

#### 4. THE MEXICAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

The Mexican school system, including both the formal and technical areas, is overseen by the Secretariat for Public Education. Within each level, schools and universities can be under federal control, that is, directly financed and supervised by the federal government; under state or autonomous control, that is, financed by the state or central government but autonomous as to internal decision-making; and under private control. As was described in the background section, the formal sector covers from kindergarden (pre-school) to the university level. During the 1989-1990 school cycle, a grand total of 25.9 million students were enrolled, both in the formal and technical areas. The following table shows number of students and schools by level within the formal education sector:

**TABLE 5**  
**FORMAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**1989-1990 SCHOOL CYCLE**

	# OF SCHOOLS	# OF STUDENTS (000)	FEDERAL	% CONTROL	
				STATE & AUTONOMOUS	PRIVATE
Pre-school	46,077	2,851	73.7%	18.9%	7.4%
Primary	82,137	14,675	71.8%	22.4%	5.8%
Secondary	16,475	3,339	61.3%	28.8%	9.9%
High school	3,430	1,341	13.6%	58.0%	28.4%
Educational	476	125	23.3%	45.6%	31.1%
Undegraduate	344	1,138	15.6%	68.7%	15.7%
Graduate	140	49	11.2%	70.0%	18.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>149,079</b>	<b>23,518</b>			

Source: Primer Informe de Gobierno - C. Salinas de Gortari 1989

The technical school system is divided into three levels: secondary school, medium professional level and high school. Each level is subdivided into four branches: industrial, agricultural, forestry and fishing schools. Approximately half of the students are concentrated in the industrial area. Additionally, for persons having completed primary school, for-the-job training programs are available. The following table shows students and schools in the technical sector.