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Un- & Underemployment Projections For 1990s

by Steven Ranieri

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A recent study by the Private Sector Economic Studies Center (CEESP) indicates that high levels of un- and underemployment will continue to plague the Mexican economy in the 1990s. The current administration's economic policies are creating approximately 590,000 jobs per year, while the demand for new employment increases by 1 million annually. By the end of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's six-year term, nearly 6 million Mexicans are expected to have resorted to the informal economy. According to the study, by 1994 the Mexican population is expected to total 93.1 million Mexicans, and the labor force, 36.35 million. Of the total, 26.14 million will be employed in the formal sector; 5.75 million in the informal sector; and, 4.45 million, unemployed. Projections by the National Solidarity Program (Pronasol) indicate that in the year 2000, 40% of the labor force will be unemployed. The burden will fall heaviest on those in rural areas, where only 20% will have stable employment. In urban centers, 50% of workers categorized as "employed," will be underemployed. The Labor Ministry reports that the manufacturing sector, accounting for 40% of all employment, has generated only 200,000 new jobs in the last two years. (Source: El Financiero, 11/07/90)

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