

# **Country report: Mexico**

**Global Food Security Index 2022** 



# About the Global Food Security Index 2022

The Global Food Security Index (GFSI), developed by Economist Impact and supported by Corteva Agriscience, considers food affordability, availability, quality and safety, and sustainability and adaptation across 113 countries. The index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model constructed from 68 unique indicators that measure the drivers of food security across both developing and developed countries.

This edition of the GFSI incorporates 14 new indicators to reflect the global nature and interconnectedness of the food system and to highlight the importance of "first mile" and farm-level metrics in determining food security for populations.

This year, the Economist Impact team has adjusted the "Availability" category to start at food production, capturing more farmer-focused measures on access to agricultural inputs. This includes moving access to finance and financial products from the affordability pillar to the availability pillar, as these measures are farmer-related. Government commitment to innovative technologies and a new composite indicator for on-farm infrastructure have been added to this category to more accurately reflect what is happening on the fields as well as further along the supply chain.

Reflecting a global impetus to move to sustainable food systems and adapt to growing climate shocks, the GFSI's fourth category, previously called "Natural resources and resilience," has been renamed "Sustainability and adaptation."

This report is based on research conducted by Economist Impact between April and July 2022. Economist Impact bears sole responsibility for the content of this report. The findings and views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the partners and experts.

The GFSI 2022 model, the model user guide, the global research report and all 32 country reports are available online at economistimpact.com/food-security-index. Please visit the website for more information on the global rankings, key findings and the 2022 methodology.

# **Mexico**

# Latin America—regional snapshot

Latin America scores an average of 63.4 on its overall food security environment in the 2022 GFSI, making it the third most food-secure region globally, tied with the Asia-Pacific region. Out of the four pillars of the index, the region scored the highest on the Quality and Safety pillar (69.1) and the lowest on the Sustainability and Adaptation pillar (55.3). Food is high quality and affordable for consumers, but the region has shortcomings in developing policies to shore up food production against climate impacts and environmental deterioration. Although developing policies to better manage sustainability and adaptation is a shared challenge across all regions, the issue is paramount in Latin America, a region with abundant natural resources that provides global biodiversity and carbon capture benefits.

#### Global Food Security Index 2022: Average scores for Latin America

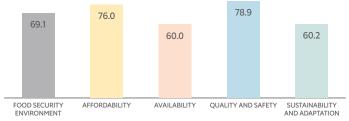


Source: Global Food Security Index 2022.

# Mexico—food security overview

Mexico ranks joint 43rd out of 113 countries globally and 6th out of the 19 countries in Latin America, with an overall food security environment score of 69.1. It achieves its highest score on the Quality and Safety pillar (78.9) and the lowest on the Availability (60) pillar. The country successfully provides high-quality and safe food to its population and holds high nutritional standards but faces challenges to ensure an adequate supply of food. Improving the food security environment will rely on Mexico's capacity to create an enabling environment for consistent and more efficient food production by supporting better supply-chain and farm infrastructure, and enhanced spending on agricultural research and development. Additional efforts are needed to protect natural resources spanning land, oceans, rivers and lakes, and to make its food supplies more sustainable, thus improving the overall food security environment.

### Global Food Security Index 2022: Scores for Mexico



Source: Global Food Security Index 2022.

# The four pillars of food security—analysis for 2022

- Affordability: Mexico ranks 52nd globally and 6th in Latin America, with a score of 76.
  - Mexico scores highly in 1.5) Food Safety net programmes and 1.2) Proportion of population under the global poverty line, for which it holds scores in the "very good" range (80-100). It also records a "good" score in 1.4) Agricultural trade.
- Availability: Availability is the pillar where Mexico records its weakest performance, ranking 54th globally and 10th in Latin America, with a score of 60.
  - This can be attributed to a recent score drop of 48.1 points in 2.7) Sufficiency of supply ("very weak"—score 0-39.9) and its "weak" performance (score 40-54.9) in 2.2) Agricultural research and development, 2.3) Farm infrastructure, 2.6) Supplychain infrastructure, and 2.9) Food security and access policy commitments. Poor scores in these areas weaken the capacity for strong production supply chains, revealing an area of improvement for the country.

- Quality and safety: Recording its strongest performance in this
  pillar, Mexico ranks 24th globally and 4th in Latin America, with a
  score of 78.9.
  - This is attributed to its "very good" performance (80-100) in 3.2)
     Nutritional Standards, 3.4) Protein quality and 3.5) Food safety.
  - Despite a strong overall performance in Quality and Safety, there remains room for improvement in 3.1) Dietary diversity, for which Mexico scores in the "weak" range (40-54.9).
- **Sustainability and adaptation**: Mexico ranks 28th globally and 7th in Latin America on this pillar, with a score of 60.2.
  - The country's scores fall into the "very weak" category (0-39.9) for 4.3) Land and 4.4) Oceans, rivers and lakes, and "weak" (40-54.9) for 4.2) Water, lowering the overall score on this pillar.
  - The country posts a strong performance in 4.6) Disaster risk management ("very good"—80-100).

# Snapshot: Mexico 2012-22 food security environment

Mexico has seen an overall improvement of 7.3 points in its food security environment over the past 11 years, driven by its scores in three of the four pillars of the GFSI. Affordability scores for the country have deteriorated slightly (by 0.9 points) since 2012.

The decline in Affordability can be mainly attributed to a drop of 14 points in 1.1) Change in average food costs, for which the country scored 64 in 2022. Mexico has experienced increased volatility in food prices in 2021 and 2022.

The largest improvement came in the Sustainability and Adaptation pillar, where Mexico's score improved by 14.8 points to move from a "weak" score to a "moderate" score. This is mainly the result of increases of 47.1 points in 4.6) Disaster risk management and 44 points in 4.5) Political commitment to adaptation (the country scores 61.2 for the latter in 2022). Mexico has made strides building strong policies to adapt to climate change over the past 11 years, although challenges linked to land degradation and marine biodiversity protection lower the overall score on this pillar.

#### Mexico

The diagram below shows country performance in 2022 (latest available data). Scores are normalized 0-100, where 100=best conditions.  $\Delta$  = change in score, 2022 compared with 2012.  $\uparrow$  = Score improved  $\downarrow$  = Score deteriorated - = no change in score

								Score	Δ
FOOD SECURITY ENV	IRONM	ENT						69.1	↑ +7.3
	Score	Δ		Score $\Delta$		Score $\Delta$		Score	Δ
I AFFORDABILITY	76.0	↓ -0.9	2 AVAILABILITY	60.0 ↑ +7.0	3 QUALITY AND SAFETY	78.9 ↑ +11.0	4 SUSTAINABILIT AND ADAPTATI	60.2	↑ +14.8
1.1 Change in average food costs	64.0	↓ -14.0	2.1 Access to agricultural inputs	74.0 ↑ +15.5	3.1 Dietary diversity	49.9 ↑ +4.7	4.1 Exposure	79.6	$\leftrightarrow$
Proportion of population under	90.1	↑ +2.9	2.2 Agricultural research & development	46.5 ↑ +6.7	3.2 Nutritional standards	100.0 ↑ +50.	4.2 Water	47.5	$\leftrightarrow$
global poverty line  3 Inequality-adjusted	52.0	→ —	2.3 Farm infrastructure	54.7 ↑ +37.3	3.3 Micronutrient availability	68.5 ↓ -0.4	4.3 Land	36.9	↑ +0.3
income index	52.9	-0.5	2.4 Volatility of		•	80.1	4.4 Oceans, rivers an lakes	36.3	↓ -6.0
I.4 Agricultural trade	71.4	↑ +10.5	agricultural production	91.8 +3.4	3.4 Protein quality	-0.6	4.5 Political		<b></b>
I.5 Food safety net programmes	100.0	$\leftrightarrow$	2.5 Food loss	72.2 <del>\</del> -1.7	3.5 Food safety	94.5 ↑ +0.9	commitment to adaptation	61.2	+44.0
1 0			2.6 Supply chain infrastructure	50.4 ↓ -2.4			4.6 Disaster risk management	100.0	↑ +47.1
			2.7 Sufficiency of supply	37.9 ↓ -48.9					
			2.8 Political and social barriers to access	59.6 ↑ +2.2		Very good (80–100)		ik Very -54.9) (0–3	/ weak 19.9)
			2.9 Food security and access policy commitments	52.5 ↑ +52.5		Source: Glob	ource: Global Food Security Index 2022.		

#### Strengths and opportunities for action

Mexico leads on indicators that protect consumers, including food safety-net programmes and nutritional standards, but excessive reliance on food aid remains a gap. The country has also made significant efforts to develop effective disaster risk management practices. However, despite developments to further adaptation, the country's land, ocean, rivers and lakes are at risk of degradation and overexploitation, lowering the overall food security environment in the country.

#### Strengths

- **1.5) Food safety-net programmes**: Mexico has consistently maintained a score of 100 and tied in first place globally on this indicator for all 11 years of the index. In this time, food safety net programmes have been *consistently operated by the government* (1.5.4), received dedicated funding (1.5.2) and cover populations in need across Mexico (1.5.3).
- **3.2) Nutritional standards**: Mexico has climbed 61 places since 2012 to rank joint 1st, improving its score by 50 points to record a perfect 100. Mexico's strong performance on this indicator can be attributed to its consistent top performance in 3.2.3) Nutritional labelling and 3.2.4) Nutritional monitoring and surveillance, and an 11-year gain of 100 points in 3.2.1) National dietary guidelines, for which it ranks joint 1st this year.
- **4.6) Disaster risk management**: Between 2012 and 2022, Mexico has moved up by five positions to joint 1st. Its score has improved by 47.1 points (to 100) in the process. The country's strong performance on this indicator can be attributed to its consistent top performance (scoring 100 in all years of the index) in 4.6.1) Pest infestation and disease mitigation and 4.6.2) Risk management co-ordination. The country ranks joint 1st globally in both of these sub-indicators in 2022.

#### **Areas for improvement**

- **2.7) Sufficiency of supply**: Between 2012 (when it scored 86.8) and 2022 (scoring 37.9), Mexico has fallen 62 places in this indicator to rank 81st globally this year. Mexico's "very weak" performance on this indicator can be attributed to the country's *increased food aid dependency* (2.7.2), for which its score has declined by 100 points (to 0 points) over the past 11 years. Rank-wise, the country has dropped 74 places, ranking 75th in 2022.
- **4.4) Oceans, rivers, and lakes**: Between 2012 (when it scored 42.3) and 2022 (scoring 36.3), Mexico has dropped 6 points in maintaining the health of oceans. This has resulted in a ranking slide to joint 66th place on this indicator. The country's low score can be attributed to unsustainable levels of *4.4.2*) *Marine biodiversity*. The country needs to focus on policies to better protect oceans and marine life.
- **4.3) Land**: Mexico's performance on this indicator has consistently yielded scores in the "very weak" category since 2012. This can be mainly attributed to its low scores in *4.3.2*) *Grassland* (for which it scores 44.7 and ranks 105th in 2022) and *4.3.1*) *Land degradation* (scoring 23.3 and ranking 106th). Substandard land-use planning and permitting practices create a policy environment that is unfavourable for sustainable land practices.