

Mexico: Fact Sheet

Basic data

Area	1,958,201 sq. km.
Population (1990)	85 million
Population density per sq. km.	42
Official language	Spanish
Ethnic groups	Mestizo 79%
	Indian 11%
	Caucasian 10%
Major religion	Roman Catholic 93%
Main cities and population	Mexico City 19.3 million
	Guadalajara 3.4 million
	Monterrey 3.1 million

Politics

Type of government	Federal republic operating under a centralized structure, 31 states, one federal district (Mexico City)
Current government	Elected 1988
President	Carlos Salinas de Gortari
Foreign Minister	Fernando Solana
Ruling party	Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which currently holds 60 of 64 seats in the Senate and 263 of 500 seats in the Chamber of Deputies
Opposition parties	Several opposition parties share 200 seats (out of 500 total) reserved for the opposition and allocated on the basis of proportional representation

Economy

Per capita GDP (1990)	US\$3,234
Economic growth rate (1990)	3.9%
Inflation rate (CPI) (1990)	29.9%
Total external debt (1990)	US\$93 billion
Debt held by Canada	Commercial banks: C\$5.6 billion Export Development Corporation and Canadian Wheat Board: C\$661.3 million Official Development Assistance: nil
Foreign reserves (1990)	US\$9.5 billion
Unemployment rate (1990)	2.8%
Underemployment rate (1990)	35-50%
Currency (March 1991)	C\$ = 2439 pesos (approximate)