The upward trend in imports has been ongoing since 1982, when imports were at their all-time low of U.S.$176.7 million as a result of the economic crisis and the high import barriers imposed by the government. In 1988 and 1990, however, imports of pulp and paper waste products used in the manufacture of paper decreased. (See Table 9.)

### Table 9: Mexico's Import of Wood and Lumber Products (U.S.$ 000)

| | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Raw materials | 37,512 | 26,349 | 52,260 | 57,291 | 105,619 |
| Firewood and charcoal | 239 | 185 | 2,408 | 2,635 | 4,229 |
| Squared wood | 905 | 1,462 | 2,382 | 2,607 | 2,735 |
| Lumber with a primary process | 36,368 | 24,702 | 47,470 | 52,049 | 98,655 |
| Manufactured wood | 13,306 | 17,161 | 31,441 | 34,477 | 63,581 |
| Boards | 5,418 | 11,256 | 22,318 | 23,907 | 39,711 |
| Other | 7,888 | 5,905 | 9,123 | 10,570 | 23,870 |
| Materials used in paper manufacturing | 224,466 | 394,755 | 258,957 | 444,386 | 213,332 |
| Paper, cardboard and their manufacture | 123,900 | 26,676 | 102,068 | 137,370 | 163,401 |
| **Total value** | **399,184** | **464,941** | **444,726** | **673,524** | **545,933** |
| **Total volume (000 $m^3$)** | **2,278.9** | **2,806.4** | **1,776.2** | **2,420.0** | **3,233.3** |

*Source: Memoria Económica 1990-1991, CNIF*

Mexico's exports of raw materials and manufactured wood products were U.S.$281 million in 1989 (1.3 million $m^3$) and U.S.$231 million (1.1 million $m^3$) in 1990, down from an all-time high of U.S.$310 million in 1988. These were composed of manufactured wood products (55 percent), paper, cardboard and their products (33 percent), pulp and wood waste for the manufacture of paper (4 percent), and raw materials (8 percent). Mexico also exported U.S.$1.1 million or 1.7 million kilograms of colophony in 1990.

## 4.4 Manufacturing Capacity

In 1990, 24 new sawmill plants were installed. Although this increased capacity by 200,000 tons, the use of this capacity decreased from 76 percent to 70 percent. Capacity and use for pulp and paper increased. Production of the paper, paper products, printing and publishing industry increased by 8.6 percent. In all other areas, installed capacity decreased with the general contraction of the industry, which fell 15-20 percent. (See Tables 10 and 11.)

### Table 10: Forestry Sector in 1989

| Industry | No. of Plants | Installed Capacity (millions) | % Used | Employees (000) | Total Invest. (U.S.$ millions) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sawmills | 954 | 7.6 $m^3$ | 76 | 23.8 | 275.9 |
| Box manufacturers | 1,182 | 118 units | | 8.6 | 14.5 |
| Impregnators | 21 | 1.3 $m^3$ | 40 | 2.3 | 2.4 |
| Pulp and paper | 73 | 4.5 tons | 79 | 34.7 | 1,814.0 |
| Board lumber | 49 | 1.4 $m^3$ | 47 | 11.4 | 720.2 |
| Resins | 18 | 0.06 tons | 63 | 8.0 | 17.9 |
| Secondary workshops | 106 | | | | |

*Source: Memoria Económica 1989-1990, CNIF*

### Table 11: Forestry Sector In 1990

| Industry | No. of Plants | Installed Capacity (millions) | % Used | Employees (000) | Total Invest. (U.S.$ millions) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sawmills | 978 | 7.8 $m^3$ | 70 | 24.5 | 329.2 |
| Box manufacturers | 1,179 | 117 units | | 8.5 | 23.3 |
| Impregnators | 20 | 1.2 $m^3$ | 44 | 2.2 | 43.7 |
| Pulp and paper | 75 | 4.8 tons | 80 | 34.1 | 1,863.0 |
| Board lumber | 51 | 1.4 $m^3$ | 40 | 11.2 | 720.2 |
| Resins | 18 | 0.042 tons | 83 | 5.0 | 10.0 |

*Source: Memoria Económica 1991-1992, CNIF*

The industrial transformation of wood products has operated at an average 60 percent of capacity. This is due to the unavailability of raw materials, the exploitation of resources below those authorized by SARH (by about 50 percent), the low use of secondary products, the inefficient use of machinery and equipment, and the inadequate geographical location of many industrial plants. (Table 12 lists the largest companies operating in Mexico in the forestry, woodworking, pulp and paper sectors.)