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Nicaragua: On 1991 Economic Performance

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According to official statistics, GDP in 1991 declined by 0.7%. Export revenue totaled US$278 million, down from US$340 million in 1990. A recent report by the International Global Development Foundation (FIDG), headed by former Sandinista planning minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, said income from traditional exports dropped by 20%, and sales receipts from non-traditional goods were down 12%. Coffee, Nicaragua's leading export commodity, accounted for 19% of total export revenue, compared to an average 30% in recent years. The Foundation report indicated that coffee output in the 1990-1991 season totaled 60.1 million kg., of which 45 million kg. were exported. The production figure was down 39% compared to the 1989-1990 harvest. Beef production also declined by 36% in 1991, and exports were down by 41%. Sugar output dropped 10%. FIDG estimates indicate that over 600,000 Nicaraguans are unemployed. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 12/31/91)

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