

## REGIONAL INTERDEPENDENCE

The three states of the northwestern region are, to a large extent, interdependent. Nuevo León is heavily urbanized and relies on its neighbours for raw materials and agricultural products. And as an industrial centre, Monterrey provides corresponding markets for producers in Tamaulipas and Coahuila. Nuevo León imports cattle, chicken, coal, minerals, electrical power and steel from Coahuila. From Tamaulipas, it receives petrochemicals and plastic resins, water, agricultural products, tobacco and natural gas, among many other products. There is also a heavy two-way trade in automotive parts between Coahuila and Nuevo León.

As a result of this interdependence, the states work together on a variety of projects. The governors meet twice a year, and other officials meet monthly. There is also an annual conference called the *Cuatro Caminos Cumbre*, which brings together the three northwestern governors with the governors of neighbouring Chihuahua and Texas. David Martínez, Director of *Dirección de Proyectos Internacionales, Secretaría General del Gobierno de Nuevo León*, International Projects for Nuevo León, says that these efforts concentrate on promoting cooperation. "We recognize that cooperation is essential to the region's growth," he says, "but there is also competition among the states for individual investments."

Omar Cruz, Director of *ProExport Nuevo León* agrees. "First, we try to bring investment to Mexico, over other countries," he observed, "and then we try to bring it to Nuevo León, over other states." In a few cases, competition between the states has been bitter. The Solidarity International Bridge in Nuevo León was designed to draw traffic from Nuevo Laredo in Tamaulipas. There has also been an ongoing dispute between these two states over water diversion by the El Cuchillo Dam in Nuevo León. As a result, Nuevo León has a somewhat better relationship with Coahuila than with Tamaulipas.

## NUEVO LEÓN'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, 1993

MILLION MEXICAN PESOS

Mexico's gross domestic product (GDP)	1,145,382
Nuevo León's GDP	75,454
<b>Activity breakdown</b>	
Agriculture, cattle, forestry, and fishing	1,047
Mining	554
Manufacturing	21,260
Construction	2,749
Utilities: electricity, gas, water	756
Retailing, restaurants and hotels	15,319
Transportation, warehousing and communications	6,540
Financial services, insurance and real estate	11,691
Community, social, and personal services	15,538
<b>Manufacturing sector breakdown</b>	
Foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	5,516
Textiles, apparel, and leather products	1,177
Wood and wooden products	299
Paper, paper products, printing and publishing	1,012
Chemical substances, petroleum derivatives, rubber and plastic	2,796
Production of non-metallic minerals	3,486
Basic metallic industries	2,069
Metallic products, machinery, and equipment	4,411
Other manufacturing industries	495

Source: *Secretaría de Desarrollo Económico de Nuevo León*, the Department of Economic Development of Nuevo León, 1995.

## URBANIZATION

The northwest region is highly urbanized. In Nuevo León, 89 percent of the population live in cities of 50,000 or more. If the smaller communities that make up Greater Monterrey are added, the metropolitan region accounts for about 95 percent of the population. The picture is much the same in Coahuila and Tamaulipas. Coahuila has 10 communities with 50,000 or more residents, and