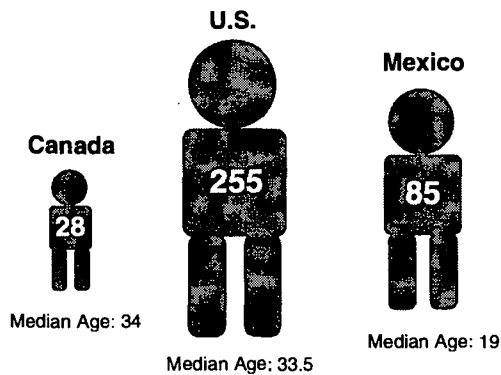
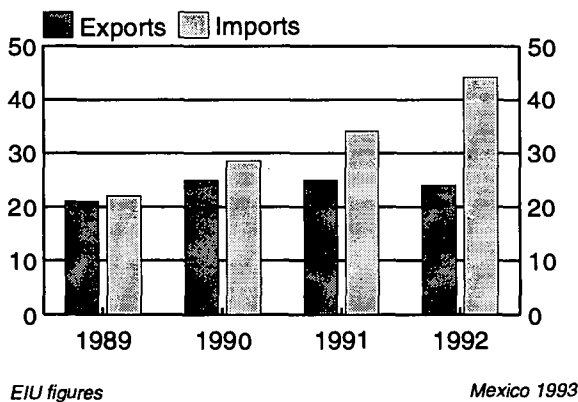


**North America: 1992 Population/  
Median Age Comparison**



guidelines for increases in wages and prices, and negotiates exemptions with a Follow-Up and Evaluation Commission. In large part as a result of this approach, Mexico's inflation rate has dropped from 159 percent in 1987 to a projected estimate of 7.0 percent to 9.5 percent in 1993. Economic growth rates for 1993 are projected at 2.5 percent to 3.0 percent, after a growth rate of 2.6 percent in 1992.

**Total Foreign Trade in U.S.\$billions**

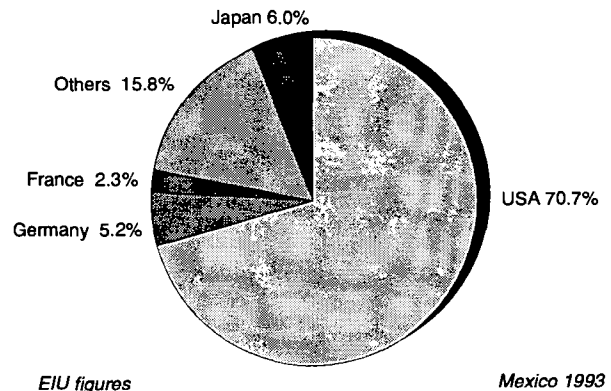


By broadening the tax base, the government of Mexico has been able to reduce tax rates while increasing total income. Spending cuts and fiscal reform have also been put in place by government and the result has been that the public sector actually ran a surplus in 1992.

Compared to Canada and the United States, Mexico is a very young country. Last year, it was estimated that 57 percent of its population was under 29; by the year 2000, when the total Mexican population will exceed 100 million, it is anticipated that 41 percent will be under the age of 20.

Total exports from Mexico reached about U.S.\$27.5 billion in 1992, a 1.5 percent increase over 1991. Total imports in the same period were about U.S.\$48 billion, a 26 percent increase over the previous year. The trade deficit accordingly rose from U.S.\$11.182 billion in 1991 to U.S. \$20.6 billion in 1992.

**Major Markets – Origin of Imports**



The United States was far and away the largest receptor of Mexican exports, at 74.5 percent estimated for 1993. Japan and Spain share the next places, well behind. Exports to Canada are reckoned differently by Mexican and Canadian methods of calculation, with about a 10 percent differential in their statistical estimates, Mexico's being the lower.

The United States is Mexico's principal supplier of imported goods, with just over 70 percent of 1993 sales. Japan and Germany are closest, though far behind. Again there is a discrepancy in Mexican and Canadian calculations of Canada's import share in Mexico, with the Mexican figures one and one-half times higher than Canada's estimation.