U.S. Embassy—Mexico City
Mining Factsheet

Important Facts:

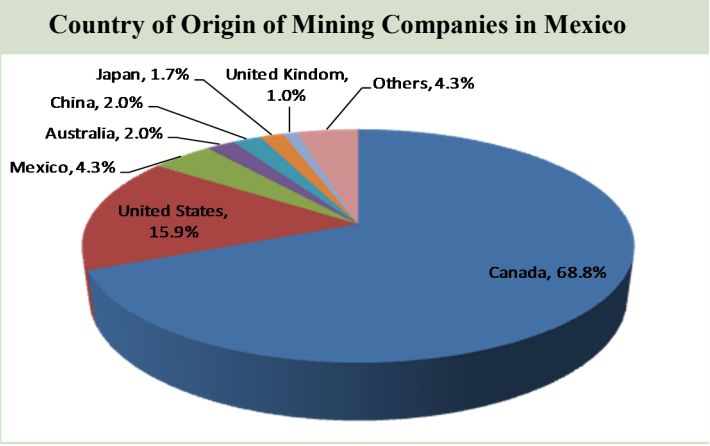
- Mexico's recent fiscal reform imposes a new 7.5% royalty, charged as a percentage of profits, on the mining sector. Gold and silver miners will pay an additional 0.5%.
- According to the Mining Chamber of Mexico, at the end of 2012, the Canadian company Goldcorp remained the largest gold producer in Mexico, extracting 21.5 tons from its three mines.
- The Fresnillo mine in Zacatecas has been in operation since 1554 and is now owned by the Mexican-based company and largest silver producer in the world, Fresnillo Plc.
- The largest producers of gold, silver and copper in Mexico, Frisco, Peñoles and Grupo Mexico, estimated that by 2013 they will have invested $3.2 billion in expansion projects, exploration, maintenance, and new developments.

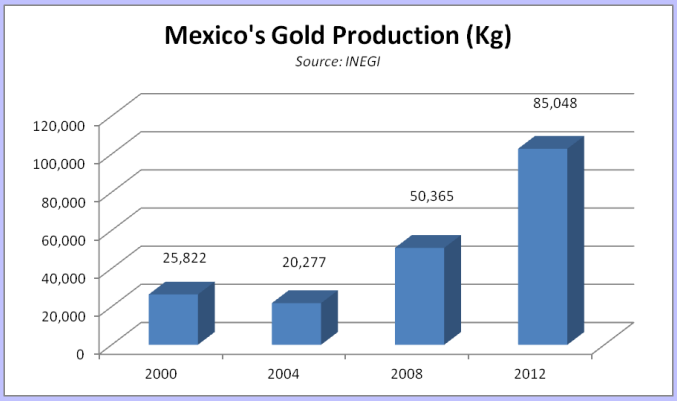
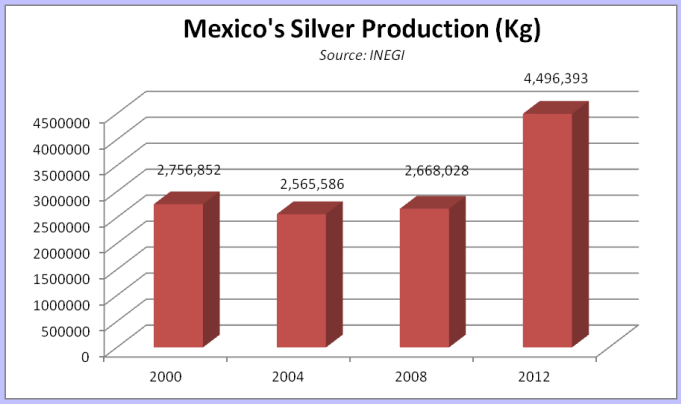
Mexico is the largest silver producer and 11th largest gold producer in the world.

In 2012, the Mexican mining industry generated $22.5 billion dollars in foreign exchange inflows, positioning it as the fourth largest industrial sector after the automotive, electronics, and petroleum sectors. According to Mexico's Mining Chamber (Camimex), the mining sector accounts for 10% of the country's industrial GDP and 3% of its national GDP. Over the last 500 years, Mexico's silver industry has provided almost one-third of the world's silver.

Top Silver Producers, 2012		Top Gold Producers, 2012	
	Million Ounces		Tons
Mexico	162.2	China	403
China	117	Australia	250
Peru	111.3	United States	230
Australia	56.9	Russia	205
Chile/Russia	45	South Africa	170

Mexico's Mining Production, 2012	
Gold	29.2%
Silver	25.3%
Copper	19.6%
Zinc	5.5%
Coke	4.3%
Iron	3.8%
Carbon	2.0%
Source: INEGI	



In November 2013, the highest percentage of gold production in Mexico was concentrated in the state of Sonora, with 28.7% of the national total.

During 2012, 43% of silver production in Mexico was concentrated in the state of Zacatecas, with 2,333,653 kilograms of silver produced.