

Mexico has 73 national ports: 39 on the Pacific and 34 on the Atlantic, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. They are grouped into two classes. *Puertos de altura* are deep ports designed for trans-ocean shipping. *Puertos de cabotaje* are those intended to support coastal shipping. According to the *Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT)*, Secretariat of Communications and Transportation, there were 114 terminal facilities located at these ports as of mid-1995. They are divided into five service types: commercial, fishing, tourist and recreational, industrial, and specialized. The industrial ports are primarily devoted to petroleum exports.

MEXICO'S NATIONAL PORT TERMINALS, 1995

	Pacific	Atlantic	Total
Commercial	15	9	24
Fishing	20	22	42
Petroleum	9	11	20
Specialized	5	2	7
Tourist and recreational	13	8	21
Total	62	52	114

Source: Dirección de Marina Mercante, Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT), Secretariat of Communications and Transportation.

A new *Ley de Puertos*, port law, was enacted in July 1993. It provided for much greater participation by private companies in the nation's government-owned port operations. Concessions for the provision of specialized services began in 1993, and in February 1995, a more comprehensive program of privatization of the country's major commercial ports began. *Puertos Mexicanos*, the government agency that had previously managed the nation's 22 major ports, was dissolved and replaced by the *Coordinación General de Puertos y Marina Mercante (CGPyMM)*, General Coordinator for the Ports and the Merchant Navy, which coordinates the operations of local *Administraciones de Puertos Integrales (APIs)*, integrated port authorities.