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Nicaraguan Government Announces 20.13% Pay Hike For Public Sector Employees

by Deborah Tyroler

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At a June 10 press conference in Managua, Finance Minister Emilio Pereira announced a 20.13% pay hike for public sector employees. The increase, said Pereira, is part of the second phase of a socio-economic concertacion process that commenced two weeks ago with the participation of government, trade union and private sector employer representatives. Spokespersons for the National Workers Front (FNT), Nicaragua's largest labor organization, said the increase was unacceptable. The Front is calling for a 53% hike to partially compensate for purchasing power deterioration. Private sector employees are expected to negotiate wages with employers on a company-by-company basis. The proportional pay increase authorized for civil servants is to serve as a floor in bargaining between employers and workers. According to the Agence France-Presse, with the 20.13% increase, the average public sector employee earns \$120 per month. (Basic data from AFP, 06/10/91)

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