

Altos Hornos de México (AHMSA) is the largest steel producer in Mexico, with more than one-quarter of the nation's production. It also accounts for 90 percent of total production of metallurgical coal and two-thirds of coke production. *HYLSA*, the other major player in the industry, is owned by the Mexican conglomerate, *Grupo Alfa*.

Iron ore production was 5.5 million tonnes in 1994. Four companies dominate iron mining in Mexico. They include *Grupo Acerero del Norte*, *HYLSA*, *Siderúrgica Lázaro Cárdenas Las Truchas (SICARTSA)* and *Peña Colorada*. The *Peña Colorada* mine alone produces more than one-third of Mexico's iron ore.

MEXICAN STEEL PRODUCERS PRODUCTION AND MARKET SHARES, 1994

Company	'000s tonnes	Percentage
Altos Hornos de México (AHMSA)	2,490	24.3
HYLSA	2,181	21.3
ACERIAS	2,043	19.9
Siderúrgica Lázaro Cárdenas Las Truchas (SICARTSA)	1,761	17.2
IMEXA	1,345	13.1
Tubos de Acero de México (TAMSA)	427	4.2
Total		100.0

Source: *Cámara Minera de México (CAMIMEX)*, Mexican Mining Chamber, 1995.

COAL AND COKE

The principal producers of metallurgical coal in Mexico are *Grupo Acerero del Norte*, *Grupo Industria Minera México* and *Siderúrgica Lázaro Cárdenas Las Truchas (SICARTSA)*. *Minera Carbonífera Río Escondido (MICARE)* is the largest producer of thermal coal.

Total coal production increased by 12 percent in 1994 to reach 6.4 million tonnes. Coke production increased slightly to just under two million tonnes.

This production was insufficient to meet domestic requirements. In 1994, 293,000 tonnes of coal and 584,000 tonnes of coke were imported. The import balance shifted sharply towards coal, with coke imports falling by 21 percent. Canada was the principal supplier of coal. Mexico exports small quantities of coal and coke, mostly to Guatemala.

Recoverable reserves of metallurgical coal in Mexico are estimated at around 650 million tonnes, mostly located in the Coahuila region. Only three of the 20 known coal beds in Coahuila are considered economically mineable.