

Mexico



About Mexico

Capital city:

- Mexico City

Monetary Unit:

- Peso (MXN)

Major Language:

- Spanish

Main Exports:

- Manufactured goods
- Automobiles
- Fruit
- Coffee
- Cotton

Natural Resources:

- Petroleum
- Silver
- Natural gas

Our Immigration Services in Mexico

Business Travel – Guidance and assistance with visa applications filed with the Mexican Foreign Ministry via its Embassies & Consulates abroad

Temporary Work Permits for Foreign Nationals – Work Permit applications filed with the National Immigration Institute (INM)

Immigrant Status for Foreign Nationals seeking Permanent Residency – For foreign nationals who will transfer to Mexico for extended assignments or permanent relocation

Basic File – Registrations and updates with INM for Mexican entities that sponsor foreign national employees

The Mexican Economy

Home to over 113 million people, Mexico is a member of the Group of Twenty (G20), party to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Mexico also has free trade agreements with over 50 countries including, Guatemala, Honduras, the European Free Trade Area, and Japan, putting more than 90% of its trade under free trade agreements.

<http://tinyurl.com/yq797j>

Although the global economic downturn and flu epidemic in 2009 negatively impacted Mexico's economy, recent reports indicate recovery. Real GDP grew approximately 5% in 2010 and growth is expected to continue in 2011 and 2012 at approximately 4%, respectively.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Mexico for 2009 was \$14.4 billion. The U.S. was the largest foreign investor in Mexico, accounting for 45% of reported FDI. The Mexican Government estimate of FDI for 2010 is \$15 billion to \$20 billion.

A recent Bloomberg report indicated the Mexican economy expanded 5.5% last year after contracting 6.1% in 2009. Mexico's Finance Ministry forecasts the economy will grow 4.2 percent this year as consumer spending rebounds and exports surge.

<http://tinyurl.com/63hhvza>

For detailed information about Mexico's Economic Outlook, visit the Investment Support Agency's web site at:

<http://tinyurl.com/6gv395w>

Business Travel to Mexico

Foreign nationals who wish to travel to Mexico for business should ensure their passports are valid for at least six months beyond the intended dates of stay and contain at least two blank visa pages. Nationals of some countries, including China and India, may require additional approval from the INM before the visa will be granted. INM pre-adjudication may take approximately four weeks, thus a 60-day lead time for visa processing prior to entry to Mexico, if required, is recommended.

Mexico has recently put in place a new business immigration form called the FMM (Multiple Immigration Form), which replaces the previous tourist and business forms. The FMM permits entry for business travelers who will perform a variety of non-remunerative activities while in Mexico, including commercial exchanges of goods and services; establishment of a foreign capital investment; activities on a professional level as stated in the NAFTA; and board duties for a company legally established in Mexico.

U.S. and Canadian citizens, as well as many EU-state passport holders, may enter Mexico without a visa for business purposes as indicated above. If the stay will involve more than simple business meetings, a visa may be required. The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs maintains an updated list of foreign entry requirements per country at the following web site: <http://tinyurl.com/6kw5jjy>

Living in Mexico

Mexico has long been an attractive relocation destination for retirees and is becoming increasingly attractive for foreign investors. The

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expatriate community is extremely diverse in age, gender and nationalities.

Mexico is the most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world and the second most-populous country in Latin America after Portuguese-speaking Brazil. Although English is spoken in most urban areas, learning Spanish is highly recommended.

Mexican Business Culture

Business dress in Mexico City tends to be somewhat more formal than in other parts of the country.

Although the influence of foreign multinationals cannot be ignored, most indigenous Mexican companies will be hierarchical in structure.

Although English is spoken in major metropolitan areas, printed business materials should be provided in Spanish.

Mexican Work Permit Process

1

Qualifying organizations within Mexico may sponsor foreign nationals for work authorization by submitting a work authorization application with INM

2

Once the work authorization is approved:

If outside of Mexico and a visa is required, the foreign national must apply for a corresponding visa at a Mexican Consulate

- OR -

If within Mexico, the foreign national may be allowed to change or “regularize” their status as a visitor to work permit holder

3

Upon entry to Mexico the foreign national: must complete the FMM immigration form; and will be required to collect their work permit from the local immigration office

How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in Mexico

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including Mexico. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business’ reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration Practice group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: Work Permit and Visa Application preparation and filing; detailed guidance on the visa stamping and

post-entry process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the Mexican Embassy or Consulate abroad and Local Police or Immigration Department may be available.

Generally, only locally registered entities with an immigration basic file in place may sponsor foreign nationals for work permits in Mexico. Further, most businesses are obligated to at least employ 90% of Mexican workers. Thus, if your company’s Mexican office anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at jill.bussey@goellaw.com or +1 703.796.9881.

*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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