

# Marginalization in Western Mexico, 2000

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## **Abstract**

The purpose of this work is to be able to discriminate between the different states and evaluate the social impact of the shortages suffered by the population as a result of the lack of access to a minimum of public services that are guarantors of their well-being, in such a way that this allows a comparative evaluation of the situation prevailing in the western part of the country with respect to the national situation, and thus link it to the components of population mobility between regions, and even internationally.

This study allows us to understand the current inequality existing both between states and between regions of the country, and thus relate it to the geographic zones of population expulsion and attraction, especially those in the western part of the country.

The marginalization indexes used here are not our own elaborations but are taken from studies on this topic by the National Population Council (Conapo, 2001), based on information from INEGI and the CNA. These indexes were calculated according to the degree of access that a population has to primary education, residence in inadequate housing, the perception of low monetary income, residence in small, isolated and dispersed localities, insufficient health services, inadequate or insufficient infrastructure equipment, which are minimum necessary elements to consider for the development of the potential of human talent or human capital, and with it the opportunity to access economic opportunity within the local industry.

The parameters for estimating marginalization in Mexico were established by Conapo, and it is not the purpose of this study to review their calculation methodology; it is advisable to go to the primary source.

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### **The problem**

Marginalization in the 1990s did not improve, it only changed its geography. Economic liberalization is the main driving force behind this phenomenon. The polarization of development as a synonym of well-being dominates, regions are contrasted and macro-regions of marginalization are formed; the north of the country presents a substantial improvement in its standard of living, but in the small localities there is greater marginalization. The reasons for development are given within the logic of economic restructuring, and the population with severe deprivation in the country is very similar in the year 2000 to that of 1990.

### **The assumption**

The change of economic scheme, from a protectionist one with high state intervention, to one with openness and less intervention, and the imminent economic restructuring, have not improved the country's welfare, but have only changed the geography of marginalization, which obeys the inherent logic of the current economic scheme. The population necessarily follows a mobility that is intimately linked to the above.

### **The contrast**

Mexico is a regional melting pot where, among other social aspects, marginalization stands out as a basis for understanding prevailing inequality and population mobility both intra- and inter-regionally.

The study reveals that the South Pacific region, along with Guerrero and Hidalgo of the Central region, and Veracruz, is one of the Central region, and Veracruz on the Gulf side, are the most marginalized areas of the country. It is home to 19.6 million people, one-fifth of the country's population in 2000. That population in 2002 is 20 million and represents the same fraction. Chiapas, Oaxaca and Guerrero are the entities with the highest marginalization (map 1 and table 1).

It is worth noting that marginalization has a high correlation with respect to population dispersion in the territory. This has been the result of public investment policies, whose capacity for action is always modest in the face of the pressing needs of a population growing at the rates it has since the 1940s, despite the current demographic transition.

The agrarian vocation of the country in the forties, and the rise to a more urban life due to the industrial development of the post-war period, caused the infrastructure of public services to privilege large localities over small ones, since the social benefit of public investment is felt by a greater number of inhabitants in social benefit of public investment benefits a greater number of inhabitants in towns with a larger number of residents localities with a greater number of inhabitants than small ones. There are, therefore,

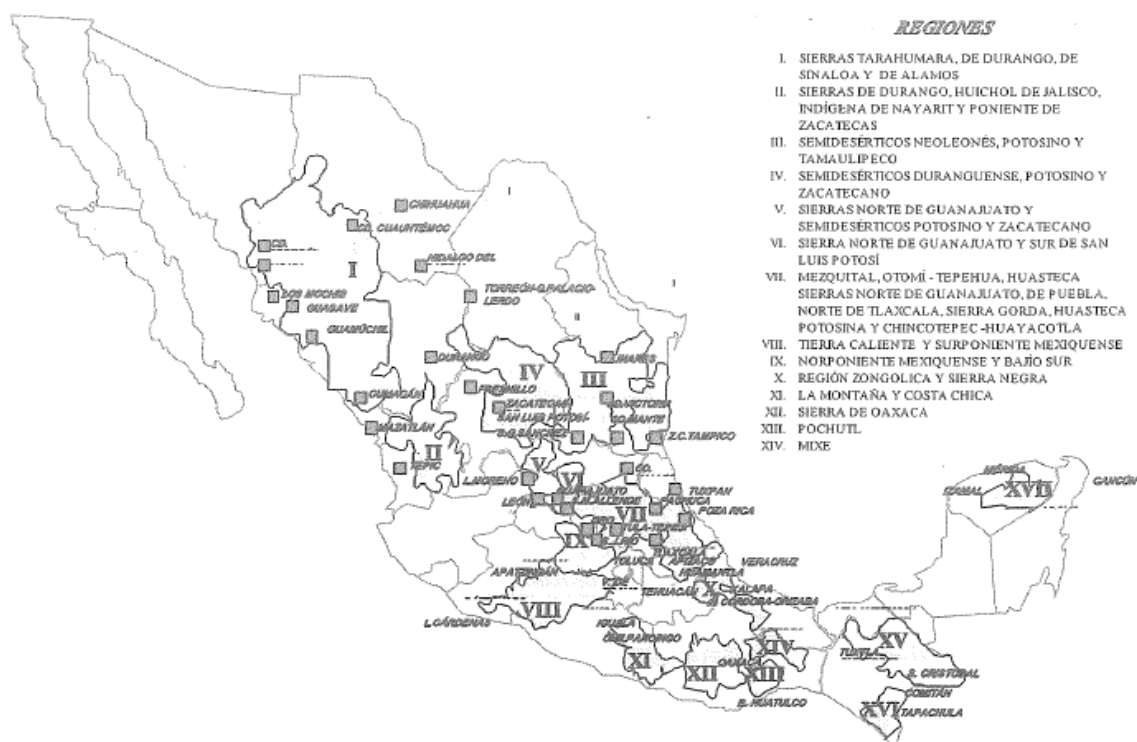
**Map 1. Highly marginalized regions in Mexico**

Table 1. Marginalization by state and region in Mexico, 2000

	Índice de marginación		Distancia del índice de marginación respecto al DF		Reducción en las distancias en el índice de marginación respecto al Distrito Federal en el periodo 1990-2000		
	1990	2000	1990	2000	Absoluta	Porcentaje	Porcentaje anualizado
República Mexicana							
Noreste	-0.8285	-0.7314	0.8600	0.7980	0.0620	9.3182	0.9318
Baja California	-1.3446	-1.2685	0.3438	0.2610	0.0828	24.1008	2.4101
Baja California Sur	-0.9685	-0.8017	0.7200	0.7277	-0.0077	-1.0786	-0.1079
Sinaloa	-0.1410	-0.0996	1.5475	1.4299	0.1176	7.5985	0.7599
Sonora	-0.8598	-0.7559	0.8287	0.7735	0.0552	6.6521	0.6652
Norte-Centro	-0.4302	-0.4470	1.2582	1.0825	0.1758	12.4663	1.2467
Chihuahua	-0.8722	-0.7801	0.8162	0.7494	0.0668	8.1897	0.8190
Durango	0.0118	-0.1139	1.7002	1.4155	0.2847	16.7428	1.6743
Noreste	-0.3225	-0.6410	1.1160	0.8885	0.2276	33.6318	3.3632

Coahuila	-0.0534	-1.2020	0.6350	0.3274	0.3076	48.4383	4.8438
Nuevo León	-1.3766	-1.3926	0.3119	0.1369	0.1750	56.1137	5.6114
San Luis Potosí	0.7488	0.7211	2.4372	2.2506	0.1866	7.6587	0.7659
Tamaulipas	-0.6086	-0.6905	1.0799	0.8389	0.2410	22.3166	2.2317
Occidente	-0.2009	-0.2194	1.4875	1.3100	0.1775	13.1623	1.3162
Aguascalientes	-0.8897	-0.9734	0.7988	0.5560	0.2428	30.3872	3.0387
Colima	-0.7578	-0.6871	0.9306	0.8424	0.0882	9.4852	0.9485
Guanajuato	0.2116	0.0797	1.9000	1.6091	0.2909	15.3117	1.5312
Jalisco	-0.7676	-0.7608	0.9208	0.7687	0.1521	16.5216	1.6522
Michoacán	0.3627	0.4491	2.0512	1.9786	0.0726	3.5406	0.3541
Nayarit	-0.1337	0.0581	1.5548	1.5876	-0.0328	-2.1082	-0.2108
Zacatecas	0.5681	0.2984	2.2565	1.8278	0.4287	18.9980	1.8998
Centro	0.1403	0.1167	1.8287	1.6461	0.1826	10.1781	1.0178
Distrito Federal	-1.6885	-1.5294	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Guerrero	1.7467	2.1178	3.4351	3.6473	-0.2122	-6.1756	-0.6176
Hidalgo	1.1695	0.8770	2.8580	2.4065	0.4515	15.7988	1.5799
México	-0.6042	-0.6046	1.0842	0.9248	0.1594	14.7012	1.4701
Morelos	-0.4571	-0.3557	1.2313	1.1737	0.0576	4.6766	0.4677
Puebla	0.8311	0.7205	2.5195	2.2499	0.2696	10.7009	1.0701
Querétaro	0.1609	-0.1073	1.8493	1.4222	0.4271	23.0972	2.3097
Tlaxcala	-0.0362	-0.1849	1.6523	1.3445	0.3078	18.6258	1.8626
Golfo	0.8236	0.9665	2.5120	2.4959	0.0161	0.6708	0.0671
Tabasco	0.5168	0.6554	2.2052	2.1848	0.0204	0.9245	0.0924
Veracruz	1.1303	1.2776	2.8188	2.8070	0.0118	0.4171	0.0417
Pacífico Sur	2.2079	2.1647	3.8963	3.6942	0.2022	5.1296	0.5130
Chiapas	2.3605	2.2507	4.0489	3.7802	0.2687	6.6376	0.6638
Oaxaca	2.0553	2.0787	3.7437	3.6081	0.1356	3.6216	0.3622
Península de Yucatán	0.2286	0.2413	1.9171	1.7707	0.1464	9.1053	0.9105
Campeche	0.4774	0.7017	2.1659	2.2311	-0.0652	-3.0137	-0.3014
Quintana Roo	-0.1912	-0.3592	1.4973	1.1703	0.3270	21.8396	2.1840
Yucatán	0.3996	0.3813	2.0881	1.9108	0.1773	8.4901	0.8490

Source: Conapo calculations based on INEGI, Conapo and CNA. Socioeconomic Indicators and Marginalization Indexes 1990; and XII General Population and Housing Census, 2000. Author's regional order and regional averages are the responsibility of the author.

an open rural abandonment due to this effect (Arroyo, 1989). Population dispersion is nothing more than isolation from national development.

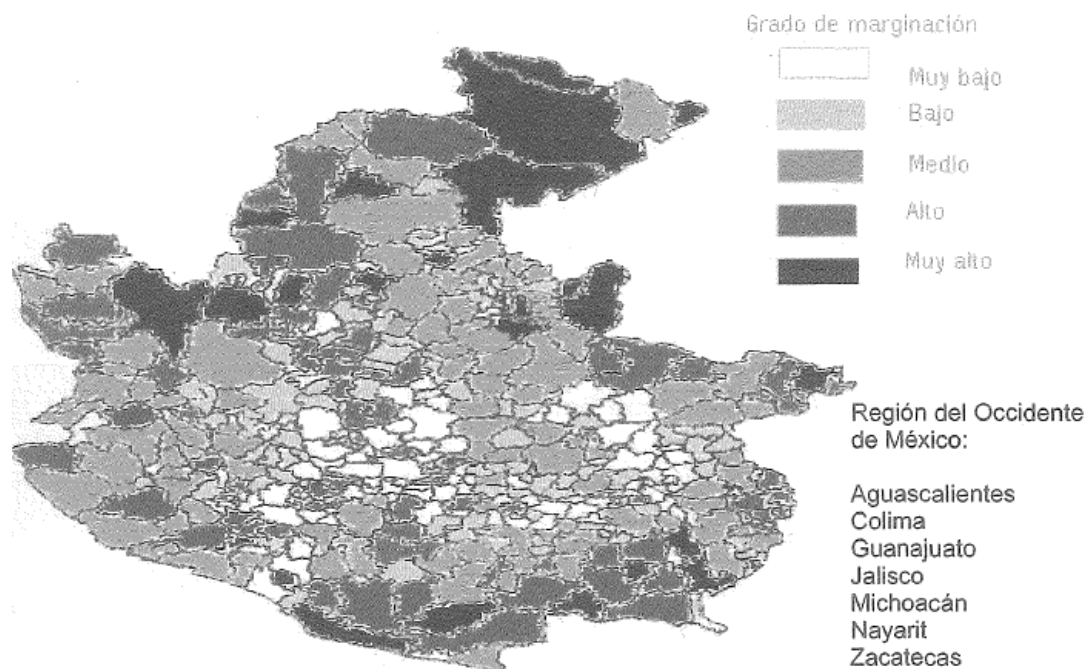
On the other hand, the Federal District has the lowest degree of marginalization. For this reason, the democratic and evaluation standard uses Mexico City as the starting point to refer to marginalization.

Marginalization is necessarily caused by the degree of centralism in decision making in matters of public administration in public investment decision-making, as well as the imminent concentration of public investment in the Federal District and the central zone of the country, as well as in the large population concentrations of the cities of Guadalajara, Monterrey and Puebla.

With a high degree of marginalization are San Luis Potosí, Puebla, Campeche, Tabasco, Yucatán, Michoacán, Zacatecas, Guanajuato and Nayarit. The last four states belong to the western region of the country. These states represent another fifth of the national population.

One fifth of the country's population lives in very high marginalization, and another fifth in high marginalization. This means that in 2000 approximately 40 million Mexicans lived in very high and high marginalization, which is equivalent to 40% of the population. This ratio is still sustained today. This population lives in the south of the country, where Quintana Roo contrasts as an entity with a low degree of marginalization, and in a fraction of the West, where Jalisco and Aguascalientes contrast in the same sense (map 2).

Map 2. Degree of marginalization in Western Mexico, 2000



There is a high contrast in the geography of marginalization between regions, as well as within each of these. In Western Mexico, entities such as Jalisco and Aguascalientes, with a low degree of marginalization compared to what prevails in the the Federal District, in relation to entities such as Guanajuato, Michoacán, Nayarit and Zacatecas, with a high degree of marginalization. However, even within the marginalization, in a municipal-level approach, it can be observed that in the Los Altos region, shared by Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, Jalisco, and Zacatecas, There is a high level of marginalization in contrast to municipalities such as those that comprise the metropolitan area of the city of Guadalajara, as well as those of León, Aguascalientes and medium-sized cities of the Bajío.

With the exception of Quintana Roo, Tlaxcala and Morelos, the South forms a macro-region where inequality of opportunity to participate in the development process. It is at a clear disadvantage for a very important fraction of the resident population. The western part of the country has large territorial extensions where the level of marginalization competes with the indices observed in Chiapas and Oaxaca, such as the Northeast of the state of Guanajuato, Los Altos de Jalisco, the state of Zacatecas, with the exception of some medium-sized cities such as Ciudad Guadalupe, Zacatecas and Jerez.

Guerrero, Chiapas and Oaxaca have the highest levels of marginalization. followed by states with a high degree such as Campeche, Puebla, Tabasco, Yucatán and Zacatecas. Tabasco and Zacatecas have indices that would place them very close to high levels of high degrees of marginalization. Guanajuato is a highly polarized state income distribution; thus, the portion of its population that gains up to two minimum wages is 47%, but this as part of a weighted average, Not georeferenced. A spatial approach specifies that there are areas such as the fraction North, from East to West, where the fraction of population in this criterion is 68%, while in León it decreases to approximately a third.

9 percent of the national population has a medium level of marginalization; This represents, by the year 2000, about 8.8 million people. It's a population very focused, which does not form a macro-region, or even a region, but are isolated states such as Quintana Roo in the south, Sinaloa and Durango in the north, and Tlaxcala, Morelos and Querétaro in the Center.

Entities with a low degree of marginalization do form, in some way, macro-regions of the country, such as Baja California Sur, Chihuahua, Sonora and Tamaulipas, that border other very low-level cities such as Baja California, Coahuila and Nuevo León. In the center of the country are Aguascalientes, Colima, the State of Mexico and Jalisco. These entities have a certain homogeneity in terms of the proportion of the socially disadvantaged population.

The population of the country living in medium and low conditions of marginalization in the 2000 it represents 38.1 million people, which is approximately 40% of the population. total population of the country.

The marginalization indices obtained in 1990 compared to 2000 indicate how the degree of deprivation of the population changed from one moment to the next. You have

to Baja California Sur, Campeche, Guerrero and Nayarit increased their degree of marginalization with respect to the Federal District, while seven other states improved their Aguascalientes, Baja California, Coahuila, Querétaro, Nuevo León, Quintana Roo and Tamaulipas. These entities, which have benefited greatly from the public, private and foreign investment during the period due to the effect of the opening and for establishing some of them links with the productive apparatus transnational and foreign markets.

Durango, Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Mexico, Puebla, Tlaxcala and Zacatecas They are entities that improved their situation in terms of development opportunities and a reduction in the deprivation of its population, but in a more modest way than the above.

Entities such as Chiapas, Chihuahua, Colima, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Sonora and Yucatan.

Based on the above, he highlights that the main reason for this change in geography marginalization is due to the fact that the entities that show improvement are those that are inscribed in the guidelines of the development of an economic scheme with openness, relegating those with little connection to the transnationalization of their productive apparatus and large national markets and their links with the markets from the outside.

### **Conclusions and main findings**

A high degree of correlation is observed between population dispersion, which is no other than This is an isolation with respect to the degree of marginalization in the country.

Marginalization is shown to be, by far, the effect of centralist policies that discriminated against small localities with respect to the country's large population concentrations, as well as privileging the central zone with respect to those farther away from it. The high degree of centralism in public investment decisions is expressed in a high concentration of investment in the Central-West region of the country, especially in the towns that are part of the industrial belt that crosses the nation, from Puerto Vallarta to the port of Veracruz.

40% of the country's population lives in conditions of very high and high marginalization. Another 40% in medium and low marginalization, and the remaining 20% in very low, almost all of them She is concentrated in the metropolitan area of Mexico City. 45% of this is located in the State of Mexico. This implies a highly polarized geography of marginalization with the formation of macro-regions of social inequality.

It can be seen that the entities that from 1990 to 2000 reduced their marginalization with respect to the standard of living of the Federal District, are precisely those which in 1990 had a more privileged geographical location in the face of restructuring economics.

It is also concluded that the geography of marginalization changed, but did not improve. since the prevailing marginalization in terms of proportion of the population is the It was in 1990. The new geography of marginalization adds the northern fraction of the

country as an area that competes with the metropolitan area of Mexico City in the level of well-being, but the rest of the country maintains its previous patterns, where the Medium-sized cities and ports see an improvement, in contrast to small towns. Population rearrangements observe very similar patterns.

### **Bibliography**

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