

subsectors account for the basic productive chain to manufacture medicines: the pharmo-chemical subsector which deals with the synthesis of chemicals with curative properties; and the pharmaceutical subsector which produces the medicine in the form of pills, capsules and solutions. In Mexico there are 90 companies in the pharmo-chemical industry, of which 35 are international corporations. These firms produce approximately 63% of the drugs consumed in Mexico. In the pharmaceutical sector, there are 335 laboratories, 70% of which are subsidiaries of multinational companies. The chemical/pharmaceutical market is estimated at \$2.1 billion.

- The Mexican chemicals industry supplies about 70% of the total local consumption of chemicals of \$17.2 billion in 1992. Many large international firms are established in Mexico, such as Celanese with an installed capacity of over one million tons/year and a workforce of close to 9,000 people.
- The food and beverages industry accounts for 6.5% of the country's total GDP, or an estimated \$15 billion. It is one of Mexico's most steadily growing sectors, since it satisfies the most basic needs of the country's growing population of over 80 million. This industry can be divided into the following large categories, listed in order of importance: Meat and dairy products, corn grinding, wheat grinding, soft drinks, coffee, beer and malt, tobacco, sugar, oils and fats, alcoholic beverages, preserved fruits and vegetables, and animal feed. The government participates in the production, purchase and industrial transformation of food products, as well as in distribution, transportation and storage through the National Company for Popular Subsistence (CONASUPO).
- The ceramics and glass industry is dominated by Vitro, a major industrial group from Monterrey, the second largest group after TELMEX, with sales of over \$3 billion in 1990. It recently made a takeover of Anchor Glass and associated with Corning Inc. through the purchase of 49% of its U.S. and world operation, while Corning acquired 49% of Vitro's Mexico and world operation in the area of kitchen and table articles, through the creation of Corning Vitro Inc. and Vitro Corning SA de CV.
- The Mexican plastics and rubber industry comprises 3,400 companies, which together have 140,000 employees. Of these, 3000 are plastics processors and the remainder includes a variety of related companies. By type of process, there are 1,050 in injection, 900 in extrusion, 450 in blowing, 180 in laminating, 105 in rotational molding, 90 in foaming, 60 in compression, 45 in thermoforming, 45 in coating and 120 in other processes. Together, they have an installed capacity of 1.6 million tons.
- Mexico's pulp and paper industry includes 65 large companies employing 32,500 workers, and covers a wide range of processes. Mexico's production of pulp amounted to 705,000