

more than 10,000 kilometres of coastline. A recent fishery resource study concluded that Mexico takes below 1 per cent of the potential fisheries harvest from the Gulf coast and only 10 per cent of the potential from Pacific waters. Mexico's fishing output averaged around 1.4 million metric tons between 1980 and 1990. The estimated catch for 1991 of 1.48 million metric tons, was barely 1.5 per cent above the previous year's total. The apparent consumption of fisheries products in Mexico totalled 1.26 million metric tons in 1991, a decline of 0.4 per cent from a year earlier.

3. Energy

The energy sector is almost completely controlled by the government. Production and marketing of hydrocarbons has been the monopoly of PEMEX since 1938, while the Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE) accounted for 86 per cent of electricity generating capacity and 91 per cent of gross generation.

Mexico has become the world's fifth largest producer of oil from the fifth largest reserves base. The total proven hydrocarbon reserves of Mexico are estimated to be between 25 billion barrels (US Geological Survey) and 65 billion barrels (PEMEX) at the end of 1991. The average production of crude oil was 2.68 million barrels per day in 1991, a 1.96 percent increase over 1990. Natural gas production stands at about 3.5 billion ft. per year. The country's oil sector now contributes 30 percent of the federal government's income.

The government electricity monopoly (CFE) had an installed generating capacity of 25.2 million KW. Currently, of the total gross electricity output in 1991, 20.4 per cent was generated in hydro-electric plants and 79.6 per cent in thermoelectric plants. Future increases in generating capacity will come from further exploitation of Mexico's hydro reserves and increased use of gas and coal for thermal generation.

4. Mining

Mexico's mining sector continues to play an important role in the growth of the Mexican economy. Most of the previously government owned companies have been privatized. Traditionally Mexico has been the world's largest producer of silver and it ranks as one of the top producers of celestite, bismuth, barite, fluorite, sodium sulphate, graphite, antimony, arsenic, mercury, cadmium, lead, molybdenum and zinc. With significant exports, the industry continues to provide over 1.5 billion dollars annually as a net contribution to the country's trade balance and provides employment to over 270,000 people.

Canada has been a traditional supplier of mining equipment and related services to Mexico, selling mostly to the countries six major mining companies, Industrial Penoles, Grupo Industrial Minero de Mexico (IMMS), Empresas Frisco,