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Report By Union Of Banana Exporter Nations On World Market Shares & Related Topics

by Deborah Tyroler

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According to a report released Sept. 3 in Panama by the Union of Banana Exporter Nations (UPEB), Ecuador, Costa Rica and Colombia rank as the world's largest banana exporters. In the fourth through seventh places in the ranking are Honduras, the Philippines, Panama and Guatemala. On a global scale, the US, West Germany and Japan are the three largest importer nations. Between 1985 and 1989, total exports increased from 384 to 450 million 18-kg. boxes. Ecuador registered the largest increase, from 67 to 91 million boxes. Third ranking exporter in 1985, Costa Rica rose to second place by 1989, with export volume increasing from 44 to 68 million boxes. Honduras dropped from second to fourth place in the same time period. In 1985, Honduras exported 47 million boxes of bananas, and in 1989, 45 million. Colombia rose from fifth to third place in the ranking. Colombian exports increased from 43 million boxes in 1985 to 48 million in 1989. Additional highlights of the report are summarized below: * The Philippines dropped from fourth to fifth place. Export volume in 1985 and 1989 remained the same, at 44 million boxes. * Panama continues in sixth place, with 38 million boxes in 1985 and 1989. * Guatemala ranks seventh, with an increase from 18 to 19 million in the 1985-89 period. * In 1989, Nicaragua exported slightly more than 4 million boxes. * UPEB member-nations (Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Venezuela and Dominican Republic) increased combined exports from 194 to 222 million boxes in 1985 to 1989. * The US maintained annual banana imports at about 150 million boxes per annum throughout the five-year period. * West German banana imports increased from 32 to 48 million boxes. * Japanese imports rose from 37 to 42 million boxes between 1985 and 1989. * Other major banana importers are France (25 million boxes in 1989); United Kingdom (24 million); Italy (24 million); and, Canada (18 million). * In 1989, the US paid \$941 million for banana imports; Japan, \$437 million; and West Germany, \$419 million. * Combined spending by the US, Canada, Western Europe and Japan for banana imports in 1989 totaled \$3.127 billion, compared to \$2.258 billion in 1985. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 09/03/90)

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