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## **Mexico's Trade Surplus Surpasses US\$6 Billion in First Eleven Months of 1996**

*by LADB Staff*

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According to government statistics published in early January, Mexico attained a trade surplus of US\$6.1 billion in January-November of 1996, as exports and imports both increased from a year ago. The statistics released jointly by the Finance Secretariat (SHCP), the Banco de Mexico (central bank), and the statistics agency (Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas, Geografía e Informática (INEGI) showed exports in the first 11 months of the year totaled US\$87.5 billion, an increase of 20% from the same period in 1995.

Of the total exports during the 11-month period, about US\$73.3 billion involved manufactured products, an increase of 20.4% from January-November of 1995. Exports of agricultural products totaled US\$3.2 billion, while those from the petroleum sector reached US\$10.5 billion during the period. The data said imports in January-November were reported at US\$81.4 billion, an increase of 23% from the same period in 1995. Intermediate goods accounted for US\$65.7 billion of the total imports, compared with US\$5.9 billion for consumer products and US\$9.7 billion for capital goods. (Source: La Jornada, 12/23/96)

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