

Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC  
Form 6-K  
February 26, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER  
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY  
2004

FOMENTO ECONOMICO MEXICANO, S.A. DE C.V.  
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Mexican Economic Development, Inc.  
(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

United Mexican States  
(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

General Anaya No. 601 Pte.  
Colonia Bella Vista  
Monterrey, NL 64410 Mexico  
(Address of principal executive offices)

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.)

Form 20-F       Form 40-F   
    ---                                      ---

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.)

Yes                       No   
    ---                                      ---

(If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82--.)

Contacts:  
Juan F. Fonseca  
(52) 818-328-6245  
juan.fonseca@femsa.com.mx

Alan Alanis  
(52) 818-328-6211  
alan.alanis@femsa.com.mx

Emily Klingbeil

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

(52) 818-328-6189  
emily.klingbeil@femsa.com.mx

FEMSA Reports Solid Results: Income from Operations up 41.4% to  
Ps. 3.599 billion during 4Q03

Monterrey, Mexico, February 26, 2004 -- Fomento Economico Mexicano, S.A. de C.V. ("FEMSA") (NYSE: FMX; BMV: FEMSA UBD, FEMSA UB), the Leader in Latin Beverages, today reported its operational and financial results for the fourth quarter and full year of 2003.

### Business Highlights

FEMSA total revenues increased 37.0% reaching Ps. 75.891 billion during 2003 with a consolidated operating margin of 16.0%.

Coca-Cola FEMSA continues its smooth integration of the Panamco territories. Total revenues increased 91.4% reaching Ps. 35.729 billion during 2003 to contribute nearly half of FEMSA total revenues. Comparable volume for Mexico was up 2.2% in 2003, including CSD volume growth of 2.9%.

FEMSA Cerveza's domestic and export beer sales volume increased 5.2% to 5.820 million hectoliters and 2.9% to 0.419 million hectoliters respectively during 4Q03, in large part due to successful promotions with our Sol brand in Mexico and our Dos Equis and Tecate brands in the U.S.

Oxxo opened 582 net new stores during 2003, totaling 2,798 locations nationwide. Total revenues increased by 27.6% reaching Ps. 4.511 billion during 4Q03 with an operating margin up 70 basis points from 4Q02.

1

Jose Antonio Fernandez, Chairman and CEO of FEMSA, commented, "During the fourth quarter and full year 2003, our company continued to strengthen its competitive position in Mexico and Latin America and I am pleased to report a ninth consecutive year of operating income growth. Today we operate in nine Latin American countries, up from two last year, and export to many key markets around the World. The Panamco acquisition confirmed FEMSA as a serious regional contender, but our challenge now is to ensure that the synergies and economies of scale of our new platform deliver lasting results for our employees, consumers, and shareholders."

### Notice

Upon the completion of our acquisition of Panamerican Beverages, Inc. ("Panamco"), we began consolidating its operating results as of May 2003. Therefore, operating results for Coca-Cola FEMSA and for FEMSA consolidated will not be fully comparable with previous quarters until the third quarter of 2004, and on an annual basis, they will not be fully comparable until we report our 2005 results.

DISCUSSION OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER AND AUDITED  
FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE FULL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 COMPARED

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

TO THE FOURTH QUARTER AND FULL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002.

### FEMSA

	FEMSA and Subsidiaries (Millions of Pesos)							
	Total Revenues				Income from Operations			
	4Q 03	% Chg	2003	% Chg	4Q 03	% Chg	2003	% Chg
FEMSA	21,850	53.2	75,891	37.0	3,599	41.4	12,114	22.6
Coca-Cola FEMSA	11,435	138.5	35,729	91.4	2,161	76.4	6,710	45.0
FEMSA Cerveza	5,540	3.0	21,924	1.3	1,043	2.0	4,007	(2.1)
FEMSA Comercio	4,511	27.6	16,601	25.3	233	46.9	781	28.9
FEMSA Empaques	1,937	8.8	7,352	7.1	283	18.3	1,098	5.1

2

FEMSA total revenues increased by 53.2% to Ps. 21.850 billion during 4Q03 from Ps. 14.264 billion during 4Q02. The increase in total revenues was driven by revenue growth in every one of our main sub-holding companies. In-line with 3Q03, most of the incremental revenue relates to Coca-Cola FEMSA and its new revenue sources. Other reasons for the growth in total revenues during the fourth quarter include: (i) strong revenue growth of 27.6% at FEMSA Comercio due to a record number of 257 net new stores opened during the fourth quarter, (ii) the 5.2% increase in FEMSA Cerveza's domestic sales volume, which combined with a weak pricing environment, resulted in an increase in total revenues of 3.0%, and (iii) record revenue growth of 8.8% at FEMSA Empaques, mainly reflecting an increase in demand for bottles and beverage cans as well as for refrigerators for the acquired Panamco territories.

For the full year 2003, our consolidated total revenues increased by 37.0% to Ps. 75.891 billion from Ps. 55.395 billion in 2002 driven primarily by the Coca-Cola FEMSA acquisition of Panamco. Coca-Cola FEMSA reached total revenues of Ps. 35.729 billion for 2003. FEMSA Cerveza increased its total sales volume by 3.2% reaching 24.564 million hectoliters; this enabled an increase in its total revenues by 1.3% to Ps. 21.924 billion despite the adverse impact of a weak pricing environment. FEMSA Comercio posted strong total revenue growth of 25.3% thanks to a record number of 582 net new stores opened during 2003. FEMSA Empaques increased total revenues by 7.1% fueled by surge in demand for beverage cans as well as for refrigerators for the acquired Panamco territories.

Gross margin decreased 102 basis points to 48.4% of net sales during 4Q03 compared to 49.4% during 4Q02. This was primarily due to the lack of a price increase on our main product lines, a depreciation of the peso that affected our dollar denominated costs, higher raw material prices, and the integration of the new Coca-Cola FEMSA operations.

For the full year 2003, gross margin decreased 199 basis points to 48.3% of net sales of Ps. 36.520 billion for 2003 compared to 50.3% at Ps. 27.755 billion for 2002. The downward pressure on margins was due to the reasons mentioned above.

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

Income from operations (including results of affiliated companies) increased by 41.4% to Ps. 3.599 billion during 4Q03, resulting in an operating margin of 16.5%. The observed margin contraction of 138 basis points from 4Q02 primarily resulted from the integration of the newly acquired Mexican bottling territories that have a lower level of profitability than Coca-Cola FEMSA's original territories. The decrease in operating margin during 4Q03 was also attributable to (i) the increased contribution of the Oxxo retail chain in our consolidated financial results, and (ii) operating margin contractions at both FEMSA Cerveza and FEMSA Empaques reflecting a lower gross profit margin at both subsidiaries caused by lack of pricing and the impact of a weaker peso on the cost of dollar denominated raw materials.

For the full year 2003, income from operations increased by 22.6% reaching Ps. 12.114 billion from Ps. 9.879 billion in 2002. The consolidated operating margin decreased 180 basis points from 2002 levels to 16.0% of total revenues.

3

Net interest expense amounted to Ps. 461 million during 4Q03, primarily resulting from the interest expense related to new debt issued by Coca-Cola FEMSA in order to finance the acquisition of Panamco. For full year 2003, net interest expense amounted to Ps. 1.845 billion.

Foreign exchange gain (loss) amounted to a loss of Ps. 452 million during 4Q03 compared to Ps. 35 million during 4Q02. This amount primarily reflects our higher US dollar denominated liabilities resulting from the new debt incurred for our recent acquisition. For full year 2003, foreign exchange loss amounted to a loss of Ps. 2.532 billion compared to a loss of Ps. 293 million in 2002. In addition to the previous explanation, the peso depreciated 3.3% in real terms versus the dollar during 2003.

Monetary position gain (loss) amounted to a gain of Ps. 468 million during 4Q03, compared to a loss of Ps. 31 million during 4Q02. For the full year 2003, the monetary position amounted to a gain of Ps. 954 million, compared to a gain of Ps. 398 million during 2002. This gain reflects the inflationary impact over the higher net liabilities recorded during the period. To determine changes in monetary position, the Company reflects adjustments for inflation over the year, such that monetary assets and liabilities obtained or disposed of during the year are not eroded.

Tax recognized during 4Q03 amounted to Ps. 1.446 billion, which includes income tax, tax on assets, and employee profit sharing ("taxes") compared to Ps. 894 million during 4Q02. For the full year 2003, taxes amounted to Ps. 3.378 billion. The effective tax rate for 2003 was 42.0% and compares favorably with the 44.0% effective tax rate of 2002.

Net income amounted to Ps. 1.764 billion during 4Q03, up 38.6% with respect to 4Q02. For the full year 2003, net income decreased 2.8% to Ps. 4.657 billion from Ps. 4.791 billion during 2002.

Net majority income per FEMSA Unit(1) was Ps. 0.966 in 4Q03 and Ps. 2.919 for the full year 2003. Net majority income per FEMSA ADR,

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

considering an exchange rate of Ps. 11.235 per dollar, was 2.598 dollars for 2003. Consolidated net majority income amounted to Ps. 3.093 billion for the year 2003, which is 5% higher than 2002.

Capital expenditures amounted to Ps. 1.767 billion and Ps. 6.789 billion for 4Q03 and full year 2003, respectively.

Consolidated net debt. As of December 31, 2003, FEMSA recorded a cash balance of Ps. 7.733 billion (\$688 million), short-term debt of Ps. 2.428 billion (\$216 million) and long-term debt of Ps. 35.933 billion (\$3,198 million). FEMSA's consolidated net debt balance decreased by 84 million dollars quarter over quarter.

- (1) FEMSA Units consists of FEMSA UBD units and FEMSA UB units. Each FEMSA UBD unit is comprised of one Series B share, two Series D-B shares and two Series D-L shares. Each FEMSA UB unit is comprised of five series B shares. The number of FEMSA Units outstanding as of December 31, 2003 was 1,059,462,090, equivalent to the total number of shares of the Company outstanding as of December 31, 2003 divided by 5.

4

Consolidated net debt (cont'd).

FEMSA has achieved a balanced mix in its debt structure. As of December 31, 2003, approximately 71% of FEMSA's consolidated total debt had a fixed interest rate, while the remaining 29% had a variable one. Our long-term debt consisted of 47.8% in US dollars, 50.6% in Mexican pesos, and 1.6% in Colombian pesos. The nominal weighted average annual interest rate for the total debt was 6.1% as of December 31, 2003. The weighted average interest rates for the debt were approximately 7.3%, 4.7%, and 10.3% for Mexican peso, US dollar, and Colombian peso denominated debt, respectively. In addition, the Company has achieved a comfortable amortization profile for its long-term debt with maturities that go out to 2009.

Please note, in this financial release and going forward, we are including an additional page to our appendices that provides other financial information such as consolidated EBITDA and net debt position.

Coca-Cola FEMSA

Coca-Cola FEMSA's financial results and discussion are incorporated by reference from Coca-Cola FEMSA's press release attached to this press release.

FEMSA Cerveza

Domestic sales volume grew by 5.2% to 5.820 million hectoliters during 4Q03, primarily due to favorable demand during the holiday season and growth across all territories. For the full year 2003, domestic sales volume grew by 3.3% to 22.582 million hectoliters. We attribute this increase to (i) the absence of a price increase since early 2002, (ii) successful promotions particularly with the Sol and Indio brands, and (iii) a modest recovery in the Mexican economy evidenced by an estimated 1.3% Gross Domestic Product growth during the year. In nominal terms our domestic revenue per hectoliter

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

increased 1.4%, attesting to a successful shift in our sales mix towards more premium presentations such as non-returnable bottles and cans.

Export sales volume grew by 2.9% to 0.419 million hectoliters during 4Q03 and by 1.4% to 1.982 million hectoliters for full year 2003. This was primarily due to a 1.2% increase in sales volume to the United States during 2003, mainly through the Tecate and Dos Equis Brand. The remaining increase in volume during 2003 was due to an increase of 30.7% in our exports to Central and South America, which offset a decline of 14.9% to Asia. In these regions, Sol is our main export brand. The export revenue per hectoliter increased 9.0% in peso terms, mainly as a result of a depreciation in real terms of the peso versus the US dollar in 2003 and a moderate price increase in dollar terms effective at the end of 2002.

Total revenues increased by 3.0% to Ps. 5.540 billion during 4Q03, resulting from total volume growth of 5.0%, which offset a 1.5% decline in real revenues per hectoliter.

For full year 2003, total revenues increased by 1.3% to Ps. 21.924 billion from Ps. 21.643 billion during 2002. Domestic revenues represented 93% of the total, while the remaining 7% came from exports.

5

Cost of sales remained in line with revenue growth at Ps. 2.387 billion during 4Q03 from Ps. 2.339 billion during 4Q02. Gross profit reached Ps. 3.152 billion, a 3.8% increase compared to the fourth quarter of 2002. For full year 2003, cost of sales was also stable at Ps. 9.425 billion from Ps. 9.282 billion during 2002. Gross profit totaled Ps. 12.499 billion resulting in a gross margin of 57.4%, in line with 2002 levels. The margin during 4Q03 and for full year 2003 was impacted by two offsetting factors: (i) an increase in the dollar denominated costs, which represent approximately one-fourth of cost of sales, and (ii) better purchasing terms for raw materials, headcount reductions, and lower transportation costs from our breweries to the warehouses.

Administrative expenses increased 9.7% to Ps. 596 million during 4Q03 compared to Ps. 543 million in 4Q02. This increase was primarily due to the start of the amortization for the commercial module of our Enterprise Resource Planning System ("ERP"). For the full year 2003, administrative expenses increased by 3.1% to Ps. 2.333 billion compared to Ps. 2.262 billion in 2002.

Selling expenses decreased 0.3% to Ps. 1.527 billion during 4Q03 compared to Ps. 1.533 billion in 4Q02, due to various cost containment initiatives throughout the organization. For the full year 2003, selling expenses increased by 1.6% to Ps. 6.190 billion compared to Ps. 6.093 billion in 2002. The increase in selling expenses during 2003 was primarily due to an increase in variable expenses that grew in line with our sales. At 28.2% of total revenues, selling expenses remained relatively constant to 2002 levels.

Participation in Affiliated Companies dropped by 77.2% and 65.9% during 4Q03 and full year 2003, respectively. This decline was due to a reduction in the profitability of Labatt USA, partly due to

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

increased marketing spending.

Operating income (before deduction of management fees) increased 2.0% to Ps. 1.043 billion during 4Q03 compared to Ps. 1.022 billion during 4Q02. This increase reflects higher volumes and improvements at the gross margin level. However, operating margin (before management fees) decreased 20 basis points to 18.8% of total revenues. For full year 2003, operating income decreased 2.1% to Ps. 4.007 billion from Ps. 4.094 billion in 2002. The year over year decline reflects a weak pricing environment, new amortizations of ERP related expenses, and lower profitability at Labatt USA.

### FEMSA Comercio

Total revenues increased by 27.6% to Ps. 4.511 billion during 4Q03 from Ps. 3.536 billion during 4Q02. The primary reason for the increase was the opening of 257 net new Oxxo stores during the quarter and a total of 582 net new Oxxo stores during the full year 2003. As of December 31, 2003, we had 2,798 Oxxos nationwide, an increase of 26.3% from 2002. At this pace of growth, Oxxo is rapidly becoming a recognized retail chain with strong brand identity throughout all of Mexico.

For the full year 2003, total revenues increased by 25.3% to Ps. 16.601 billion from Ps. 13.247 during 2002.

6

Oxxo same store sales increased an average of 11.0% during 4Q03 reflecting an increase in the average ticket of 4.1% and an increase in store traffic of 6.7%. This increase reflects the rapid pace of expansion as well as stronger category management practices that enabled Oxxo to improve the mix of products within the store. Please note that this same store sales calculation is different than what historically was presented as "Sales of Comparative Mature Stores", which considered the variation in average sales of all those stores that had more than 18 months in operation. Oxxo is now calculating the change in same store sales in full accordance with industry standards. This change is reflected herein and going forward.

For the full year 2003, Oxxo same store sales increased an average of 8.2% reflecting an increase in the average ticket of 1.7% and an increase in store traffic of 6.5%.

Please see appendix for a historical comparison of same store sales figures for 2002 and 2003 on a quarterly and full year basis.

Gross profit reached Ps. 1.224 billion during 4Q03, achieving a gross margin of 27.1% of total revenues. This figure declined 94 basis points from fourth quarter 2002 levels.

For full year 2003, cost of sales remained in-line with revenue growth at Ps. 12.199 billion during 2003 from Ps. 9.739 billion in 2002, an increase of 25.3%. As a result, gross profit remained stable as a percentage of total sales at Ps. 4.402 billion in 2003 compared to Ps. 3.507 billion in 2002, up 25.5% year over year.

Administrative expenses increased 12.3% to Ps. 90 million during 4Q03 as we adjusted the management structure to support the expanded

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

operations, in particular, the operating of two new regional administrative offices to reach 37 nationwide. For full year 2003, administrative expenses increased 12.1% to Ps. 285 million, primarily due to the expansion described above.

Selling expenses increased in line with revenues to Ps. 902 million during 4Q03, remaining stable at approximately 20.0% of total revenues. For the full year 2003, selling expenses increased 26.0% to Ps. 3.336 billion, in-line with 2002. Our continued investments in technology, systems, distribution, and workforce are all aimed at further strengthening the expansion of Oxxo's business model.

Operating income increased 46.9% to Ps. 233 million resulting in a 72 basis point improvement in the operating margin of 5.2% for 4Q03. For the full year, operating income increased by 28.9% to Ps. 781 million. This increase was in-line with sales growth, and contributed to a stable operating margin of 4.7% for 2003, slightly above the 4.6% operating margin achieved in 2002.

7

### FEMSA Empaques

Total revenues increased by 8.8% to Ps. 1.937 billion during 4Q03. This increase was attributed to the following: (i) a 1.6% net increase in the sales volume of beverage cans, mainly to Coca-Cola FEMSA and FEMSA Cerveza, (ii) the depreciation of the Mexican peso, which offset a small decrease in the average price of these products in dollar terms, (iii) a surge in the sales volume of refrigerators shipped to the former Panamco territories, and (iv) the production of plastic cases for a new 2.5 liter bottle for Coca-Cola FEMSA. These factors also impacted the 7.1% increase in total revenues to Ps. 7.352 billion for the full year 2003.

Cost of sales reached Ps. 1.515 billion during 4Q03 resulting in a 152 basis point contraction in the gross profit to 21.9% of net sales. This decrease is primarily due the following: (i) an increase in the cost of dollar denominated raw materials, (ii) an increase in depreciation expenses related to the molds used to produce the cases for 2.5 liter plastic bottles, (iii) the replacement of one of the glass furnaces in early 2003, and (iv) higher energy costs.

For full year 2003, cost of sales reached Ps. 5.639 billion resulting in a gross margin of 23.4%.

Administrative expenses decreased by 25.4% to Ps. 42 million during 4Q03 due to adjustments in the personnel level and optimizations in certain administrative processes. Selling expenses decreased 19.1% to Ps. 97 million during 4Q03. This decrease was due to lower freight costs and the recovery of accounts previously deemed as uncollectable. For the full year 2003, administrative expenses decreased by 8.2% to Ps. 177 million due to cost cutting measures taken throughout the year. Selling expenses increased 1.4% to Ps. 437 million during 2003, mainly as a result of higher costs due to the increased sales volume of refrigerators and plastic cases.

Operating income increased by 18.3% to Ps. 283 million during 4Q03 resulting in an operating margin before management fees of 14.6% of total revenues, a 120 basis point increase from 4Q02. For the full



## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

year 2003, operating income increased 5.1% to Ps. 1.098 billion.

8

---

### CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION:

Our Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2003 Conference Call will be held on: Thursday February 26, 2004, 1:00 P.M. Eastern Time (12:00 noon Mexico City Time). To participate in the conference call, please dial: Domestic U.S.: 1-800-915-4836, International: 973-317-5319. This Conference Call will also be transmitted through live webcast at <http://ir.femsa.com> If you are unable to participate live, an instant replay of the conference call will be available through March 4, 2004. To listen to the replay please dial: Domestic U.S.: 1-800-428-6051; International: 973-709-2089, Passcode: 329800.

---

Set forth in this press release is certain unaudited financial information for FEMSA for the fourth quarter and audited financial information for the full year ended December 31, 2003, compared to the fourth quarter and full year ended December 31, 2002. We are a holding company whose principal activities are grouped under the following sub-holding companies and carried out by their respective operating subsidiaries: Coca-Cola FEMSA, S.A. de C.V., which engages in the production, distribution and marketing of non-alcoholic beverages; FEMSA Cerveza, S.A. de C.V., which engages in the production, distribution and marketing of beer; FEMSA Comercio, S.A. de C.V., which engages in the operation of convenience stores; and FEMSA Empaques, S.A. de C.V., which engages in the production and distribution of packaging materials.

All of the figures in this report have been restated in constant Mexican pesos ("Pesos" or "Ps.") with purchasing power as of December 31, 2003 and were prepared in accordance with Mexican Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("Mexican GAAP"). As a result, all percentage changes are expressed in real terms.

### FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report may contain certain forward-looking statements concerning our future performance that should be considered as good faith estimates made by us. These forward-looking statements reflect management expectations and are based upon currently available data. Actual results are subject to future events and uncertainties, which could materially impact our actual performance.

### NOTES:

We invite you to register in our Investor Relations Site located at <http://ir.femsa.com> to receive notification of all of our press releases, earnings releases and IR Events automatically through our e-mail alert service.

Please contact FEMSA's Investor Relations officers if you wish to have your name added or removed from this distribution list or to receive this press release through a specific medium only.

Five pages of tables and Coca-Cola FEMSA's press release to follow.

FEMSA

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT							CONSOLIDATED
For the three months and twelve months ended December 31, :							As of De
(Expressed in Millions of Pesos as of December 31, 2003)							
For the IV quarter of:			For the twelve months of:				
	2003	2002	%Var	2003	2002	%Var	ASSETS
Net sales	21,728	14,196	53.1	75,597	55,176	37.0	Cash and cash equivalents
Other operating revenues	122	68	79.4	294	219	34.2	Accounts receivable
Total revenues	21,850	14,264	53.2	75,891	55,395	37.0	Inventories
Cost of sales	11,337	7,250	56.4	39,371	27,640	42.4	Prepaid expenses
Gross profit	10,513	7,014	49.9	36,520	27,755	31.6	Total Current Assets
Administrative expenses	1,603	1,220	31.4	5,740	4,870	17.9	Property, plant and equipment, net
Selling expenses	5,325	3,308	61.0	18,696	13,093	42.8	Deferred charges and other assets
Operating expenses	6,928	4,528	53.0	24,436	17,963	36.0	Bottling and distribution rights(2)
Participation in affiliated companies	14	60	(76.7)	30	87	(65.5)	TOTAL ASSETS
Income from operations	3,599	2,546	41.4	12,114	9,879	22.6	
Interest expense	(560)	(276)	102.9	(2,540)	(943)	169.4	LIABILITIES
Interest income	99	148	(33.1)	695	465	49.5	Bank loans
Interest expense, net	(461)	(128)	260.2	(1,845)	(478)	286.0	Current maturities long term debt
Foreign exchange (loss) gain	(452)	(35)	N.S.	(2,532)	(293)	N.S.	Interest payable
Gain (loss) on monetary position	468	(31)	N.S.	954	398	139.7	Operating liabilities
Integral result of financing	(445)	(194)	129.4	(3,423)	(373)	N.S.	Total Current Liabilities
Other (expenses) income	56	(185)	N.S.	(656)	(951)	(31.0)	Bank loans
Income before taxes	3,210	2,167	48.1	8,035	8,555	(6.1)	Deferred income taxes
Taxes	(1,446)	(894)	61.7	(3,378)	(3,764)	(10.3)	Other liabilities

Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

Net Income	1,764	1,273	38.6	4,657	4,791	(2.8)	Total Liabilities
Net majority income	1,023	758	35.0	3,093	2,947	5.0	Total Stockholders equity
Net minority income	741	515	43.9	1,564	1,844	(15.2)	LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

% Total Revenues							FINANCIAL RATIOS
	2003	2002	Var. p.p.	2003	2002	Var. p.p.	
Net sales	99.4	99.5	(0.1)	99.6	99.6	-	Liquidity Interest coverage(3)
Other operating revenues	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.4	-	
Total revenues	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	-	Leverage Capitalization
Cost of sales(1)	52.2	51.1	1.1	52.1	50.1	2.0	
Gross profit(1)	48.4	49.4	(1.0)	48.3	50.3	(2.0)	
Administrative expenses	7.3	8.6	(1.3)	7.6	8.8	(1.2)	(2) Consist mainly assets generated
Selling expenses	24.4	23.2	1.2	24.6	23.6	1.0	(3) Income from op + other non-cash expense, net.
Operating expenses	31.7	31.7	-	32.2	32.4	(0.2)	
Participation in affiliated companies	0.1	0.4	(0.3)	-	0.2	(0.2)	
Income from operations	16.5	17.8	(1.3)	16.0	17.8	(1.8)	

(1) % to Net sales.

10

FEMSA

Results from operations  
For the twelve months of:  
(Expressed in Millions of Pesos as of December 31, 200

	Coca-Cola FEMSA			FEMSA Cerveza			FEMSA Comercio		
	2003	2002	% Var	2003	2002	% Var	2003	2002	% Var
Net sales	35,486.4	18,518.7	91.6	21,763.2	21,453.1	1.4	16,600.6	13,246.6	25.3
Other revenues	242.6	148.8	63.0	160.5	190.0	(15.5)			



Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

Gross margin	5,674.2	2,512.0	125.9	3,152.3	3,037.9	3.8	1,223.7	992.4	23.3
Administrative expenses	699.8	392.8	78.2	596.2	543.4	9.7	89.6	79.8	12.3
Sales expenses	2,813.5	893.9	214.7	1,527.4	1,532.5	(0.3)	901.6	754.2	19.5
Operating expenses	3,513.3	1,286.7	173.0	2,123.6	2,075.9	2.3	991.2	834.1	18.8
Participation in affiliated companies				13.8	60.4	(77.2)			
Income from operations before management fee	2,160.9	1,225.3	76.4	1,042.5	1,022.4	2.0	232.5	158.3	46.9
Management fee				104.4	100.3	4.1	27.7	27.2	2.0
Income from operations	2,160.9	1,225.3	76.4	938.1	922.1	1.7	204.8	131.1	56.2
% to Total Revenues									
Income from operations before management fee	18.9	25.6	(6.7)	18.8	19.0	(0.2)	5.2	4.5	0.7
OTHER INFORMATION									
Income from operations	2,160.9	1,225.3	76.4	938.1	922.1	1.7	204.8	131.1	56.2
Depreciation	265.7	129.9	104.5	303.0	275.7	9.9	35.6	27.5	29.5
Other non-cash charges	38.0	102.4	(62.9)	467.6	410.0	14.0	36.5	23.0	58.3
EBITDA	2,464.6	1,457.6	69.1	1,708.7	1,607.8	6.3	276.9	181.7	52.4
Capex	188.7	584.2	(67.7)	1,052.0	929.4	13.2	432.7	340.2	27.2

12

FEMSA

OPERATING DATA

For the three months and twelve months ended December 31, :

FEMSA Cerveza							Coca-Cola FEMSA (1)		
(Thousand hectoliters)	For the IV quarter of:			For the twelve months of:			Cases)	For the IV quarter	
	2003	2002	%Var	2003	2002	%Var		2003	2002
Sales Volumes							Sales Volumes (Millions of Unit		
Domestic	5,820.0	5,533.0	5.2	22,582.0	21,855.0	3.3	Mexico	243.9	243.3
Exports	418.5	406.6	2.9	1,982.3	1,954.6	1.4	Central America	29.3	27.4
Total Volume	6,238.5	5,939.6	5.0	24,564.3	23,809.6	3.2	Colombia	45.1	51.4

Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

Presentation Mix (%)	For the IV quarter of:			For the twelve months of:			Venezuela	45.8	34.0	
	2003	2002	Var p.p.	2003	2002	Var p.p.	Brazil	77.3	102.0	
Returnable	70.7	72.1	(1.4)	69.0	70.3	(1.3)	Argentina	39.4	35.9	
Non Returnable Cans	6.1	5.6	0.5	8.0	7.2	0.8	Total KOF	480.8	494.0	
	23.2	22.3	0.9	23.0	22.5	0.5	(1) For comparison purposes acquired Panamco territories			
Total volume	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	-				
Exports revenues:	Millions Ps.	315.4	282.7	11.6	1,467.1	1,326.7	10.6			
	US Millions	27.9	26.4	5.7	133.3	127.4	4.6	FEMSA Comercio		
							For the IV quarter			
							2003 2002			
FEMSA Empaques								Total stores		
Total Sales Volume								New oxo stores 257 216		
(Millions of pieces)	For the IV quarter of:			For the twelve months of:			Same stores data: (2)			
			%Var			%Var	Sales (Ths. Pesos) 561.3 505.6			
	2003	2002		2003	2002		Traffic 22.2 20.8			
Cans	796.5	784.3	1.6	3,230.7	3,000.1	7.7	Ticket 25.3 24.3			
Crown Caps	3,743.2	3,307.4	13.2	14,346.8	14,286.5	0.4				
Glass Bottles	288.5	298.3	(3.3)	1,034.0	1,053.3	(1.8)				
Export volumes:	Cans	125.3	147.4	(15.0)	581.7	432.1	34.6			
	Crown Caps	2,382.2	1,792.5	32.9	8,399.5	7,866.2	6.8			
Exports revenues:	Millions Ps.	212.7	216.0	(1.5)	879.8	749.0	17.5	Same Stores data % Var vs 20		
	US Millions	18.8	20.2	(6.9)	79.6	71.7	11.0	For the IV quarter of:		
							Sales Traffic Tic			
Percentage of sales revenue by client category:							I Quarter / March			
	For the IV quarter of:			For the twelve months of:			5.7% 6.4%			

Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

	2003	2002	Var p.p.	2003	2002	Var p.p.	II Quarter / June	9.1%	9.3%
Intercompany sales	56.0	54.2	1.8	57.5	58.3	(0.8)	III Quarter / September	6.7%	4.3%
FEMSA Cerveza	40.7	37.3	3.4	39.7	40.9	(1.2)	IV Quarter / December	11.0%	6.7%
Coca-Cola FEMSA	15.3	16.9	(1.6)	17.8	17.4	0.4	(2) Monthly average informat same stores with 13 months		
Third-party sales	44.0	45.8	(1.8)	42.5	41.7	0.8			
Domestic	32.5	33.3	(0.8)	30.4	30.6	(0.2)			
Export	11.5	12.5	(1.0)	12.1	11.1	1.0			
Total	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	-			

13

FEMSA

OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For the three months and twelve months ended December 31, 2003

EBITDA & CAPEX							Net Debt 2003
(Millions of Pesos)	For the IV quarter of:			For the twelve months of:			(Millions of Pesos)
	2003	2002	%Var	2003	2002	%Var	
Operating Income	3,599.0	2,546.0	41.4	12,114.0	9,879.0	22.6	FEMSA Corporate
Depreciation	711.7	529.6	34.4	2,613.6	2,136.8	22.3	Coca-Cola FEMSA
Amortization & other	586.7	582.0	0.8	2,610.9	2,163.9	20.7	FEMSA Cerveza
EBITDA	4,897.4	3,657.6	33.9	17,338.6	14,179.7	22.3	FEMSA Comercio
CAPEX	1,766.7	1,957.2	(9.7)	6,789.5	5,779.5	17.5	FEMSA Empaque

Total Consolidated

Macroeconomic Information

Short-Term

Inflation Exchange Rate

Long-Term

LTM 4Q'03 Per USD Per Peso

Total Debt

Mexico 3.980% 1.630% 11.2350 1.0000

Cash & Cash Equival

Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

Colombia	6.490%	1.020%	2,778.2100	0.0040
Venezuela	27.070%	5.370%	1,853.0000	0.0061
Brazil	10.340%	1.270%	2.8892	3.8886
Argentina	4.050%	1.700%	2.9350	3.8279

-----  
Net Debt  
-----

14

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Alfredo Fernandez / Julieta Naranjo

Investor Relations Department

Coca-Cola FEMSA, S.A. de C.V.

(52-55) 5081-5120 / 5121 / 5148

afernandeze@kof.com.mx / jnaranjo@kof.com.mx

WEBSITE: www.cocacola-femsa.com.mx

COCA-COLA FEMSA announces fourth quarter and full year of 2003 results

FOURTH-QUARTER 2003

- Consolidated revenues reached Ps.11,435.2 million and consolidated operating income totaled Ps.2,160.9 million during the fourth quarter of 2003, reaching a consolidated operating margin of 18.9%.

FULL-YEAR 2003

- Consolidated revenues reached Ps.35,729.0 million and consolidated operating income totaled Ps.6,710.4 million in 2003, reaching a consolidated operating margin of 18.8%.

Mexico City (February 26, 2004) - Coca-Cola FEMSA, S.A. de C.V. (BMV: KOFL; NYSE: KOF) ("Coca-Cola FEMSA" or the "Company"), the largest Coca-Cola bottler in Latin America and second largest Coca-Cola bottler in the world, announced today its consolidated results for the fourth quarter and the full year ended December 31, 2003.

"We are pleased with our team's capacity to work together and achieve positive results on multiple fronts simultaneously. By consolidating our operating facilities, implementing better commercial strategies and practices, adjusting the pricing architecture of our packages and products, and implementing best practices in our regions, we're building a stronger consolidated position across our market territories" stated Carlos Salazar, Chief Executive Officer of the Company.

CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

During the fourth quarter of 2003, our consolidated revenues reached Ps.11,435.2 million. Average price per unit case was Ps.23.56 (U.S.\$2.1). Consolidated operating income reached Ps.2,160.9 million during the fourth quarter of 2003, resulting in an 18.9% operating margin.



The integral cost of financing totaled Ps.245.7 million during the fourth quarter of 2003, reflecting our new financial profile after the acquisition, in particular the combined effect of:

(i) accrued interest expenses related to existing debt and the acquisition financing incurred in connection with the Panamco transaction, which more than offset the interest income generated by our reduced cash balances;

(ii) a foreign exchange loss generated mainly by the devaluation of the Mexican peso against the U.S. dollar, as applied to our U.S. dollar-denominated debt; and

(iii) a consolidated monetary position gain, as a result of inflation adjustments applied to the consolidated net monetary position of our assets.

The income tax, tax on assets and employee profit sharing as a percentage of income before taxes, was 47.6% during the fourth-quarter 2003. However, the full year effective tax rate was 41.6%, reflecting a higher Mexican tax rate of 44.0%, applied to our Mexican income before taxes, which generated the majority of the taxable income.

Consolidated net income was Ps.942.9 million in the fourth quarter of 2003, resulting in earnings per share ("EPS") of Ps.0.508 (U.S.\$0.452 per ADR) computed on the basis of 1,846 million shares outstanding (each ADR represents ten local shares).

#### BALANCE SHEET

On December 31, 2003, Coca-Cola FEMSA recorded a cash balance of Ps.2,783 million (U.S.\$247.7 million), total short-term debt of Ps.2,904 million (U.S.\$258.5 million) and long-term debt of Ps.26,011 million (U.S.\$2,315.2 million). It is important to highlight that 65% of the total outstanding debt of the Company is held in the form of bonds in the capital markets.

During the fourth quarter of 2003, the Company pre-paid U.S.\$200.0 million of the U.S. dollar-denominated bridge loan used for the acquisition of Panamco and refinanced the remaining U.S.\$80.0 million of such bridge loan. The following chart sets forth the debt breakdown of the Company by currency and interest rate type as of December 31, 2003:

Currency	% Total Debt	% Interest Rate Floating	Average Rate(1)
U.S. dollars	42%	5%	5.90%
Mexican Pesos	56%	56%	7.41%
Colombian Pesos	2%	100%	10.34%

(1) Annualized average interest rate per currency for the fourth-quarter 2003.

We began consolidating the results of our new territories during the second quarter of 2003 in accordance with Mexican GAAP. Corporacion Interamericana de Bebidas S.A. de C.V., formerly known as Panamerican Beverages, Inc. ("Panamco") had historically prepared its financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP and presented financial information in U.S. dollars. We have historically and will

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

continue to prepare our financial statements in accordance with Mexican GAAP and present financial information in Mexican pesos. The results of our new territories in Mexican GAAP and Mexican pesos are different from and may not be comparable to those reported by Panamco for prior periods. In addition, Panamco results have not been included in our financial statements for periods prior to May 2003.

16

Financial information for the fourth quarter of 2003 and year ended December 31, 2003 both on a consolidated basis and by territory, includes three and twelve months results of the Coca-Cola FEMSA territories (Valley of Mexico, Southeast of Mexico and Buenos Aires ) prior to the acquisition of Panamco, and three and only eight months, respectively, of our new territories acquired from Panamco. Coca-Cola FEMSA's financial information will not be comparable with previous quarters until the third quarter of 2004, and on a yearly basis, until the end of 2005.

For volume comparison purposes, we included the sales volume figures recorded by Panamco for the fourth quarter of 2002 and the full year ended December 31, 2002.

### OPERATING RESULTS BY TERRITORY

#### FOURTH QUARTER 2003 SUMMARY:

	Volume (MUC)	Operating Income (MM)	% Total	% Operating Margin
Mexico	243.9	Ps. 1,491.4	69.0%	21.8%
Central America	29.3	110.2	5.1%	12.7%
Colombia	45.1	130.7	6.1%	14.7%
Venezuela	45.8	176.5	8.2%	16.3%
Brazil	77.5	137.7	6.4%	11.4%
Argentina	39.5	113.9	5.3%	17.5%
Total	480.9	Ps.2,160.6	100.0%	18.9%

### MEXICAN OPERATING RESULTS

#### Revenues

Revenues in the Mexican territories reached Ps.6,837.4 million for the fourth quarter of 2003. Average price per unit case was Ps.27.31 (U.S.\$2.43). Excluding Ciel water volumes in five, nineteen and twenty liter packaging presentations, average price per unit case was Ps.30.93 (U.S.\$2.75).

Despite the relatively weak economic environment and the increasing competitive dynamics of the Mexican CSD industry driven by existing players and new low price brand producers of family size presentations, CSD volumes increased 2.1% in the fourth quarter of 2003 over the same period of 2002. The CSD volume increase was mainly driven by the strong performance of Fresca Pink Grapefruit, Lift Green Apple and the recent introduction of Coca-Cola Vanilla. Total sales

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

volume reached 243.9 MUC in the fourth-quarter 2003, remaining almost flat over the same period in 2002, due to lower jug bottled water volumes in our new territories offset CSD volume growth.

17

Earlier in the year, we filed an equitable action against the Mexican Tax Authorities alleging violation of certain constitutional rights relating to the application of excise taxes on diet soft drinks and mineral water products. Despite receiving a temporary injunction from payment, the Company paid this excise tax during the first nine months of 2003 in order to avoid any potential penalty charges imposed by the authorities. Due to the uncertainty of the outcome of the action and following conservative accounting criteria, the Company registered an accounting provision decreasing the amount of total revenues by the provision amount during the first nine months of 2003.

As a result of a favorable resolution of the legal action during the fourth quarter, the Company (i) reversed \$130 million of the accounting provision related to the excise tax previously paid during the first nine months of 2003 and registered an account receivable against the Mexican government reflecting the right to be reimbursed for the taxes paid and (ii) was not required to record \$40 million of excise taxes it would have had to pay if its legal action had failed. Accordingly, the favorable resolution of the legal action resulted in a total increase of net revenues of \$170 million in the fourth quarter of 2003.

### Income from Operations

Gross profit totaled Ps.3,737.6 reaching a 54.7% margin as percentage of total revenues for the fourth-quarter 2003. Operating profit totaled Ps.1,491.4 million, reaching a 21.8% margin as a percentage of total revenues.

Selling expenses were impacted by (i) higher expenses related to the standardization of coolers maintenance programs, (ii) higher distribution expenses derived from shipping certain packaging presentations from Mexico City to other remote areas of our Mexican territories, and (iii) higher marketing expenses.

After conducting an intensive analysis on the current conditions and expected useful life of our cooler inventories in our new and existing territories in Mexico, we decided to modify the useful life of the coolers in our original territories from three to five years, consistent with the useful life of the coolers of our new Mexican territories (Golfo and Bajio). We made this decision based on the quality of our equipment and the benefit of KOF's maintenance policy. This modification reduced non-cash items in Mexico and increased our operating income by a similar amount. The Audit Committee of the Company approved this modification.

18

CENTRAL AMERICAN OPERATING RESULTS (Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama)

### Revenues

Total revenues reached Ps.869.5 million during the fourth-quarter of 2003. Average price per unit case was Ps.29.75 (U.S.\$2.65) during

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

this period. In the fourth quarter of 2003, total sales volume in our Central America territories increased by 7.0% to 29.3 MUC as compared to the same period of 2002, driven by the strong performance of brand Coca-Cola representing more than 80% of incremental volumes, and growth from core flavor brands in every country within our Central American region.

In the fourth quarter of 2003, we introduced a 2.0 Lt non-returnable PET presentation for brand Fanta in Nicaragua, and a 600 ml PET for Lift in Guatemala, with the purpose of developing new price points in these markets. These packaging presentations along with new product introductions such as bottled water Dasani and Fanta in Panama, are intended to develop new consumption occasions.

### Income from Operations

Gross profit totaled Ps.439.9 million during the fourth-quarter of 2003, reaching a 50.6% gross margin. During this period the Company experienced lower operating costs driven by (i) lower raw material prices due to better supplier negotiations, and (ii) a favorable mix shift from non-returnable packaging presentations to returnable packaging presentations. Operating income totaled Ps.110.2 million during the fourth-quarter of 2003, reaching an operating income margin of 12.7%. During the quarter, the Company experienced lower administrative expenses as a result of a headcount optimization.

### COLOMBIAN OPERATING RESULTS

#### Revenues

Total revenues reached Ps.888.2 million during the fourth quarter of 2003, an average price per unit case of Ps.19.69 (U.S.\$1.75). During the fourth quarter of 2003, an increasing competitive landscape of alternative lower priced beverage categories such as powders, natural juices or tap water continued affecting the Colombian CSD industry. Total volumes decreased by 12.3% as compared to the same period of 2002. The Company continues evaluating the right product, package and pricing architecture for its portfolio of brands in Colombia.

### Income from Operations

Gross profit totaled Ps.405.5 million during the fourth quarter of 2003, reaching a 45.7% gross margin during the same period. Operating income was Ps.130.7 million, reaching a 14.7% margin during the fourth quarter of 2003. Low fixed cost absorption driven by the volume decline was partially offset by cost efficiencies from the recent manufacturing asset consolidation.

During the fourth quarter of 2003, the Company changed the accounting policy related to the treatment of the bottles and cases in the Colombian market in order to conform to our accounting policy. In the past, the bottles and cases introduced in the market were capitalized by Panamco, while KOF's traditional accounting policy treats them as marketing expenses. Due to these accounting changes, non-cash charges were reduced significantly during the fourth-quarter; however cash expenses increased by a corresponding amount. The Audit Committee of the Company approved these accounting changes.

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

### VENEZUELAN OPERATING RESULTS

#### Revenues

Total revenues reached Ps.1,082.5 million during the fourth quarter of 2003 and average price per unit case in Venezuela reached Ps.23.57 (U.S.\$2.09), as a result of a 13% weighted average price increases implemented during the fourth quarter of 2003. Despite the price increases implemented during the fourth quarter of 2003, our volume increased 34.7% compared to the fourth quarter of 2002, when political unrest in Venezuela due to a national strike made it practically impossible for Panamco to run these operations on a regular basis during part of the month of December of 2002, and also driven by our packaging and revenue management strategies implemented during the quarter.

#### Income from Operations

Gross profit totaled Ps.499.2 million during fourth quarter of 2003, reaching a 46.1% gross margin during the same period. During the quarter, sufficient sugar production was not available to meet internal demand levels driving sugar costs to unusual levels. Operating income was Ps.176.5 million reaching an operating income margin of 16.3% during the fourth quarter of 2003, mainly driven by higher volumes and operating improvements implemented since May 2003.

### BRAZILIAN OPERATING RESULTS

#### Revenues

Total revenues reached Ps.1,212.3 million during the fourth quarter of 2003 and the average price per unit case was Ps.15.60 (U.S.\$1.39).

During the fourth quarter of 2003, sales volume in our Brazilian territories decreased by 24.7% as compared to the same period of 2002, including the reduction of 18.8% in CSDs and the 40.2% decline in beer, as a result of our strategy of focusing on balancing volume growth with margin expansion and the implementation of go-to-market strategies intended to increase the number of clients served directly by the Company versus the use of distributors.

20

We launched a new 12-ounce non-returnable glass presentation for the Coca-Cola brand, offering the consumer a more convenient package in the on-premise segment. With this introduction the Company has launched more than six new packaging presentations for the Coca-Cola brands since we took control of the operations in May 2003.

#### Income from Operations

Gross profit during the fourth quarter of 2003 totaled Ps.467.2 million, reaching a 38.5% margin. Lower sugar prices, the appreciation of the Brazilian Real against the U.S. dollar applied to our U.S. dollar denominated raw material costs, and a favorable change of product mix to more profitable packaging presentations, improved the profitability of the Company during the fourth quarter of 2003.

Due to the new commercial and point of sale development strategies, we achieved operating income of Ps.137.7 million during the fourth quarter of 2003 and an operating margin of 11.4%, the

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

highest operating margin since we took over the operations in May 2003.

### ARGENTINE OPERATING RESULTS

Financial information and sales volume figures in our Argentine operations are fully comparable with previous periods.

#### Revenues

Total revenues reached Ps.651.0 million, a 15.0% increase as compared to the fourth-quarter of 2002 and the average price per unit case grew by 4.5% over the fourth-quarter of 2002 to Ps.15.81 (U.S.\$1.41), mainly driven by the combination of (i) price increases implemented during the quarter, and (ii) the product shift from our less profitable value protection brands, Tai and Crush, toward our core and premium brands.

In the fourth quarter of 2003, total sales volume in our Buenos Aires territory increased by 9.5% as compared to the same period of 2002. This increase was mainly driven by the growth of our core brands in returnable packages, which represented more than 25% of our total sales volume during the fourth-quarter 2003, and the growth of our premium brands, which represented more than 12% of our total volume sales during the fourth- quarter of 2003.

21

#### Income from Operations

Gross profit as a percentage of total revenues increased from 34.5% in the fourth quarter of 2002 to 40.0% in 2003. This improvement was mainly driven by (i) higher sales volume, and (ii) an appreciation of the Argentina peso against the U.S. dollar in 2003, which positively impacted the cost of our U.S. dollar-denominated raw materials and expenses.

In Argentina, operating expenses as a percentage of total revenues decreased 600 basis points from 28.5% in the fourth quarter of 2002 to 22.5% in the fourth quarter of 2003, as a result of the appreciation of the Argentina peso versus the U.S. dollar applied to the U.S. dollar-denominated expenses and the operating strategies implemented in the market during the year. Operating income during the fourth quarter of 2003 in our Argentine territories was Ps.113.9 million and operating margin grew from 6.0% during the fourth quarter of 2002 to 17.5% during the fourth quarter of 2003, reaching the highest operating margin in the history of our operations in Argentina.

### SUMMARY OF FULL YEAR RESULTS

Consolidated sales volume reached 1,824.0 MUC in 2003 declining 2.3% versus 2002, mainly driven by (i) lower volumes of bottled water in Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela, due to an asset rationalization strategy implemented by the Company combined with revenue management initiatives intended to improve the profitability of our water business; and also due to (ii) lower beer volumes in our Sao Paulo territory in Brazil, driven by the implementation of new initiatives intended to take over third-party selling and distribution.

During 2003, CSD volumes remained practically flat versus 2002 because of the volume decline in Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela, which was offset by volume growth in our Mexican, Central America and Argentine territories.

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

During 2003, total revenues reached Ps.35,729.4 million, resulting in a consolidated average unit price per case of Ps.24.46 (U.S.\$2.18). Gross margin as a percentage of total revenues was 49.7% in 2003. Consolidated operating income was Ps.6,710.4 million, 18.8% as percentage of total revenues during 2003.

Consolidated net income totaled Ps.2,332.0 during 2003. Net income per share reached Ps.1.36 (U.S.\$1.21 per ADR) computed under the basis of 1,704.3 million compounded average shares outstanding.

### CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION

Our fourth-Quarter 2003 Conference Call will be held on: February 26, 2003, 10:30 A.M. Eastern Time (9:30 A.M. Mexico City Time). To participate in the conference call, please dial: Domestic U.S.: 800-901-5247 and International: 617-786-4501.

If you are unable to participate live, an instant replay of the conference call will be available through March 26, 2003. To listen to the replay please dial: Domestic U.S.: 888-286-8010 or International: 617-801-6888. Pass code: 98344233.

22

v v v

Coca-Cola FEMSA, S.A. de C.V. produces Coca-Cola, Sprite, Fanta, Lift and other trademark beverages of The Coca-Cola Company in Mexico (a substantial part of central Mexico, including Mexico City and Southeast of Mexico), Guatemala (Guatemala City and surrounding areas), Nicaragua (nationwide), Costa Rica (nationwide), Panama (nationwide), Colombia (most of the country), Venezuela (nationwide), Brazil (greater Sao Paulo, Campinas, Santos and part of Mato Grosso do Sul) and Argentina (Gran Buenos Aires), along with bottled water, beer and other beverages in some of these territories.

The Company has 32 bottling facilities in Latin America and serves more than 1,500,000 retailers in the region. Coca-Cola FEMSA currently accounts for almost 10% of Coca-Cola global sales, approximately 40% of all Coca-Cola sales in Latin America. The Coca-Cola Company owns a 39.6% equity interest in Coca-Cola FEMSA.

v v v

Figures for the Company's operations in Mexico and its consolidated international operations were prepared in accordance with Mexican generally accepted accounting principles ("Mexican GAAP"). All figures are expressed in constant Mexican pesos with purchasing power at December 31, 2003. For comparison purposes, 2002 and 2003 figures from the Company's operations have been restated taking into account local inflation of each country with reference to the consumer price index and converted from local currency into Mexican pesos using the exchange rate as of the end of the period. In addition, all comparisons in this report for the fourth quarter of 2003, which ended on December 31, 2003, are made against the figures for the comparable period in 2002, unless otherwise noted.

This news release may contain forward-looking statements concerning Coca-Cola FEMSA's future performance and should be considered as good faith estimates by Coca-Cola FEMSA. These forward-looking statements reflect management's expectations and are based upon currently available data. Actual results are subject to future events and uncertainties, many of which are outside Coca-Cola FEMSA's control that could materially impact the Company's actual

Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

performance.

References herein to "U.S.\$" are to United States dollars. This news release contains translations of certain peso amounts into U.S.

v v v

(8 pages of tables to follow)

23

Coca-Cola FEMSA, S.A. de C.V. and Subsidiaries  
 Consolidated Balance Sheet  
 As of December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002  
 Millions of Mexican pesos (Ps.)  
 Expressed in currency with purchasing power as of December 31, 2003

ASSETS	2003	2002
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	Ps. 2,783	Ps. 6,429
Accounts receivable:		
Trade	1,338	581
Notes	85	13
Prepaid taxes	1,088	252
Other	391	214
	2,902	1,060
Inventories	2,187	799
Prepaid expenses	202	77
Total current assets	8,074	8,365
Property, plant and equipment		
Land	2,484	820
Buildings, machinery and equipment	24,059	9,374
Accumulated depreciation	(10,386)	(3,441)
Construction in progress	671	381
Bottles and cases	947	303
Total property, plant and equipment	17,775	7,437
Investment in shares	516	132
Deferred charges, net	1,332	885
Intangibles	33,723	268
TOTAL ASSETS	Ps. 61,420	Ps. 17,087



Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	2003	2002
-----		
Current Liabilities		
Short-term bank loans	Ps. 2,904	Ps. 0
Interest payable	374	82
Suppliers	3,376	1,681
Accounts payable, notes and others	1,725	689
Taxes payable	1,025	236
-----		
Total Current Liabilities	9,404	2,688
-----		
Long-term bank loans	26,011	3,296
Pension plan and seniority premium	580	193
Other liabilities	2,608	1,238
-----		
Total Liabilities	38,603	7,415
-----		
Stockholders' Equity		
Minority interest	163	0
Majority interest		
Capital stock	2,655	2,464
Additional paid in capital	11,361	1,733
Retained earnings of prior years	9,451	6,790
Net income for the period	2,312	2,661
Cumulative results of holding non-monetary assets	(3,125)	(3,976)
-----		
Total majority interest	22,654	9,672
-----		
Total stockholders' equity	22,817	9,672
-----		
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	Ps. 61,420	Ps. 17,087
=====		

24

Coca-Cola FEMSA, S.A. de C.V. and Subsidiaries

INCOME STATEMENT

For the three months ended December 31, 2003 and 2002

Expressed in million of mexican pesos(1) with purchasing power as of December 31, 2003

	Consolidated			Mexican Operations		Central America
	2003	2002	% VAR	2003	%Total Revenues	2003 %Tot
-----						
Sales volume (millions unit cases)	480.9	165.0	191.4	243.9		29.3
Average unit price per case	23.56	28.85	(18.3)	27.31		29.75
-----						

25

Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

Net revenues	11,331.0	4,759.6	138.1	6,661.3		871.3
Other operating revenues	104.2	34.2	204.6	176.1		(1.9)
Total revenues	11,435.2	4,793.8	138.5	6,837.4	100.0	869.5
Cost of sales	5,761.0	2,281.8	152.5	3,099.8	45.3	429.6
Gross profit	5,674.2	2,512.0	125.9	3,737.6	54.7	439.9
Administrative expenses	699.8	387.5	80.6	482.8	7.1	68.3
Selling expenses	2,813.5	893.9	214.7	1,763.4	25.8	261.4
Operating expenses	3,513.3	1,281.4	174.2	2,246.2	32.9	329.7
Goodwill amortization		5.3	(100.0)	-	-	-
Operating income	2,160.9	1,225.3	76.4	1,491.4	21.8	110.2
Interest expense	387.5	97.3	298.2			
Interest income	14.6	73.6	(80.2)			
Interest expense, net	372.9	23.7	1,473.2			
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	317.8	(56.9)	(658.5)			
Loss (gain) on monetary position	(445.0)	30.6	(1,554.2)			
Integral cost of financing	245.7	(2.6)	(9,548.1)			
Other (income) expenses, net	114.9	71.3	61.2			
Income before taxes	1,800.3	1,156.6	55.7			
Taxes	857.4	380.6	125.3			
Consolidated net income	942.9	776.0	21.5			
Majority net income	937.9	776.0	20.9			
Minority net income	5.0	-	N.A.			
Non-cash items (2)	303.7	232.3	30.7	209.8	3.1	30.0

(1) Except volume and average price per unit case figures.

(2) Depreciation, amortization and other non-cash items (including returnable bottle breakage exp

Coca-Cola FEMSA, S.A. de C.V. and Subsidiaries

INCOME STATEMENT

For the three months ended December 31, 2003 and 2002

Expressed in million of mexican pesos(1) with purchasing power as of December 31, 2003

	Venezuelan Operations	Brazilian Operations	Argenti
	2003 %Total Revenues	2003 %Total Revenues	2003 *%Total Revenues
Sales volume (millions unit cases)	45.8	77.5	39.3

Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

Average unit price per case	23.57		15.60		15.81	
Net revenues	1,080.2		1,208.4		621.4	
Other operating revenues	2.3		3.9		29.6	
Total revenues	1,082.5	100.0	1,212.3	100.0	651.0	100.0
Cost of sales	583.3	53.9	745.2	61.5	390.7	60.0
Gross profit	499.2	46.1	467.2	38.5	260.3	40.0
Administrative expenses	87.8	8.1	56.4	4.7	24.1	3.7
Selling expenses	235.0	21.7	273.1	22.5	122.4	18.8
Operating expenses	322.7	29.8	329.5	27.2	146.5	22.5
Goodwill amortization	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating income	176.5	16.3	137.7	11.4	113.9	17.5
Non-cash items (2)	17.7	1.6	16.1	1.3	30.2	4.6

(1) Except volume and average price per unit case figures.

(2) Depreciation, amortization and other non-cash items (including returnable bottle breakage exp

26

Coca-Cola FEMSA, S.A. de C.V. and Subsidiaries

INCOME STATEMENT

For the twelve months ended December 31, 2003 and 2002

Expressed in million of mexican pesos(1) with purchasing power as of December 31, 2003

	Consolidated			Mexican Operations		Central American Operations	
	2003	2002	% VAR	2003	%Total Revenues	2003	%Total Revenues
Sales							
Volume (millions unit cases)	1,450.5	620.3	133.8	850.1		72.9	
Average unit price per case	24.46	29.86	(18.1)	27.86		29.93	
Net revenues	35,486.4	18,518.6	91.6	23,683.1		2,182.5	2
Other operating revenues	242.6	148.9	62.9	252.1		4.1	
Total revenues	35,729.0	18,667.5	91.4	23,935.2	100.0	2,186.5	100.0
Cost of sales	17,979.9	8,680.7	107.1	11,090.7	46.3	1,098.7	50.2
Gross profit	17,749.1	9,986.8	77.7	12,844.5	53.7	1,087.9	49.8
Administrative expenses	2,333.9	1,475.0	58.2	1,631.6	6.8	149.6	6.8
Selling							

Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

expenses	8,704.8	3,844.5	126.4	5,579.3	23.3	719.8	32.9
Operating expenses	11,038.7	5,319.5	107.5	7,210.9	30.1	869.5	39.8
Goodwill amortization	-	40.4	(100.0)	-	-	-	-
Operating income	6,710.4	4,626.9	45.0	5,633.6	23.5	218.4	10.0
Interest expense	1,551.5	348.4	345.3				
Interest income	227.0	264.0	(14.0)				
Interest expense, net	1,324.4	84.4	1,469.2				
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	2,027.9	(250.0)	(911.2)				
Loss (gain) on monetary position	(870.8)	(394.8)	120.6				
Integral cost of financing	2,481.5	(560.4)	(542.8)				
Other (income) expenses, net	238.6	180.3	32.4				
Income before taxes	3,990.3	5,007.0	(20.3)				
Taxes	1,658.2	1,912.1	(13.3)				
Goodwill Impairment	-	(433.9)	NA				
Consolidated net income	2,332.0	2,661.0	(12.4)				
Majority net income	2,311.8	2,661.0	(13.1)				
Minority net income	20.2	-	-				
Non-cash items (2)	1,628.4	1,060.7	53.5	988.3	4.1	143.5	6.6

(1) Except volume and average price per unit case figures.

(2) Depreciation, amortization and other non-cash items (including returnable bottle breakage exp

## Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

Expressed in million of mexican pesos(1) with purchasing power as of December 31, 2003

	Venezuelan Operations		Brazilian Operations		Argentine Oper	
	2003	%Total Revenues	2003	%Total Revenues	2003	%Total Revenues
Sales						
Volume (millions unit cases)	110.1		176.6		126.6	115.6
Average unit price per case	23.08		15.77		15.59	15.08
Net revenues	2,542.2		2,785.7		1,973.9	1,743.8
Other operating revenues	2.3		11.2		103.0	80.5
Total revenues	2,544.5	100.0	2,796.9	100.0	2,076.9	100.0
Cost of sales	1,438.6	56.5	1,785.9	63.9	1,309.3	63.0
Gross profit	1,105.9	43.5	1,011.0	36.1	767.6	37.0
Administrative expenses	168.4	6.6	170.8	6.1	103.4	5.0
Selling expenses	706.0	27.7	690.4	24.7	448.6	21.6
Operating expenses	874.4	34.4	861.2	30.8	551.9	26.6
Goodwill amortization	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating income	231.5	9.1	149.9	5.4	215.7	10.4
Non-cash items (2)	135.0	5.3	53.5	1.9	158.0	7.6

(1) Except volume and average price per unit case figures.

(2) Depreciation, amortization and other non-cash items (including returnable bottle breakage exp

28

### SELECTED INFORMATION

For the three months ended December 31, 2003

Expressed in million Mexican pesos as of December 31, 2003

	4Q 2002	
Capex	584.2	Capex
Depreciation	129.9	Depreciation
Amortization & Others	102.4	Amortization & Others

Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

VOLUME (MUC)

Expressed in million unit cases

	4Q 2002						4Q 2003			
	Colas	Flavors	Water	Beer	Others	Total	Colas	Flavors	Water	Beer
Mexico (1)	150.2	44.5	47.0	0.0	1.6	243.3	152.1	46.7	44.1	0.0
Central America	19.1	6.6	1.1	0.0	0.6	27.4	20.7	7.0	1.2	0.0
Colombia	32.3	11.1	7.9	0.0	0.1	51.4	29.5	9.8	5.8	0.0
Venezuela	16.9	11.3	3.3	0.2	2.3	34.0	26.5	13.0	3.5	0.0
Brazil	47.4	25.3	4.8	24.0	0.5	102.0	41.9	17.1	3.5	0.0
Argentina	25.6	9.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	35.9	27.8	11.2	0.3	0.0
Total	291.5	108.6	64.5	24.2	5.2	494.0	298.5	104.8	58.4	0.0

(1) Water volume in 4Q 2003, including presentation

PACKAGE MIX BY PRESENTATION

Expressed as a Percentage of Total Volume

	4Q 2002				4Q 2003		
	Ret	Non-Ret	Fountain	Jug	Ret	Non-Ret	Fountain
Mexico	27.0	56.3	1.4	15.3	28.4	56.3	1.3
Central America	47.3	48.4	4.3	0.0	50.9	44.5	4.6
Colombia	49.9	40.5	2.9	6.7	51.5	39.5	3.2
Venezuela	40.4	54.5	2.6	2.5	37.1	57.9	2.6
Brazil	11.7	84.8	3.5	0.0	9.4	87.4	3.2
Argentina	18.8	77.6	3.6	0.0	25.2	71.6	3.2

SELECTED INFORMATION

For the twelve months ended December 31, 2003

Expressed in million Mexican pesos as of December 31, 2003

2002

Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

Capex	1,409.7
Depreciation	572.3
Amortization & Others	488.4

Capex	
Depreciation	
Amortization & Others	

VOLUME (MUC)

Expressed in million unit cases

	2002					
	Colas	Flavors	Water	Beer	Others	Total
Mexico (1)	595.9	168.2	203.4	0.0	13.0	980.5
Central America	69.7	23.7	4.0	0.0	2.7	100.1
Colombia	111.7	40.4	32.3	0.0	0.6	185.0
Venezuela	78.4	55.4	17.3	2.3	9.5	162.9
Brazil	153.4	86.2	16.4	65.3	1.3	322.6
Argentina	78.9	35.2	1.0	0.0	0.5	115.6
Total	1,088.0	409.1	274.4	67.6	27.6	1,866.7

	2003		
	Colas	Flavors	Water
Mexico (1)	598.5	187.8	203.4
Central America	74.5	26.5	4.0
Colombia	107.1	38.3	32.3
Venezuela	86.5	44.2	17.3
Brazil	141.6	62.8	16.4
Argentina	90.5	34.6	1.0
Total	1,098.7	394.2	274.4

(1) Water volume in 2003, Lt presentation

PACKAGE MIX BY PRESENTATION

Expressed as a Percentage of Total Volume

	2002			
	Ret	Non-Ret	Fountain	Jug
Mexico	28.2	53.6	1.3	16.9
Central America	50.9	43.4	5.7	0.0
Colombia	53.8	35.3	3.0	7.9
Venezuela	39.1	52.5	3.0	5.4
Brazil	11.9	84.1	4.0	0.0
Argentina	12.4	82.9	4.7	0.0

	2003		
	Ret	Non-Ret	Fountain
Mexico	27.9	54.9	1.3
Central America	51.8	42.9	5.7
Colombia	53.4	36.8	3.0
Venezuela	36.4	57.6	3.0
Brazil	11.0	85.1	4.0
Argentina	24.5	71.8	4.7

December 2003  
Macroeconomic Information

Inflation Foreign Exchange Rate

Edgar Filing: MEXICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC - Form 6-K

	YTD	4Q	(Per US Dollar) *
Mexico	3.98%	1.69%	11.2350
Colombia	6.49%	1.02%	2,778.2100
Venezuela	27.08%	5.37%	1,853.0000
Brazil	10.34%	1.27%	2.8892
Argentina	4.05%	1.70%	2.9150

31

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

FOMENTO ECONOMICO MEXICANO, S.A. DE C.V.

By: /s/ Federico Reyes

-----  
 Federico Reyes  
 Chief Financial Officer

Date: February 26, 2003