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Barbara Khol

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U.N. Commission Statistics On 1990 Economic Performance

by Barbara Khol

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At a Dec. 19 press conference in Santiago (Chile), Gert Rosenthal, executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), said the region's aggregate GDP declined 0.5% in 1990. Per capita GDP dropped 2.6% this year, now at 1977 levels. Rosenthal said nine countries experienced negative GDP growth this year, and, six at growth rates equal to or below demographic growth. GDP growth in 1990 was equal to or greater than 3.5% for only three nations: Colombia, Costa Rica and Venezuela. For non-oil exporting nations, terms of trade declined 6% this year. World trade increased 5.5% in 1990, compared to overall economic growth of only 1%. Argentine export revenues in 1990 increased by almost 15%, while Brazil's declined 11%. Aggregate revenues for non-oil exporters in the region rose 6.5% this year. The region's aggregate foreign debt increased to \$423 billion, from \$417 billion in 1989. (Basic data from Notimex, 12/18/90; EFE, 12/19/90)

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