



## **MEXICO SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEFING**

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by the Oklahoma State University

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## Table of Contents

<b>MEXICAN HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>A. History to 2000 .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>B. Government and Recent Political History .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>C. Contemporary Politics .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>MEXICAN CULTURE, DAILY LIFE, AND TRADITIONS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>A. Culture .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>B. Diversity .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>C. Daily Life .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>D. Family.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>E. Mexican celebrations and traditions .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>F. Traditional Music and Dance .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>G. Traditional Style and Modern Clothing.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>MEXICAN ETIQUETTE AND PROTOCOL .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>A. Social Etiquette .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>B. Business Culture and Etiquette .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>HOT TOPICS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>A. Regional economy and infrastructure diversity .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>B. Border Dynamics .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>C. Oklahoma’s Hispanic Community .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>D. Hispanic Community Organizations in Oklahoma .....</b>	<b>13</b>

## MEXICAN HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

### A. History to 2000

The United Mexican States, commonly referred to as Mexico, is a country located in the southern portion of North America. The country's northern border is shared with the United States and its southern border with Guatemala and Belize. With a population of 126 million that is primarily Spanish speaking, **Mexico is the second most populous country on the continent and ranks tenth in the world.** Geographically, the country has a diverse terrain ranging from deserts, jungles, mountains, valleys and both Pacific and Atlantic coast lines.



As one of the world's "cradles of civilization" Mexico saw several advanced ancient societies rise and fall including the Olmecs, Mayans and Aztecs. Remnants of these civilizations can be seen throughout the country in the form of temples and ruins. The last of these, the Aztecs, would end with the arrival of Spain and colonization.

**Spain colonized the region of Mexico and ruled for three hundred years** sending much of the natural resources

back to Europe. The extraction and colonial rule transformed Spain into a world superpower for several centuries. Spain would be forced to relinquish its colony when Mexico **became an independent nation in 1821.** Its independence from Spain happened over the course of eleven years from 1810 to 1821 through a series of violent political clashes that ultimately saw the collapse of the royal government in Mexico City.

In 1848 the Mexican American war was fought over the disputed region of Texas. The United States' annexation of Texas in 1845 sparked the war as Mexico saw the region as still under its possession. After Mexico's defeat in the war, it suffered severe bouts of domestic political turmoil for the next half century, even being occupied by France for a short period of time.

In 1910, sixty years after the Mexican American war, the Mexican revolution would begin and last a decade. President Porfirio Díaz had ruled with an unpopular regime for 31 years and at the age of 80, sought reelection. This prompted landowner and reformist Francisco Madero to run against Díaz in 1910 and he garnered immense popularity. Amid allegations that the election was rigged in Díaz's favor, rebellions erupted across Mexico. A reelection without interference was held with Madero winning the majority of vote and being sworn in as President. This was not the end of conflict however. The next two decades would see civil war and violence across the country as political parties and interest groups vied for power. **With the close of the revolution, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) that would dominate Mexican politics for the next seventy years** first emerged and ascended.



**From 1929 to 2000, Mexico was subject to one party rule by the PRI.** The PRI was essentially a political machine designed to win elections. The elections were often criticized as being rigged with PRI candidates consistently winning 70 percent or more of the votes. Nevertheless, following the PRI's consolidation of power, **a politically stable environment in Mexico allowed for development and the 1940s and 1950s** were economically prosperous. Due to this prosperity, the Mexican population gave little thought to the flawed democracy of the country.

The 1970s fiscal mismanagement by several presidential administrations resulted in the Mexico of the 1980s suffering the consequences. The 80s are known as La Decada Perdida (the lost decade) of economic growth. Low oil prices, inflation, and an overvalued peso resulted in extreme capital flight that ultimately forced the Mexican government to devalue to peso. The economy would only grow 0.1 percent year over year from 1982 to 1988 and rampant unemployment drove high levels of migration to the United States.

During the 1990s, Mexico continued to struggle with hyperinflation and more economic crises, the worst of which arose in 1994 after a banking crisis following an extreme devaluation of the peso on international markets. In the 90s the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect resulting in Mexico reducing trade barriers between Canada and the United States. The last years of the decade brought an end to one-party rule by the PRI when opposition candidate Vicente Fox of the National Action Party (PAN) party won the 2000 presidential election.

## **B. Government and Recent Political History**

Mexico's government is structured as a federal republic comprised of 32 states (31 plus Mexico City). The constitution establishes three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial. The legislative branch is bicameral with an upper house, the Senate, and a lower house the Chamber of Deputies. The constitution establishes two senators per state and one deputy for every 250,000 people in a state. Senators serve 6-year terms while deputies serve 3-year terms. Neither senators nor deputies may be reelected for the term immediately after their current term. For a bill to become law, it must receive majority votes in both houses.

The executive branch houses the Office of President and his cabinet. The president is popularly elected and limited to one 6-year term. The current president is Andrés Manuel López Obrador who took office in 2018 and will serve until 2024. Presidential powers include appointing his cabinet, diplomats, military officers, and Supreme Court justices and issuing presidential decrees. Decrees are instruments that are constrained by an expiration date but have the power of a law and may not be changed while in force.

The Judicial branch is a collection of several courts with the highest being the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation. The court consists of eleven members known as ministers of the court, one of whom is selected to serve as the court's president. The ministers,

whose term lengths are 15 years, are nominated by the President of Mexico and confirmed by the Senate.

### **C. Contemporary Politics**

Since the end of the PRI's one-party rule in 2000, several main parties have emerged that now dominate the Mexican political landscape. They are the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), the National Action Party (PAN), the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PDR), and more recently the Movimiento Regeneracion Nacional (MORENA). A center right party, the PRI still holds many offices and positions in government even after its one-party rule ended. PAN is a right-wing party that tends to advocate for less government intervention and has a strong catholic voter base. Focusing mainly on social and economic welfare issues, the two main left leaning parties are the PDR and powerful newcomer, MORENA. The current President, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, is a member of the MORENA party.

### **President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (1953- )<sup>1</sup>**



President Andrés Manuel López Obrador is a left-wing populist and anti-establishment figure. Commonly referred to as “AMLO”, he is Mexico’s strongest president in decades and unafraid to centralize authority. His prominent goal is economic development, and all other issues are secondary. Among AMLO’s greatest concerns is Mexican energy security. Mexico historically has imported large amounts of energy from the United

States but has recently announced it will decrease crude exports to reduce dependence on foreign energy. In regard to the environment, AMLO rhetorically supports sustainable clean energy but has postponed development of solar and wind projects in the country while increasing the role of PEMEX, the state-owned oil company. President Obrador’s view on mass migration from Central America focuses on preventative measures such as foreign direct investment for economic development. He is also a strong proponent of increasing the availability of US work visas for Mexican nationals to fill the US’s current labor shortages.

As he portrays himself as an anti-establishment candidate, AMLO had a warm relationship with the Trump administration even amongst tense rhetoric about immigration policy. The Biden administration’s more conventional political style has not yet seen the same level of personal relationship between the presidential counterparts.

### **Background**

- Commonly referred to as “AMLO”
- Formed the MORENA party in 2014 after leaving the progressive left-wing PRD



- Campaigned as left-wing populist
- Mexico's strongest president in decades with a tendency for consolidation of power
- Styles himself as an **"anti-establishment" president** while having many political insiders in his cabinet.

### Presidency

- While a proclaimed leftist, his actions and allies result in a **moderate form of governance**.
- **Economic development is the priority**, and all others are secondary.
- Has introduced austerity measures for much of Mexico's spending except the military
- Increased the role of the military as a domestic policing force.
- Pushes for government to take greater control of the energy sector
- Recently cut PEMEX oil exports to **reduce Mexican dependence on imported energy**
- Foreign direct investment for development in Central America as a **preventative measure of mass migration**
- Proponent of the U.S. offering **more temporary work visas** for the large amount of job openings U.S. businesses owners are experiencing.

### Current cabinet

- Secretary of the Interior: Adan Augusto Lopez
- Secretary of Finance and Public Credit (Treasury): Arturo Herrera Gutiérrez
- **Secretary of Foreign Affairs: Marcelo Ebrard**
- Secretary of National Defense: Luis Cresencio Sandoval
- Attorney General: Alejandro Gertz Manero
- Secretary of Navy: José Rafael Ojeda Durán
- Secretary of Security: Alfonso Durazo
- **Secretary of Economy: Tatiana Clouthier (since January 2021)**
- Secretary of Welfare: María Luisa Albores González
- Secretary of the Civil Service: Irma Sandoval-Ballesteros
- Secretary of Communications: Javier Jiménez Espriú
- Secretary of Labor: Luisa María Alcalde Luján
- Secretary of Environment: Josefa González Blanco Ortíz Mena
- **Secretary of Energy: Rocío Nahle García**
- **Secretary of Agriculture: Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula**
- Secretary of Education: Esteban Moctezuma
- Secretary of Health: Jorge Alcocer Varela
- Secretary of Tourism: Miguel Torruco Marqués



- Secretary of Agrarian Development and Urban Planning: Román Meyer Falcón
- Secretary of Culture: Alejandra Frausto Guerrero
- Legal Advisor: Julio Scherer Ibarra

## **MEXICAN CULTURE, DAILY LIFE, AND TRADITIONS**

### **A. Culture**

There are several stories of how Mexico received its name. The most prominent of these refers to “Mexi” as an abbreviation of the name for the Aztec’s god of war, Mexitli. The Aztec god received his name from the word metztli (moon), xictli (navel or center), and co (place). The combination of these words changed the meaning to “the place in the center of the Moon.”<sup>23</sup>

### **B. Diversity**

Mexico has remarkable cultural diversity that represents the various origins of its people. However, the Mexican government does not collect data on ethnicity so exact numbers of various groups can be difficult to obtain. The CIA world fact book estimates that the ethnic makeup of the country is roughly 62 percent Mestizo (Amerindian-Spanish), 21 percent for predominantly Amerindians, 7 percent full Amerindian, and 10 percent other (mostly European).

### **C. Daily Life**

Daily life in Mexico can vary dramatically depending on geography, infrastructure and social class (see Regional Economy and Infrastructure Diversity section below). These differences have created a Mexico full of variety ranging from bustling urban life to rural farming. For example, in much of rural Mexico, farm men and women still maintain their traditional roles. Women are typically caretakers of the home while men work to provide financially. In more urban areas, both men and women may work full time jobs and share responsibilities of household management.

### **D. Family**

One of the most important values held by the Mexican people is family. Families tend to be large and have strong bonds. From infancy to old age, a person’s life is strongly impacted by family ties, and often, relationships with extended families are nurtured and maintained.<sup>4</sup> While many families, especially in modern cities, follow trends similar to the United States or Europe, Mexican families always have roots in tradition.

### **E. Mexican celebrations and traditions**

Across Mexico, rich regional histories support the popularity of maintaining local traditions. Celebrations are one of the most popular characteristics of Mexico. Some of the most popular celebrations in Mexico include Mexican Independence Day, **Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead)**, quinceañeras (the celebration of a girl’s 15th birthday), as well as Catholic festivals that have their roots in the much older indigenous cultures such as

the celebration of Saint Cecilia. The elders of the Mexican families try to maintain and pass their traditions to the next generation.<sup>5</sup>

#### F. Day of the Dead

Day of the Dead **celebrated November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>** and is one of the most colorful and ancient traditions Mexico has to offer. **The idea is to honor life by demonstrating love and respect for those who have passed away.** Altars are built up in cemeteries to welcome the spirits from the other world. Upon these altars, people offer food and water alongside decorations and candles. Some important attributes of this celebration are listed as follows:

- The celebration is rooted in pre-Hispanic cultures
- Halloween and Day of the Dead are not related
- The offerings represent cherished items from deceased loved ones (e.g., fruits, bread, beverages, family photos)
- Associated with All Saint's Day & All Soul's Day in the Christian tradition
- Marigold flower paths are made to guide the spirits to their altars
- Part of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list since 2008
- Literary calaveras are short, humorous poems often written for the Day of the Dead
- **La Catrina, created by Jose Guadalupe Posada, were initially created as caricatures with skulls for faces.** This was meant as a satirical presentation of Mexican high-society's obsession with Europe during the 1900's. These images are now associated with the Day of the Dead

#### G. Traditional Music and Dance

Music and dance are important parts of Mexican culture. Each region in Mexico is known for a different style of **folk music**. One **famous example is Mariachi** which started within the state of Jalisco. Mariachi is characterized by a gathering of 10-20 performers headed by a lead artist and commonly contains humorous lyrics. Ranchera, Banda, and Zacatecano are other genres of music in Mexico. Similarly, different styles of dance originate from various regions. **The Jarabe Tapatío (Mexican hat dance) is performed by a couple and is one of the most renowned dance forms in Mexico.** Another is the Yaqui deer dance, a folk dance that combines indigenous and Christian spirituality and is performed to traditional Yaqui music.

#### H. Traditional Style and Modern Clothing

Mexican national clothing is very bright and beautiful."<sup>6</sup> Traditional Mexican costumes combine native and European elements. Traditional clothing was designed for special occasions and holidays. The Sarape, charro suit, sombrero, guayabera, baja jacket, and poncho were the most popular men's pieces of clothing. Women often wore the huipil, quechquémitl, rebozo, Mexican skirts. **Mexico's new clothing brands are designed with young people in mind, and often combine traditional elements with the global trends to create a uniquely Mexican fashion.**





## MEXICAN ETIQUETTE AND PROTOCOL

### A. Social Etiquette

- Mexican culture is warm and polite, frequently beginning conversation inquiring about family or health
- A handshake is the standard greeting for strangers and acquaintances

### B. Business Culture and Etiquette

- Using a person's professional title or Mr. Mrs., or Miss, followed by the family name is expected
- Hierarchy is significant in the business structure in Mexico
- **If a top executive attends a meeting, they will expect to be met with someone who is a peer or holds a similar level position.**
- Ideally any documents needed for meeting should be in **both English and Spanish**
- Business cards should be double-sided (Spanish/English) and should include professional and educational qualifications.

## HOT TOPICS

### A. Regional economy and infrastructure diversity

Mexico is a developing market economy and had a GDP of \$1.076 trillion in 2020. It is the 15th largest in the world in nominal GDP terms and the 11th largest by purchasing power parity.<sup>7</sup> Mexico is largely a service-based economy with tourism as the largest contributor. The importance of tourism to the economy is evident in the country's GDP breakdown with services accounting for 64.5 percent, industry 31.9 percent, and agriculture 3.6 percent (2017 est).

In 2020, the Mexican economy saw a steep contraction in GDP due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, recovery has been slow as supply chain issues relating to semiconductor shortages and energy shortages have impacted the Mexican manufacturing sector. Despite the bleak economic situation, two bright spots have emerged for the country during the time of uncertainty, namely exports and remittances. March of 2021 saw exports grow 31 percent from the previous year reaching \$43 billion. Export industries driving this growth were primarily in machinery and electronics manufacturing. While Mexico traditionally has a strong automotive manufacturing output, these industries' exports declined due in part to a shortage of semiconductors.

**Mexico is an example of a two-sided economy.** Mexico has the second-highest degree of socioeconomic disparity amongst the 34 member nations of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The World Economic Forum says about Mexico, "the bottom 10 percent on the income rung disposes of 1.36 percent of the country's resources, whereas the upper 10 percent dispose of almost 36 percent."<sup>8</sup>

**The economy of Mexico is a complex combination of modern and traditional economies.** There is a modern, high-speed, sophisticated economy with cutting-edge auto and



aerospace factories, multinationals that compete in global markets, and universities that graduate more engineers than Germany. Then there is rural Mexico that is still underdeveloped in various metrics such as infrastructure and education. Despite a series of market-opening reforms, including the North American Free Trade Agreement (or NAFTA, which was replaced in 2020 by a new agreement, the USMCA) that created a single market between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, Mexico's GDP growth fell behind that of other developing nations, both in Asia and in Latin America. As a result, GDP per capita and improvements in living standards stagnated by 2013.<sup>9</sup> While it improved somewhat over the subsequent five years, GDP per capita fell sharply in 2020.<sup>10</sup>

This stagnation resulted in a GDP per capita increase of only 0.6 percent on average per year, and low productivity was viewed as the main driver of this phenomenon. Faster job growth in the traditional sector, which is largely comprised of small, often informal enterprises, shifts more labor to low productivity work. The traditional sector accounted for 48 percent of job growth between 1999 and 2013. Large modern enterprises expanded also but were not creating jobs fast enough to raise their 20 percent share of employment. Mid-sized companies' employment share dropped from 41 percent in 1999 to 38 percent in 2009, making **Mexico's employment increasingly polarized between two extremes. This hollowing middle is seen across most sectors.** In manufacturing, declining trade barriers created new opportunities for expanding multinationals, but many mid-sized domestic producers were squeezed between increasing competition from low-cost imports and small local fabricators that derive cost advantages by operating outside the formal economy, thereby avoiding taxes and other costs.<sup>11</sup>

Although the barriers discussed above affect the economy of Mexico, there are opportunities which make Mexico a good candidate for investment. Mexico has improved its fundamental infrastructure in recent years. The investment in infrastructure has helped Mexico's global competitiveness. These changes made manufacturing in Mexico more appealing because of its favorable location, cost-effectiveness, and skilled labor. One example is high-speed broadband and a large pool of qualified IT professionals in every industrialized city, which made Mexico an attractive country for manufacturing and business process outsourcing (BPO).<sup>12</sup>

Transportation routes, highways, and container ports, as well the modern airports and railroad system comprise the infrastructure of Mexico. According to the World Bank, **Mexico has one of the most developed transport infrastructure systems in all Latin America, which in turn has allowed Mexico's economy to generate more business partners throughout the continent.** Additionally, Mexico occupies a critical location in the economic map due to its shared border with the United States, and many goods pass through Mexico to reach the US.<sup>13</sup>

**The highway network in Mexico is one of the most extensive in Latin America,** and all areas of the country are linked by it. Road transport relies on a network of 370,000 km (230,000 mi) of roads that link the country from north to south and between its two



oceanic coastlines. Some of the most important road connections link the capital with border crossings to the United States.

Railways connect central Mexico with various US border cities and carry 28 percent of all freight moving inside Mexico. Railways play a significant role in the growth of manufacturing activities, especially in northern Mexico, with easy links to the United States and Canada. On the other hand, with multiple ports on the east and west coasts and a coastline opening both to the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, Mexico's geographical position has put it at the center of global trade routes. In addition, privatization of airport operations started in the late 1990s, and 34 facilities are managed by concession-holders, allowing for a revamp of key airports. The government-owned Airports and Auxiliary Services, which also operates several fuel depots across the country, manages or partly operates 26 airports, while 27 other airport facilities are operated by the Ministry of Defense, the navy, and municipal authorities.<sup>14</sup>

**Energy is a primary infrastructure sector in Mexico.** The infrastructure of the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) to generate electricity is composed of 214 generating stations with an installed capacity of 52 945 MW. CFE has continued to make large investments to increase the capacity of the electricity system, to maintain and modernize the power plants, and to increase the supply of gas to reduce cost. **Oil is a crucial component of Mexico's economy.** Significant oil reserves have been documented in Mexico, and efforts to upgrade existing infrastructure has driven private sector investment and offered opportunities for U.S. companies in the form of contractors, sub-contractors, and equipment suppliers. The southeastern Mexican states contain a high density of oil and gas, which requires a great deal of maintenance. Pemex, the state owned and operated oil company, is demonstrating the power of Mexico's oil sector as it is consistently among the world's largest producers.

Although Mexico's infrastructure provides good opportunities for investment, there remains room for growth and improvement. For example, several zones in Mexico struggle with inadequate roads and inefficient public services, especially in the south. In addition, construction of oil and gas infrastructure in the southeast region of the country has been suspended, especially over the last 10 years. This has been one of the biggest obstacles to the development, optimization, and modernization of the oil and gas infrastructure in Mexico and has created significant operational risks. However, much work has been done recently in terms of inspection, maintenance, and infrastructure repairs.

## **B. Border Dynamics**

During recent years, **Mexico has been impacted by the large numbers of migrants from Central America** (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador) who have decided to seek new opportunities in the United States. The reasons behind this mass movement can generally be **attributed to four factors: poverty, inequality, political instability, and violence.** These countries are ranked amongst the poorest countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (as measured by GDP per capita). Moreover, civil wars have led to the emergence of



transnational gangs like Eighteen Street and Mara Salvatrucha.<sup>15</sup> In addition, in both Guatemala and El Salvador, “the proportion of homicide victims under age twenty is higher than anywhere else in the world.”<sup>16</sup>

During Enrique Peña Nieto’s presidency (2012-2018), Mexico changed its approach to migration. Starting in 2017, President Nieto made the decision to consolidate military cooperation with the US and project military power in the region.<sup>17</sup> Consequently, “Mexico has chosen to focus on its enforcement actions in the country’s interior by implementing security bells and increasing the number of raids in strategic places. Immigration enforcement in **Mexico is, to a certain extent, like US enforcement at the state level and operates on a ‘show your papers’ mode.**”<sup>18</sup> “Show your papers” mode refers to the **practice of detaining or arresting persons on suspicion of having undocumented immigration status.** The arrestee is then required to produce official identification to prove legality of immigration status.

On the other hand, Mexico’s border policy has changed throughout the years. When Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador became president in 2018, his government promised a more humane approach to Central American migrants.<sup>19</sup> However, as time went by, the political climate changed, but the migration policy did not adapt substantially. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the constant flow of people did not decrease. In fact, Mexico’s refugee agency became overwhelmed by the number of applications being submitted. **From January through August 2021 the number of people seeking refuge in Mexico reached 77,000, surpassing the annual record by more than 10 percent in just the first eight months of the year.**<sup>20</sup> Moreover, with no sign of a forthcoming response by the Mexican government many migrants have decided to continue their march to Mexico’s northern border. At times, the Mexican police have stepped in to disperse the groups, sometimes with excessive force.<sup>21</sup> According to the human rights advocacy group, WOLA, recent enforcement methods have resulted in crimes and human rights violations, while refugee shelters around the country have been accused of kidnapping, extortion and robbery and the Mexican Police have been included in accusations of misconduct as well.<sup>22</sup>

Those who can elude the police are forced to find their way to the US through dangerous routes. The majority of these “off-road” routes are controlled by drug cartels around the country, and immigrants are forced to pay fees to pass with no harm. Once they arrive to the US-Mexico border, they encounter more obstacles, where for example, 64 percent of the immigrants are removed from US soil under the “Title 42” Health Order alone.<sup>23</sup>

### **C. Oklahoma’s Hispanic Community**

In recent years, Oklahoma’s Hispanic population has grown substantially. Today, Hispanics represent 11 percent of Oklahoma’s population, and Mexicans are the largest group. When it comes to geographic distribution within the state, 45 percent of the Hispanic population reside in the Central region, followed by the Northeast region with 25 percent, and the Western region with 13 percent.<sup>24</sup> When compared with surrounding



states, only Texas (39.7 percent), Colorado (21.8 percent) and Kansas (12.2 percent) have a higher percentage of Hispanic residents.<sup>25</sup>

According to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, there are almost 20,000 Hispanic owned business in Oklahoma<sup>26</sup>, which indicates the state has developed a positive environment for young Hispanic entrepreneurs. A report by WalletHub ranked Oklahoma City and Tulsa as the 16<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> best cities in the US for Hispanic businesses and entrepreneurship.<sup>27</sup> Additionally, Oklahoma experienced a 24% increase in Hispanic owned businesses from 2012 to 2017. Neighboring states experienced much lower growth rates and, in some cases, regressed in the number of Hispanic businesses.<sup>28</sup>

#### **D. Hispanic Community Organizations in Oklahoma**

Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce<sup>29</sup>

- Founded in 2000, the Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit community-based organization that serves local community needs specifically impacting business. The organization's main goal is to support the commercial and economic interests of Hispanic-owned, Hispanic-managed businesses, and the Hispanic-oriented businesses, trades, and professionals in central Oklahoma. Aside from assisting with business development, the chamber has expanded to address community issues including:
  - Physical Infrastructure
  - Cultural and Environmental Stewardship
  - Workforce Development
  - Education
  - Civic Infrastructure
  - Business assistance through our Business Assistance Center
  - The Women's Business Center

Women's Business Center (HCWBC)<sup>30</sup>

- HCWBC is a business development organization that supports Hispanic and minority women entrepreneurs. The organization's main purpose is to support underrepresented women that aspire to start, sustain, or expand their business through bilingual counseling sessions, trainings, workshops, and mentorship and networking opportunities.

Tulsa Latin American Chamber of Commerce

- The TLACC serves to bridge the gap between Hispanic and non-Hispanic businesses and individuals to create a stronger Tulsa. Their primary purpose is to serve as a resource for businesses and be a voice for Latin issues in the community.<sup>31</sup>

Latino Community Development Agency<sup>32</sup>

- For over 30 years, the Latino Community Development Agency has served the Hispanic and Latino community in OKC and the rest of the state by improving the



quality of life through education, leadership, services, and advocacy. Their programs offer services in child development, health, prevention, treatment, and scholarships.

#### Tulsa Hispanic American Foundation<sup>33</sup>

- Through scholarships, grants, and cultural programs, the Tulsa Hispanic American Foundation aims to preserve, promote, and appreciate Hispanic culture. As the rate of Hispanics that graduate high school in Tulsa leads to an increase in post-secondary education enrollment, the Tulsa HAF helps many first-generation, low-income students overcome financial barriers to attain a college education.

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