

**Arab Mexican Chamber of Industry and
Commerce**



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La Costeña to invest about USD\$800 million in 2018

Following his introduction, Ambassador Jorge Álvarez Fuentes, General Director for Africa and the Middle East at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, gave a welcome message highlighting the boom period of Mexico's relationship with these countries and the work the Mexican government has done to venture into the region.

Subsequently, the Deputy Director General of Trade and Investment Promotion of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), Tomás Olvera López, highlighted the efforts of CAMIC, COMCE and Bancomext, to carry out initiatives that help position Mexico as an exporting power.

In the first presentation on "Commercial Opportunities in the Arabian Peninsula and Support Mechanisms of ProMéxico", Héctor Martínez Elizondo, Director of the Asian region department of ProMéxico, presented some characteristics of the region as well as sectors with potential for Mexican products.

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BMW eyeing electric car production in Mexico

The BMW's plant in San Luis Potosi, Mexico is currently in the final phase of construction. According to the German company, they have installed in this township a "flexible" production line capable of manufacturing any unit of their portfolio as a part of their goal of increase their global production of electrified units to a half a million in the short term.

In the BMW AG Annual Result Conference the Production Manager has mentioned that the general production of the German automaker in San Luis Potosí will be able to start in 2019 and -in particular- its production of 3 series Sedan, in that site, will start in April of that year. Furthermore, he has stressed out that the initial plan of the company is to manufacture vehicles with internal combustion but manufacture electric units would be possible also in the future.

For BMW, the production of electrified vehicles has been crucial for the reason that the company has been committed with the objective of offering "sustainable mobility to people". According to that Harald Krüger, the CEO of the company, explained that the iX3 SUV will be revealed to the market in 2020, and the first electrified MINI in 2019.

But in the short term, the company pointed out that the market will see the BMW i8 Roadster and the i8 Coupé on May of this year in order to contribute to the sale of 140 thousand electrified units. In addition, the German automaker expects to increase the sales of electric units and for that reason in 2021 they will be able to launch the iNext, which is a unit that combines autonomy in driving, connectivity, and electrification.

Last but not least in the framework of the conference the company mentioned the importance of this type of vehicles for the environment and the importance of the annual investments in research and development.

Source: El Universal



Mexico's Pemex to operate two shallow water projects with partners

It is known that the national oil company Petroleos Mexicanos has won seven of the 35 of blocks offered in terms of individual bidder or in consortia. For these seven contracts the Mexican oil company expects to invest an amount of around \$300 million in a phase that would last a four-year exploration.

Of these new blocks, the Chief of Exploration of PEMEX pointed out that the company plans to start the operation of at least two of them with partners in a shallow water auction on Tuesday.

It is important to mention that of these six blocks that PEMEX won – in consortia-, the company will be the operator in just two of them (Block 18 and 32) and in the rest the operation will be done by other important partners such as: BP (operator in the block 34 with 45.5% stake), PanAmerican, France's Total (operator in the block 33 with a 50% stake); and Cepsa.



Source: Reuters



Amazon to launch first debit card in Mexico

According to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Inegi), through the Entrepreneurial Confidence Indicator (ICE), has established the consumer's trust in the manufacturing industry at 50.4 points during last January, a figure that represents an increase of 0.6 points in relation to December of 2017, according to seasonally adjusted series.

Within the manufacturing industry there was an improvement in business confidence in almost all the subsectors. Amongst the most important and best rated are the oil and coal derivatives, chemical, plastic and rubber industries; food, beverages and tobacco; non-metallic and metallic basic minerals; Computer equipment, electronic accessories and electrical appliances; transportation equipment; as well as that of metal products, machinery, equipment and furniture.

On the other hand, the Business Confidence Indicator for Construction was 46.6 points in December 2017, with an increase of 0.2 points compared to the previous month.

According to the Inegi, the ICE is prepared with the results of the Monthly Survey of Business Opinion (EMOE), which allow to know, almost immediately after the end of the reference month, the opinion of the business managers of the manufacturing sector, construction and trade on the economic situation that occurs both in the country and in its companies.



Amazon-Mexico



Mexico finance ministry holds 2018 growth outlook, sees stronger 2019

The German investment firm said in a statement that Mexico is one of their five priority nations to invest worldwide, so it will channel efforts and resources to the adoption of industry 4.0, dual education, innovation laboratories and support for medium and small businesses.

Siemens executives said that there will be a package of 200 million dollars that will go to Mexico in the next 10 years and that it will serve to boost the technological modernization of the country and social development.

Source: Reuters



Mexican banks to issue cards for the Metro System

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Source: El Universal



Mexico private sector leader sees positive signs on NAFTA

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said on March 5 that negotiators had a matter of weeks to reach an agreement “in principle,” and last week industry sources said the U.S. team had withdrawn one of its most contentious demands.

The head of Canada’s Unifor union, Jerry Dias, and others said that Washington had dropped its insistence that all autos made in NAFTA countries have 50 percent U.S. content.

Moises Kalach, head of the international negotiating arm of the CCE business lobby, which represents the Mexican private sector at the talks, said that news had fueled hopes that a deal on NAFTA might be attainable.

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The head of Canada’s Unifor union, Jerry Dias, and others said that Washington had dropped its insistence that all autos made in NAFTA countries have 50 percent U.S. content.

Moises Kalach, head of the international negotiating arm of the CCE business lobby, which represents the Mexican private sector at the talks, said that news had fueled hopes that a deal on NAFTA might be attainable.

“There are positive signs that there is the will, and that the window of opportunity we were looking at, is happening,” he told Reuters by telephone.

Kalach said the United States had yet to put forward a revised proposal for autos, and that it remained to be seen whether U.S. negotiators would drop other “toxic” demands. *Source: Reuters*

However, if negotiators could conclude around eight NAFTA chapters that were close to completion, it would make it easier to focus on the sticking points, he added.

“It gets that off the table. And if there really is the will to get an agreement in principle on the other issues, it’ll be in the coming weeks,” he said. “One needs to be prepared for that.”



Major differences of opinion remain on NAFTA, and Mexican officials have for months been looking forward to close sections of the revamped accord that are still unresolved.

Among those bones of contention are Washington's desire to limit access to its agricultural markets, to impose a so-called sunset clause that could automatically kill NAFTA after five years and proposed changes to dispute-resolution mechanisms.

Dias of Unifor, a critic of NAFTA who has close ties to Ottawa's negotiators, said he was skeptical about a deal in principle being agreed with so many issues outstanding.



"I heard the United States was looking for an agreement in principle to work out the details later," he told Reuters. "What I understand is that it got no traction because I had spoken to the Canadian team and we almost had a chuckle over it."

Neither the Canadian nor the Mexican government had any immediate comment.

U.S. President Donald Trump says NAFTA has boosted Mexican manufacturing at the expense of U.S. workers, and he has vowed to dump the accord if it is not reworked to his liking.

Source: Reuters





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.



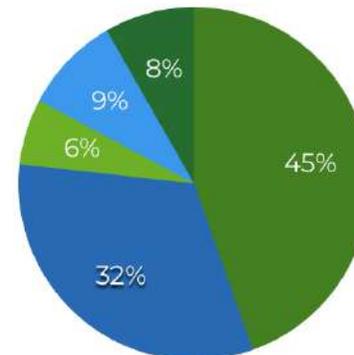
Conferences and workshop on trade, business and economic topics, in order to strengthen economic ties.

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

TRADE STATISTICS

MEXICO-ARAB COUNTRIES FEBRUARY, 2018

MAIN EXPORT PARTNERS



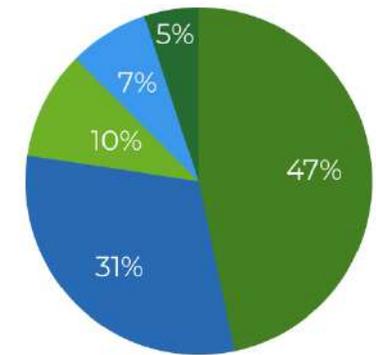
TOTAL EXPORTS:
USD \$75,971 MD

MONTHLY DECREASE
22.2%

Main exported products

Casing tubes
Vehicles
Chickpeas
Machineries
Electronics

MAIN IMPORT PARTNERS



TOTAL IMPORTS:
USD \$127,472 MD

MONTHLY INCREASE
46.7%

Main imported products

Aluminium
Glass
Books
Polypropylenes
Phospates
Acides



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"

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Why attend?: The event is the primary gathering for leading metal manufacturers in Mexico and will bring over 575 exhibitors to the show floor. Over 13,000 attendees will converge to find solutions, network, learn and experience first-hand the latest innovations in the metal forming, fabricating, welding and finishing industries.

For more information: mexico.fabtechexpo.com

ExpoMED México

Date: June, 2018

Place: Mexico City



Why attend?: With a sustained 30% annual growth, ExpoMED is nowadays recognized as the main networking platform for B2B connections between industry, experts, potential buyers, and healthcare professionals.

For more information: www.thegreenexpo.com.mx