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Argentina: Report On Industrial Sector Performance Over Past Decade

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According to a study by the Latin American Economic Research Foundation (Fundacion de Investigaciones Economicas Latinoamericanas-FIEL) released June 10, Argentine industrial output contracted 5% in the past decade. In per capita terms, production declined by 18%. The study emphasized a "reorientation" of the manufacturing sector to intermediate goods, especially plastics, rubber and petrochemicals, and a reduction of final goods production, including automobiles, machinery and capital goods. In the 1980-1990 period, production of plastic and rubber inputs rose 181.2%; petrochemicals, 89.6%; mineral-base chemicals, 73.3%; agro-chemicals, 67.8%; and, paper and cellulose, 45.5%. The only finished good sub-sector registering expansion in the 1980-1990 period was "tractor manufactures," up by 77%. Other categories and growth rates follow: textile inputs, 43.7%; iron and steel, 30.8%; aluminum, 26.6%; food and beverages, 10.7%; tires, 2.6%; automotives, -65.1%; capital goods and inputs, -63.9%; machinery and equipment, -58.1%; stoves and heaters, -46%; and, refrigerators and washing machines, -28.6%. The only intermediate input sector registering a decline was cement, down 47%. Production of cigarettes and fuel dropped by 7.5% and 6.2% over the period, respectively. (Basic data from AFP, 05/10/91)

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