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Costa Rica: Unemployment 5.5% In 1991

by Deborah Tyroler

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According to a report released Jan. 8 by the government's statistics agency (Direccion General de Estadisticas y Censos- DGEC), the rate of open unemployment in July 1991 was 5.5% (59,055 persons), up from 4.6% (49,511) in July 1990. About 13,000 public sector jobs were eliminated over the 12-month period as part of the government's economic reform program. The highest unemployment rate, 6%, was recorded in the central valley region, Costa Rica's most densely populated area where the country's four largest cities are located. Rodrigo Aguilar, of the Costa Rican Educators Union (SEC) and president of the National Wage Council, said official unemployment statistics are artificially low, since the government counts temporary workers as permanent employees. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, Notimex, 01/08/92)

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