemex* has major operations in the Tampico area. There are ports at Tampico and Altamira, which are less than 20 kilometres apart. The Altamira port was one of the first of Mexico's ports to be privatized. There are now two privately-operated multi-use terminals in operation. The Tampico port is Mexico's busiest. *Pemex* operates its own ocean terminal to handle exports from its nearby Madero refinery.