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Panama: Estimate Of Unemployment

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On Nov. 26, the Panamanian Workers Central (Central de Trabajadores de la Republica de Panama-CTRP) reported that 41% of Panamanians able and willing work are unemployed. The statistic was based on a survey by Reinaldo Barria and the Cuarenta Kilates company. Of 2.3 million Panamanians, 1.3 million are members of the labor force. While the government reports unemployment of 22.4% (301,065 persons), the independent study pointed out that official figures ignore 103,189 unemployed indigenous persons, and underemployment affecting another 370,763 Panamanians. Next, the CTRP-supported survey does not include about 22,000 public employees to be dismissed within the next few weeks. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 11/26/91)

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