

Mexico Fact Sheet



Background:

The site of advanced Amerindian civilizations - including the Olmec, Toltec, Teotihuacan, Zapotec, Maya, and Aztec - Mexico was conquered and colonized by Spain in the early 16th century. Administered as the Viceroyalty of New Spain for three centuries, it achieved its independence early in the 19th century. The global financial crisis beginning in late 2008 caused a massive economic downturn the following year, although growth returned quickly in 2010. Ongoing economic and social concerns include low real wages, underemployment for a large segment of the population, inequitable income distribution, and few advancement opportunities for the largely Amerindian population in the impoverished southern states.

Capital: Mexico City

Population: 112,336,538 (2010 census)

Official language: Spanish

Calling code: +52

Independence: September 16, 1810 (from Spain)

Government Type: Federal constitutional republic

President: Felipe Calderón

Secretary of the Interior: Alejandro Poiré