

Guadalajara is a major node on the Mexican national railway system, with daily passenger and cargo service to Mexico City, Nogales and Juárez as well as several other centres. The Mexican national railway system now concentrates mainly on freight. Nonetheless, the Guadalajara railway station served 167,000 passengers in 1994.

There is an industrial sea port located in Manzanillo and a tourist port in Puerto Vallarta. But, Mexican ports have not been very efficient, and the Ports of Houston, Texas and Los Angeles actually carry more Mexican international shipments than all of Mexico's ports combined. This is gradually changing, however, as a result of a major port privatization program. Manzanillo was one of the first to be privatized and concessions have been awarded for container and general-purpose terminals there.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

By Mexican standards, telecommunications in the region are modern. Nationally, the government's goal is to increase the number of telephone lines per 100 inhabitants from approximately 8 to 10. The line density in Jalisco was 17.8 in 1994. This compares with roughly 40 in most developed countries. There is also a good cellular-phone network. Guadalajara is part of the national plans for all of those new carriers that are participating in the privatization of the telephone system. Recently *Alestra*, which is a joint venture including AT&T, opened offices in the city.

Electronic mail over the Internet is increasingly popular for business communications. Guadalajara has three principal Internet providers: CompuServe, *Infotel* and *Cencar*. The latter is operated by the *Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara*, Autonomous University of Guadalajara. There are also three or four smaller providers.

Guadalajara receives next-day service from Canada by the major courier companies.