

**Arab Mexican Chamber of Industry and  
Commerce**



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## CONTACT

15 Abou El Feda Street,  
Zamalek, 11211, Cairo Egypt  
Tel. +202 27 35 78 18  
Mob. + 20 10 2111 6303



## Mexico economy project to expand 2.4% in 2018: Citibanamex

Growth for Mexico as a whole is projected to be 2.4% in 2018, half a percentage point down on the figure recorded from 2010 to 2016, but slightly better than the 2.1% growth anticipated for 2017.

The states of Aguascalientes and Querétaro are on a roll, leading Mexico in economic growth and growing considerably faster than the national average, data from Citibanamex shows.

In its State GDP Growth 2017-2018 report, the financial group said Aguascalientes led with 6.1% annual average growth in the six-year period starting 2010. Automotive manufacturing was the main force behind the strong growth.

Querétaro followed with a 5.1% growth rate, while nationwide the figure was 2.9%.

Querétaro's industrial sector — backed by a construction boom and a strong manufacturing industry focused on the export market — grew by 11.8% and was the single largest impetus for the surge.

The construction industry grew by 28.5% mainly due to the completion of public works while manufacturing increased by 6%, driven by activity in the aeronautical, food and chemical industries.

The economic upturn also created more jobs in the state in 2017, with registrations up 8.3% at the Social Security Institute (IMSS) in the first 11 months of the year, compared to 4.4% nationally.

Aguascalientes is expected to grow by 5.6% in 2018 and Querétaro by 4.9%.

Quintana Roo is projected to be the third best performing state economy in 2018 with 4.5% growth followed by Guanajuato with 4.3% and San Luis Potosí with 4.2%.

While Aguascalientes recorded 6.9% growth in the first half of this year, that figure was only good enough for fourth place nationally.

Baja California Sur recorded the strongest economic growth in the first half of 2017 with a 9.2% jump followed by Puebla with 7.6% and Morelos with 7.5%.



However, its growth is expected to halve to 4.2% next year.

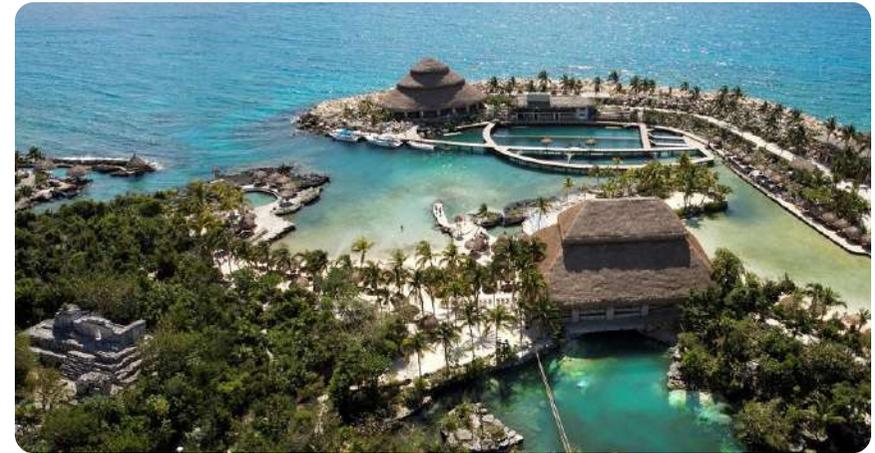
The economies of 30 of Mexico's 32 federal entities are expected to grow this year with only the gulf coast states of Campeche and Tabasco predicted to buck the trend.

The Campeche economy will contract by 6.6% in 2018, according to the Citibanamex forecast, while Tabasco's economy will shrink by a similar figure of 6.3%.

Both states, along with Chiapas, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Oaxaca, Tamaulipas, Tlaxcala and Veracruz, recorded downturns in the first half of 2017 and only Tamaulipas is projected to recover by year's end to show very slight growth of 0.3%.

Growth for Mexico as a whole is projected to be 2.4% in 2018, half a percentage point down on the figure recorded from 2010 to 2016, but slightly better than the 2.1% growth projected for this year.

Source: Mexico News Daily



## **X-caret plans to invest \$705 million pesos in 2018**

The firm that owns Xcaret Park in Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, has announced a 705-million-peso (US \$38-million) investment in upgrades to existing facilities and another theme park.

Experiencias Xcaret vice-president and co-founder Carlos Constandse Madrazo said the amount is 36% more than the company invested last year.

Plans include the installation in the Riviera Maya of the tallest waterslide in Mexico and a new extreme park to be called Xavage. They might also include a second hotel, which would represent an additional investment of over 800 million pesos.



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Contandse said Xcaret's six parks welcomed 3.3 million visitors last year, and that the goal for 2018 is to attract 4 million.

Of last year's visitors 28% were Mexican and the remainder came mainly from the United States, Latin America and Canada.

Opened in 1991, the park employs over 6,100 people and generates an estimated 24,000 additional jobs, and is considered one of the best places to work in the region.

Despite a complex start to last year, Constandse said, the company finished on a positive note.

"Yes, there was fear but not enough time for regret. We're ready to keep on growing."

Source: *El Economista*



## Mexico international tourism breaks records for fifth straight year

The number of international tourist visiting Mexico broke records for a fifth straight year in 2017, despite travel advisories issued by both U.S. and the U.K. warning tourist to avoid some Mexican states and the earthquakes that hit the country in September.

Figures from Mexico's Central Bank (Banxico) indicate that international tourist visiting Mexico spent USD \$ 21,333 amounting the foreign exchange income to a new record.

Last year, the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) placed Mexico in 14th place in the world tourism ranking, thus Enrique de la Madrid Cordero Head of the Ministry of Tourism (Sectur) assured that either this year or next year Mexico could be among the top ten places.



Mexico's National Tourism Business Council (CNET) anticipates that foreign exchange income will amount to USD \$23,087 million in 2018 a new historical maximum for the industry.

Banxico's data showed the number of visitors arriving in the country rose to 39 million.

On average, each tourist spent USD \$5,849 during their stay in Mexico, the lowest expense in three years when the average reached USD \$5,830 dollars.

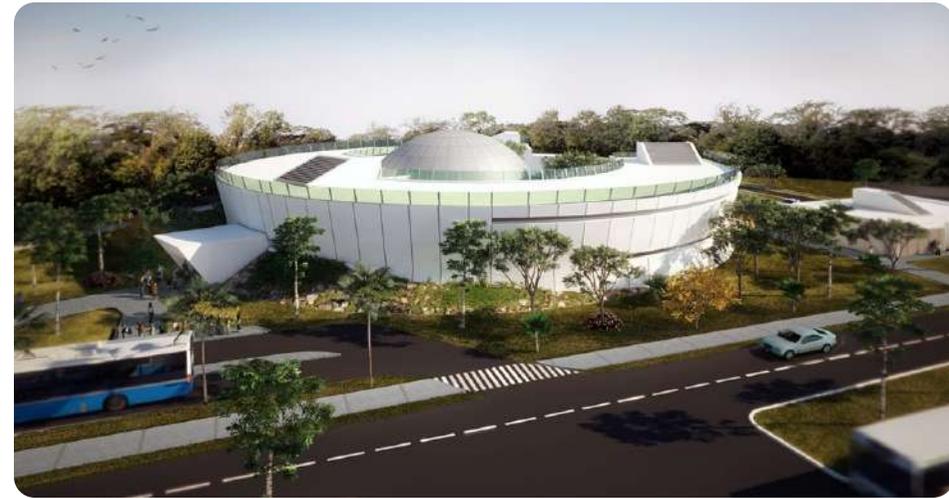
Thus, De la Madrid believes that the development of tourist products, recreational parks, and restaurants is necessary in order to increase foreign expenditure in the country.

Hotel occupancy in the 70 main tourist destinations in Mexico reached a new maximum last year, amounting to 61% according to Sectur.

Beach centers registered 66.7% in hotel occupancy rate while cities presented 56.1%

It should be noted that the tourism industry employed 4,640,000 people directly and over 6 million indirectly in the third quarter of 2017

*Source: El Universal*



## Science Museum to open in Yucatan

At the Science Museum of the Chicxulub Crater, scientist, processors, students, and the general public will be able to find information related to the impactor that hit the Yucatán Peninsula 65 million years ago.

This space - unique in its kind- is intended to become the key center on the research of asteroid impacts and related topics.

During a walkthrough, Yucatan Governor, Rolando Zapata, and the dean of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Enrique Graue, verified the construction progress in which MXN \$ 50 billion are being invested. According to estimate times, the Museum is expected to open in September



The project, located within the Scientific and Technological Park of Yucatán will host the Geophysics Laboratories of the UNAM, reason why it's set to become Mexico's most important research center on Earth Sciences.

The museum will have four main exhibition rooms on the Universe, the Solar System, impact craters, the dinosaur mass extinction, and the biodiversity and culture of Yucatán, including its network of aquifers.

The aim is to boost not only academic and scientific tourism but also to serve as a source of knowledge on environmental awareness.

And of course, the place will be fitted and run with cutting-edge technology. In addition to interactive devices for visitors the building will use information technology to management facility systems.

*Source: El Universal*



## Mexican economy likely grew 0.6 percent in fourth quarter: Reuters poll

Mexico's economy likely bounced back in the final quarter of 2017, lifted by construction work following two devastating earthquakes that dented activity in the July-September period, Reuters poll of analysts showed on Monday.

The median forecast of six analyst was that gross domestic product (GDP) likely grew by 0.6 percent in the October-December period. That compares with a contraction of 0.3 percent in GDP in the previous quarter.

Year on year, the economy likely expanded by 1.7 percent, according to the median prediction of 11 analysts. The survey also showed that the economy would likely grow by 2.3 percent this year, compared with 2.1 percent in 2017.

The Mexican national statistics agency will publish a preliminary estimate for fourth quarter GDP at 0800 a.m on Tuesday. Final figures for the quarter will be published by the agency on Feb. 23

Source: Reuters



## **Qatar petroleum and partners win 5 exploration blocks offshore Mexico**

Qatar Petroleum has won exploration right in 5 offshore blocks in Mexico. The winning bids were announced today by the National Hydrocarbon Commission of Mexico (CNH) at the conclusion of a public bidding session in Mexico City, during which CNH also received the competing bids.

Qatar Petroleum won the exploration rights for block 3,4,6 and 7 in the Perdido basin as part of a consortium comprising Shell (operator with a 60% interest) and Qatar Petroleum (with a 40% interest).

Qatar Petroleum also won the exploration rights for block 24 in the Campeche basin as part of a consortium comprising Eni (operator with a 65% interest) and Qatar Petroleum (with a 35% interest)

Mr. Saad Sherida Al Kaabi, the President & CEO of Qatar Petroleum welcomed the announcement of the winning bids, which he said was a clear example of the important role Qatar Petroleum plays in the global oil and gas industry.

Mr. Al-Kaabi said "Winning these offshore exploration blocks in Mexico, which contain some of the most promising hydrocarbon prospects in the world, is an important achievement for Qatar Petroleum. It represents another step in implementing our strategy to expand our international footprint, and to pursue Latin America as an important core are for Qatar Petroleum."

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mexican authorities for the transparent and efficient process and our partners Shell and ENI for their excellent collaboration on this opportunity" Mr. Al-Kaabi concluded.

The exploration blocks were offered as part of the Mexico deep water Round 2, Phase 4 bid round, which covered 29 blocks in the Perdido, Campeche and Mexican Ridges areas in the Gulf of Mexico.

The relevant legal agreements, including the concession agreements, are expected to be signed between the Mexican authorities and the various winning entities by May of this year.



## BENEFITS AND SERVICES

BE PART OF THE ONLY MEXICAN ORGANIZATION WITH MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF EXPERTISE LINKING MEXICAN AND ARAB COMPANIES



Direct contact with Mexican businessmen interested in Arab products.



Trade and economic reports in order to provide up to date information on business opportunities.



Personalized consulting for each of our members.



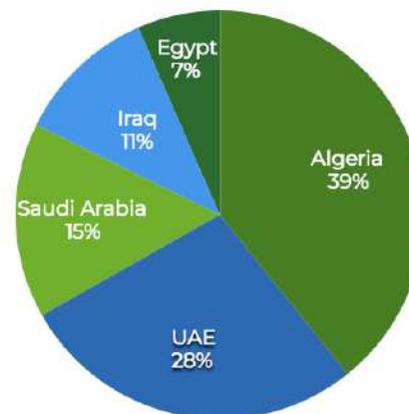
Conferences and workshop on trade, business and economic topics, in order to strengthen economic ties.

CAMIC has a broad network of businessmen, companies and gubernamental bodies that will facilitate your incursion in the market.

## TRADE STATISTICS

MEXICO-ARAB COUNTRIES  
DECEMBER, 2017

MAIN EXPORT PARTNERS



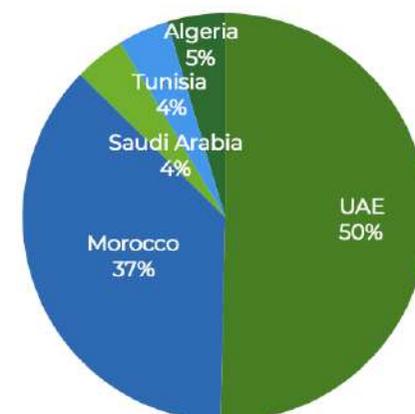
TOTAL EXPORTS:  
USD \$106,525

MONTHLY DECREASE  
9.7%

Main exported products

Vehicles  
Oil  
Refrigerators  
Medicaments  
Chickpeas  
Iron or steel tubes

MAIN IMPORT PARTNERS



TOTAL IMPORTS:  
USD \$122,823

MONTHLY INCREASE  
16%

Main imported products

Aluminium  
Chemicals  
Integrated Circuits  
Plastics  
Clothes  
Books



## TRADE FAIRS



The Annual Investment Meeting is the world's leading and most established gathering of the international investment community, leading academics and experts showcasing up-to-date information, strategies and knowledge on attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

The event offers a truly knowledge-based forum with cutting edge information on the latest developments in foreign direct investment and related issues. It serves as a unique platform to meet, network

Included in its 8th Edition are the following features: Conference, International Exhibition, Capacity Building Workshop, AIM Startup, Investment Awards, AIM Connect, Investors' Hub, Country Presentations, and Online/Onsite Business Matchmaking. The eighth edition of the Annual Investment Meeting will be held on 9-11 April 2018 at the Dubai World Trade Centre. The theme is "Linking Developed and Emerging Markets through FDI: Partnership for Inclusive Growth & Sustainable Development"

### THE GREEN EXPO 2018

**Date:** September, 2018  
**Place:** Mexico City



**Why attend?:** In its first 25 years, The Green Expo celebrates presenting solutions and technologies focused on strengthening the biological cycle and industrial cycles of environment within an effective business showcase.

For more information: [www.thegreenexpo.com.mx](http://www.thegreenexpo.com.mx)

### EXPO CIHAC 2018

**Date:** May, 2018  
**Place:** Mexico City



**Why attend?:** The best business opportunities with over 570 exhibitors offering their innovations on architecture, sustainability, energy efficiency in 430,000 square feet making countless connections with key industrial players.

For more information: [www.thegreenexpo.com.mx](http://www.thegreenexpo.com.mx)