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Maquiladoras at a Glance

CorpWatch, June 30, 1999

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Definition of Maquiladoras

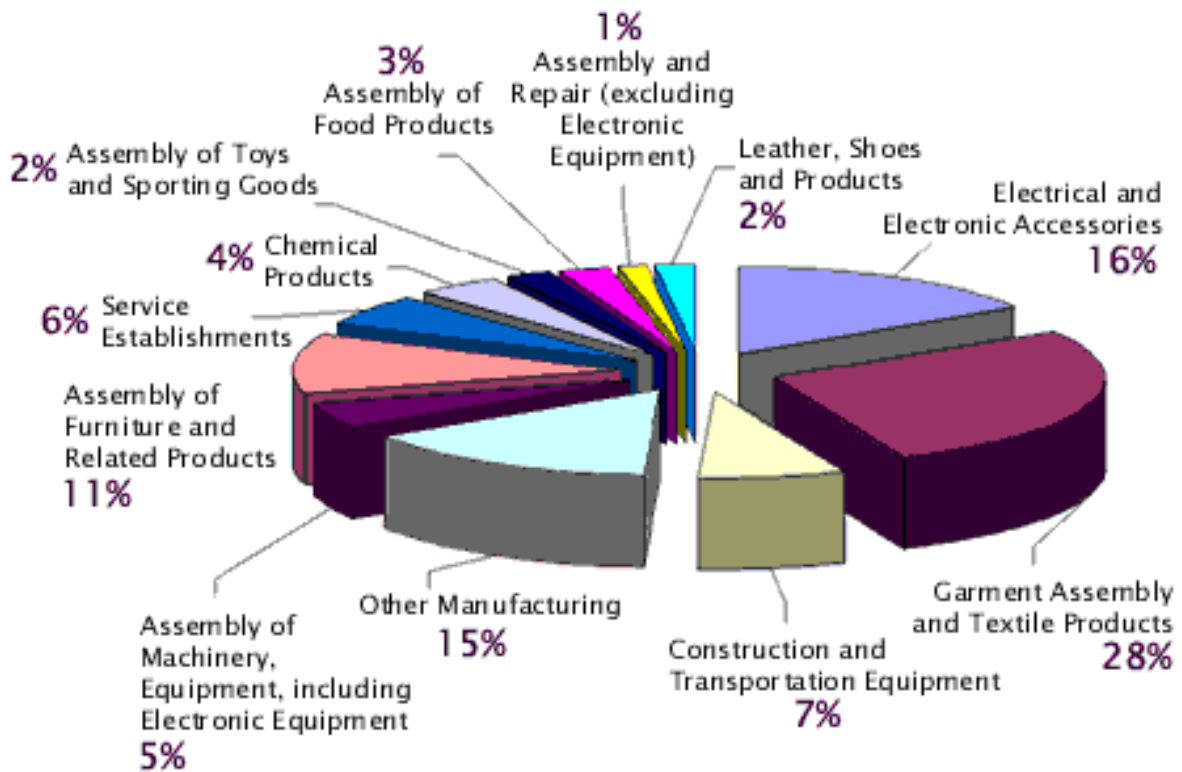
Foreign-owned assembly plants in Mexico. Companies import machinery and materials duty free and export finished products around the world. They are also known as twin plants, maquilas and in-bond industries.

The US-Mexico Border *(Click on a border state in Mexico to view statistics.)*



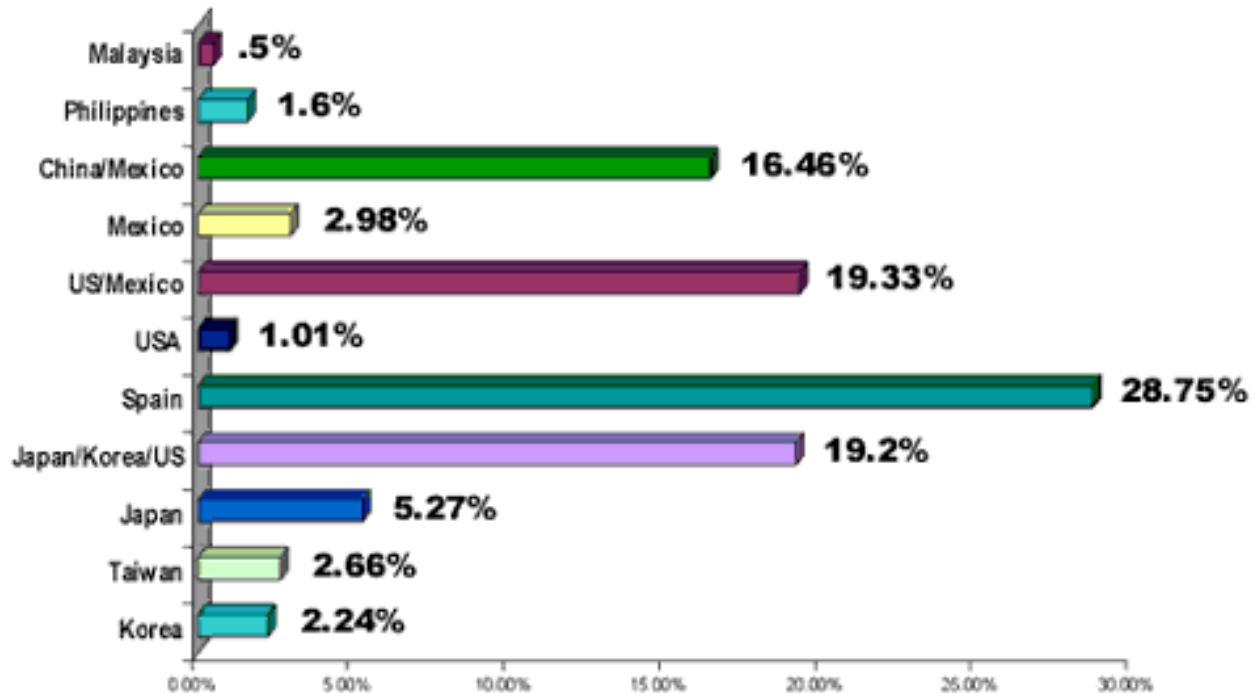
Industry Breakdown [\(Complete Data Table\)](#)

Maquiladora Labor Force by Branch of Industry (Data is current as of September 1998, INEGI - National Institute of Statistics - Source: *The Maquiladora Reader*)



Country of Origin - Tijuana Maquiladoras Only

(Source: *San Diego Union Tribune, Business Section, C-1, April 20, 1999*)



Examples of Maquiladoras in Mexico

- 3 Day Blinds
- 20th Century Plastics
- Acer Peripherals
- Bali Company, Inc.
- Bayer Corp./Medsep
- BMW
- Canon Business Machines
- Casio Manufacturing
- Chrysler
- Daewoo
- Eastman Kodak/Verbatim
- Eberhard-Faber
- Eli Lilly Corporation
- Ericsson
- Fisher Price
- Ford
- Foster Grant Corporation
- General Electric Company
- JVC
- GM
- Hasbro
- Hewlett Packard
- Hitachi Home Electronics
- Honda
- Honeywell, Inc.
- Hughes Aircraft
- Hyundai Precision America
- IBM
- Matsushita
- Mattel
- Maxell Corporation
- Mercedes Benz
- Mitsubishi Electronics Corp.
- Motorola
- Nissan
- Philips
- Pioneer Speakers
- Samsonite Corporation
- Samsung
- Sanyo North America
- Sony Electronics
- Tiffany
- Toshiba
- VW
- Xerox
- Zenith

Worker profile



No. of Women Working in the Maquiladora Industry: 472,423

"In the early days women made up as much as 80% of the assembly plant workforce, today they number close to 60%. While they can legally be hired at the age of 16, it is common for these girl-women to get false documents in order to go to work at ages as young as 12, 13 or 14." ([Mexican Labor News & Analysis](#), 3/2/1999, v4, no4)

Wages

Minimum Wage

Mexico - \$3.40 per day vs.
US - \$5.15 per hour

Example: Hourly
compensation costs for
production workers in
manufacturing

Mexico - \$1.21 vs US -
\$17.70

(Global Trade Watch, [The NAFTA Index](#),
October 1, 1998)

Market basket

Credit: Information as provided by Auto Trim de Mexico S. A. de C. V workers

Type of employment: *Worker from Auto Trim de Mexico S. A. de C. V*

Work Schedule: *40 hours per week*

Daily wage: \$8.29

Minimum wage (Geographic Area A): \$3.44 per day

Wage per hour: \$1.04

Weekly salary: \$58.09

Discount for union dues (4%): \$2.32

Net pay: \$55.77

Amount leftover per week for clothes, shoes, entertainment and medical attention: \$2.03

Market Basket Factoids:

"According to the December 16, 1998 issue of Mexican Labor News and Analysis, in 1987 a worker had to work 8 hours and 47 minutes to buy the basic food basket for a family of four. Today it takes 34 hours."

"In November of 1998, the Zedillo Administration removed all subsidies for the purchase of tortillas, resulting in a 100% price increase for Mexican consumers. The average Mexican consumer will now only be able to afford of the normal amount of tortillas they would usually purchase."

"In December 1998, the Mexican government increased the minimum wage by 14%. However, government figures show that the consumer price index rose 18.6% in 1998. Mexican government statistics show that real wages have dropped to a 30-year low and are likely to sink even further as the 1999 budget takes effect."

Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras Annual

2-Person Household (single income)	
Food	\$US
Bread	.80
Sugar	.70
Rice	.69
Beans	.94
Oil	1.06
Consume	.59
Soup paste	.38
Tortillas	2.80
Eggs	2.08
Ham	2.79
Sausage	1.39
Potatoes	1.29
Onion	0.77
Tomato	1.15
Pepper	.39
Salt	.14
Soft drink	3.85
Water	1.60
Detergent	1.29
Soap	.42
Toothpaste	1.24
Toilet paper	.57
TOTAL	26.90

Fixed Weekly Expenses	
Food	26.90
Butane	1.50
Rent	10.00
Electricity	3.00
Transportation	3.00

*Report 1998, Newsletter Vol. 9, No. 1, Spring
1999. Pg. 13*

Refrigerator	7.30
Water	2.00
TOTAL	54.00

The Environment

Population Border County and Municipio Population Projections

Source: Southwest Center for Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP), Border Environment Research Reports, No. 5, May 1999

	1995 Population	2000 Population	2010 Population	2020 Population
High Projections				
Border total	10,585,265	12,376,232	17,144,395	24,099,054
US subtotal	5,827,439	6,535,848	8,304,648	10,671,306
Mexican subtotal	4,757,826	5,840,384	8,839,747	13,427,748
Medium Projections				
Border total	10,585,265	12,145,349	15,397,768	19,460,216
US subtotal	5,827,439	6,438,616	7,604,430	8,957,028
Mexican subtotal	4,757,826	5,706,733	7,793,338	10,503,188
Low Projections				
Border total	10,585,265	11,452,700	13,285,313	15,186,177
US subtotal	5,827,439	6,146,918	6,757,453	7,333,809
Mexican subtotal	4,757,826	5,305,782	6,527,860	7,852,368

Water

"Surface and groundwater supplies are threatened along the US-Mexico border due to the dumping of raw sewage,



agricultural runoff, and industrial and hazardous waste pollution... All streams and rivers in the border region have suffered deterioration of water quality due to the lack of adequate municipal wastewater collection and treatment systems. The current infrastructure deficit is enormous, and the added demand created by growing populations will be significant."

(SCERP report, May 1999)



"Contamination of the Rio Grande River during NAFTA has been well documented.

Extensive testing has revealed that extreme fecal contamination leaves border residents at risk for Hepatitis A. According to the Texas Department of Health, since NAFTA went into effect the Hepatitis A rate for Cameron County shot up from 17.8 per 100,000 residents to 87.4 per 100,000 an increase of almost 400%. The Hepatitis A rate for Maverick County increased by 122% since 1993. Webb County's rate also increased by 78%."

([NAFTA at 5](#), Global Trade Watch)

Air

"According to the EPA, border area residents are exposed to health-threatening levels of air pollutants, including carbon monoxide. The following US border areas exceed ambient air quality standards: El Paso, TX; Dona Ana County, NM; Imperial County, CA; San Diego, CA; Douglas, AZ; Nogales and Yuma, AZ."

([NAFTA at 5](#), Global Trade Watch)

Environmental Health

"The neural tube defect rate per 10,000 babies in Cameron County, TX was 9.08 in 1997 and 19.94 in 1998. This is almost twice the national average."

([The NAFTA Index](#), October 1, 1998)

"The [Texas] Department [of Health] recently declared that, 'the entire border area remains a high-risk area [for neural tube defects] compared to the rest of the US.'"

([NAFTA at 5](#), Global Trade Watch)

Hazardous Waste/Sewage

"Each day, 130 million gallons of industrial waste, agricultural runoff, slaughterhouse remains and raw sewage enter the New River from the Mexicali Valley."

([California NAFTA at 5](#), Global Trade Watch)

"Under NAFTA, maquiladora employment increased by 54% in Ciudad Juárez, spurring significant population growth. Yet Juárez still has no waste treatment facility to treat sewage produced by the 1.3 million people who now live there."

([NAFTA at 5](#), Global Trade Watch)

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Maquiladoras at a Glance: Map Facts



Baja California

No. of Maquiladoras: 1090

No. of Workers: 217,366

Tijuana Factoids:

"Presently Tijuana has 33 industrial parks: 26 in operation, 2 under construction and 5 more in the planning stage." ([Parque Industrial California](#))

"Tijuana is the fourth most populated city in the country, with over one million inhabitants. The city's population growth rate is calculated at 3% annually." ([Parque Industrial California](#))

"More than 22% are involved in electronic equipment and products, 13% are involved in furniture and wood products, about 11% manufacture or assemble articles of plastic and 10% are in the textile/clothing industry." ([SD Source](#), 2/19/1998)

"One out of four actively employed people in Tijuana works for a maquiladora... that more than 15% of Mexico's maquiladora work force is within (roughly) a 30-minute drive from the Otay Mesa border crossing." ([SD Source](#), 2/19/1998)

"Between December 1993 and May 1998, employment in Tijuana's maquiladora manufacturing sector increased by 95%...the latest count puts the number of border maquiladoras at 1947, 37% more than in 1993. In Mexicali it has risen by almost 150%." ([Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch](#))

Companies Operating in Baja

California: Goldstar, Sony, JVC, Mitsubishi, Samsung, Sanyo, Hitachi, Panasonic, Pioneer, Acer, Canon



Sonora

No. of Maquiladoras: 252

No. of Workers: 85,646

Sonora Factoids:

In Sonora, "13 non-North American companies employ 23.11% of the total maquiladora work force." ([Arizona-Mexico Commission](#), May 1997)

"Nogales is Arizona's largest Mexico port of entry, accounting for two-thirds of all commercial traffic entering Arizona from Mexico." ([Arizona Enterprise Communities](#))

Companies Operating in Sonora: Bose, Ford, Daewoo, Acosa, American Safety Razor, Sara Lee, Midcom



Chihuahua

No. of Maquiladoras: 379

No. of Workers: 274,998

Chihuahua Factoids:

"The steady increase in trade between the United States and Mexico, largely due to increased NAFTA-related activity, has caused El Paso-Juárez to be ranked 16th in trade among the largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the United States. 25% of all trade between the US and Mexico cross through El Paso/Juarez border. Population increases in the area are double the national average for El

Paso/Juarez combined." ([1998 Infrastructure Fact Book Industrial Overview](#))

Companies Operating in Chihuahua:

Acer, Toshiba, Zenith



Coahuila

No. of Maquiladoras: 263

No. of Workers: 99,604

Coahuila Factoids:

"Mining is one of the state's most important activities and ranks high at the national level; it includes iron, coal, titanium, feldspar, barium oxide, lead, fluorite and dolomite, and to a lesser extent zinc, gold, silver and natural gas. Coahuila accounts for 36 percent of Mexico's steel production and has therefore spurred the establishment of new automobile plants. Mexican industrial groups such as VITRO have embarked on a dynamic process of internationalization." ([Mexico Online](#))

Companies Operating in Coahuila:

General Motors and Chrysler



Nuevo Leon

No Statistics

Companies Operating in Nuevo Leon:
CYDSA, Visa, Pioneer, Nippon Denso,
Vitromatic

Tamaulipas

No. of Maquiladoras: 351

No. of Workers: 152,276

Tamaulipas Factoids:

"The state's infrastructure for in-bond plants is mostly geared to food processing, electronic parts and accessories, and toy manufacturing, and has the added advantage of a large, skilled workforce. In 1990 in-bond plants generated more than one billion dollars in foreign exchange." ([Mexico Online](#))

"Laredo and Nuevo Laredo thrive on warehousing, services such as Wal-mart'S huge distribution center, and customs brokering for daily two-way traffic of 4,000 loaded trucks across the Rio Grande. The main rail line from Mexico City to the U.S. also transits the border here." ([Business Week](#), 5/12/1997)

Companies Operating in Tamaulipas:
Matsushita, Deltronics, Zenith

Maquiladora Labor Force by Branch of Industry

(data is current as Sept 98, from INEGI - National Institute of Statistics - taken from The Maquiladora Reader)

<i>Branch of Industry</i>	<i># of Maquiladoras</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i># of Employees</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Electrical and electronic accessories and materials	470	15.78	253,730	25.27
Garment assembly and other textile products	832	27.94	205,020	20.42
Construction, reconstruction and assembly of transportation equipment (including accessories)	209	7.02	186,838	18.61
Other manufacturing establishments	451	15.14	114,054	11.36
Assembly of machinery, equipment, and electrical and electronic articles	138	4.63	91,322	9.1
Assembly of furniture and related wood and metal products	342	11.48	47,799	4.76
Service establishments	170	5.71	40,778	4.06
Chemical products manufacture	127	4.26	19,754	1.97
Assembly of toys and sporting goods	61	2.05	13,978	1.39
Selection, preparation, packing and canning of food products	79	2.65	10,675	1.06
Assembly and repair of equipment, tools and components (excluding electrical items)	42	1.41	10,616	1.06
Manufacture of shoes and leather products	57	1.91	9,354	0.93
TOTAL	2978	99.98	1,003,918	99.99