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## **Foreign Trade Bank Projects Increase in Loans in 1994**

*by LADB Staff*

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The National Foreign Trade Bank (Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior, Bancomext) in early February announced the allocation of US\$18 billion for 1994 in financing destined to promote Mexican exports and to assist companies affected by imports. The amount allocated for 1994 is 15% higher than last year. According to Adalberto Zuniga Gomez, Bancomext director for financial programs, the Bancomext financing is expected to benefit about 20,000 businesses throughout Mexico this year, up from 14,000 firms last year.

Zuniga said loans will be provided for such purposes as purchase of capital equipment and expansion of production- related areas. To finance its export promotion operations, Bancomext on Jan. 21 announced an issue of US\$1 billion in bonds on various international markets. The bonds, which mature in 10 years, carry a yield of 163 points above 10-year US Treasury bonds. The bond issue is being handled mainly through US-based financial services firms Goldman, Sachs & Co., and Merrill Lynch.

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