

# Mexico in Brief

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## ALFA UNEARTHS NATURAL GAS IN TEXAS.

Mexican-based *Grupo Alfa*, along with its partner *Pioneer Natural Resources Company*, recently announced their finding of two sites with a high production of natural gas in the vicinity of San Antonio, Texas. *Alfa* additionally announced that it plans to: (i) invest approximately U.S.\$307 million in 2010 to drill 20 additional sites, and (ii) increase its investments in natural gas by approximately U.S.\$200 million annually. The group's primary goal is to fulfill its companies' natural gas requirements; any surplus would be sold in the United States.

## INVESTMENT CHURNING IN NUEVO LEON.

*Gamesa Quaker*, a subsidiary of U.S.-based *Pepsi Co.*, recently announced that it will invest approximately U.S.\$30 million in a development center for their baked products in the Investigation and Technological Innovation Park in the State of Nuevo Leon; Mexican conglomerate *Xignux* also recently announced that it will invest approximately U.S.\$23 million in the development of three centers to be located in the same Park. In other news, German-based *Continental AG*, in conjunction with its Mexican tire distributor *Jasman Automotriz*, recently inaugurated its first tire renovating plant in the Mexican State of Nuevo Leon, the companies plan to open 13 additional plants within the next two years.

## PRAXAIR ANNOUNCES INVESTMENT IN MEXICO.

*Praxair Mexico*, a subsidiary of U.S.-based *Praxair Technology Inc.*, recently announced that it will invest approximately U.S.\$150 million in Mexico during 2010, generating 150 new direct job positions. The investment will fund diverse projects, among them the construction of several manufacturing plants in the Mexican States of Nuevo Leon, Hidalgo and Tamaulipas. The company is currently analyzing new investment opportunities in the country for the next five years.

## PEMEX DISCOVERS TWO NEW OIL RESERVES.

Mexican government-controlled *Petróleos Mexicanos*, or *PEMEX*, recently announced the discovery of two new oil reserves with a capability of producing 150,000 barrels daily. *Ayatsi*, the biggest of the recently discovered oil reserves, is estimated to contain 590 million barrels of crude oil and is located in the Mexican State of Campeche. *Tsimin*, which is located in the Mexican State of Tabasco, is estimated to contain 305 million barrels of crude oil and 13.8 million cubic feet of natural gas. *Pemex* will issue an official announcement regarding the sites on March 18, 2010; production on both sites is expected to initiate in 2012.

## WALMART CONQUERS MEXICO.

*Wal-Mart de Mexico*, a subsidiary of U.S.-based *Wal-Mart Stores Inc.*, recently announced that it will invest approximately U.S.\$962 million in 2010, generating approximately 7,000 new job positions. The investment is mainly targeted to the opening of 300 new stores from their diverse business units such as: *Bodega Aurrerá*, *Mi Bodega Aurrerá*, *Bodega Aurrerá Express*, *Walmart*, *Superama*, *Sam's Club*, *Suburbia Stores* and *Vips' Restaurants*. The company's aggressive plan will be close to the equivalent of opening one store per day.

## THE UPRISING AND RENOVATION OF TOURIST DESTINATIONS.

The investment fund *Rasaland Investors plc* recently announced its investment of approximately U.S.\$1 billion in the Mexican State of Jalisco in a project called Chalacatepec. The upcoming exclusive tourist destination, set to begin construction on July 2011, will harbor a maximum of three hotels, apartment complexes and residences. In other news, the Huatulco area will undergo a three year renovation plan with an investment of approximately U.S.\$147 million. The investment is mainly targeted to several construction projects, including a marina, shopping plaza, apartment complexes, residences, and an expansion of its local airport.

## Business Summary for February 2010

### Stock Exchange Index (BMV)

31,634.54

4.09% ▲

### Exchange Rate (Fix)

MxP 12.7769-U.S.\$1

1.79% ▼

### Inflation-January / Cummulative / 12 Months

1.09% / 1.09% / 4.46%

### TIIE 28 / 91

4.92% / 5.03%

0.20% ▲ / 0.59% ▼

### CETE 28 / 91 / 364

4.49% / 4.64% / 5.00%

0.00% / 0.43% ▲ / 0.20% ▲

### UDI

MxP 4.410955

0.96% ▲

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