

RUTA 100

Ruta 100 is the city bus system owned by the *Departamento del Distrito Federal (DDF)*, Department of the Federal District. It includes 216 routes, 90 percent of which link to the *metro* and it carries three million people daily. The system is highly subsidized, and most of the routes serve low-income areas. The system's revenue to cost ratio is less than 33 percent. By comparison, Toronto operates at 68 percent; most other Canadian cities are in the range of 50 to 55 percent.

Ruta 100 has almost 4,000 vehicles. Most of them are 9- to 11-metre, 40- to 50-passenger, diesel-powered units manufactured by *Mexicana de Autobuses (MASA)*. It has recently purchased 170 articulated buses from *MASA*. *Ruta 100* also operates a large number of 30- to 35-foot body-on-chassis buses purchased in recent years.

Mexico City is one of the world's most polluted cities and *Ruta 100* takes special measures to reduce emissions from its buses. A Mexican-developed system called *DKT-4* claims to reduce emissions of smoke and harmful gases to almost zero.

Until recently, the *Ruta 100* bus drivers, mechanics and other employees belonged to a strong union, called *Sindicato Unico de Trabajadores de Ruta 100 (SUTAU 100)*. The union was accused of widespread corruption during an audit in early 1995, and the system was subsequently forced into bankruptcy. It is presently operating using non-union workers. Most observers believe that the system will be privatized. From one to four drivers are permanently assigned to each bus. Fares are based on a zone system and are deposited by the passenger in a collection box. Many drivers insist on correct change. Free passes are issued by a number of city agencies, but none are for sale. There are no electronic collection systems.

Small garages are situated on each route for routine maintenance, in which the drivers take part. Four large facilities, each capable of servicing 15 buses at a time, are available for major repairs.

PRIVATE BUS SYSTEM

Outside of the *Ruta 100* system, the *Departamento del Distrito Federal (DDF)*, Department of the Federal District, issues concessions to companies or individuals to operate private bus routes. These are generally owner-operated vehicles, but some groups own three or four buses.