



NINTH MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)

Aguascalientes, Mexico, 14-16 November 2017

GENERAL INFORMATION



**INSTITUTO NACIONAL
DE ESTADÍSTICA Y GEOGRAFÍA**

INTRODUCTION

The ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will be held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 14 to 16 November 2017.

This document is intended to provide delegates with useful information to facilitate their work at the meeting.

The meeting coordinators will be available to answer any questions concerning logistical or organizational matters that you may wish to ask before or during the event.

1. General information on Aguascalientes

Aguascalientes is one of Mexico's 32 constituent states. It covers 5,680.33 square kilometres, or 0.3% of the country's total surface area. It is bordered to the north, east and west by the State of Zacatecas; and to the south and east by the State of Jalisco. In the centre of the state, at an elevation of 2,000 metres above sea level, there is a high plain that runs from north to south and forms the Valley of Aguascalientes.

Weather

The climate of the State of Aguascalientes is semi-arid, with an average annual temperature of 17.4°C and an average rainfall of 526 mm over the year. Additional information about the weather in Aguascalientes may be found at <http://smn.conagua.gob.mx/>.

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

LOCAL CURRENCY	<p>The national currency is the Mexican peso (\$). The peso floats freely and, over recent months, has averaged around 18.50 to the United States dollar. The current exchange rate may be found at www.banxico.org.mx/portal-mercado-cambiario/index.html. Hotels do not accept cash payments in United States dollars, nor do they offer money-changing services.</p> <p>Note: <i>There is a bank inside the National Statistics and Geography Institute (INEGI) complex, where you will be able to change money. Please bring your passport. Money can also be changed at the bureaux de change located in the airport. Please note that at the weekend, bureaux de change located away from the airport may have limited opening hours or may not open at all.</i></p>
LOCAL TIME	GMT-5 (in summer)
ELECTRICITY	The electric supply is nominally 127 VAC, 60 Hz. Flat-pin plugs (similar to those found the United States) are used, and wall sockets may or may not be earthed. To avoid problems with their electrical devices, visitors may wish to bring an adapter.

WATER	Drinking the tap water is not recommended; visitors are advised to consume only boiled or bottled water.
VACCINATIONS	No vaccinations are required to enter Mexico.
SALES TAX AND TIPPING	Value added tax (VAT) is levied on most products and services at a rate of 16%. Hotel accommodation is also subject to a 2% federal tax. In restaurants it is customary to leave a tip of between 10% and 15% of the total bill.
TAXIS	Visitors are advised to use only taxis from authorized ranks ("taxis de sitio"), which can be found at hotel entrances and charge reasonable rates.
BUSINESS HOURS	Shops: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Banks: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ATMs are available around the clock.

2. Meeting venue

The ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC will take place from 14 to 16 November 2017 in the auditorium of the National Statistics and Geography Institute (INEGI) headquarters building.

National Statistics and Geography Institute (INEGI)

Address: Avenida Héroe de Nacozari Sur, No. 2301
Fraccionamiento Jardines del Parque
Aguascalientes, Ags., Mexico

3. Coordination of the meeting

The meeting is being organized by ECLAC and the Government of Mexico, through INEGI.

Questions on substantive matters related to the meeting may be addressed to Xavier Mancero, Chief of the Social Statistics Unit of the ECLAC Statistics Division (xavier.mancero@cepal.org, tel. (+56) 2 2210 2441).

Questions on operational matters related to the meeting may be addressed to Paula Warnken, Protocol Assistant of the Secretariat of the Commission (paula.warnken@cepal.org, tel. (+56) 2 2210 2651), or Paula Fuenzalida, Secretary of the ECLAC Statistics Division (paula.fuenzalida@cepal.org, tel. (+56) 2 2210 2634).

4. Hotel reservations

INEGI recommends the following hotels, which are offering special rates for the meeting. **Rates are given in Mexican pesos and include taxes, breakfast and Internet.**

- **Hotel Aranzazú (4*)**

Av. López Mateos Oriente, No. 1001
Plaza Kristal, Edificio C
Tel: (+52) 449 910 3290
<http://www.aranzazu.com.mx/>

Single room: **800** pesos (approx. US\$ 45)
Double room: **900** pesos (approx. US\$ 50)

- **Gran Hotel Hacienda de la Noria (5*)**

Av. Héroe de Nacozari Sur, No. 1315
Colonia La Salud
Tel: (+52) 449 910 2330
<http://granhotellanoria.com/>

Single or double room: **1,100** pesos (approx. US\$ 60)

- **Quinta Real Aguascalientes (5*)**

Av. Aguascalientes Sur, No. 601
Jardines de la Asunción
Tel: (+52) 449 978 5818
<https://www.quintareal.com/>

Master suite: **1,280** pesos (approx. US\$ 70)
Gran Clase suite: **1,580** pesos (approx. US\$ 85)

Reservations should be sent by email to Gloria Mercedes Huerta Palacios, mgloria.huerta@inegi.org.mx, **no later than 23 October 2017**. After that date, the hotels reserve the right to change their prices and cannot guarantee room availability. Please use the form included at the end of this information bulletin to request your reservation.

5. Getting to Aguascalientes

Aguascalientes International Airport —officially known as Lic. Jesús Terán Peredo International Airport— is located 24 kilometres south of the city of Aguascalientes and handles national and international air traffic in the region.

6. Visas and other entry requirements for Mexico

Participants are responsible for all passport and visa formalities and for compliance with any applicable health rules. Additional information on immigration procedures may be found at <https://www.gob.mx/inm/acciones-y-programas/tramites-migratorios>.

To check whether you require a visa to enter Mexico, please consult one of the following links:

Holders of diplomatic, official or service passports:

https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/210869/Visas_No_Ordinarios.pdf

Holders of ordinary passports:

<https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/8932/visasordinarios.pdf>

Visitors need the following documents to enter Mexico:

- visa (for certain nationalities)
- valid passport

Visitors must also complete a tourist entry form (FMT) or a multiple entry form (FMM), which are free of charge and are generally available from airlines. It is important that visitors do not lose the officially stamped copy they will receive upon clearing immigration.

Loss of this form, which must be surrendered to the authorities on leaving the country, will result in a fine. Visitors are recommended to note down the number of their tourist entry form and keep it in a safe place, and to ensure that their copy of the form is kept undamaged.

No obligatory vaccinations are needed to enter Mexico. However, visitors are advised to check with the local Mexican consulate in their country of origin.

7. Local transport

INEGI will provide meeting participants with special transport from Aguascalientes International Airport, in accordance with the arrival and departure times they indicate.

Upon arriving at Aguascalientes International Airport, participants will be met by a credentialled INEGI staff member, who will take them to their hotels.

Please note that this service will only be available on the official meeting days.

8. Registration

An online registration system will be available on the ECLAC website (<http://www.cepal.org/ceacepal>).

Delegate registration will begin on **Tuesday, 14 November, at 8 a.m.**, in the auditorium of the INEGI building. Participants will receive an ID badge that, for security reasons, will be required for admission to the meeting's sessions.

For further information on participant accreditation, please contact Paula Warnken (paula.warnken@cepal.org, tel. (+56) 2 2210 2651) or Paula Fuenzalida (paula.fuenzalida@cepal.org, tel. (+56) 2 2210-2634).

Online registration does not exempt delegations from the requirement to provide official notification of the name of the head of delegation and all accompanying members.

National delegations are reminded of their obligation to inform their embassies in Mexico that they will be attending the meeting.

9. Opening session

The meeting's opening session will begin at **9 a.m.** on **Tuesday, 14 November.**

10. Internet

The offices and conference rooms set aside for the meeting will have wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi).

11. Languages

The official language of the meeting will be Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation into English will be provided.

12. Medical services

The Government of Mexico will provide first aid services in case emergency medical assistance is required at the meeting venue.

13. Documents

As the meeting documents become available, they will be accessible on the meeting website (<http://www.cepal.org/ceacepal>). **Printed copies will not be distributed at the meeting.**