

# Doing Business in Mexico & Canada







# Speakers



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### Why México?

Mexico is Latin America's second-largest economy after Brazil. With a total of 12 free trade agreements with 46 countries, its top export destinations are the United States, Canada, Germany, China, South Korea, Colombia, and Brazil.

Mexico is in the Top 15 countries with the largest territorial extension. Its vast privileged natural resources and geographical position make it one of the most attractive investment destinations.





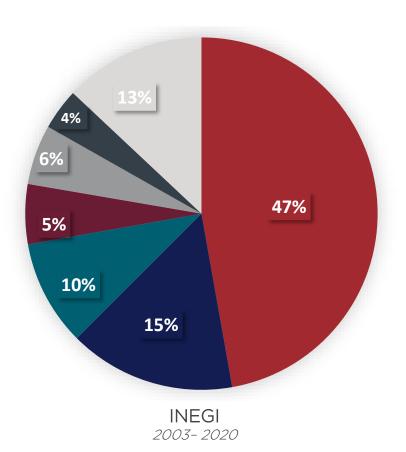


# 2nd

**Mexico is Latin America's** second-largest economy after Brazil.







### Principal investments in Mexico per sector

- Manufacturing
- Financial services and insurances
- Commerce
- Mass media information
- Mining
- Water, gas, and electricity generation





Mexico is a member of these trade agreements, among others:

12

free trade agreements with 46 countries.



**USMCA:** United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

**OECD:** The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The G20: The Group of 20. The primary forum for deliberations on international and economic policies.

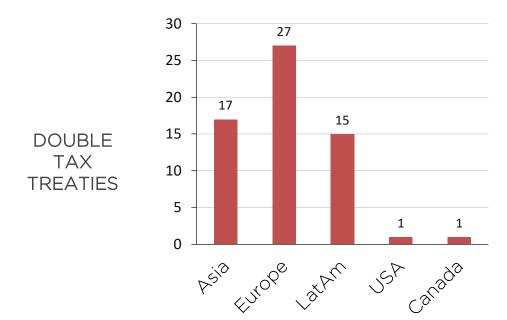
The Pacific Alliance: made up of Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru.

FTA EU-MX: The Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and the European Union.

**EFTA**: The European Free Trade Association with Mexico.

**CPTPP**: The Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.





Mexico has in force 62 tax treaties to avoid double taxation and to reduce withholding rates.

# Requirements in Mexico to apply the benefits of Double Tax Treaties.

- Certification of the taxpayer's residence abroad.
- Compliance with tax obligations.
- ISSIF or Tax Report
   obligations. Manifestation
   of foreign taxpayer, for
   operations between related
   parties.



# Canada A Snapshot

- Population: 39 million
- GDP per capita: US\$55k
- Key industries:
  - Energy (oil & gas, petroleum)
  - Automobile
  - Manufacturing
  - Mining
  - Banking & financial services
  - Food processing
  - Agriculture
- Best hockey team in the world



# Investing in Canada, Eh?

 Ranked 3rd in the world in quality of life & highest amongst G7 nations (US News, 2023)

• One of the most educated workforces in the world (Statistics Canada 2022, Newsweek 2021, OECD 2018)

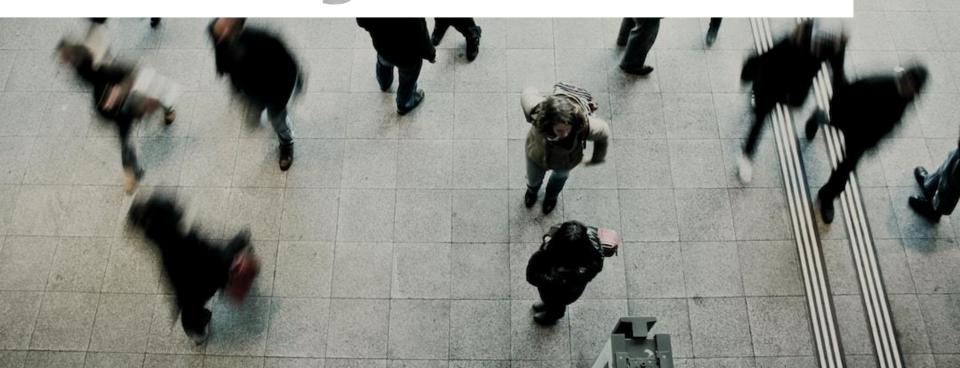
- One of most stable banking systems in the world (World Economic Forum)
- Lowest business cost in digital, research & development, manufacturing & corporate services (Invest in Canada)



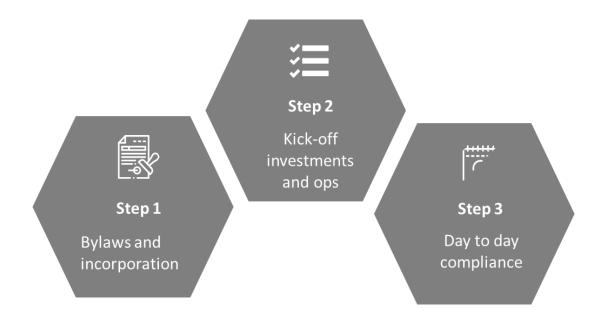




# Venturing into Mexico



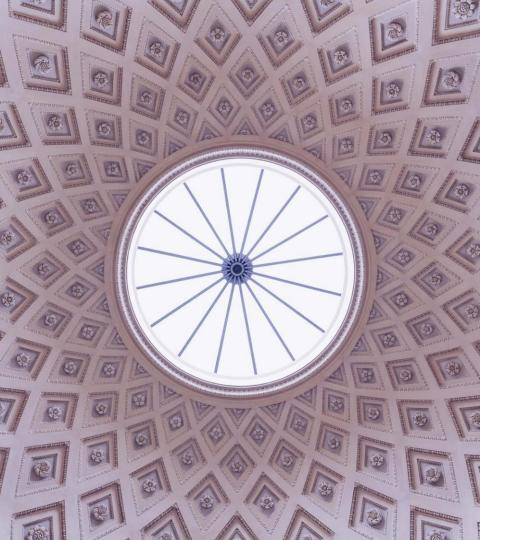
## Venturing into Mexico











# Types of business corporations

Limited Liability Company

(Acronym in spanish: Sociedad de responsabilidad limitada / S. de R.L.).

Most common used by foreign investor.

Corporation entity

(Acronym in Spanish: Sociedad anónima / S.A.)

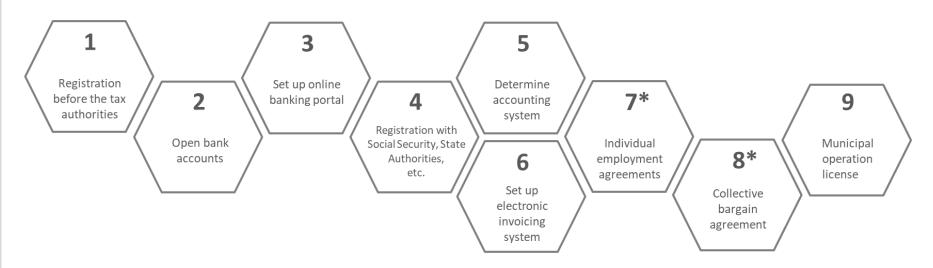
- Others S.A.P.I. (dividend payments)
- Trust & Joint Venture agreemnts



## Start-up items

### **Accounting and Tax Advisor**





<sup>\*</sup>Most of these steps are carried out by external counsel and tax advisors









### Income Tax

- Corporate tax rate 30%
- Worldwide taxable income
- Tax payment procedure- monthly and annually
- Profit ratio for calculating estimated monthly payments
- Revenue recognition
  - When issuing an invoice
  - When providing a service or delivering goods
  - o Collection (totally or partially paid)
- Authorized Deductions
  - Cost of sales
  - o Depreciation of assest
  - o Foreign charges (royalties, interests, management fees, intercompany charges)
  - o Others







### Dividend tax rate

There is a 10% withholding for dividend payments:

- It would not apply to profits generated prior to 2014.
- Applies to the distribution of dividends made by Mexican companies to Mexican individuals and foreign shareholders, not to other Mexican companies.
- Treaties for avoiding double taxation would allow a tax exemption or the application of a lower rate (subject to compliance with requirements).





## Employee Profit Sharing (PTU)

- In accordance with the Federal Labor Law, companies are obligated to distribute 10% of their net earnings generated during the year to their employees.
- No later than May 31 of the immediately subsequent year.
- As of August 1, 2021, derived from the Labor Reform in Mexico, it was established that the workers' PTU payments shall not exceed either:
  - o Three months of the worker's salary, or
  - o The average of the worker's last three years' salary.

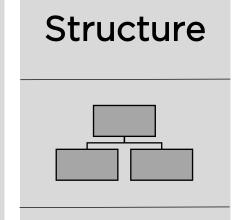


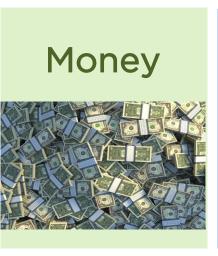




# **Key Considerations**



















## Structure

Common Legal Entities & Arrangements for Business in Canada

- Limited liability corporation (e.g., Limited, Ltd., Inc., etc.)
- Unlimited liability corporation (ULC)
- Partnership (limited partnership & general partnership)
- Joint venture

# Structure Canadian Tax

- Federal & provincial income tax generally between 25% to 27%
- Withholding tax / branch tax (5% to 25%)
- Goods & services tax, harmonized sales tax & provincial sales tax
- Social security (CPP & EI)
- Other provincial taxes (employer health, etc.)





# People

### Canadian Employees of Canadian Entity

- Employment agreements
- CRA payroll account & remittances

# Foreign Employees of Canadian Entity Working in Canada

- Employment agreements
- Check immigration/visa requirements
- CRA payroll account & remittances
- Tax implications & reporting for employee





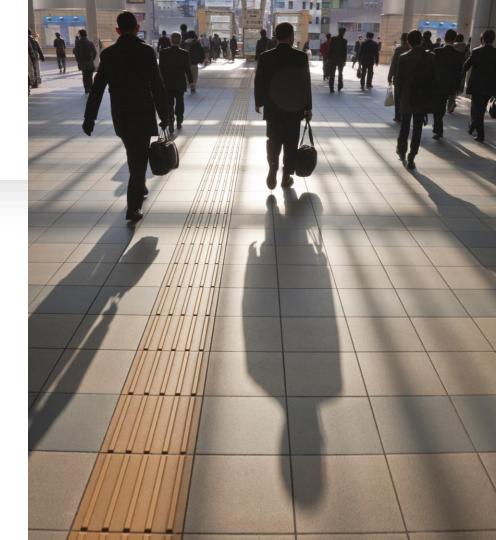
# People

Foreign Employees of Foreign Employer Temporarily Working in Canada

- CRA payroll account
- Reg. 102 Canadian employer withholding tax obligations & RC473 blanket waiver
- Reg. 105 Canadian withholding tax on non-residents performing services in Canada & waiver
- Transfer pricing considerations & intercompany agreements / secondment arrangement







## Goods & Services

- Goods & Services Tax (GST) / Harmonized Sales
   Tax (HST) & Provincial Sales Tax
  - Federal GST registration & set-up
  - Provincial HST & sales tax registrations & set-up
  - o Rates vary depending on province
- Customs & duties
- Transfer pricing / intercompany arrangements









### How to invest in a Mexican company? **Support documentation**





Capital increase

- Minutes of assembly
- Effective payment
- Increase of tax attribute CUCA



Contribution for future capital increase

- Minutes of assembly
- •Effective payment
- Possible divestment
- Annual inflationary effect



Debt

- Agreement
- Determination of interest at market value
- •Interest deductibility limits
- Witholding

# Local rules



CFC RulesREFIPRES	Transparent entities 4A MITL Mexico as Source	Transparent entities 4B MITL Mexico as Residence
Income subject to preferential tax regimes is considered to be income that is not taxed abroad or is taxed at an income tax rate lower than 75% of the income tax that would be payable in Mexico (22.5%).	Entities of this nature will be subject to domestic tax provisions and will have tax liabilities and obligations equivalent to those of entities resident in the country.	Residents in Mexico and residents abroad with a permanent establishment in the country for the income attributable to the same. Are obligated to pay the tax in accordance with this Law, for the income they obtain through foreign tax transparent entities in the proportion that corresponds to them for their participation in them.
a) UBO Mexican Tax Residentb) Foreing resident lower rate % IT.	It grants the treatment of opaque entities in Mexico for purposes of the Mexican Income Tax Law.	CFC rules for transparent entities.

## How to divest / return of capital?



### Capital redemption

- Taxable or not depending on the application of the capital reduction rules IT Law.
- Reduction in excess of the company's tax attribute balances (CUFIN and CUCA).



### Dividends

- Free of IT balance of the Net Tax
   Profit Account (CUFIN).
- Sufficient retained earnings in accounting.
- Cash flow in monetary assets.
- Any distribution in excess of the CUFIN account will be subject to IT.
- Withholding tax (shareholder resident abroad or individual).



### Foreign payment

- Agreement
- Possible witholding.
- Double Tax Treaty analysis.
- Support documentation.
- Documentation benchmarking.



# Money Financing Canadian Businesses

- Intercompany debt
  - Interest deductibility
  - Withholding tax generally applicable on interest on crossborder debt
  - Transfer pricing
  - Legal documentation
- Third-party debt
  - Interest deductibility
  - Generally, no withholding tax
- Equity
  - Legal documentation





# Money Repatriation

### **Intercompany Debt**

- Generally, no restriction on repayment
- Foreign exchange gains/losses
- Receivables potentially subject to withholding tax - need to manage timing of repayment





# Money Repatriation

## **Equity**

- Return of paid-up capital not subject to withholding tax
- Withholding tax on dividends







# Investment incentives México



### Foreign Investment Incentives



### IMMEX program and its VAT and IEPS certification

The Manufacturing, Maquiladora and Export Services Industry program (IMMEX), authorized by the Economic Secretariat, allows temporary imports of merchandise or

machinery with production processes and/or services to export merchandise or provide export services with the main benefit of not paying or deferring the general import tax.

When the VAT and IEPS Certification, authorized by the SAT, complement the IMMEX program, it allows not to pay the Value Added Tax (VAT) for temporary imports, and the tax authority grants a credit of 100% of the tax that must be paid for VAT.

The authority has created the IMMEX program and the VAT and IEPS certification to promote the establishment of companies in Mexico, granting administrative and tax benefits, among which we can list:

Authorization	Benefit
	Exempt compliance with Official Mexican Standards in temporary importation.
	Decrease of duties' payment at import customs.
	Import of supplies and machinery under the temporary regime.
IMMEX Program	The import tariff will not be paid for goods to be exported, only goods remaining in Mexico or regulated in Treaties.
	Possibility of applying the benefits in the Income Tax (In Spanish: ISR) under the Safe Harbor scheme (minimum income tax).
VAT and IEPS certification	Exception from the payment of value-added tax on imports (credit application to be settled at the time of exporting the good)
Certification	Special administrative procedures for the swift exit of merchandise from customs.



### Foreign investment incentives

# Sectoral Promotion Programs, [in Spanish: PROSEC]

The Sectoral Promotion Programs (PROSEC) are aimed at companies producing certain goods or machinery allowing them to import various goods for their use in the manufacturing of specific products with preferential ad-Valorem tariffs (General Import Tax), regardless of whether the goods to produce are for export or domestic market.

## Refund of Import Taxes to Exporters, DRAWBACK

Offers the possibility of obtaining a General Import Tax refund paid for the goods incorporated into export merchandise.

# Trusted Trader (Authorized Economic Operator), AEO

This program seeks to strengthen the foreign trade logistics chain by implementing recognized international security standards. Some of its benefits are the extension of the

permanence of temporary merchandise, use of FAST lanes at customs, fewer reds at customs, priority given to AEO companies in the event of contingencies, elimination of import documentation, and petition rectifications without the need for authorization, among others.

### Free trade agreements

Mexico has a network of 14 Free Trade Agreements with more than 50 countries allowing the import of goods originating from these countries with preferential import tariffs and, in some treaties, no payment of customs duties (DTA). Using the treaties when a product qualifies as originating to export will grant benefits to be more competitive in the destination country by taking advantage of the tariff benefits.





### Tax & Industry Incentives

- Federal scientific research & experimental development tax credit
- Federal & provincial accelerated tax depreciation for manufacturing
- Other federal incentive (e.g., clean energy)
- Regional incentives
  - Investment & innovation tax credits
  - Capital investment
- Industry specific incentives
  - Film, multi-media & digital, farming, fishing, etc.







## Thank You! Gracias!