



e l e k t r o n

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## 36. Situation of the working class in Mexico

**ABSTRACT:** The FTE of Mexico presents to the 16th World-wide Union Congress the brief version of the report about the situation of the working class in Mexico.

### 1. Introduction

The level of trade unionism in Mexico is extremely low, the movement is pulverized in thousand of unions, all practically denatured. The Mexican trade unionism, quantitatively and qualitatively, continues getting worse, it is going through one of its worse moments.

The more recent official statistics of use reveal that in Mexico the population with 14 years old or more is about 79.3 million, which, 58.09% constitute the so called Economic Active Population.

94.67% of the PEA (43 million 633 thousand 759 workers), constitute the "Occupied Population" (OP), term that talks about any person who carries out a work at least one hour to the week, independently of which she perceives or not a wage entrance (p. e. work for auto consumption or in familiar company).

Only the 62.85% of the OP are subordinated and remunerated workers, while 21.44% work on its own.

In Mexico, "the macroeconomic" numbers are manipulated to simulate recovery, inflates the employment with inferior wages to the minimum, increase cuts of personnel, the closing of factories and the relocation of the labor centers.

Most of the Mexican workers are exploded, without collective contract of work

or with any that conceals irregular schemes of remuneration, always devoid of social protection (retirement).

The worse thing is the union incapacity to articulate an answer. The official numbers, still partial, reveal the level of the crisis.

### 2. Union atomization and loss of rights

#### 2.1 Unemployment of more than 5.33%

In the first trimester of 2010, the economically active population was 46 million 92 thousands 460 and, from this one, 94.67% of Mexican are occupied population. That would mean that, unemployment is 5.33%. In the reality he is greater.

The wage-earning workers are single 62.85% (28 million 967 thousands 915). Of these, 21.44% (9 million 882 thousands 338) work on their own and, by assumption, they are not wage-earning. The proportion as much of wage-earning workers, as those that work on their own, are going down.

More than half of the wage-earning workers they receive a very small wage. 58.33% of the occupied population (25 million 453 thousands 189), receive between zero and 3 minimum wages. Only 25.76% (11 million 240 thousands), receive a greater *NOMINAL* wage. Nevertheless, ALL wage-earning the Mexicans receive a *REAL* wage more and more

2011, [elektron 11 \(36\) 2, FTE of Mexico](#) deteriorated. From August of 1976, the *REAL* wage of the Mexican workers it is going downwards, the fall is almost vertical, without recovery at NO moment. The fall already arrived long time ago at the level of the year 1900, before the Mexican Revolution.

In matter of social security, 16 million 883 thousands 363 (58.3%), of the 28.9 million are “subordinated and remunerated” workers who exist in the country, have access to this service while almost 13 million workers and their families lack all social security. In addition, 58.4% of the OP works without social benefits.

## 2.2 Union affiliation of the 9.74%

In union matter the situation is more serious. According to data available, the union structure is made up of 2 thousand 325 union organizations. Those associations are grouped in 63 confederations. With these organizations a total of 4 millions 248 thousand 76 workers are affiliated. Enormous majority of the Mexican workers, 90.26% of the OP (more than 43 million), are not affiliated to any trade union nor organized in any way.

Only 9.74% of the “occupied population ” are affiliated with some type of union organization, that is, 4,248,879 trade union members of 43 million 633 thousand 759 workers.

For such very small number of trade union workers; it exist 63 confederations. All has a common denominator: they are controlled by the State, ANY of those confederations is true, all are vulgar businesses.

The Confederations are organized in state and local Federations, affiliating workers of diverse branches, which are subject to different conditions of work, different wages and different unions. The tendency to the pulverization takes already more than 50 years.

## 2.3 Imperialism’s antiunion strategy

In their totality the Mexican unions are almost dominated by the call “charrismo trade union” that is a powerful political and economic superstructure related at a corporate level to the Mexican State. The “union charros” manage the Collective Contracts of Work, control the entrance (and expulsion) of the workers in the companies, they manipulate the wage and

social benefits, and make of the union a lucrative business by means of the corruption and the organized crime.

But the “charrismo” in Mexico is something much more serious. It is about the strategy organized by imperialism, through the company, to denature the unionism and to destroy it. That strategy was designed more than 50 years ago and has been applied successfully to date.

During more than 5 decades, imperialism has made successful its actions through the Inter-American Organization of Work (ORIT), regional office of the ICFTU (now ITUC).

The “charrismo” trade union is to bulwark that prevents the workers the fight by their vindications. In the unions controlled by the “charrismo” there are never assemblies nor organize electoral processes.

At the moment, the “charrismo” is the pillar number one of the government to take ahead the privatizations in all the areas, always to the margin of the law. The level of union corruption is scandalous.

## 2.4 Thousands of false unions

In addition to the “charrismo” phenomenon, in Mexico is suffered the existence of false unions, that “sell” protection to the companies and “contract” with the same ones in exchange for money, without legally exists no constituted union.

The workers are provided to the companies by those false unions but, the workers, never affiliated themselves and are far from participate in some union activity. That, simply, does not exist. It is all about dirty businesses, the traffic of workers, tolerated and supported by the governmental authorities, employers and the State.

Several of these Mafias are headed by lawyers without scruples that have offices dedicated to the “administration” of those false unions. Some “legal” offices control up to 5 thousand contracts.

The labor authorities know this situation but they make contingency not covered by law, tolerating such practices. The reason is simple. That “trade unionism” represents a source to them of mutual enrichment and, at the same time, it prevents the organized action of the workers, questions

that state, employers and imperialism they foment.

## 2.5 Thousands of false contracts

Among 1,289 unions registered before the government only 27 organizations (2%) have their updated data.

There are not reliable data to detect the thousands of practically nonexistent collective contracts, because they have never been reviewed, or because they are solved between the “charros”, company and leaders, to the margin of the workers.

Some investigators indicate that there are more than 12 thousand false contracts, of as the workers ignore their content and existence. The number could be greater because any control does not exist.

## 3. Conclusions

Studying by sectors of the OP, the 12.14% work in the primary sector (farming, forestry, it hunts and it fishes), 23.04% in secondary (industrialist and manufactures) and the 58.86% in the tertiary one (commerce and services).

The technological sense in the world of the work, caused by capitalism on global scale, cause a transfer even greater of the “live” work to the “immaterial” work, “erasing” the old categories and making difficult taking consciousness of class. Nevertheless, in the

2011, [elektron 11 \(36\) 3, FTE of Mexico](#) case of Mexico, the proportion of “live” work is constant. But, most of the 10.6 million workers of the industrial and manufacturing sector (making “live” work) they are not affiliated to any trade union or they belong to “charros” unions.

In sum, a total denature of the Mexican trade union usurped by the “charrismo union” exists. The Mexican working class, organized in a minority scheme, is kidnapped in its own union organizations. This process has been 50 years already and it is not accidental or spontaneous. It is the strategy implanted by imperialism thought IFTUC-ORIT (ITUC-CSA) cross to prevent any organized action and conscientious of the workers. The result: in Mexico most of the workers they are not affiliated to any trade union. If the capital has infiltrated and corrupted the unions, is because they affect to it, creating a perception that they are over dated, to discredit them and to debilitate them before the new generations of workers.

The FTE of Mexico fights for the democratic reorganization of the labor movement of Mexico in 20 national unions of industry in other so many branches of activity, base of the Unique Central of Workers. This implies the necessary defeat of the “charrismo” and the rescue of the unions by the own workers.

In order to take ahead to these proposals the FTE of Mexico it hoists a Working Program and it exerts the consequent actions.

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