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1991 Export Performance In Central American Countries

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On Oct. 10, in Santiago (Chile), the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) released its report, "Estudio Economico de America Latina y el Caribe, 1991." Highlights from the report regarding performance of exports from Central American countries during 1991 follow: * By value, 1991 export revenues for the entire region, including Panama, increased by about 10% in relation to 1990. * Export revenues were up by 27% in Panama. The large increase was mostly attributed to a sharp rise in revenues from products re-exported from the Colon duty free zone. * Costa Rican exports grew by nine percent, result of increased world market prices for bananas, currently the country's leading export item. Export revenues in Costa Rica were also up for coffee, beef and sugar. * Export revenues in El Salvador increased by three percent, due largely to a 12% rise in the value of non- traditional exports. * Guatemalan exports grew by two percent, result of an eight percent decline in earnings from traditional exports like coffee, cotton and bananas, and a 14% increase in revenues from non-traditional exports. * Honduran exports dropped by five percent, in part due to reduced volumes of coffee and banana production. Both crops were adversely affected by climate. * Nicaragua saw a 20% decline in export earnings. ECLAC attributed the drop to reduced domestic demand due to economic restructuring and to drops in the world market prices for the country's traditional export items. (Source: Spanish news service EFE, 10/10/92)

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