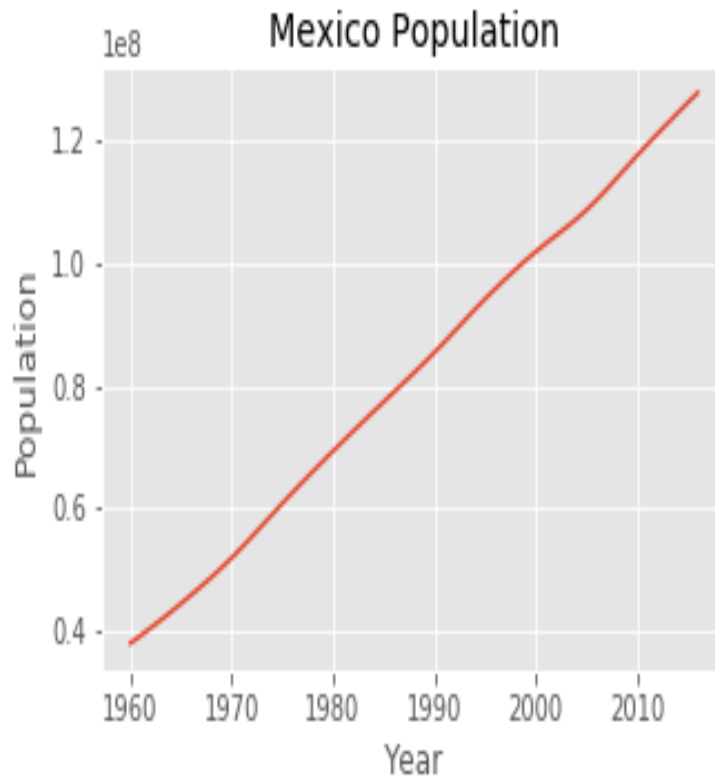


# Mexico



Coordinates: 23°N 102°W﻿ / ﻿23°N 102°W﻿ / 23; -102Mexico (/ˈmɛksɪkoʊ/; MEK-sik-oh; Spanish: México, pronounced [ˈmexiko] ( listen)), officially the United Mexican States (Spanish: Estados Unidos Mexicanos,  listen (help·info)), is a federal republic in the southern portion of North America. It is bordered to the north by the United States; to the south and west by the Pacific Ocean; to the southeast by Guatemala, Belize, and the Caribbean Sea; and to the east by the Gulf of Mexico. Covering almost two million square kilometers (over 760,000 sq mi), the nation is the fifth largest country in the Americas by total area and the 13th largest independent state in the world. With an estimated population of over 120 million, the country is the eleventh most populous and the most populous Spanish-speaking state in the world while being the second most populous nation in Latin America. Mexico is a federation comprising 31 states and a special federal entity that is also its capital and most populous city. metropolises include Guadalajara, León, Monterrey, Puebla, Toluca, and Tijuana.