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On Regional Economic Disparities

by Steven Ranieri

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A study titled, "Contrasts in North-South Regional Economies," soon to be published by Bancomer in its publication Panorama Economico, outlines economic development and social welfare disparities between Mexico's northern and southern states. The northern states Baja California, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon, Sonora and Tamaulipas account for 26.5% of GDP. In contrast, the south Campeche, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, Tabasco and Yucatan states contribute barely 5% of GDP. Average per capita GDP in the six northern states is 12% above the national average, and surpasses the southern per capita figure by 47.7%. The north absorbs about 20% of available financing for investment, while the south receives only 4.7%. Over the last 20 years, the north has developed a more advanced and diversified economy, with a lower population growth rate and higher levels of investment in physical infrastructure. The south has remained rural and undeveloped. In 1990, the south accounted for 5.4% of the nation's 9.1 million automobiles, compared to 26.6% in the north. The automobile-inhabitant ratio in the north is 1 to 5, and in the south, 1 to 21. (Sources: Uno Mas Uno, El Financiero, 09/06/91)

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