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## **Mexico: Inflation, First Half Of September; Projected Rate For 1991**

*by Barbara Khol*

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On Sept. 24, the Banco de Mexico reported that consumer price inflation for the Sept. 1-15 period was 0.9%, down from 1.0% for the first half of August. Last year, inflation for the first half of September was 0.5%. Cumulative inflation since Jan. 1 this year totals 20.1%, up from 12% for the same period in 1989. The central bank attributed the increase this month to higher prices for private education, housing, school uniforms, air fares, soaps and certain foodstuffs, mainly tomatoes, poultry and lemons. Prices on potatoes, apples, bananas, avocados, peaches, onions and grapefruit declined. The anti-inflation program commenced in January 1988 is currently scheduled to end on Dec. 31. The government's original forecast for 1990 inflation was 15.3%, compared to an adjusted projection of 20% to 24%. According to private consulting firm Expansion, 1991 inflation is likely to reach 20%, much higher than the government's single-digit projections. In its weekly report titled "Tendencias Economicas y Financieras," Expansion said single-digit annual inflation will be very difficult to achieve since the prices of certain goods and services will stabilize only in the very long term. (Basic data from Notimex, Knight Ridder Financial, 09/24/90)

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