

They account for 79 percent of all registered higher education students. The rest attend private institutions. Total enrollment in higher education institutions was about 1.4 million during the 1994 to 1995 school year.

Almost half of all students pursuing higher education attend autonomous public institutions. About one-third are enrolled at federal and state institutions. The difference between the two is the level of financial independence.

Private institutions tend to be the most prestigious. They have extensive libraries, databases and other teaching resources. They are also much more expensive, and are generally accessible only to students from high-income families.

There is no established uniform cost for attending a public university, but fees are generally nominal. They range from almost nothing at the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)*, National Autonomous University of Mexico, to about \$400 pesos per year at the *Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM)*, Autonomous University of Mexico. Fees are much higher at private universities. For example, at the *Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)*, Autonomous Institute of Technology, the annual fees range from about \$26,000 pesos to almost \$30,000 pesos.

### Technical Institutes

Mexico has a coordinated, multi-level system of technical training. Public activities in this area are the responsibility of the *Sistema Nacional de Educación Tecnológica (SNET)*, National Technological Education System. The *SNET* operates at four levels:

- job training, including 50 specialties and 6 technical careers through 235 campuses;
- high school technical training, including 975 campuses offering a total of 133 technical certificates

and 89 technical high school diplomas;

- higher education, including 28 different degree programs offered through 116 campuses; and
- postgraduate, including 39 masters degree and 11 doctorate programs.

There are also a number of private technical institutes that are not part of the *SNET*. In general, the private institutes concentrate on degree programs and do not offer industrial or high school training as do the public institutes.

### PERSONAL SKILLS TRAINING

There is a substantial market in Mexico for specialized training marketed directly to individuals. This includes language training as well as computer training and a variety of other programs aimed at improving personal skills. The market for personal training has grown as the link between personal skills and career advancement has become more widely understood.

### INDUSTRIAL SKILLS TRAINING

By law, companies operating in Mexico must provide skills training to their employees. According to unofficial estimates, less than one-third of employers comply with this requirement. Nonetheless, the sheer size of the Mexican workforce, well over

30 million, means that there is a substantial market for training services. Officially, there are more than 500,000 participants enrolled in about 4,000 training facilities. Another 500,000 participate in on-the-job training programs.

### FOREIGN TRADE

Education services can be exported either by sending educators and trainers to Mexico or by sending students and trainees to Canada. Neither side of this trade relationship has been very well quantified. Exports of services are not included in the official trade statistics. Long-term students who obtain visas to attend school are recorded by immigration authorities, but participants in short-term industrial and language training programs are often recorded as business visitors or tourists.

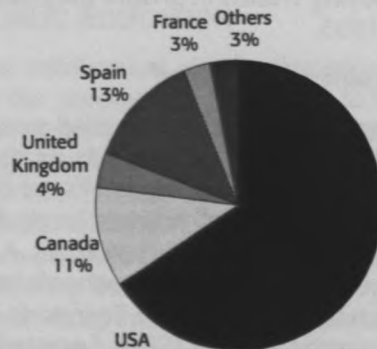
The best data are for Mexican degree students studying abroad. In 1994, there were officially about 14,000 of them. The number fell by 28 percent in 1995 as a result of the severe crisis precipitated by the devaluation of the peso in December 1994. It is estimated that 1994 levels will be restored early in the next century.

The United States is the most important destination for degree students who study abroad. Canada hosted only 1,024 Mexican students in 1995 compared with 1,562 the year before. Other significant providers of university education for Mexicans are France and the United Kingdom.

No official data are available for Mexican imports of non-degree education and training services. It has been estimated that about 4,000 Mexicans participate in language training abroad. In 1994 this was about 10 percent of the total number of non-university, foreign-language students.

Unofficial estimates indicate that about 10,000 Mexicans received industrial training in other countries

**Mexican Degree Students Abroad**



Source: Institute for International Education (IIE), and the Canadian Embassy.

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