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Absenteeism Rates In Five South American Nations

by Barbara Khol

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According to a study released May 28 by Argentine economist Juan Bour, worker absenteeism and labor costs in Argentina are higher than in Mercosur partners, and in Chile. Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur) member-nations are Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Bour works with the private Latin American Economic Research Foundation (FIEL), headquartered in Buenos Aires. Absenteeism in Argentina is 10%, compared to 7.8% in Uruguay; 5% in Brazil; 4% in Paraguay; and, 2.8% in Chile. According to Bour, the low rate in Chile is the result of employers' broad flexibility in dismissing employees. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 05/28/92)

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