

THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

Monterrey is the economic focal point of northeastern Mexico. It is the capital of the State of Nuevo León, and the neighbouring states of Coahuila to the west and Tamaulipas to the east comprise the rest of the region. The region has the advantages of a strategic location relative to the United States and access to ports on the Gulf Coast. As well, it features a highly developed industrial infrastructure, including modern freeways and railways.

POPULATION AND LAND AREA OF NORTHEASTERN MEXICO

State	km ²	1995 Population
Nuevo León	64,555	3,549,273
Coahuila	151,571	2,172,136
Tamaulipas	78,829	2,526,387
Total northeastern region	294,955	8,247,796
Total Mexico	1,967,183	91,120,433

Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI), National Institute for Statistics, Geography and Informatics, 1996.

NUEVO LEÓN

Nuevo León is the most industrialized of the three states with a population of 3.5 million in 1995. The state is home to seven of Mexico's top 15 corporations with more than 8,000 industrial enterprises based in Monterrey alone. A deeply-rooted entrepreneurial culture has led to many alliances with other Mexican companies as well as firms from around the world. A well-trained labour force has attracted many foreign high-technology manufacturers, including Canada's Northern Telecom. The state has 16 universities and almost 200 professional and technical schools. The high productivity of the region's manufacturers is illustrated by Nuevo León's production of 16 percent of Mexico's industrial output with less than 4 percent of the population and less than 8 percent of manufacturing employment. It is also responsible for one-third of Mexico's manufactured exports.