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## **280,000 Coffee Producers Face Bankruptcy**

*by Steven Ranieri*

*Category/Department: General*

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According to a report published in daily newspaper Uno Mas Uno (09/04/91), Mexico is the fourth largest coffee producer world-wide, with an annual output of about 6 million 60-kg. sacks. Coffee export revenue totals about \$525 million per year. At present, about 280,000 coffee producers are facing bankruptcy. Most are indigenous persons, who survive on 2 million pesos (\$660) or less per year. Coffee growers say the financial crisis affecting the industry is the result of insufficient credit, adverse weather conditions, collapse of the international quota system (International Coffee Agreement) and corresponding price declines, the government's economic austerity program, and termination of production loans and storage services by the Mexican Coffee Institute. At present, about 3 million Mexicans are employed in the coffee industry. Coffee plantations are cultivated on 744,000 ha. in 12 states.

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