

Mexico City *at a Glance*

Mexico City is the capital of Mexico; it is the **most important economic, industrial and cultural center** in the country and the **most populous metropolitan area** in Mexico with 23,704,789 inhabitants in 2009 according to the last census report presented by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

Mexico City is located amidst **Mexico's Valley**, located in the high plateaus at the central region of the country. Its origins as the most important city belong to the time of the Aztec Imperium in the year 1325.

Demographically, Mexico City has a wide variety of inhabitants living in its metropolitan area, it is characterized for hosting a variety of **communities of expatriates** ranging from South America, Europe, Middle East and recently from Asia. Its situation as the country's capital attracts as well migrants from other states which are in search for better opportunities of economic development and progress.



Also, Mexico City is home of the **largest population of Americans** living outside of the United States. According to the American Citizens Abroad Association (ACA) the estimated number of Americans living in Mexico is about one percent of the population (56,158 approximately.)

Economy

Mexico City is one of **the most important economic centers of Latin America**. In 2009, according to a report presented by PROMEXICO, it held a GDP of \$ 221.4 thousand million USD representing 26.4 percent of the national GDP.

In terms of foreign investment it received 12,906 million USD during 2008 from which 32.7 percent was invested in financial services, 24.2 in communal services and 20.9 percent in the manufacturing industry.

The most important economic sector is the services sector representing 83.2 percent of Mexico City's and its metropolitan area GDP, followed by the manufacturing sector with 16.7 percent participation.



Mexico City is also one of the largest **financial and commercial developments in Latin America**. The Mexican Stock Exchange (BMV) and the country's largest banks and insurers, as well as many international financial services conglomerates for Latin America and multinationals, are headquartered in the city for its operations either nationally or internationally. It also embraces **important business centers** distributed along the city such as Santa Fe at the west, Polanco at the central-west and the most important avenue: Paseo de la Reforma which is located at the south-west side of the city.

In terms of GDP per sector, Mexico City and its metropolitan area is the **major contributor to the country's Industrial GDP** with a 16 percent, and also **the greatest contributor in the service sector** with 25 percent participation. On the other hand, due to the limited non-urbanized space in its territory, the contribution of Mexico City in the agricultural aspect is the smallest of all federal entities in the country.

Industry

Mexico City's industries present a wide variety of opportunities for the development of business and its recent growth has improved the business environment in this metropolitan area. Among the main industries are the **construction industry, logistics services, commerce, financial and insurance services, corporative direction services, business support services and financial intermediary services**. The development of these industries as the most important and active ones is possible because many of the enterprises dedicated to offering the products and services previously mentioned hold their facilities and main offices in the city.



Related to these industries, Mexico City hosts the following entities: the Mexican Chamber of the Construction Industry (CMIC), the National Chamber of Commerce (CANACO), the National Chamber of the Consulting Industry, (CNEC), the National Chamber of the Land Automotive Transportation (CANACAR), the Mexican Chamber of Maritime Transportation Industry(CAMEINTRAM), the National Chamber of Cement (CANACEM), among others.



These chambers are important for the industries as they **develop the basic standards of negotiation** between them and third parties. These entities help to **promote their members** in order to gain some recognition in the market and provide them with relevant information and guidance in legal and financial aspects.

Tourism

Related to the Tourism industry, in Mexico City there are many key places, monuments, avenues and walks attracting local and foreign tourism. Examples of these are the **Historic Downtown** and the "Floating Gardens" of Xochimilco (declared World heritage Site by the UNESCO); the **Angel of Independence** monument, the **Chapultepec Castle** and the National Museum of Anthropology and History. Regarding religious tourism, the most important place is the **Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, place that is visited by people from all around the world.

Recently, the development of cultural and entertainment tourism has been supported by the Tourism Department of Mexico City through a campaign promoting national and foreign tourism to the city. Also, the development of the **Business Tourism** has been growing and taking significance in this sector, as the Secretary of Tourism has declared. Business tourism **covers 65 percent of the tourism** industry from Mondays to Thursdays, making Mexico City one of the most important destinies for this industry. In fact, the city ranks as the fourth place in Latin America for the development of conferences and trade shows thanks to the infrastructure level that it holds.