

Physiographic Map of Latin America



Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
November 2003

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Background Note: Mexico

PROFILE

OFFICIAL NAME:
 United Mexican States

Geography
 Area: 1,972,500 sq. km. (761,600 sq. mi.); about three times the size of Texas.
 Cities: *Capital*—Mexico City (13 million, 2000 census metro area). *Other major cities*—Guadalajara, Monterrey, Puebla, Ciudad Juarez, Tijuana, Acapulco, Merida, Leon, Veracruz.
 Terrain: Coastal lowlands, central high plateaus, and mountains up to 5,400 m. (18,000 ft.).
 Climate: Tropical to desert.

People
 Nationality: *Noun and adjective*—Mexican(s).
 Population (2000 census): 97.5 million.
 Annual growth rate (net) 2002: 0.9%.
 Ethnic groups: Indian-Spanish (mestizo) 60%, Indian 30%, Caucasian 9%, other 1%.
 Religions: Roman Catholic 89%, Protestant 6%, other 5%.
 Language: Spanish.
 Education: *Years compulsory*--12 (note: preschool education was made mandatory in Dec. 2001). *Literacy*--89.4%
 Health (1996 est.): *Infant mortality rate*--31/1,000. *Life expectancy*—male 73 years; female 77 years.
 Work force (2000, 39.81 million): *Agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing*--21.0%; *services*--32.2%; *commerce*--16.9%; *manufacturing*--18.7%; *construction*--5.6%; *transportation and communication*--4.5%; *mining and quarrying*--1.0%.

Government
 Type: Federal republic.
 Independence: First proclaimed September 16, 1810; republic established 1824.
 Constitution: February 5, 1917.
 Branches: *Executive*—president (chief of state and head of government).
Legislative—bicameral. *Judicial*—Supreme Court, local and federal systems.
 Administrative subdivisions: 31 states and a federal district.
 Political parties: Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), National Action Party (PAN), Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), Green Ecological Party (PVEM), Labor Party (PT), and several small parties.
 Suffrage: Universal at 18.



Economy
 Nominal GDP (2002 est.): \$637 billion.
 Per capita GDP (2002 est.): \$6,598.