

Mexico



Area 1.9 million sq km Population 123 million, mestizo (Amerindian-Spanish) 62% Amerindian 28% European 10% Labor Force 53 million Unemployment 4.4% Per sector Agriculture 13% Industry 24% Services 62% GDP US\$ 2.2 trillion Per capita \$18,400 Growth 2.5% Per sector Agriculture 4% Industry 33% Services 63% Exports US\$381 billion commodities, manufactured goods, oil, silver, fruit, vegetables, cotton - to US 81% Imports US\$395 billion commodities, machinery, electrical equipment, automobile and aircraft parts From US 47%, China 18%, Japan 4%

Pre-Columbian Mexico was home to many advanced Mesoamerican civilizations, such as the Olmec, Toltec, Teotihuacan, Zapotec, Maya and Aztec before first contact with Europeans. In 1521, the Spanish Empire conquered and colonized the territory from its base in Mexico-Tenochtitlan, which was administered from the Viceroy of New Spain. Three centuries later, the territory became Mexico following recognition in 1821 after the colonies war of independence. The tumultuous post-independence period was characterized by economic instability and many political changes. The Mexican-American war (1846-48) led to the territorial cession of extensive northern borderlands, one third of its territory, to the United States. Further wars and a dictatorship occurred during the 19th century leading to the Mexican Revolution of 1910, which culminated in the promulgation of the 1917 Constitution and the emergence of the country's current political system. Elections held in 2000 marked the first time since the revolution that an opposition candidate - Vicente Fox of the National Action Party (PAN) – defeated the party in power, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). He was succeeded in 2006 by another PAN party candidate Felipe Calderon, but Enrique Peña Nieto regained the presidency for the PRI in 2012.

Notwithstanding on-going economic and social concerns including low wages, high under-employment, inequitable income distribution and drug cartels, Mexico has the 15th largest nominal GDP and the 11th largest by purchasing power parity. The Mexican economy is strongly linked to those of its North American Free Trade partners (NAFTA), especially the United States and as a result of the global financial crisis in 2008 experienced a massive economic downturn the following year, although growth returned quickly in 2010.

Mexico was the first Latin American member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), joining in 1994; it is classified as an upper-middle income country by the World Bank and by 2050 could become the world's seventh largest economy. The country is considered a regional power and an emerging global power. Due to its rich culture and history, Mexico ranks 1st in the Americas and 6th in the world by the number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. And in 2015 was the 9th most visited country in the world with 32 million arrivals. Mexico is a member of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the G8+5 and the G20.