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Category/Department: General
Published: Tuesday, July 16, 1991

On July 9, the official statistics agency (Departamento Nacional de Estadistica-DANE) reported that the government's austerity policy caused a 5.7% decline in industrial output over the first quarter of the year. Last year, first quarter industrial production was up by 1.6%. Despite a negative growth rate in 19 of 29 industrial product sub-sectors this year, sectoral employment remained unchanged, said the DANE report. The most substantial rates of decline were recorded in the following activities: coffee processing (27%); transport equipment and materials (24%); metallic products (18.7%); electrical machinery (8.8%); basic iron and steel industry (8.6%); petroleum derivatives (7.1%); and, printing and publishing (6.8%). In contrast, leather manufactures grew 12.5%, followed by china and porcelain, 11.8%; paper, 11.5%; rubber products, 9.8%; basic non-ferrous metals, 7.3%; and, footwear, 7%. (Basic data from AFP, 07/09/91)

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