

Food processing, metal products and apparel are other important industries. The *maquiladora* zones also include electronics and toy manufacturing enterprises. Cattle ranching is a major activity, as is fishing. Tamaulipas has major mineral resources, including petroleum.

LABOUR FORCE

According to state government data, Monterrey's labour force makes up 44 percent of the population. This is high by Mexican standards, but it may simply reflect the relative importance of the "formal" sector in this region. Only about 15 percent of Mexico's population is formally employed by registered companies or government entities. Many workers are unrecorded because they are self-employed or work for small unregistered companies and do not participate in the social security system. The presence of the large *grupos* and multinational enterprises could be expected to increase the proportion of formally-employed workers. This may also explain Monterrey's high unemployment rate, which is about 6.8 percent compared with the national average of 6.4 percent. Both numbers are considered serious underestimates by knowledgeable observers.

The distribution of employment by sector reflects the region's high level of industrialization. In Greater Monterrey, only 0.4 percent of this work force is employed in the primary sector, while 25 percent is engaged in manufacturing, and 38 percent in financial and professional services.

STRUCTURE OF WORK FORCE IN GREATER MONTERREY, 1995

Total work force employed	1,162,743	100%
Primary industries	4,651	0.4%
Secondary industries		
Manufacturing	268,594	23.1%
Construction	106,972	9.2%
Tertiary industries		
Retailing	248,827	21.4%
Financial and professional services	437,191	37.6%
Other	96,508	8.3%

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