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Study Of 50 Large Maquiladora Plants Shows Average 60% Of Export Revenues Repatriated Via Input Imports

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Results of a recent survey of 50 of the country's largest maquiladora plants showed that of $3.19 billion in export revenues earned last year, $1.89 billion (nearly 60%) were repatriated via importing inputs from respective home offices. The maquiladoras, of course, also repatriated capital via the usual mechanisms, such as profits, dividends and royalty and technical assistance payments. The study was conducted by the Industrial Development and Trade Secretariat (SECOFI) and the Banco de Mexico. In some cases, the import-export ratio was much higher than 60%. For 16 firms included in the survey, the import-export ratio ranged between 80% and 100%. In five of the 47 cases for which complete information was available, imported input costs were greater than export revenues. The ratio was less than 20% in only four cases. Mexico's biggest maquiladora operation, car radio assembler Deltonicos de Matamoros, spent 94.6 cents on imported inputs for every dollar earned from exports. (Source: El Financiero, 11/13/90)

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