

Mexico's auto parts industry begins to recover

MEXICO CITY, April 7 (Xinhua) -- Mexico's auto parts industry grew 65 percent in January over the same month last year, thanks to a revival of the U.S. auto industry, the National AutoParts Industry Association (INA) said Wednesday.

"At the start of this year, positive growth was achieved thanks to a reactivation of the U.S. auto sector," INA President Agustin Rios told a press conference.

He said 2009 was one of the toughest years for the industry.

The INA said 94 of its members closed their businesses in 2009, shedding 30,000 jobs and that exports fell 31.78 percent.

Given the positive signs this year, Rios believed that the sector could see growth of 15 percent by the end of 2010. The growth, however, is still not enough to return the industry to its strength in 2008.

He warned that rising steel prices would challenge the industry's ability to make profit even if it is starting to grow.