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LADB Staff

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Maquiladoras Continue to Rely Almost Entirely on Imported Components

by LADB Staff

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In late March, the government's statistics agency (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática, INEGI), reported that maquiladora plants in Mexico relied on imports for more than 98% of the components used in the final assembled product. The over 2,000 maquiladora plants which operate in Mexico spent about 55.9 billion nuevo pesos (US\$16.6 billion) for parts in 1993, an increase of 20% from 1992.

In response to the negligible amount of purchases from domestic sources, the National Council for the Maquiladora Industry (Consejo Nacional de la Industria Maquiladora, CNIM) in February unveiled a plan to promote the creation of industrial establishments in Mexico which would be exclusively designed to produce supplies for maquiladora operations.

According to the INEGI statistics, 541,233 workers were employed at maquiladora plants as of year-end 1993, a significant increase from 1992. The report said that since 1992, the number of male employees at these plants increased by 10.4%, while the number of female workers grew by 5.5%. The statistics also indicated that the total workforce in the maquiladora sector last year represented less than 2.2% of the nation's Economically Active Population.

In addition, INEGI also reported that a total of 2,195 maquiladora plants were operating in Mexico as of year-end 1993, a net increase of 68 since year-end 1992. Of the total, the highest numbers were involved in assembly of electronics, textiles, furniture and accessories, and a variety of other manufactured products. The states of Chihuahua, Baja California, Tamaulipas, Coahuila, and Sonora accounted for more than 85% of all workers employed by maquiladora operations.

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