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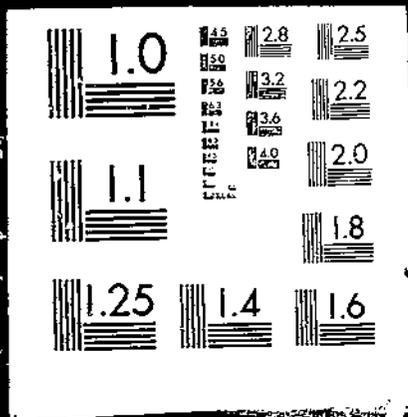
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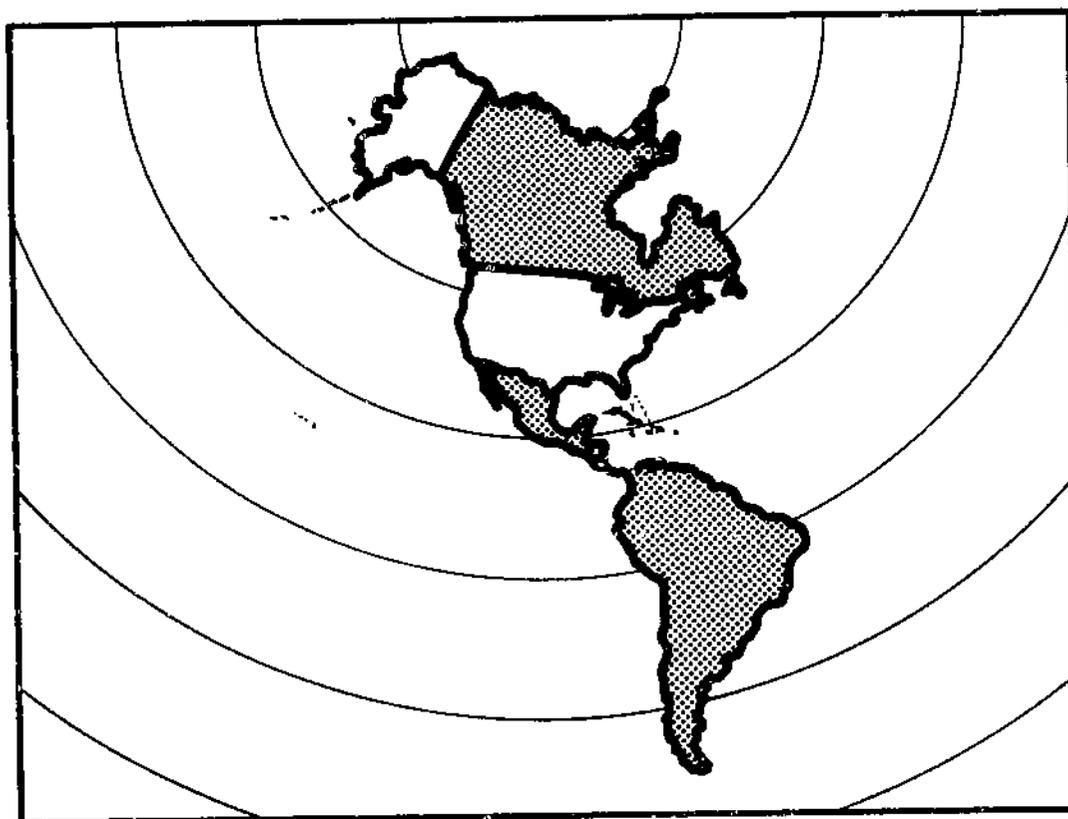
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Review of 1976 and
Outlook for 1977



United States
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Report No. 136

WESTERN HEMISPHERE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION, REVIEW OF 1976 AND OUTLOOK FOR 1977.
Developing Countries Program Area, Foreign Demand and Competition Division, Economic Research Service. Foreign
Agriculture Economic Report No. 136.

ABSTRACT: Western Hemisphere agricultural production for 1976 exceeded the record in 1975 by nearly 4 percent, with a 6-percent rise in food commodity output. Production reached new highs in Canada, Argentina, and Brazil but suffered from weather and other adversities in Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America and the Andean region of South America. Sugar export earnings fell sharply but the Latin American trade situation was improved by rising prices, particularly for coffee, and by rising food production. U.S. agricultural imports from Western Hemisphere countries increased to a new record of \$4.9 billion but exports fell further from the 1974 peak of \$3.8 billion, to \$3.4 billion in 1976.

KEYWORDS: Western Hemisphere, agricultural production, agricultural trade, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Caribbean, Central America, South America.

FOREWORD

This annual review of the Agricultural Situation in the Western Hemisphere supplements the 1976 World Agricultural Situation, WAS-9 to WAS-12. It is one of a series of reports being published including Western Europe, the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Communist Asia, Africa and West Asia, and the Far East and Oceania. Western Hemisphere, as used in the report, includes Canada; Mexico; the six larger Caribbean Island countries; Central America; and South America; but it excludes the United States.

Unless otherwise specified, the metric system of weights and measures is used: 1 hectare equals 2.471 acres and 1 metric ton equals 2,204.6 pounds. Similarly, all years are calendar years and values are denominated in U.S. dollars. Gross domestic product is abbreviated to GDP. Because of recent revisions, data in this report may sometimes differ from data used in the World Agricultural Situation and occasionally from the Indices of Agricultural Production in the Western Hemisphere.

Country statements were prepared by Frank D. Barlow, Linda A. Bernstein, Carol E. Bray, John E. Link, Myles Mielke, and Samuel O. Ruff. U.S. agricultural attaches in the Western Hemisphere countries provided commodity estimates and much of the background information through their annual situation and commodity reports.

Howard L. Hall

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Developing Countries Program Area
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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Summary	1
Canada	3
Mexico	5
 Caribbean	
Barbados	7
Cuba	7
Dominican Republic	9
Haiti	10
Jamaica	10
Trinidad and Tobago	11
 Central America	
Costa Rica	12
El Salvador	12
Guatemala	13
Honduras	13
Nicaragua	14
Panama	14
 South America	
Argentina	15
Bolivia	16
Brazil	17
Chile	19
Colombia	20
Ecuador	20
Guyana	21
Paraguay	21
Peru	22
Uruguay	23
Venezuela	24

TABLES

	<i>Page</i>
1 General economic data	27
2 Indices of agricultural and food production	28
3 Fertilizer use	29
4 Area and production of selected crops	30-31
5 Production of other agricultural commodities	32
6 Foreign agricultural trade, total values	33
7 Foreign trade of selected agricultural commodities	34-35
8 U.S. agricultural exports to Western Hemisphere, total values	36
9 U.S. agricultural imports from Western Hemisphere, total values	37
10 U.S. agricultural exports to Western Hemisphere, values by commodity groups	38-39
11 U.S. agricultural imports from Western Hemisphere, values by commodity groups	40-41

SUMMARY

Rising food production and gains in agricultural trade helped support a moderate economic recovery in many Western Hemisphere countries during 1976. Agricultural output rose to new highs in Canada, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay and continued a strong rising trend in Brazil despite unusually small coffee and cotton harvests. Unfavorable weather and other adversities reduced output in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and the Andean region of South America; but Latin American food production resumed a rising trend, up 5 percent from that in 1975. Though sugar export earnings fell, trade in Latin America was improved by rising prices, particularly for coffee, and by further price declines for grains and other food imports. U.S. agricultural imports from the Western Hemisphere countries increased to a new record of \$4.9 billion while exports continued a decline from the 1974 peak of \$3.8 billion, to \$3.4 billion in 1976.

The combined gross domestic product (GDP) for Canada and 22 Latin American countries grew an estimated 4.4 percent in 1976, compared with 2.1 percent in 1975. Recovery trends, which appeared related to improved trade and balance of payments (BOP), were important in Canada; Central America excluding Panama; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Paraguay; and Uruguay. Growth rates also moved up in the petroleum-based economies of Bolivia, Ecuador, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. However, growth in Mexico, Jamaica, Panama, Argentina, Guyana, and Peru was further weakened by serious trade and financial problems, and the Dominican Republic was hurt by falling world sugar prices.

Improved trade and balance of payments and restricted growth of consumer expenditures helped reduce inflation in Canada, Bolivia, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Chile, Uruguay, and most Central American countries. Import and other restrictions also lowered rates in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. However, some recurrence of inflation was associated with monetary expansion generated by rising exports in Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador and with trade deficits in Guatemala and Guyana. Continuing BOP deficits and rising foreign debt loads resulted in serious financial crises which led to institution of austerity programs in Argentina, Peru, and Mexico. Cuba and

Jamaica also announced austerity programs to conserve depleted foreign exchange reserves.

Emphasis upon food production continued in the Western Hemisphere countries and the harvested area estimated for the principal grains, oilseeds, and basic food crops in 1976 exceeded the record in 1975 by more than 6 percent. Production of rice, corn, and sorghum rose moderately to new highs. Bumper wheat harvests in Canada, Mexico, Argentina and Brazil contributed to record grain production, estimated more than 11 percent above 1975. Further expansion of oilseeds, particularly soybeans in Brazil and Argentina, far offset smaller harvests in Mexico and some other areas. Latin American sugar output continued up as cane harvests recovered in Argentina and Brazil, although drought reduced production in Cuba and Guyana. Beef output, estimated up sharply in face of improved demand, was supplemented by moderate rising trends which continued for pork, poultry and milk in many countries.

However, adverse weather hurt feed grain crops in Argentina and reduced yields of grains and other food crops in Central America and several Caribbean and Andean countries. Production of beans was also damaged in Brazil and Mexico and adverse weather plus disease problems took their toll of Brazil and Ecuador's cocoa bean output. Last year's freeze-damaged coffee crop in Brazil was only one-third of the 1961-65 average and, despite gains in other countries, the Latin America coffee harvest was the smallest since 1970. Cotton production fell again to the lowest level since 1960; moderate increases in Mexico, Central America, and Colombia were overshadowed by further cutbacks of plantings, particularly in Brazil and Peru.

In 1976, Argentina increased exports from its large 1975 wheat harvest but its feed grain trade fell sharply. Canadian grain shipments were somewhat below high year-earlier volumes; on balance, Western Hemisphere grain trade was down slightly. Large supplies and strong world demand stimulated further export gains in soybeans and related products. Increased production and the need for export earnings stimulated the Central American banana trade; and sugar exports increased in the face of falling world prices. Coffee shipments were expanded significantly in response to rising prices, partly through a reduction in

stocks, and beef exports were stimulated by stronger world demand.

Agricultural imports in the Western Hemisphere continued somewhat below peak levels of earlier years reflecting the rising trend in food production and efforts to conserve foreign exchange in many countries. Mexican production met domestic requirements for wheat and permitted a cutback in feed grain imports. The region's feed grain purchases fell sharply but wheat purchases were expanded to meet larger shortfalls in Brazil, Chile, and Colombia. Imports of oilseeds and related products rose moderately because of larger than usual production deficits in Mexico.

Some slowing of growth is forecast for the Canadian economy during 1977 because of an expected slower expansion in consumer spending. Brazil reportedly will attempt to reduce its growth rate in an effort to cut down inflation and further relieve pressure upon balance of payments. Rates of economic expansion may be also restricted or reduced by the austerity programs in Mexico, Cuba, Jamaica, and Peru and by the recurrence of inflation in Colombia and Ecuador and payments problems in the Dominican Republic. Policy changes and improvements in investment and trade suggest a possible recovery in the Argentine economy this year.

Because of the record 1976 harvest, large carry-over, and declining world prices, the Canadian government is asking producers to cut back wheat plantings; reduced plantings are also reported in Mexico, and some shift to pastures and oilseeds is

expected in Argentina. Further expansion of Brazil's corn and soybean plantings is anticipated but a less than expected increase in guaranteed producer prices may restrict expansion of the wheat area in 1977. A partial recovery is forecast for Brazilian coffee production but Latin American export supplies will remain significantly below levels of earlier years. High world prices will probably stimulate an increase in 1977 cotton plantings; and beef production and exports may continue to rise.

Current reports suggest that export supplies of sugar in Latin America, which accounts for up to one-half of world exports, will be lower in 1977. Production from the Cuban cane harvest, now in progress, was affected by extreme drought and may be down sharply from the 6 million tons in 1976. Sugarcane planting appears to have stabilized because of falling sugar prices and production is expected to be near or below 1976 levels in Mexico and Central American and other Caribbean countries. Carryovers from 1976 harvests probably are higher in some South American countries. However, Brazil has announced plans to convert larger quantities of sugarcane to alcohol as a supplement to its fuel supplies; and the current crisis in the sugar industry may reduce Peruvian production. Through January 1977, Cuba had contracted a record 3.5 million tons of sugar sales to the USSR and announced temporary withdrawal from the international free market. There is a strong possibility that Mexico and Venezuela may import sugar to fill current production deficits this year. (Howard L. Hall)

WESTERN HEMISPHERE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION Review of 1976 and Outlook for 1977

CANADA

Economic Situation

Canadian GDP expanded 4.6 percent in real terms in 1976. Consumer expenditures, which remained an important source of growth, have increased in real terms at an average annual rate of over 6 percent since mid-1975, the beginning of the recent economic recovery. Increases in business investment, however, which would be expected to occur at this stage, have not materialized. A high degree of excess capacity, declines in corporate profits, and uncertainties over future wage and price control policy have all adversely affected business investment plans.

Since October 1975, the economy has been operating under a wage and price control program. Policies of the Anti-Inflation Board (AIB), which administers the program, have been partially responsible for a slowing in the rate of inflation from 10.8 percent in 1975 to 7.6 percent in 1976. Some of this decrease, however, resulted from declines in food prices which are not entirely under AIB control. There have also been indications of a deceleration in the rate of increase in nominal wages from 14 percent in 1975 to about 12.5 percent in 1976. The 1976 unemployment rate of 7.2 percent was only marginally lower than in 1975.

Canadian international reserves stood at \$5.9 billion on December 31, 1976, compared with \$5.4 billion a year earlier. Total exports increased 15 percent, from \$32.8 billion in 1975 to \$37.7 billion in 1976, two-thirds of them destined for the United States. Total imports increased 6 percent, from \$35.6 billion in 1975 to \$37.5 billion in 1976, two-thirds of them from the United States.

Total farm revenue decreased for the first time since 1970, from \$10.2 billion in 1975 to \$9.9 billion in 1976. Lower Wheat Board payments for wheat, oats, and barley, combined with declines in returns from flaxseed, rapeseed, potatoes, fruits, and vegetables, were reflected in an 8-percent decrease in receipts from crop production. Increases from cattle and poultry, however, resulted in a 3-percent gain in receipts from livestock production, despite lower returns for hogs and dairy. Farm input costs

increased approximately 11 percent. The decline in revenue and increase in costs resulted in a 23-percent drop in net farm income from the record 1975 high of \$4.4 billion to \$3.4 billion in 1976.

Agricultural Production

Wheat production reached a record high of 23.5 million tons last year, up 37 percent from the 17.1 million tons produced in 1975. This gain was attributable to increased area and record yields. Wheat stocks on August 1, 1976, were 8.1 million tons, the lowest in over 10 years and considerably under the record high of 27.4 million tons held on August 1, 1970.

Slight decreases in area planted to coarse grains (excluding corn) were more than offset by record yields of 1.74 tons per hectare for rye, 2.36 for barley, and 2.02 for oats. Production of rye increased 7 percent to 561,000 tons, barley increased 2 percent to 10.3 million tons, and oats, 2 percent to 5 million tons. Area planted to corn increased 6 percent in 1976 to 673,000 hectares. Despite some decline in yields, production increased 1 percent over the 1975 record crop.

Area in oilseeds dropped 47 percent, and production declined 42 percent in 1976. Although rapeseed yields increased 16 percent, production declined 45 percent, from 1.7 million tons in 1975 to 930,000 tons in 1976, because of a 54-percent decrease in planted area. Flaxseed production dropped 33 percent to 297,000 tons. Soybean production was down 31 percent to 252,000 tons due to decreases in both area and yields.

The cattle sector was characterized by high slaughter rates, resulting in a reduction in inventory last year. January 1, 1977, cattle numbers were down 4 percent from those on January 1, 1976. This followed a 2-percent decrease from January 1, 1975, to January 1, 1976, the first since 1968. January-November 1976 slaughter of domestic cattle was 3.6 million head, up 6 percent above the same period in 1975 and an alltime high. The pattern of cattle slaughter, however, has changed in the past year. While 1975 was characterized by

high rates of calf and cow slaughter, federally inspected calf slaughter declined 3.8 percent in January-November 1976, but heifer slaughter rose 14 percent. Fed cattle sales increased in the latter half of 1976; average carcass weight of slaughter cattle was up. Canadian per capita consumption of beef rose to an alltime high in 1976. Hog slaughter continued to decline through the year, and hog numbers on January 1, 1977, were up 3 percent from that date a year earlier. Indications are that farrowings for the second half of 1976 were also up.

Both egg and turkey production are under national supply management programs which control production and imports through quotas. Turkey production in 1976 of 90,000 tons was slightly under the production quota established for the year by the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency (CTMA). The quota on imports of turkeys and turkey meat amounted to 1,800 tons in 1976, but an excess of 4,500 tons above the established import quotas were imported under supplementary licenses. Most supplementary permits were for heavier turkeys for institutional trade. Production of other poultry meat is not under a national supply management program, although action has been taken to establish one. Broiler production increased 14 percent during January-November 1976 from the same period in 1975, and imports of broilers accounted for 8 percent of total consumption in that period. The laying flock has been decreasing in size from a 1970-74 average of 24.1 million head to between 21 and 22 million in 1976. Heavy culling of older fowl has resulted in an improvement in the laying rate for the remaining flock. Imports of eggs more than twice exceeded the established import quotas for the year.

The manufacturing milk sector operates under a supply management program. In 1976 restrictive quotas and heavy price disincentives for overproduction were in effect to bring the high production of the previous year more into line with expected consumption levels. Thus milk production was down slightly from the 1975 level. July 1, 1976, cow numbers on farms were down 4 percent from a year earlier to 2.05 million head. The largest provincial decline registered in Quebec where the dairy herd dropped 40,000 head. Output of butter in 1976 declined 16,000 tons to 112,000 tons. On November 5, 1976, the Government introduced a program designed to divert industrial milk from butter to cheese production. This program resulted in a small increase in cheese output in 1976. Non-fat dry milk production declined 12 percent in 1976.

Agricultural Trade

Canadian agricultural imports reached approximately \$3.3 billion in 1976. Live animals increased

44 percent in value, fresh and frozen meat rose 78 percent, and fruits and vegetables increased 11 percent. Over half of Canadian agricultural imports came from the United States which accounted for nearly all live animals, and two-thirds of fresh and frozen meat and fruit and vegetable imports. Canadian agricultural exports amounted to about \$3.9 billion in 1976. Grains remained the dominant agricultural commodity, and despite a 5-percent decrease in value from 1975 to 1976, they still represented two-thirds of total agricultural exports. Exports of live animals and meat and meat preparations increased significantly. Only 15 percent of total agricultural exports were destined for the United States in 1976, but 85 percent of live animals and 42 percent of meat exports went to U.S. markets.

U.S.-Canadian agricultural trade exceeded \$2 billion in 1976. U.S. agricultural imports from Canada increased 22 percent to \$600 million and U.S. agricultural exports increased 15 percent to \$1.5 billion. Canada remained a net importer of pork and granted duty free status to imports of fresh pork and reduced tariffs on many processed pork products from the United States. As a result, U.S. exports of pork to Canada increased almost fourfold to 69,000 tons. However, Canada reinstated the import duty on pork in March, 1977.

U.S.-Canadian trade in live animals and beef was free of quota restrictions between January and October 1976. In October, the United States imposed quotas on imports of meat under the Meat Import Act of 1964. The U.S. quota for Canada for 1976, amounting to 36,000 tons, was filled by early November. Canada imposed quotas on the imports of beef from the United States of 2,000 tons for the fourth quarter of 1976.

In 1977, the United States and Canada agreed to limit beef trade. Under the agreement, Canadian exports to the United States will be limited to approximately 34,000 tons in 1977. Canada has imposed a global quota which limits imports of U.S. beef to 11,000 tons. This exceeds last year's volume of 8,000 tons of U.S. beef and veal exported to Canada.

Outlook

Growth of the Canadian economy is expected to slow in 1977. Real GDP may expand only about 3 percent. The weakened growth is expected to increase the unemployment rate to 7.9 percent. Prices will probably continue to decrease, assuming the continued application of the wage and price control program. Consumer spending will probably remain a strong factor affecting economic growth. Because of lower rates of increase in wages, however, consumer expenditures will probably expand only about 3.5 percent as opposed to the 6-percent gain in 1976. According to Canadian

Government economists, net farm income could decline as much as 20-25 percent in 1977, primarily because of an expected 10-percent decline in revenue from crop production and a 5-percent increase in input costs.

Based on record 1976 wheat production, expected increases in wheat stocks, and declining world wheat prices, the Canadian Government is asking producers for a 5-6 percent reduction in 1977 wheat plantings, which is expected to bring production down to approximately 18.5 million tons. Most of the decline is expected to occur in durum wheat production. Area planted to oats and rye will probably remain near 1976 levels. Some increase in area planted to barley and rapeseed may occur, as an alternative to wheat.

Cattle slaughter is expected to decrease in 1977 about 5-8 percent. Calf slaughter may be down 10 percent; cow slaughter, 15 percent; and heifer slaughter, 13 percent. Hog slaughter in the first half of 1977 is expected to average 10-15 percent above the same period in 1976. Turkey production should increase somewhat; the CTMA has increased production quotas to 94,000 tons for 1977 to offset the need for supplementary imports of turkey meat. Total milk production is expected to decline slightly in 1977. Butter will probably drop 10-12 percent, while production of nonfat dry milk will be around 150,000 tons. Lower stocks and increased demand could result in a 12-percent increase in cheddar cheese production to 90,000 tons. (Carol E. Bray)

MEXICO

The past year, 1976, was one of unusual difficulty related to growing financial problems, devaluation of the peso, and change in government. Real economic growth declined again to an estimated 2 percent, the lowest in recent times. There were improvements in the trade balance and a slowing in the inflation rate during the first half of the year, but uncertainties prevailed because of rumored peso devaluations and effects of the change of government. Economic confidence was badly shaken by the September-October devaluations, estimated near 50 percent, following 22 years of stability. Positive factors associated with the devaluation were overshadowed by short-term negative effects including stagnation of investment, and capital flight which was stimulated, partly, by late-year land expropriation actions by the outgoing government.

However, a general improvement in the trade balance appeared as a bright spot in the economic situation. Exports for 1976 rose 15 percent above those for 1975 and imports declined 8 percent, including a 16-percent reduction in Government purchases. Important factors were larger exports of agricultural, mineral, and petroleum products along with rising world prices; lower prices helped reduce import costs. The improved trade balance was also attributed to economic recovery in the United States and an increased competitive position of Mexican goods and services following the devaluations.

The economic situation was reflected, to some extent, in the general index of industrial output which continued up rather sharply during the first quarter of 1976 but stabilized at a lower level during April-October. The January-October 1976 average exceeded that of the previous year by only 2.7 percent, compared with a 1975 gain of 4.5 percent.

Average percentage gains for 1976 were about 12 for petroleum products, nearly 6 for chemicals, and nearly 2 for manufactures and construction. Output of the extractive industries, other than petroleum, fell off significantly and agricultural production was below the 1975 high. The service sector benefited from a late-year recovery in tourism; receipts were estimated up about 3 percent from 1975, to values only slightly below the 1974 record.

The current foreign payments deficit declined from \$3.8 billion in 1975 to an estimated \$3 billion at the end of 1976. However, the consumer price index, which had risen at an average monthly rate near 1 percent through August, accelerated to an average of 4 percent for October-December. Following the December 1 change in government, some restoration of confidence was indicated by return of capital and strengthening of the peso. However, inflation and other problems associated with devaluations and heavy indebtedness indicate further difficulties in 1977. Most observers believe that the restoration of financial stability will definitely require at least 1 year and perhaps longer.

During 1976, domestic demand for agricultural products remained strong and prices of export commodities such as coffee, cotton, cattle, and some vegetables improved. Government support prices for basic commodities were unchanged or, in some cases, lowered until September when support levels for most grains and oilseeds were raised by amounts ranging from 10 to 23 percent. Producers were faced with a significant increase in minimum wages but the Government continued to restrict advances in prices for fertilizers and fuels used in agriculture. Other input costs rose during 1976, more or less in proportion to the inflation trend.

Weather appeared the dominant factor in production and, on balance, was generally favorable.

Early in 1976, very dry conditions continued to restrict supplies of irrigation water in the important northern and Pacific coastal areas. Those areas benefited from heavy rains which spread through Mexico later in the year. Rains and flooding forced replanting of some food crops, including corn, sorghum, and beans in the central plateau. Production of major crops such as wheat, corn, and cotton was larger in 1976 but harvests of oilseeds, sugarcane, beans and some vegetables were smaller. Total crop production fell about 2 percent but the decline was mostly offset by gains in output of livestock products.

Grain plantings continued to expand and harvested area in 1976 exceeded the previous year's record by nearly 2 percent, although rice seedings fell sharply because of lower availability of irrigation water in the Pacific state of Sinaloa. The midyear wheat harvest approximated current consumption levels, 9 percent above the high in 1975. The harvests of corn, the principal food crop, was forecast up about 5 percent as a result of larger plantings, favorable weather, and continued introduction of improved seed. Sorghum continued to expand into new areas because of generally good yields, ease of planting and harvesting, and strong demand for feeding; production was near record, despite bad weather and insect damage in some areas. Production of barley and oats also continued to expand in response to strong demand and favorable prices.

The coffee harvest in early 1976 was below that of a year earlier, and the sugar industry continued to stagnate because of low domestic prices so that cane production declined for the second year. Commercial production of winter horticultural crops including tomatoes, peppers, melons and strawberries were lower due, no doubt, to shortages of irrigation water. Producers cut back plantings of dry beans because of lower support prices and yields were reduced by midyear rains and by later frost damage in some areas. Cotton and cottonseed production rose slightly as producers increased plantings in response to higher prices. However, tight water supplies resulted in a 60-percent decline in soybeans which are usually planted as a double crop following wheat. Safflower output was lower and the total oilseed harvest fell about one-third to the lowest volume in several years.

Good moisture contributed to the best pasture conditions in several years. Herd buildups permitted a strong recovery in feeder cattle export from northern zones and a further expansion in slaughter for domestic consumption and export. Pork and milk production continued a significant rise despite higher feed costs. Egg production was reported larger but broilers declined about 5 percent to 228,000 tons.

Agricultural exports for 1976 were estimated up 10 percent from \$935 million in 1975. Much of the gain resulted from higher prices which pushed coffee to first place with earnings of \$350 million, exceeded only by petroleum in total exports. Earnings from tomatoes and other winter vegetables also reflected higher prices. Greater availabilities of cattle and beef contributed to rising exports as peso devaluation made U.S. prices very attractive. Low supplies continued to restrict cotton exports and there were no sales of sugar which had been a major export through 1975. The United States continued as the principal agricultural market, taking about 70 percent of total exports in 1976.

In contrast, agricultural imports fell sharply from \$903 million in 1975 to about \$550 million in 1976. Prices of most agricultural imports continued downward and, no doubt, consumption of many products increased at a slower rate because of inflation and reductions in real income levels. However, the decline is attributed largely to record increases in production of grains, particularly from harvests in late 1975. Reportedly, there may also have been some drawdowns of stocks last year in anticipation of the change in government. The United States continued as the principal supplier, accounting for 73 percent of total imports.

The new Government has indicated that priority will be given to agriculture and mineral resources. A first step by the new administration was to combine the Departments of Agriculture and Water Resources under one Secretary to provide better coordination in land and water use. A new agricultural plan, put into effect in February 1977, will emphasize increasing productivity of the major food crops, including corn, wheat, beans, rice, oilseeds, and sorghum. Collectivization of ejidos (small farm units) will be encouraged to better utilize irrigation water, extension services, machinery, and credit. Expansion of irrigated area from today's 4.8 million hectares will also receive priority, with a target increase of 2 million hectares during the current Government's tenure.

Aside from weather, agricultural performance in 1977 will depend, somewhat, upon restoration of confidence in the private farm sector and the effects of devaluation upon trade relationships, particularly with the United States. In late 1976, Government expropriation of private lands in the Pacific state of Sonora delayed wheat plantings. The 1977 harvest will be down considerably due, in part, to rust and water problems and to higher prices for cotton. Water and land problems may also tend to restrict expansion in cotton and horticultural products although higher production is anticipated. The outlook is for continued expansion in corn and sorghum plantings, a moderate recovery in oilseeds, and some further rise in output of livestock products.

The outlook for agricultural exports appears favorable. Larger available supplies and continued high prices are indicated for main products, including coffee, cotton, fruits and vegetables, cattle, and beef. Imports are less certain in view of the current economic situation, but it can generally be assumed that Mexico will continue to maintain food supplies sufficient to restrict inflation. Feed

grain imports may decline from last year's levels because of the large 1976 corn crop but will remain substantial in 1977. Significant wheat and rice imports appear likely and purchases of oilseeds and oilseed products may be increased because of smaller domestic supplies. There is also some possibility of sugar imports for the first time in recent history. (*John E. Link*)

THE CARIBBEAN

Barbados

During 1976, the economy experienced a moderate recovery in economic activity. Preliminary estimates indicated that GDP, at market prices, rose from \$592 million Barbados dollars (Bds\$) in 1974 to Bds\$700 million in 1975, but that little real growth occurred. By the end of 1976, retail sales had improved and housing construction was moving ahead. These improvements boosted real growth moderately. The low level of economic activity from 1974 to early 1976, the reduced rates of international price increases, and the devaluation of Barbados currency (Bds\$1.00 equals US\$0.50) lowered the inflation rate in 1975 to about 12 percent compared with 36 percent in 1974. The high prices of sugar in 1975 provided record foreign exchange earnings and enabled the country to enter 1976 with its highest balance of payments surplus. This contributed to the recovery in 1976. By the end of the year, though, the old problem of maintaining foreign exchange reserves returned as the rise in imports outstripped the growth in exports.

Several consecutive years of dry weather reduced the cropland in cultivation from 84,000 acres in 1970 to 74,000 acres currently. Sugarcane cultivation has declined. Some plantations have been subdivided for real estate development or into small farms, many of which have not been cultivated. Although sugar production staged a moderate recovery in 1976 from the 2 previous years, output of most other crops (sea-island cotton, onions, and other food crops) either stagnated or increased only marginally. Livestock production continued to decline, poultry production stabilized, but pork production increased substantially.

Detailed information on agricultural imports is not available after 1974. In that year they were valued at Bds\$103 million, of which imports from the United States amounted to about 20 percent. Despite good prospects for continued growth in 1977, balance of payments problems are expected to bring tighter import controls and stepped-up efforts at import substitution.

The Government continues its price support programs to encourage increased production of

selected crops. This program is implemented by the Barbados Marketing Corporation (BMC) which facilitates the marketing of agricultural products. (*Frank D. Barlow*)

Cuba

Cuba faced growing trade problems as f.o.b. Caribbean prices for raw sugar, its principal export, continued to decline from an average in 1975 of about 20 cents to less than 12 cents per pound during 1976. Additional problems were related to unusually dry weather which damaged crops harvested in late 1976 and reduced prospects for the 1977 sugar harvest, now in progress. Hard-currency earnings from sugar exports were reduced sharply in 1976 but imports of essential foods and raw materials were maintained near high levels of a year earlier. Strong development trends continued to stimulate high growth rates in manufactures, construction, mining, and related industries.

Trade for 1976 fell below 1975 highs; exports declined sharply from \$3.5 billion and imports, moderately from \$3.8 billion. Earnings from sugar exports fell 17 percent while small gains occurred in minerals, tobacco, and some foodstuffs, including citrus fruit and fish. Petroleum imports increased again and costs for foods and raw materials decreased only slightly. However, imports of machinery, transportation equipment and other commodities were significantly below high 1975 values.

Trade with the nonsocialist countries declined and shifted strongly to the other Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA) countries, including the USSR and other Eastern European nations, which currently purchase Cuban sugar at agreement prices considerably above the world market level. Exports to non-CEMA countries fell more than 40 percent; and imports, which have provided important sources of food and capital goods needed in Cuban development, were 30 percent below unusually high 1975 levels. Hard currency reserves were seriously reduced by large deficits in that trade in 1975-76. Cuba reportedly restricted imports from Japan beginning in August

1976 and recently requested a year's delay in Japanese delivery of contracted capital goods.

Current and prospective reductions in trade are expected to result in drastic revisions of the national economic plan for 1976-80 approved in 1975 by Cuba's first Communist Party Congress. Important changes were suggested by a September 1976 announcement of an austerity program by the Cuban Government. That program stressed the necessity to modify ambitious plans for imports of capital goods from the nonsocialist countries; priority in hard-currency use would be given to herbicides, insecticides, spare parts, and essential food commodities including beans and dairy products. After several years' efforts to diversify trade, first consideration will again be given to the USSR and other socialist countries. Despite the economic jolt from plummeting world prices, Cuba reiterated its intention to give priority to cultivation of sugarcane.

The sugarcane area in 1975 was the largest since 1970 but rainfall has continued below normal levels in some important production zones. The harvested area for 1975/76 (November-June) was reduced by increased cuttings of the previous year; sugar yields were moderately below those of the previous 2 years and production was estimated at about 6 million tons, compared with about 6.4 million from the preceding cane harvest. A third year of drought in eastern Cuba, reportedly the most severe in several decades, is expected to reduce output from the 1976/77 harvest even more. About one-third of the cane area was harvested by mechanical harvester in 1975/76 and 42 percent is estimated for the current harvest compared with a goal of 60 percent by 1980.

Areas traditionally devoted to tobacco reportedly recovered and expanded in 1976 as leaf prices were increased 9 to 47 percent according to type; and production was a record. Coffee production declined for the third year, to a low of 16,000 tons because of dry weather. Rice production in late 1976 was estimated down from high levels of the past 2 years due to shortages of irrigation water in some areas. However, other irrigated food crops, including vegetables, fruits, and tubers, were reported in good supply last year.

Information on livestock product output is limited. Cattle numbers did not change significantly and dry pasture conditions probably restricted beef output. Targets for production of ensilage and hay and for planting of improved pastures and forage crops were reportedly more than met in 1975 and the first half of 1976. Dairy feed supplies appeared more than adequate during the year and milk production probably exceeded the level in 1975 of 626,000 tons. A moderate rise in output of pork, poultry meat, and eggs was also indicated.

Cuba exported 5.1 million tons of sugar, raw equivalent, in 1976, valued near \$2.9 billion, compared with 5.7 million tons which earned \$3.5 billion the preceding year. Exports to the USSR were down only slightly from the record 3.2 million tons for 1975. Exports to other CEMA countries rose moderately from 520,000 tons and those to the People's Republic of China (PRC) continued near 183,000 tons, less than one-half the level of the early seventies. Sales to Japan, Cuba's principal hard-currency market, fell again to 100,000 tons after peaking at nearly 1.2 million in 1974. Sales to Spain were nearly two-thirds less than the 327,000 tons for 1975. After lengthy negotiations, Japan agreed to import 1 million tons of Cuban raw sugar during 1977-80; 100,000 tons in 1977 and 300,000 annually in the following 3 years. Exports to Spain were also renegotiated (in 1,000 tons): 120, 130, and 90, for 1976-78.

Imports of wheat and flour, mainly from Canada, declined slightly in 1976. Corn purchases from Argentina, presumably financed all or in part on USSR accounts, were increased, and some corn was imported from Hungary. Cuba faced growing problems in imports of rice, the important food staple. Cuban rice imports last year were estimated below the high 1975 level, including 15,000 tons from Argentina and significant quantities from Colombia, Italy, and Spain. Purchases from the PRC continued near low 1975 levels of about 50,000 tons, compared with more than 200,000 in previous years. The USSR, a net importer, agreed to supply Cuba with an unspecified quantity of rice during 1976-80. Presumably this will be purchased from Western Hemisphere sources on USSR account, following the pattern of wheat and corn.

In reaction to high world prices, coffee imports were reduced in 1976. Per capita weekly rations were cut from 43 to 30 grams as part of the austerity program, and rejuvenation of domestic production was called for. One pound of the per capita monthly rice ration was also eliminated and replaced by 2 pounds of cornmeal. Presumably, additional corn imports will be needed to meet new rationing requirements since Cuban production is limited. Cornmeal has not been important in the diet and rice is much preferred.

Because of smaller exports, sugar stocks in December 1976 were up sharply from a year earlier. In January 1977, Cuba concluded an agreement to sell the USSR 1 million tons of raw sugar in addition to the yearly 2.5 million tons specified under current trade agreements. At the same time, Cuba announced withdrawal from the international free market until August 1977. These actions coincided generally with reported Cuban intentions to shift trade to the socialist countries because of low world sugar prices. It also suggested that production

from the 1976/77 sugarcane harvest, currently estimated near 5.7 million tons, may be reduced even more by the serious 1976 drought.

Cuba is proceeding with major political and institutional changes coincident with implementation of its national economic plan for 1976-80. The Provisional Revolutionary Government, which had administered Cuba since January 1960, was formally replaced by the People's Government National Assembly in December 1976. Provinces have been redefined and numbers increased, undoubtedly to strengthen the authority of the central governing body. A single Ministry of Agriculture replaced numerous overlapping structures previously concerned with agricultural functions. However, the Ministries of the Foods and Sugar Industries retained their status, as under the previous organization.

These changes may be expected to intensify Cuban efforts to expand agricultural production, partly through improvements in infrastructure and processing. An important aspect will be the continued trend to mechanization of the cane harvest and modernization of the sugar industry. A major project to improve port loading facilities for sugar has recently been completed in cooperation with the USSR, and the CEMA countries have agreed to cooperate in the development of bagasse, a byproduct of sugar processing. A corn mill was reportedly opened near port facilities in Havana during 1976 with additional facilities planned for producing breakfast cereals.

Increased irrigation, important in expansion of rice and other food and forage crops, currently accounts for about 10 percent of the cultivated area estimated about 5 million hectares. Reportedly, new projects will be stepped up to reduce the risks from drought, particularly in the low rainfall areas of eastern Cuba. Cuba is also expected to intensify its push toward fully socialized agriculture through expansion of the state farm sector and fuller integration of private or small farms which still utilize 25-30 percent of total farmlands. These small farms, averaging about 14 hectares, are important in cattle and beef production. Most Government procurements of tobacco and coffee are from these private farms, which also produce over 40 percent of fruits, vegetables, and tubers and about 20 percent of Cuba's sugarcane. (*Linda A. Bernstein and Howard L. Hall*)

Dominican Republic

Real economic growth was estimated at about 3 percent in 1976, compared with 4.8 percent in 1975. Agricultural growth, estimated at about 5 percent, reflected recovery from the effects of the serious 1975 drought. The withholding of sugar sales during the first part of 1976 and the near collapse of

the electrical system were big factors slowing down overall economic growth in 1976. Although final calculations are incomplete, it appears that inflation ranged between 10 and 15 percent during the year.

The drastic drop in sugar prices, the tripling of sugar duties by the United States, and further rises in costs of petroleum contributed to serious balance of payments problems. Early indications are that the payments deficit for 1976 might exceed \$130 million. Despite improved coffee and cocoa prices, export earnings were off nearly \$200 million from 1975 and were about the same as in 1974. On the bright side, the balance of payments was helped by the growth in tourism, further rises in coffee prices, and increases in the price of gold.

The value of imports for January-August 1976 increased 3.4 percent over the same period in 1975. New import restrictions were announced in September to help curtail imports during the last part of the year. For the year, total imports were expected to be in line with the ceiling of \$800 million set at the beginning of the year. Only through loans from foreign suppliers, including a \$60 million loan from Venezuela to finance petroleum imports and extensive loans from foreign commercial banks, was the Dominican Republic able to finance its capital and other imports necessary to continue economic development.

The sugar harvest beginning in December 1977 is expected to produce a 7-percent increase over last year's output of 1.27 million tons. The expected increase is due to a variety of factors, such as cutting of cane left from the 1976 harvest, expanded area in cultivation, and modernization of equipment made possible by windfall profits in 1975. The renovation of sugar mills is increasing the grinding capacity. Shortrun expansion of sugar is in conflict with long-range goals to diversify the agricultural sector, but the national importance of the sugar industry as a source of employment, tax revenues, and foreign exchange cannot be overlooked.

The livestock industry made significant recovery in 1976 with the return of favorable weather conditions and increased demand for beef. Despite a 13-percent gain in meat production, cattle population increased by 2 percent. Further gains are anticipated in 1977 with improvements in both domestic and export demand for beef and a reduction in the export tax. Also, the cattle population is expected to increase 7 percent as the Government has abandoned its efforts to pass a law limiting the lands which could be devoted to livestock production.

Despite efforts to tighten controls, total agricultural imports exceeded 1975 levels. Agricultural imports from the United States rose from \$96 million in 1975 to \$107 million in 1976. The drought was partly responsible for this increase as more

foodstuffs such as wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and vegetable products and preparations had to be imported.

Strong measures are being pushed to achieve self-sufficiency in 1977. The import demand for wheat, corn, and sorghum is expected to continue. Even if rice production increases as planned, some imports will be needed to improve reserve stocks. The country is still far away from self-sufficiency in edible oils and protein meals but imports will continue to be regulated to provide protection to domestic peanut and coconut producers. Consequently some soybeans will likely be imported. (Frank D. Barlow)

Haiti

Recovery from the drought and improved world demand for light industrial exports, which began in 1975, continued into 1976. The real economic growth rate was projected at 2.5 to 3.0 percent, compared with no growth in 1975. Rapidly growing foreign assistance from both multilateral and bilateral sources amounted to about 9 percent of the GDP in 1976. Industrial production increased more than 8 percent, and the retail price index rose by 20 percent compared with an estimated 16 percent in 1975. The balance of payments situation improved materially in 1976 after 3 years of consecutive deficits. Foreign currency reserves which had dropped sharply at the end of 1975 were replenished due primarily to increased coffee earnings.

Agriculture, which contributes about 45 percent of the domestic product and employs about 80 percent of the population, is predominantly of a subsistence nature. Fertile areas are limited, the agricultural lands are overpopulated, and advanced technology is practically nonexistent. Most of the small farms are submarginal, crop yields are low, and farm to market transportation is limited. Population pressures are causing a shift from export or cash crops to subsistence food crops.

High world prices encouraged more complete harvesting of coffee in 1976 and production may rise even further in 1977. Sugar, the second most important cash crop, declined further in 1976, as a result of increasing soil salinity, lack of technology, and drought conditions. Sisal production, which dropped from 19,000 tons in 1974 to 12,000 tons in 1975, continued its decline in 1976. Production probably did not exceed 6,000 tons as market prices fell below cash production costs. Instability in the world market and competition from subsidized production in Mexico, Brazil, and East Africa create uncertainty as to the future of sisal in Haiti. The country is just about self-sufficient in rice production. Corn, millet, beans, and sorghum are the principal staple crops of subsistence farm-

ers. All of these crops are subject to drought and no significant expansion is indicated.

Coffee provides about one-third of the country's foreign exchange earnings. Exports stimulated by rising prices rose significantly from 17,580 tons in 1975 to 26,459 tons in 1976. The 1977 crop is expected to be good and exports of 25,433 tons are projected. The U.S. Agency for International Development is cooperating in a program to help improve planting techniques, sorting and drying methods, fertilizer distribution, and marketing.

In 1975 and 1976 the United States increased its traditionally large share of the Haitian market to over 50 percent. Imports of agricultural products from the United States have also increased to over \$30 million annually. Principal items are fats, oils, wheat, and assorted grocery products. Agricultural imports were below the 1975 levels, primarily due to smaller wheat imports. They should increase in 1977 because of higher coffee earnings. Longrun expansion of the Haitian import market will depend largely on the success of American firms in bidding on externally financed infrastructure projects. (Frank D. Barlow)

Jamaica

The general economic situation deteriorated throughout 1976 mainly because of depressed world demand for bauxite and alumina, decline in the world price of sugar, a falloff in tourism, and a series of domestic strikes. As a consequence, foreign exchange earnings dropped drastically and although austerity measures successfully curtailed imports during the first 9 months, the balance of payments deficit tripled. Control over imports was tightened during the last quarter of 1976 but total imports reportedly exceeded the quota of 950 million Jamaican dollars (J\$) set at the beginning of the year. Preliminary economic growth was estimated at -5.0 percent in 1976. The 12-month cost of living increase from June 1975 to June 1976 was 10.8 percent.

Overall, the agricultural production index of 86 (1961-65=100) was about the same as in 1975. The output of most major crops including sugar stood about the same as the year before, except for bananas where some improvement occurred. The various campaigns to increase production of basic root crops and vegetables, quite successful in 1975, were held in check by relatively poor growing conditions and other factors in 1976.

Despite rigorous import controls, including exchange restrictions, U.S. agricultural exports to Jamaica amounted to \$75.4 million, slightly above the \$73.8 million in 1975. Principal 1976 exports were in million dollars; corn, 17.5; wheat and wheat flour, 8.0; soybean meal, 4.9; tobacco, 3.0; tallow, 3.2; and vegetable oils, 4.5.

The value of Jamaican agricultural exports was lower in 1976 primarily because of lower sugar prices. Export quantities of both sugar and bananas were about the same as in 1975. Total exports were considerably lower as alumina and bauxite were well below past volume levels. Higher unit prices were not enough to offset the decline in volume.

Despite some expected improvement in 1977 in foreign exchange earnings from bauxite, alumina, and sugar, the Government announced stringent foreign exchange regulations to be imposed in January with a target of some J\$ 950 million. Importation of all luxury items is expected to be prohibited. Many food items will also be prohibited, including popular staples supplied by the United States such as red beans, onions, fruits, and vegetables.

The United States announced the establishment of a new \$10 million line of credit to finance Jamaican imports of corn and wheat under the Commodity Credit Corporation's export credit sale program. This will provide only partial relief to the country, which is in the midst of its most serious international and domestic financial crisis on record. (*Frank D. Barlow*)

Trinidad and Tobago

Economic recovery which began in 1975 continued in 1976. The manufacturing sector showed the largest increase in output and value of product. The petroleum sector continued to dominate the economy and attempts to diversify have met with limited success. However, several large-scale industrial projects are at various stages of construction or planning and the increased number of visitors has boosted tourist earnings. Two events in 1976 had important implications on future developments. The Trinidad and Tobago (TT\$) dollar was realigned to the U.S. dollar and pegged at US\$1.00 to TT\$2.40; the realignment is expected to provide a degree of confidence and stability. In addition, the Government took steps to mobilize domestic financial resources to channel funds into productive investment and reduce dependence on external sources of finance.

The index of retail prices slowed considerably and an 11.7-percent increase in 1976 compared with 17 in 1975 and 22 in 1974. Government actions on price controls, centralized purchasing of major import items, consumer price subsidies, revaluation of currency, and lower international agricultural prices contributed to the slower rise in inflation.

The country enjoyed a positive balance in visible trade of TT\$423 million in the first 9 months of 1976, largely because of the exports of petroleum products. However, in the "non-oil" account there

was a deficit of TT\$1,129 million, compared with TT\$1,102 million in the comparable 1975 period. The visible trade surplus with the United States of TT\$1,918 million for the first 9 months was due almost totally to petroleum.

Agricultural production increased in 1976 primarily because of recovery in sugar production from 160,000 to 200,000 tons. Cocoa, coffee, copra, and tobacco production dropped sharply, but citrus production recovered from the disappointing 1975 crop. Pork production was up sharply but beef and egg output was unchanged. Poultry meat and milk production were down considerably.

The value of agricultural exports for the first 9 months totaled TT\$148 million, compared with TT\$183 million in 1975. Lower sugar prices were responsible for the decline. Sugar and molasses accounted for 82 percent of total agricultural exports in both years.

Value of food and other agricultural imports in 1975 totaled TT\$264.8 million, of which TT\$117 million, or 44 percent, was from the United States. Wheat, rice, and other cereals and cereal preparations made up 40 percent of the total, while meats and dairy products accounted for about 30 percent. Bulk commodities, such as wheat, corn, soybean meal, prepared animal feeds, peanuts, tobacco, and edible vegetable oil, were the major items from the United States. The United States also shared in the market for certain meat and poultry items.

For the first half of 1976 the import value of food and other agricultural commodities totaled TT\$171.3 million, compared to TT\$143.1 million for the same period of the previous year. Increase in quantity of items imported, rather than higher prices, caused this growth in the market. Wheat has the largest value of Trinidad and Tobago's commodity imports. In 1975, and for several prior years, the United States supplied all wheat imported. However, in 1976, Canada reentered the market and obtained about 38 percent of wheat imported during the first 11 months of 1976.

Trinidad and Tobago can expect reasonably bright prospects for continued economic growth. Income from the petroleum sector will continue to provide the financial base for this growth. Several large industrial projects are expected to be completed soon. Among these are a liquid ammonia fertilizer processing plant, expansion of natural gas pipelines and power generation. Construction of a major water supply facility will begin in 1977, and it is expected that work will begin on an iron and steel mill and, possibly, a second fertilizer plant. While these construction projects will absorb some surplus labor, it is likely that unemployment will continue to be a major problem. Price increases should continue to moderate.

The forecast for sugar in 1977 indicates a 10-per-

cent increase in output over the level in 1976. Considerable recovery is expected for coffee and cocoa production as the higher prices should stimulate harvesting. Little improvement is expected for copra. Prospects for citrus and tobacco output are not good; those for expanded pork production are good; for poultry, fair; and eggs, good. Little change is expected in beef output and milk production may decline further. With domestic agricul-

tural production unable to fill the widening gap between available supply and increasing consumer demand, further growth can be expected in imports of food and other agricultural commodities. Bulk agricultural commodities, such as wheat, corn, soybean meal, animal feeds, tobacco, peanuts, and edible vegetable oils, will continue to be the major items supplied by the United States. (Frank D. Barlow)

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

In 1976, Costa Rica achieved a significant gain in real economic growth and made substantial progress in overcoming inflation and a serious balance of payments deficit. Pushed by high earnings for coffee and bananas, reduced consumer taxes and higher employment, real GDP growth in 1976 reached 5.5 percent compared with 3.3 percent in 1975. Exports of manufactures, mainly to other Central American Common Market countries, also increased significantly. Imports, subject to continued restraints, went up only 12 percent. This moderate rise, coupled with strong export growth, led to a substantial reduction in the trade deficit. The inflation rate fell to near 9 percent compared with over 14 percent in 1975.

Agricultural output remained near the 1975 level. Rice production dropped sharply, attributable to one of the worst droughts in history in the major growing area. Growers increased rice plantings by a third in response to strong prices but the severe drought and disease in the southern zone caused both abandonment and lower yields. Sorghum production reached 36,000 tons, double the 1975 level, as farmers planted sorghum on some rice lands. A small increase in area and yields led to higher corn production. Banana production remained constant while coffee and sugar outputs were higher. Strong export demand and poor pasture conditions resulted in the number of cattle slaughtered increasing 4 percent. Beef and veal production were up about 3 percent while pork output fell sharply.

Costa Rican agricultural exports to the United States increased nearly 26 percent to \$192.9 million in 1976. Bananas, the main export, were valued at \$94.9 million, up 19 percent. Coffee, the second most important export, rose 75 percent to \$30.2 million. Agricultural imports from the United States reached \$27.3 million, up 3 percent from the 1975 level. Wheat was the main commodity at \$16.3 million, down 8 percent from a year earlier. Soybean meal was the second most important commodity at \$1.9 million.

Overall growth in the economy is expected to be higher in 1977. Employment will rise and the management of prosperity to prevent a renewed outbreak of inflation will be the main challenge facing the Government. Due to the large carryover in rice into 1976, imports during 1977 will not be necessary. Imports of corn, sorghum, and beans will be required in 1977 and are currently forecast at (thousand tons) 25, 7, and 6, respectively. All wheat requirements are met with imports, which will be nearly 90,000 tons in 1977. (John E. Link)

El Salvador

The Salvadoran economy grew rapidly during the first half of 1976, spurred by unprecedentedly high coffee prices and by economic recovery in the United States and Central America, the country's principal markets. During the second half of 1976, private sector confidence was shaken by expropriation provisions of the Government's new agrarian reform program, which caused some capital flight and reduction in investments. Real economic growth was estimated up only moderately in 1976 to 5.5 percent. Further growth in 1977 will be fueled by strong exports. However, the unprecedented influx of revenue from exports and expected wage increases will generate strong upward pressures upon prices. Adverse effects of the agrarian reform upon private investment may also be a limiting factor.

Unusually large earnings for coffee, which normally accounts for nearly one-half of exports and 10 percent of GDP, were supplemented by higher prices for cotton, the second most important export. The economy also benefited from rising exports, particularly manufactures, to the Central American countries. Imports grew at a much slower rate and a shift from a deficit to a surplus balance of payments raised yearend foreign exchange reserves to an alltime high. Public capital expenditures increased but inflation lessened, partly because of tight credit controls and some late-year reduction in money supply.

Agricultural output was estimated up sharply in

1976 as increased production of export crops and livestock products offset drops in basic food crops. Coffee and sugar areas were up slightly while cotton plantings expanded 11 percent in response to attractive world prices; harvests were near records. Area and yields of grains and other basic food crops were lower as a result of a 1-month drought which occurred at a critical time in the middle of the rainy season. Production of livestock products increased 11 percent. Poultry production has been increasing rapidly because of higher consumer incomes and its price advantage relative to beef.

Salvadoran agricultural exports to the United States during 1976 were valued at \$204.6 million, up 55 percent from the year before. Higher volumes of coffee and sharply higher coffee prices were the main factors. Imports of agricultural products from the United States were down slightly to \$31.0 million from \$33.2 million in 1975. Wheat, the main import, reached 93,000 tons valued at \$16.2 million dollars. The value of tallow sales was \$5.4 million, up 30 percent from 1975.

Although planting is several months away for the 1977-78 season, the high cotton prices are likely to divert area from other crops. In contrast, low sugar prices imply the likelihood of a decline in cane planting. Grain prospects are good for the coming season due to price increases resulting from the short crops in 1976. Beyond the likely importation of some corn, the country should be relatively self-sufficient in basic grains. The rate of increase in beef production in 1977 could exceed that of 1976; current export prices are favorable and higher incomes could encourage expansion. (John E. Link)

Guatemala

On February 4, 1976, a devastating earthquake struck dozens of towns and villages in Guatemala, leaving a grim toll of more than 23,000 dead and 77,000 injured. Despite the tremendous loss of life and housing, the productive sectors of the economy survived almost unscathed. Due to reconstruction activities, more people were employed than ever before, wages of low-income workers were higher, and credit was extended to thousands of earthquake victims. This situation, along with increased Government spending and high levels of investment, indicates Guatemala's economic rate of growth in 1976 was 9 percent. Agricultural output was up slightly while manufacturing output advanced nearly 10 percent. Output of the mining and construction sectors rose sharply.

The Government's decision to increase the 1976 budget by 43 percent and the extraordinary growth of the money supply added to inflationary pressures. Several measures were taken to counter the threat of inflation. Some construction materials were allowed into the country duty free, tax incen-

tives were offered to new companies, and the Government tried to sell all the reconstruction bond issue domestically. Despite price rises for certain goods, the overall price level increased only moderately.

Exports were disrupted for a period, due to destruction of infrastructure, mainly highways and port facilities. However, agricultural exports were estimated to have been higher than the level in 1975 with coffee at \$198.5 million; sugar, \$115 million; cotton, \$98 million; meat, \$26.4 million and bananas, \$18 million. Imports grew faster than exports, resulting in a large trade deficit. This deficit was more than offset by foreign investment, insurance payments, transfers, post-quake donations in cash and goods, and private and public borrowing.

The weather was an important factor in agricultural production in 1976. The rainy season started slowly and was interrupted by a month-long mid-year dry spell. After the dry period, it rained and continued to do so late into the season. Corn production declined as some producers shifted to other crops; part of the decline in area was offset by higher yields. Sorghum and rice output also fell as area declined. Shifts to beans, cotton, coffee and sugarcane were responsible for part of the decline in grain area. Coffee production was down but, with the excellent prices, farmers will probably be putting money back into the plantations. Excellent weather during the growing season pushed cotton output to near a record level. Beef and veal production increased as the late rainy season maintained the pasture growth.

Guatemalan agricultural exports to the United States were up 73 percent in 1976 to \$257.9 million. Coffee, sugar, meats, and bananas accounted for over 90 percent of the total at \$106.2 million, \$87.9 million, \$24.0 million, and \$22.8 million respectively. Guatemalan imports from the United States were up slightly to \$40.1 million. The main imports were wheat, \$13.0 million; tallow, \$4.3 million; peanut oil, \$2.6 million; and soybean meal, \$2.0 million. (John E. Link)

Honduras

The Honduran economy experienced a significant gain in 1976 because of higher agricultural output and improved economic conditions in its major markets. January-September export earnings were up 20 percent compared with the 1975 level. Shipments of bananas jumped 50 percent as average prices increased slightly. Coffee exports declined nearly one-fourth but prices pushed values up 47 percent making coffee the principal export. Total imports rose only 9 percent but still stood at about \$11 million more than exports for 1976.

Agricultural production was up sharply from the very low 1975 level, but did not equal the record in

1971. Honduras, like most of the other Central American countries, experienced extremes in wet and dry weather. Good prices at planting time encouraged most farmers to expand the area devoted to corn, beans and sorghum. Production of corn and sorghum fell because of lower yields, but, because of the larger stocks at the beginning of 1976, Honduras probably will not need to import corn in 1977. Bean production increased, which will permit some exports. Rice output was the hardest hit by weather, but, again, ample stocks will likely prevent the necessity of imports.

Bananas recovered from the damage caused by Hurricane "Fili" and production increased nearly 50 percent. Cotton producers, encouraged by high prices, doubled area and production. Coffee output was estimated at record 57,000 tons which, with current stocks, will permit record exports in 1977. Production of livestock products increased 4 percent in 1976; meat and veal output were up 7 percent. Beef production is expected to increase again this year and Honduras is actively searching for additional markets.

Honduran agricultural exports to the United States in 1976 were \$153.6 million, up 65 percent from 1975. The main export was bananas, which almost doubled to \$68.2 million. Coffee exports were valued at \$41.2 million, up 52 percent. Agricultural imports from the United States were off about one-third, to \$19.5 million. Wheat, the main import, fell slightly to \$7.9 million while corn and rice imports were about \$500,000, down sharply from the \$9.7 million in 1975 because of ample stocks. (*John E. Link*)

Nicaragua

Nicaragua's economic picture for 1976 was bright and prospects for 1977 are good. A strong recovery trend was supported by surpluses in trade and the balance of payments in 1976, owing mainly to higher cotton and coffee export prices and to a slowdown in imports. Exports of meat, seafood, and sugar were also up last year but depressed world prices reduced anticipated sugar earnings. Imports of fertilizers, industrial machinery, raw materials for food processing, and construction materials were down primarily due to large inventories and a cautious attitude of many people in the private sector. Private investment rose 9 percent in 1976 with sharp increases in textiles and chemical products. Interest rates remained high although there were some complaints of excessive liquidity. The construction industry continued at depressed levels, but the Government was optimistic as it announced steps, taken or planned, for improving the nation's economic infrastructure and balance of payments situation.

Agricultural exports bolstered the economy although output fell slightly below the 1975 level. Dry weather, extending into the rainy season from mid-July through September, lowered yields and dashed hopes of higher food crop production. Harvested areas for rice, sorghum and corn were down 34, 43, and 45 percent, respectively. Cotton production was up slightly as area increased 37 percent over the level in 1975 mainly in response to improved prices. Good growing conditions and increased fertilization resulted in sugar production reaching 246,000 tons, up 6 percent from that in 1975. Domestic and export beef prices strengthened and remained favorable throughout most of the year. Late in 1976, the Government raised the official prices for sugar and milk and removed restrictions on cottonseed exports.

Coffee rust was discovered in Nicaragua during the last half of the year. The Ministry of Agriculture made intensive efforts to control the disease and officials are reportedly pleased with their progress to date. Weather throughout the coffee growing season last year was quite favorable and production reached a record 55,000 tons. A special tax of 5 cents per pound was levied on all coffee exports to be used to combat and eradicate coffee rust. Aside from the rust threat, coffee farms are in better condition than ever before. They have generally been properly fertilized, pruned, and replanted and, as a result, 1977 production should be a record.

With favorable prices, 1977 cotton production could reach a new record. Sugar production continues uncertain at current world price levels; and no significant changes are seen for grains in 1977. The country may be expected to follow its general policy of self-sufficiency, producing only slight surpluses for export as world prices warrant. Because of high carryover stocks, it appears that Nicaragua will have a slight surplus of sorghum, rice, and beans. However, because of the drastic drop in production, some corn exports may be needed. (*John E. Link*)

Panama

The anticipated upturn in the economy did not develop in 1976 and the rate of growth was probably lower than in 1975. The Government was not able to reactivate the economy through public expenditures, and the private sector, under pressure from a slump in manufacturing and commerce, did not respond with adequate investment. After starring in the economic boom early in the seventies, the construction industry operated at its slowest pace since 1968. Official figures indicate a slowdown in the inflation rate.

Panama's traditional trade deficit, indicated by the first three quarters, was virtually unchanged

from that in 1975, although imports declined 7 percent and exports dropped 25 percent from the same period in 1975. Lower prices for sugar and an extended refinery shutdown, reflected in lower imports of crude oil and exports of refined products, were major factors in the reduced volume of trade.

Early indications that the agricultural sector would post another strong performance in 1976 were shattered by a drought that gripped the major production areas. As a result, agricultural output declined 2 percent from the 1975 level and grain production fell about 22 percent. The drought caused both abandonment and reduced yields for rice, corn and beans, but large stocks of rice carried over from 1975 will help see the country

through 1977. With currently reduced corn production, Panama has arranged for an \$8-million line of credit to cover purchases of grains and soybean oil. Better management practices accounted for a slight increase in coffee production. Sugar production was up due to the opening of two new mills. The effect of the drought on the livestock industry was not serious and output went up about 7 percent.

Agricultural exports to the United States were valued at \$48.8 million, down 29 percent from 1975. The main commodity was sugar at \$27.4 million, down 42 percent from the year before. Agricultural imports from the United States were \$45.7 million, up 4 percent. Wheat, fruits and vegetables, and tallow were the main products. (*John E. Link*)

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

During 1976, Government programs were directed at revitalizing the sagging economy and reducing hyperinflation. However, only partial success was achieved as the GDP continued its downward trend from the level in 1975. Industrial growth slackened as demand for manufactured consumer goods was restrained by tight wage controls. The construction industry was specially hard hit as the Government cut back public work expenditures and restricted financing for private housing. The austerity programs failed to keep inflation from surpassing levels in 1975. However, monthly increases were reduced during the second half of the year to an average 8.5 percent per month compared with 19 percent during the first half. Agricultural production, the only bright spot in the domestic picture, is estimated to have grown over 9 percent. However, because agriculture contributes only 12-15 percent of GDP, its advance was not enough to overcome declines in the other sectors.

The external sector was much improved in 1976. Foreign financing brought relief from mounting short-term debt burdens. Continued terrorism, however, was blamed for restricting private foreign investment despite a new law to encourage foreign investment. Periodic devaluations occurred to prevent the peso from being overvalued. The large trade deficit incurred in 1975 was completely reversed in 1976 due partly to a large increase in agricultural exports, which accounted for 76 percent of the total. Imports were substantially reduced, largely because of lower domestic demand and restrictive policies designed to conserve foreign exchange.

In April 1976, the Government initiated policies to stimulate agricultural production and exports.

Unlike previous programs, new policies raised support prices more in line with world prices, removed the Government monopoly from grain and meat marketing, and returned the trade in those commodities to the private sector. These policies also eliminated domestic price controls and liberalized the export trade. The response by producers and exporters to the new policies has been favorable.

Crop production was estimated to be up 7-percent after a decline in 1975. This rise was largely due to a 28-percent increase in the production of wheat, the first major crop to be affected by the higher support prices, to a near-record 11.0 million tons. Planted area increased 24 percent but area harvested dropped below earlier expectations because of heavy rain and hail. Drought reduced corn production to the lowest level in 10 years and it lowered a potentially higher sorghum output. The same drought conditions also affected oilseed plantings, but a recovery ensued and output rose 30 percent over poor harvests the previous year. Total fruit production increased about 9 percent though decreases occurred for most citrus fruits and for apples. Sugarcane was damaged by frosts, but high sucrose yields increased sugar output 20 percent. Cotton production fell from a very high 1975 level as plantings were reduced 15 percent. Production of tobacco was also down due to reduced plantings.

Livestock production increased sharply, almost 13 percent, following a good year in 1975. Strong demand for beef exports aided by favorable exchange rates and continued high domestic consumption, resulted in a 16-percent rise in production. After almost 3 years at depressed levels, prices began to trend upward by mid-1976. By year-end, however, real prices had only reached those at the end of 1974. Production of other red meats

increased, largely because of stronger export demand. Poultry output was down due to competition from relatively low-priced beef. Production of milk and milk products rose because of higher export demand for cheese, butter, and nonfat dry milk. Wool production increased for the third year in a row as exports remained strong.

The value of agricultural exports rose 31 percent, led by beef for which volume doubled so that it reached more normal levels. Beef exports to the European Community (EC) recovered to 60 percent of the volume before the import ban in 1974, and exports to the United States regained 1972 levels. Nevertheless, the largest gains were made in other countries, including Egypt, Greece, Spain and Switzerland. Sales of the major grains increased 20 percent to 9.6 million tons, but lower prices resulted in only a 12-percent gain in value. Wheat and sorghum exports greatly exceeded low levels in 1975 while corn exports declined further by 24 percent. Italy remained the number one grain importer, taking mostly corn. Russia was second, the largest wheat importer for the second year; and Brazil again became a major buyer of Argentine wheat, after 2 years of reduced trade. Oilseed and byproduct exports were up due to larger crops and the removal of export barriers against edible oils; for the first time, soybean exports were allowed. The export value of other crops grew 21 percent; cotton, the largest gainer and tobacco, the largest loser. Both sugar and fruit export values stayed about the same.

During 1977, the economy is expected to make a modest recovery as austerity programs are moderated and trade is further liberalized. The Government will attempt to further reduce its budget deficits by cutting spending, raising taxes, and eliminating any excess in the public workforce. Private and public wages are expected to improve, if for no other reason than to avoid political unrest. On the one hand, inflation psychology in the private sector will likely continue to raise prices in "expectation" of increasing costs. On the other hand, recently lowered tariffs and less restrictive import rules have been initiated to lower costs and make domestic industry more competitive. As in 1976, the trade sector will have the most positive impact on the economy. Export tax reductions and the conversion to the "free" exchange rate in late 1976 will benefit exports this year.

There is an optimistic outlook for agricultural production and trade. The 1976/77 (December-November) grain crop is estimated to be a record 27.1 million tons, 29 percent over last year's and 8 percent above the previous record in 1973/74. The coarse grain harvest, currently underway, is estimated to be 20 percent over a low output in 1976, due to increased sorghum plantings and very favorable weather, which will bring record yields.

Oilseed producers have responded positively to the new agricultural policies and have increased plantings 20 percent. Prospects for record sunflower and soybean crops were enhanced by double cropping following the wheat harvest. Continued strong demand for beef, however, may be offset by a reduced supply of fat cattle after 2 years of herd culling. To assure exportable supplies, the Government may limit domestic consumption, which has been rising steadily for the past few years (88 kilos per capita in 1976).

Grain exports in 1977 should exceed 13.5 million tons, up 29 percent and a new record. Total value for grain exports could be near last year's, however, if world prices remain at current low levels. Sorghum exports could set a record at 3.5-4.0 million tons. Most of the 6.0 million tons of the exportable wheat supply were committed 3 months into the marketing year (December-November) because of significantly lower prices for Argentine wheat. Before the wheat harvest in late 1976, all export taxes were removed for the new wheat crop. Argentine sales substantially cut into U.S. wheat trade with countries such as Brazil, Chile, and Peru. Exports of oilseed products are expected to increase substantially and soybean exports will likely exceed last year's quota of 150,000 tons. Beef exports are forecast to reach 600,000 tons, up 13 percent, but less than earlier predicted. Uncertainty as to the potential market in the EC and possible restraint on export sales would be responsible for the moderate increase. Stronger export prices for livestock products, oilseeds, cotton, and sugar, along with volume increases, should substantially raise the value for agricultural exports despite an unchanged grain export value. (*Myles Mielke*)

Bolivia

Bolivia recovered from a mild recession in 1976 to match the 7-percent GDP growth of 1975. Resurgence was mainly due to higher prices for exports of minerals, petroleum, and natural gas. Continued political stability and increased confidence in the economy encouraged greater domestic investment and attracted considerable external financing. The trade balance, deficit in 1975, improved, and the Government reduced prior import deposits from 25 to 10 percent for industrial products. Through November 1975, foreign exchange reserves increased 26 percent to \$197 million. The rate of inflation reached about 12 percent, largely because of wage increases to miners and teachers. Foreign dollar loans from many sources strengthened the economy.

Three sectors in the economy were notably buoyant: hydrocarbons and minerals, industry, and agriculture. Total mineral export value was

\$351 million, of which tin's share was \$211 million. The volume of natural gas equaled that of 1975, but prices of petroleum and natural gas were both up. The Government's petroleum corporation discovered a new field at Monte Cristo that will raise petroleum reserves 50 percent.

Industrial indicators were up as considerable investment went into agricultural processing industries and into manufactures based on minerals and hydrocarbons. The Investment Institute registered 63 projects valued at \$106 million. Processing industries included projects for feed grains, wheat and sugar milling, and wood finishing.

The agricultural sector's performance exceeded expectations for practically all domestic crops, except cotton. Agricultural credit provided by the Banco Agricola and private banks financed the lowland harvests of sugar, rice, and cotton. The Government, however, restricted credit to cotton by reducing the area eligible for credit from 56,000 hectares to 30,000 hectares. The harvest was only 12,435 tons.

Production was up and surpluses appeared for potatoes, rice, white corn, yuca, quinoa, and sugar. Sugar production rose 38 percent from 200,000 to 277,000 tons, raw value. The fall in world price reduced export earnings, but Bolivia completed a new sugar refinery in Santa Cruz. The large rice harvest, 90,000 tons of paddy, raised stocks to 67,000 tons, of which only 40,000 tons could be consumed domestically. Bolivia sought export markets, notably in Chile.

Bolivia's three major agricultural exports in 1976 were sugar, cotton, and rice. Sugar exports of 100,000 tons earned an estimated \$24 million. Cotton export values dropped 27 percent from those in 1975, to \$13 million. Exports of coffee and cocoa, although small, profited from high prices. Bolivia's imports included 10,000 tons of corn, 94,000 tons of wheat and 88,000 tons of wheat flour. The United States supplied 58,000 tons of wheat; Argentina, the rest. The total value of U.S. agricultural exports to Bolivia was up 50 percent to \$12.5 million, largely because of the big increase in wheat.

Outlook for 1977 is favorable despite January floods that have affected the subtropical farm area of Santa Cruz. Sugar production will be up because refineries have a high volume of credit for purchase of cane. Bolivia has received U.S. commodity credit for import of 80,000 tons of wheat for 1977 delivery; total import requirements are 160,000 tons. Argentina will supply 40,000 tons early in the year and probably another 40,000 tons later. (Samuel O. Ruff)

Brazil

Brazil's estimated 8.8-percent GDP growth in 1976 is attributed to high demand generated by

monetary expansion, upward salary adjustments, and larger agricultural incomes. The food price index was up 47 percent, and an increase in the general inflation rate from 29 to 46 percent reflected overheating of the economy and utilization of full capacity. Estimated GDP increases were (percent): agriculture, 4.2; industry, 11; commerce, 8.8; and transport and communications, 7.5. A strenuous policy of import controls narrowed the trade deficit to \$2.3 billion. A 16-percent export rise to \$10 billion contrasted with a 1-percent increase in imports to \$12.3 billion; excluding petroleum and wheat, total imports were down \$900 million. Inflows of foreign capital helped raise year-end foreign exchange reserves to \$6.4 billion from \$4 billion in 1975 but borrowings increased the foreign debt by 30 percent to a record \$27 billion.

Brazil's economic policy for 1977 is to cool off the economy and to restrict GDP growth to 4 percent to reduce inflation and the payments deficit. The Government has adopted a policy of fiscal restraint, scheduling reductions in budget outlays for railroads, highways, civil construction, and hydroelectric facilities. Drastic reductions in subsidies on bread, gasoline, and fertilizer are also in effect for 1977. However, policy changes will not affect special subsidy programs for developing domestic petroleum or on private investments in iron ore, bauxite, and the chemical industry, which are expected to continue as in 1975 and 1976. Agricultural credit programs are also considered an exception since increased agricultural production is thought essential to ease balance of payments and inflation problems.

In 1976, farmers responded to high commodity prices and favorable Government programs by expanding area and improving productivity. General credit extended to producers at subsidized interest rates, averaging about 15 percent, was estimated up 9 percent in real value to \$13 billion, discounting inflation. This growth was supplemented by other special programs which included over \$1 billion to finance coffee replantings, \$200 million for new land development in frontier areas, and loans under the minimum price program which were increased 55 percent to \$1 billion. Consumption of insecticides and herbicides continued to rise. A 40-percent subsidy on fertilizer costs was continued and fertilizer use, in nutrient equivalent, was estimated up about 15 percent to 2.35 million tons. Prices for farm inputs were 20 percent above 1975 in contrast to a 40-percent increase in prices received. Despite significant reductions from adverse weather, the harvested crop area rose nearly 5 percent to an estimated 43 million hectares.

Area expansion was partly offset by the effects of severe drought in the semiarid northeast which normally accounts for about one-fifth of agricul-

tural output, and the devastating frost in 1975 which cut the 1976 coffee harvest to 570,000 tons, the lowest level since 1964. However, generally favorable growing conditions contrasted with adverse weather of the previous year in the productive central and southern agricultural areas. Brazil's food crop production rose 10 percent to a level significantly above previous records. According to official Brazilian estimates, those gains were mostly offset by sharp declines in coffee, cotton and other nonfood crops, and the estimated agricultural growth of 4.2 percent was largely due to gains in output of livestock products.

Record crops of soybeans, wheat, corn, rice, and sugarcane were harvested in 1976. Wheat expanded into new areas and production almost doubled to a record 3.1 million tons in 1976, despite yield reductions from wet weather and disease in some areas. Plantings of rice on new lands in frontier states resulted in a 21-percent rise to a new high of 8.5 million tons of paddy. Corn production was up 8 percent to 17.3 million tons, marking further development of a new commercial cornbelt in the states of Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais and Goias. A further increase of 14 percent in soybean production to 11.3 million tons resulted mainly from additional plantings in Parana, where farmers shifted from coffee. Sugarcane production recovered and the Sugar and Alcohol Institute authorized a sharp increase in quotas for 1976 sugar output.

Low prices and adverse weather in 1975 further reduced harvests in 1976 other than coffee, including cotton, castor beans, and sisal. Tobacco production was below the previous year's record because of heavy rains early in the growing season. Cocoa bean production declined again and the dry bean harvest was cut sharply because of wet weather in the south and drought in the northeast.

Pasture conditions for livestock were the best in many years. The cattle population, estimated at 98 million head, provided for a moderate rise in slaughter to 11 million head but milk production maintained a sharp uptrend, exceeding the 1975 high by 7 percent. Gains in pork output were also moderate, probably due to some increased costs and restricted supplies of feed associated with increased exports of corn and oilseed meals. However, commercial broiler output (525,000 tons) and egg production (6 billion units) continued to rise in response to strong domestic demand.

Agricultural exports gained 24 percent in 1976 to a record \$6.1 billion. Policies were adjusted to push these exports which accounted for 60 percent of the total trade. The cruzeiro was devalued 16 times for a total of 36 percent, to keep commodity prices competitive. Exporters of some processed products, including vegetable oils, fresh and canned oranges, and citrus juices, receive rebates of Federal and

state value-added taxes. Exporters of other processed products, including those from meat, cocoa beans, orange juice, fats and oils, oilseed meals, and tobacco are given access to credit at low interest rates to cover portions of production costs. These incentives were varied during 1976 to regulate supplies for domestic and export markets, particularly for soybean oil. In contrast, exports of coffee and cocoa beans are subject to export taxes or contribution quotas. Those quotas were adjusted up sharply for coffee as the world price continued to rise in 1976 to prevent an excessive drawdown of stocks.

Despite the small harvest and increases in the contribution quota, coffee exports rose sharply, approaching high volumes in 1972-73 of nearly 1 million tons. The gains were in response to advancing world prices, and earnings of \$2.4 billion nearly doubled previous records. A further rise of trade in soybeans, meal, and oil was stimulated by four cruzeiro devaluations in early 1976 and later strengthening of world prices; respective export totals of 3.7, 4.4, and 0.5 million tons earned \$1.76 billion. Cocoa bean exports were lower but high prices boosted earnings to a record \$219 million. Because of declining prices, sugar exports fell to about one-third of the \$1-billion record for 1975. The cotton trade continued down to only 6,000 tons but corn exports expanded further and sales of fresh and frozen beef recovered from a 2-year decline to a value near \$130 million.

Brazil imported a record 3.6 million tons of wheat at an estimated cost of \$550 million to meet shortfalls from the November-December 1975 harvest. Because of production shortages, the Government authorized bean imports in late 1976. Imports of other agricultural products were below levels in 1975 due to increased production and higher import restrictions. These included U.S. inedible tallow, which fell from 41,236 to 1,533 tons. The United States supplied 1.54 million tons or nearly one-half of total wheat imports; Canada and Argentina were other major suppliers. Argentina moved strongly into the market in December with bids of \$91 per ton compared with U.S. wheat tenders at \$106.

The outlook for agriculture is highly favorable. Planted area for 1977 crops is up 3.4 million hectares, bringing the total area to 48.6 million hectares. Coffee output will partially recover, possibly to about 1 million tons as more new plantings come into production. Rice production will be down because a large surplus from last year has reduced prices. The downtrend in cotton is expected to reverse sharply in response to a 72-percent increase in support prices; planted area is up 28 percent and production is forecast near 510,000 tons. The Ministry of Agriculture expects a 10-percent increase in

corn production to 19 million tons because of the success of commercial corn last year. More plantings of soybeans in Mato Grosso State will help raise production to 12.6 million tons.

Agricultural export earnings for 1977 are forecast at \$8 billion. High prices of coffee, soybeans, and cocoa will ensure good returns. However, sugar exports may be restricted under programs to divert cane production to alcohol. Wheat imports are forecast down sharply to about 2.5 million tons in 1977 because of larger supplies from the harvest last year and an anticipated phaseout of the domestic subsidy. Argentina will probably replace the United States as the major supplier of Brazilian wheat. (*Samuel O. Ruff*)

Chile

The GDP grew an estimated 4 percent in 1976 after a 13 percent drop in 1975. A significant recovery of the industrial sector was stimulated by growing foreign and domestic demand and an improved climate for private investment. However, a decline in agricultural production of around 3 percent moderated economic recovery. The unemployment rate has been reduced, but it still remains at a high 15 percent.

The strong economic austerity program undertaken in mid-1975 made progress during 1976. The inflation rate dropped from a monthly average over 11 percent in the first quarter of 1976 to about 5 percent in the last 3 months. The result was largely due to reduced Government expenditures, and control of the money supply. For the first time in many years, the balance of payments was in the black. A favorable trade balance was largely attributable to improved world copper prices, expansion of nontraditional exports, and a lower import value. A substantial increase in foreign exchange reserves was also recorded, despite continued large foreign debt payments.

According to preliminary estimates from the 1976 Agricultural Census, crop production declined over 8 percent and livestock output improved only slightly. A sharp decline in fertilizer usage and lower than normal applications of pesticides were largely responsible for yield decreases in 12 of 14 principal crops surveyed. Costly credit and minor weather problems during planting may have also caused some reductions in area. Especially hard hit were grains, particularly wheat, which suffered extensive insect and disease damage. There were substantial increases in sugarbeet and lentil output and moderate improvements in rice and rapeseed production. Beef production increased only slightly because of low farm prices and rain damage to feeder roads which reduced marketings during mid-year. Overall, meat production did not change significantly from the level in 1975. Milk output

increased because of improved incomes and lower prices.

Periodic devaluations of the Chilean peso and promotion of nontraditional exports, including rebates on the value-added tax, resulted in a substantial rise in agricultural exports. Ad valorem duties were reduced for most imports in 1976, but a 26-percent decline in import costs was due to lower prices and reduced volume. The largest decline in food imports was for sugar, which dropped from \$130 million in 1975 to around \$7 million in 1976. This drop more than offset a large increase in the value of wheat imports, 35 percent over 1975. The U.S. share of Chile's wheat imports is estimated at 625,000 metric tons, or 56 percent of the total for 1976.

The Government expects to continue its austerity programs through control of public expenditures and the money supply. It has largely extracted itself from ownership in the private sector, except for strategic industries such as energy and mining which it intends to keep under state control. Apparently confident about its balance of payments position, the Government has begun a trade liberalization program to encourage more competition from imports to reduce domestic prices and make local industries more competitive. The withdrawal of Chile from the Andean Common Market in October 1976 is seen as a means to attract foreign investment which has been slow to materialize.

Poor weather during planting and the smaller 1976 harvests probably discouraged farmers from expanding area for 1977 crops. More liberal credit terms and lower prices are estimated to have increased fertilizer and pesticide usage, although the levels are still low. Significant yield increases are not expected, however, because of very dry weather. Insect and disease damage remains a problem, and the shortage of disease-resistant wheat varieties is of particular concern. In summary, 1977 crop production should not change much from last year's, but the improved demand situation should maintain moderate increases in livestock production.

The reduction of import duties on agricultural products from a range of 45-50 percent in June 1976 to an average around 10 percent in December increased demand for imported supplies by millers and vegetable oil processors. Exports of fruits and pulses, the largest share of agricultural exports, will likely be dampened in 1977 due to reduced demand. The withdrawal of Chile from the Andean Pact means that its exports, particularly apples and pears, will face higher tariffs in those markets. A large carryover of wheat stocks will likely reduce import requirements in 1977. Under a recent commodity agreement for 500,000 tons of wheat, Argentina will replace the United States as the

principal supplier. A U.S. P.L.-480 contract for FY 1977 could exceed 100,000 tons. (*Myles Mielke*)

Colombia

Economic recovery, which began in mid-1975, continued into 1976 when estimated GDP growth of 7 percent compared with 4 percent in 1975. According to Government sources, industry output increased an estimated 12 percent with less than 1 percent for construction and a reduction for agriculture. The inflation rate exceeded 2 percent monthly compared with 1.5 percent in 1975, partly because of spiraling food prices. Devaluation of the peso in relation to the dollar amounted to 10.2 percent in 1976. Coffee earnings, 54 percent of export earnings, contributed the most to record foreign exchange reserves of over \$1.2 billion at the end of 1976.

Preliminary estimates indicate that agricultural production in 1976 fell largely because of heavy winter rains and scattered summer droughts. Crops increasing over production in 1975 were sorghum, cotton, corn, wheat, tobacco, potatoes, and cassava. Those with little or no change from the previous year were food crops such as plantains, cocoa, panela, and sesame. Only a moderate production decline occurred for coffee and rice. Low prices and adverse weather resulted in fairly large shortfalls for raw sugar, barley, soybeans, and dry beans. Beef, poultry, and pork production were up, but milk production was down considerably.

Total agricultural imports rose to meet the shortages resulting from poorer than anticipated food output and increased demand. Since foreign exchange earnings were rising because of high coffee prices, the Government moved to liberalize imports not only of deficit items but also for broad categories of other food items. Trade liberalization initiatives were also partly justified based on the need to contain inflationary food price increases. Import increases for the first 8 months of 1976 were significant for such categories as fats and oils, up from \$22.1 to \$51.5 million; grains, \$40 to \$43 million; cocoa products, \$6 to \$11 million; and milk products, \$0.8 to \$5.9 million.

U.S. agricultural exports to Colombia amounted to \$97 million in 1976 compared with \$85 million in 1975. Principal items gaining in 1976 were vegetable oils, tallow, and edible greases. Wheat, the most important agricultural import from the United States, declined from \$50 to \$45 million because of lower prices. With record-high prices, the value of coffee exports rose to \$917 million from \$634 million in 1975. Other agricultural exports, particularly sugar, declined because of limited supplies and lower world prices.

The Government is attempting to curtail inflation in 1977 through its tight money policy

and liberalization of imports. Continuation of the 1976 drought creates uncertainty, particularly in regard to domestic food prices and export possibilities. The country may become an importer of centrifugal sugar for the first time in its history.

Coffee production projections of about 9 million bags (540,000 tons) look attainable. If so, exports of 8 million bags should result in exchange earnings in excess of \$1 billion. To stimulate nontraditional exports, the Government recently raised the export tax rebates to 8 percent on some 300 agricultural commodities. Despite goals of agricultural self-sufficiency and stimulation of agricultural imports, the country will need to import commodities such as wheat, corn, sorghum, barley, powdered milk, and fats and oils in 1977 to meet increasing food requirements. (*Frank D. Barlow*)

Ecuador

Ecuador's real GDP growth improved from 3 percent in 1975 to 5.7 percent in 1976, largely because of a higher level of petroleum revenue. Increase in petroleum exports to \$565 million and coffee revenues to \$189 million helped shift trade from a \$46-million deficit in 1975 to a surplus of \$109 million in 1976. Ecuador administered policies to resolve the balance of payment and inflation problems of 1975. A stringent policy of prior deposits restrained imports to \$1 billion as exports rose to \$1.13 billion. Restrictions on credit and the money supply reduced the rate of inflation from 16 to 13.5 percent.

Weather was a minor factor affecting agriculture in 1976 compared with previous years. Agricultural growth was limited by a shortage of credit. Because of a reduction in financial resources, the Government was unable to carry out its intended policy of liberal credit and price support. Even rice, the important exception which still had a good harvest, was down from the 1975 record. Ecuador contracted for the construction of 60,000 tons of storage to reduce the cause for the wide domestic price fluctuations throughout the year. World prices were an incentive in the switching of crop areas. Low prices cut earnings from sugar and bananas and accelerated diversification of banana areas. Alltime high prices benefited coffee and cocoa producers. Export crops actually declined but record export prices more than offset volume. Timely imports maintained an adequate food supply.

Reduction of agricultural credit cut production of rice, feed grains, cotton, wheat, and tobacco. It reduced paddy rice production 10 percent to 289,362 tons. It reduced total feed grain output 10 percent and hard corn, the only true feed grain in Ecuador, 24 percent. Reduction in area cut the cotton harvest to 6,000 tons. Wheat production dropped 9 percent because a new support price was not

announced in time for planting. Tobacco production dropped 10 percent. Price fluctuations had a yo-yo effect in potato production whose drop to 499,371 tons in 1975 raised prices so high that the 1976 harvest was 630,000 tons. Production of exportable bananas was up but diversification of marginal banana lands into cocoa and oilseeds accelerated. Weather and disease reduced the cocoa harvest 15 percent but the coffee harvest rose by a small percentage.

Agricultural exports were up sharply as coffee surpassed bananas to become the top earner at \$205 million for 73,000 tons. Banana sales were down and earnings dropped 5 percent to \$136 million. Cocoa beans and products earned \$91 million, as Ecuador continued to shift exports from beans into products. Sugar export volume declined 37 percent because of low international prices. A subsidy assisted exports of 26,000 tons of rice.

Ecuador's main agricultural import requirements were wheat, vegetable oils, tobacco, and feed grains. The United States continued as the principal supplier, providing \$71 million in exports during 1976. Wheat imports, all from the United States, were up 16 percent to 234,815 tons but prices were lower. Consumption of vegetable oils outstripped production increases to raise imports of soybean oil, coconut oil, and palm oil. The value of U.S. tobacco exports doubled to \$6.9 million. Australia and Argentina supplied 25,000 tons of oats.

The 1977 outlook is good because the Government has now channeled increased credit for agriculture and a good coffee harvest is expected. Better weather could increase cocoa output by 18,000 tons to 82,000 tons. Banana production will be down as additional marginal areas are shifted to other crops. Wheat production in 1977 will be down 10-20 percent. Estimated import requirements include (1,000 tons): crude soybean oil, 25; wheat, 255; corn or sorghum, 20-25. (*Samuel O. Ruff*)

Guyana

The economy of Guyana, which is dependent almost totally on bauxite, sugar and rice, deteriorated significantly in 1976 from the record performance of 1975. Slack demand for bauxite, the sharp decline in the world sugar prices, and a 40-percent decline in Guyana's rice output last year drastically reduced foreign exchange earnings from the 1975 level. The visible trade deficit for the first half of 1976 amounted to some \$112 million, compared with a surplus of \$37 million for the comparable period in 1975.

Guyana's "socialist thrust" proceeded rapidly, and with the nationalization of the largest private sugar interest, the Government now completely controls sugar as well as the bauxite and rice industries which together are estimated to embrace

over 70 percent of the economy. With relatively high foreign exchange earnings in 1975, public investment soared in early 1976 in such areas as road building, fishing, electrical power, and infrastructure related to the country's new military youth training corps. Sugar production of 350,000 tons in 1976 is about normal but rice production dropped from 280,000 to 154,000 tons because of excessive rains in the first half of the year and acute drought in the second half. Unfavorable weather also depressed production of most food crops.

The Government's import substitution policies plus rigorous import controls are designed to reduce dependence on imports, but certain bulk commodities such as wheat, feed materials, and tallow must be imported. Consequently, agricultural imports from the United States rose from \$17 million in 1975 to \$19 million in 1976. The Government has virtually taken over all import-oriented business. U.S. firms doing business in Guyana must deal almost exclusively through Government agencies. As the economy changes hands from private to public institutions, foreign business personnel should expect to experience delays resulting from the recent reorganization and personnel changes.

The volume of sugar and rice exports was up in the first half of 1976, but due to the poor 1976 crop, rice sales were off drastically during the last half of the year. Guyana was unable to supply its regular rice customers such as Trinidad and Jamaica because of shortages at home, forcing those countries to seek new sources of supply, primarily the United States.

The adverse weather in late 1976 is expected to affect the output of rice and other food crops in early 1977. Although improved earnings are expected from bauxite in 1977, the visible trade deficit experienced in 1976 is not likely to be reversed. The Government committed substantial portions of its high export earnings in 1974 and 1975 to its economic development program. If the pace of economic development is to continue, long-term loans and grants from foreign governments and international institutions will be necessary. In any event, import restrictions will be intensified and only the most essential imports will be permitted. (*Frank D. Barlow*)

Paraguay

Spurred by changes in the external sector, GDP growth was expected to be around 7 percent in 1976. Both public and foreign expenditure on construction, mostly to fund the massive Itaipu dam project, and substantial foreign loans have kept the economy growing. This situation and what appeared to be a positive trade balance (through

October), the first in 3 years, are credited with bringing about a positive balance of payments. Despite the large inflow of capital, inflation was estimated to be below the 1975 rate of 7 percent, one of the lowest in Latin America. This decline was largely the result of stable wages and a high rate of savings.

Agricultural exports, which account for about 80 percent of the total, were estimated to be above the level in 1975, even though beef, sugar, fruit, and vegetable exports were down. Increases in the exports of cotton fiber and oilseeds and products were expected to be offsetting. A reduction in exports of lumber products, however, is likely to keep the total export value in 1976 close to the previous year's \$176 million. Total imports are estimated to have been the same as in 1975 at about \$213 million, c.i.f., the highest ever recorded. Agricultural imports, which account for from 5-10 percent of the total, were increased largely because of wheat. A large contract to import Argentine wheat and higher prices paid to Argentine producers eliminated most unregistered wheat shipments from Argentina to Paraguay during 1976.

Improved weather conditions appear to have been largely responsible for a recovery in crop production. Corn, tobacco, sugarcane, and oilseed outputs were expected to show large quantity increases while most other crops remained relatively stable. The cattle industry continued to be the greatest disappointment for agriculture as commercial cattle slaughter, at around 100,000 head, was the lowest in several years. There were several causes of the depressed state of the industry: Reduced international demand, and particularly the EC ban on beef imports; high export taxes; and restrictive domestic policies, including slaughter quotas and head taxes. One bright spot for cattle producers was the reduction of contraband cattle coming from Argentina.

In 1977, the economy should continue to grow at rates comparable with those of the past 2 years, provided that the large bilateral dam projects with Brazil and Argentina are not interrupted. A stronger agricultural sector could show the most significant improvement. Besides the direct contribution of agriculture to GDP, the food processing industry comprises about 45 percent of all industrial production. Foreign capital inflow is expected to continue at a high rate, given the relatively tranquil political environment and the stable, yet expanding, economy.

A revival of the beef industry is considered likely as world demand increases. Prior to the import ban in the EC, beef accounted for over 30 percent of total export value. The Government recently reduced the head tax on slaughter for export, raised the quota for export, and will allow year-round slaughter. Further improvement in crop

production is expected as the Government plans to stimulate recovery in wheat production and to develop corn production for export. Growth in oilseed and cotton lint production should continue strong in response to export demand. Soybean output is expected to increase about 17 percent, which is comparable to that of the past 2 years but much lower than rates for the early seventies. (Myles Mielke)

Peru

Peru's GDP growth for 1976 was only 2.8 percent, the lowest since 1969. Inflation of 33.5 percent was the highest since World War II. The trade deficit of \$890 million, though still high, did drop 31 percent from the \$1,285 million of 1975. The improvement occurred after the Government adopted a severe austerity program in July 1976 to relieve the balance of payments problems and to improve Peru's credit position. The Government was compelled to undertake a series of stringent measures when exports in the first semester declined \$244 million from the comparable period in 1975. Copper production costs had gone up because of higher wages increasing input costs as export earnings declined. Payments problems were aggravated by a 25-percent drop in agricultural exports.

New austerity actions included a devaluation of the sol by 44 percent from 45 to 65 per U.S. dollar. The short-term result was an even higher rate of inflation, but this was considered essential as a stimulant to exports and a disincentive to imports. Peru reduced subsidies to consumers by doubling the price of gasoline from 23 to 50 soles per gallon and by allowing food prices to rise. The austerity package enabled Peru to negotiate \$400 million in foreign credits. The weakening of demand, resulting from inflation, caused a drop in the economic growth rate as manufacturing and construction sectors suffered.

The main aim of agricultural policy in 1976 was self-sufficiency in food production. The new national plans for 1977-78 set production goals of the associative enterprises (cooperatives) for sugarcane, rice, cotton and cattle development; national and regional committees administer production policies. The policy was effective in causing a switch of much cotton land to food crops. The Ministry of Foods has responsibility for improvement of production and supply. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for land reform, campesino enterprises, and irrigation.

By November 1976, the agrarian reform program had adjudicated 7 million hectares of land to 291,000 families. The biggest advance in irrigation was completion of the Pochos dam, but it will not irrigate the target 150,000 hectares of affected land

in 1977 because distribution works must also be built. Among fertilizers, nitrogen production was 70,000 tons and consumption was up 28 percent to 105,000 tons. Agricultural credit was up 47 percent to \$323 million; most of it went to coffee, rice, cotton, corn and potatoes. The commercial agency of the Ministry of Foods (ESPA) marketed and distributed the major food products.

Agricultural production was up less than 1 percent because a good performance of food crops was largely offset by declines in cotton and sugar output. Crops were damaged by intensive rains in January and February and by a severe October-November drought which affected potatoes, corn, rice, and sugarcane. Export crops, except coffee, did poorly.

Better prices stimulated a 12-percent rise in rice production to 530,000 tons, the best in 5 years. Potatoes were in abundant supply until the drought of October caused shortages. Corn production was up 7 percent to a record 670,000 tons.

Red meat production rose 3 percent to 189,000 tons, including beef, 88,000; pork, 48,000; and mutton, 39,000. The drought affected pastures but milk production increased slightly. Poultry production expanded 20 percent to 130,000 tons, causing a sharp price decline and the killing of baby chicks at midyear.

Among export crops, cotton declined 22 percent because of reduced area, low prices, and increased prices for food crops. Sugarcane production was actually up 2 percent and so was the crush, but reduced sucrose content cut yields. Coffee production was up 5.5 percent and fishmeal production was 849,000 tons compared with 686,000 tons in 1975.

Total agricultural exports dropped 25 percent in 1976 to \$308 million from \$412 million in 1975. Prices were decisive in determining the success or failure of an export in 1976. Thus the high price of coffee made it the top export performer, earning \$103 million from 43,000 tons. Cotton exports also profited from prices so favorable that only 37,000 tons produced earnings of \$75 million. Conversely, the low price of sugar caused a 71-percent drop in value to \$75 million for a decline in volume of 39 percent, to 256,000 tons.

Peru's policy was to reduce imports as stringently as possible. Peru nevertheless had an unfavorable agricultural trade balance of \$33 million, largely because of imports of foodstuffs. Trade agreements with Brazil, Australia and the United States affected the pattern of imports. A Brazilian credit of \$35 million financed a sharp inroad into U.S. corn and soybean exports. Australia supplied dairy products under an agreement. In October, the United States agreed to supply credit through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) of \$109 mil-

lion to facilitate exports (mostly in 1977) as follows: \$66 million for wheat, \$31 million for feed grains, and \$6 million for soybean oil and soybeans.

Peru reduced wheat imports 9 percent to 753,000 tons last year, of which the United States supplied 358,000 or 47.5 percent. Brazil and the United States shared Peru's 76,000-ton soybean oil market with 31,000 tons each; the remainder went to Argentina. Corn imports were down 14 percent to 278,000 tons. Rice imports were estimated at 71,000 tons. Total value of U.S. agricultural exports dropped 42 percent in 1976 to \$111 million.

Outlook for 1977 is a better record of production especially for export crops including cotton, sugar, and coffee. The producer price of cotton has been raised 60 percent. Sugar exports should reach 450,000 tons because Peru withheld sugar in 1976 in expectation of higher prices. Rice production will suffer from drought at planting time. The United States will get a larger share of Peru's market for grains, feeds, and vegetable oils because of the CCC credit mentioned. (*Samuel O. Ruff*)

Uruguay

The basic economic programs adopted in 1973 and 1974 were maintained last year. In general, the Government liberalized the economy by removing price and marketing controls, and encouraging private investment; and it increased production by promoting exports. As a result, the economy continued its modest recovery in 1976, reflected in the estimated GDP growth of 3 percent. Manufacturing and construction increased the most in the industrial sector. Agriculture, which contributes about 15 percent of GDP, had an increase of about 12 percent, the largest of all sectors. At the same time, inflation was fought by greater Government control of money supply and wages. The inflation rate declined to 40 percent in 1976 from 67 percent in 1975. However, real wages suffered from the austerity program and remained well below levels of late in the seventies.

The balance of payments position improved substantially in 1976. The relative increase in total exports doubled that of imports, but the absolute value of imports was still larger than that of exports. Tax rebates favored nontraditional exports of which the most important are leather products, woolen textiles, fish, and processed foods. Agricultural exports, 85 percent of the total, recovered strongly in 1976 and, in particular, beef exports set a record at 194,000 tons. Exports of meat to traditional European Community (EC) markets recovered to 1973 levels, but the largest gains came from Egypt and Spain which replaced Brazil as the largest importer. Nontraditional agricultural exports

such as grains, sugar and oilseed byproducts also increased substantially. Wool exports stayed about the same as last year's.

Export availability of many agricultural commodities in 1976 was due to a 22-percent increase in crop production. The Government's drive toward self-sufficiency in agriculture was boosted by favorable prices and good weather. By raising producer prices more in line with world levels, the Government spurred the production of grains and oilseeds. Large percentage increases recorded were: sorghum, 53; corn, 34; oilseeds, 26; and wheat 21. Rice, potatoes, and sugarcane also gained substantially. Beef production increased 16 percent largely because of a strong export demand in non-traditional markets. However, beef export expansion reduced per capita domestic consumption to 76 kilos from 84 in 1975. Production of other meats remained at about the same level as the previous year because of stable domestic consumption.

In 1977, the economy is expected to continue along the same growth path of the past 2 years with only minor changes in Government policies. Growing confidence in those policies should promote needed investment. Much of the success for continued growth will also depend on the terms of trade which are likely to remain positive in 1977. Prospects for increased beef exports to the EC and higher prices could significantly improve total export value. Government policies to promote manufactured as well as nontraditional agricultural exports are not expected to change. Continued Government control of prices will be likely to encourage production and export expansion.

Prospects are good for a larger agricultural production this year. Favorable weather is expected to boost the upcoming coarse grain harvest by 34 percent mostly because of a record sorghum crop. The rice crop is estimated to be up 7 percent to 232,000 tons. Continued official policies to promote exports and ample credit should encourage farmers to increase plantings of most other crops. Stronger world prices will provide incentives to beef producers, but availability for export could be limited because of a smaller herd and a reluctance by consumers to further reduce consumption levels. Wool production is also favored by strengthened prices.

U.S. agricultural exports to Uruguay will remain at low levels because of the country's virtual self-sufficiency. However, as agriculture progresses, opportunities could increase for high technology imports, such as improved seed, breeder animals, and eggs for hatching. U.S. imports from Uruguay are expected to increase substantially for items such as sugar, processed meats, and wool. (*Myles Mielke*)

Venezuela

Strong economic expansion, beginning with the 1973 upsurge in petroleum revenues, continued in 1976 but at a somewhat slower rate than in the previous 2 years. Petroleum was estimated 2.5 percent below 1975 and agricultural output fell nearly 8 percent. Expansion of manufacturing, power, and construction were important to the estimated 6 to 7 percent real GDP growth.

Inflation moderated in 1976 and wholesale and retail prices were estimated to have risen about 6 percent because of the money supply, which reportedly rose no more than 10 percent. The public debt was up more than 50 percent and the balance of payments surplus and foreign exchange reserves deteriorated as the costs of imports increased faster than export earnings. This aberration is not expected to retard ambitious development plans because of huge foreign exchange reserves in excess of \$8 billion and contemplated massive foreign borrowings.

The dismal agricultural performance in 1976 was due to excessive rains and flooding in the central and southwestern states which include the principal grain producing areas. The decline reversed the strong growth trend which began in 1972, and per capita food production was the lowest since early in the sixties. Rains reduced areas and yields of cotton, rice, corn and sesame. Much of the land that could not be planted to the above crops on schedule was shifted to sorghum production, which rose from 80,000 to 238,000 tons.

Output of livestock products was the second highest on record, although 4 percent below that of 1975. Rains and floods resulted in considerable cattle losses, particularly young calves. Milk production was adversely affected by the weather, and price controls on milk and higher prices for meat caused many producers to shift toward meat production. During the year, decisions were made to import 25,000 breeding cows from Colombia, 24,000 breeding heifers from Costa Rica, and 10,000 goats from Colombia.

Total agricultural imports last year reportedly increased 5 percent above the \$712 million for 1975, despite lower prices of most import items. New products were added to the import list such as sugar, rice, potatoes, yams, and plantain leaves. Venezuela was the leading U.S. cash market in South America in 1976. U.S. exports to Venezuela were only slightly below the 1975 value of \$277 million, despite larger purchases particularly of grains, feed grains, vegetable oils, and protein meals. Agricultural exports, mainly coffee and cocoa, rose from \$113 million in 1975 to some \$150 million in 1976, reflecting the unusually high price for those commodities.

Agricultural prospects for 1977 are good as better growing conditions are indicated and producers should respond to stepped-up expansion programs. These include market roads, expanded irrigation systems, opening of new farming areas, and a continuation of subsidized inputs, such as fertilizer, pesticides, and machinery. If weather conditions remain favorable, agricultural production may recover to the record 1975 level, or even resume its advance that began in 1972.

Imports of wheat, corn, sorghum, vegetable oils, protein meals, and pulses are expected to rise further in 1977. The United States will continue as the principal supplier of these commodities. The Government has undertaken initiatives to contract with U.S. producers to supply some 400,000 tons of white corn annually to meet import requirements formerly supplied by South Africa. Venezuela will continue to import breeding livestock from Colombia and Central America to bolster its cattle

improvement program, and demand for red meat from Colombia is expected to increase.

Anticipated policy changes in 1977 will be designed to strengthen the price support program, continue and increase the effectiveness of input subsidies, broaden the availability of subsidized credit, encourage development of new lands and speed adoption of improved technology. The Government is expected to continue strong agency programs to increase the effectiveness of marketing arrangements, to facilitate the distribution of both domestically produced and imported foods. Improved storage operations and flexible import and export controls are important aspects of the Government's role in carrying out its national food policy. Trade controls and consumer subsidies are used extensively to insulate both producers and consumers from fluctuations in international commodity prices. (*Frank D. Barlow*)

TABLES

Table 1.--Western Hemisphere: Population, gross domestic product, and gold and foreign exchange holdings, by country, 1975-76 1/

Country	Population			Gross domestic product			Gold and foreign exchange holdings 2/		
	1975	1976	Change	1974 3/	1975 4/	1976 4/	1975	1976	Change
	Thousand		Percent	Mil. dol.	Percent		Mil. dol.		Percent
Canada	22,830	23,180	1.5	149,888	0.6	4.6	5,326	5,843	9.7
Mexico	60,150	62,250	3.5	65,032	4.0	2.0	1,533	5/1,501	-2.1
Barbados	232	231	0.0	288	n.a.	n.a.	40	28	-30.0
Cuba	9,341	9,492	1.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Dominican Republic	4,700	4,840	3.0	2,913	4.8	3.0	116	127	9.5
Haiti	5,050	5,160	2.2	733	0.0	3.0	12	7/26	-116.7
Jamaica	2,030	2,060	1.5	2,040	-2.3	-5.0	126	32	-74.6
Trinidad and Tobago	1,070	1,085	1.4	1,998	8.0	6.0	751	1,014	35.0
Other Caribbean	1,778	1,808	1.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Caribbean	24,201	24,676	2.0	7,972	3.6	1.7	8/1,045	1,227	17.4
Costa Rica	1,970	2,020	2.5	1,629	3.3	5.5	51	98	92.2
El Salvador	4,130	4,270	3.4	1,576	4.3	5.5	127	205	61.4
Guatemala	6,050	6,220	2.8	3,162	2.1	9.0	304	511	68.1
Honduras	3,210	3,320	3.4	969	-0.1	4.7	97	7/116	19.6
Nicaragua	2,210	2,270	2.7	1,480	1.0	6.5	122	147	20.5
Panama	1,670	1,720	3.0	1,835	1.7	-1.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other Central America	139	142	2.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Central America	19,379	19,962	3.0	10,651	3.1	5.4	8/701	1,077	53.6
Argentina	25,380	25,710	1.3	55,069	-1.4	-3.0	452	1,608	255.8
Bolivia	5,630	5,790	2.8	1,866	6.8	7.0	156	7/197	26.3
Brazil	107,150	110,120	2.8	96,726	4.2	8.8	4,034	6,415	59.0
Chile	10,580	10,770	1.8	9,332	-13.0	4.0	109	454	316.5
Colombia	24,090	24,640	2.3	12,091	4.0	7.0	521	1,158	122.3
Ecuador	6,730	6,930	3.0	3,660	0.3	5.7	286	515	80.1
Guyana	786	804	2.3	417	5.0	2.0	100	27	-73.0
Paraguay	2,650	2,730	3.0	1,334	5.0	7.0	115	158	37.4
Peru	15,490	15,950	3.0	11,592	4.0	2.8	467	6/329	-29.6
Surinam	416	425	2.2	467	n.a.	n.a.	97	117	20.6
Uruguay	2,770	2,780	0.4	3,514	3.6	3.0	218	315	44.5
Venezuela	12,700	13,090	3.1	29,568	6.6	7.0	8,861	8,578	-3.2
Other South America	63	65	3.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South America	214,435	219,804	2.5	225,656	2.4	5.0	15,416	19,871	28.9
Latin America	318,165	326,692	2.7	309,311	2.8	4.3	8/18,695	23,676	26.6
Western Hemisphere	340,995	349,872	2.6	459,199	2.1	4.4	8/24,021	29,519	22.9

n.a. = not available.

1/ Regional totals include only those countries for which data are shown, ending December unless otherwise noted.

2/ Total of gold, foreign exchange holdings, and reserve position in the International Monetary Fund.

3/ Value at current market prices converted to U.S. dollars, using the average end-of-quarter free or principal import rates of exchange.

4/ Estimates of real growth.

5/ Position at end of first quarter.

6/ Position at end of third quarter.

7/ Position at end of November.

8/ Excludes Cuba and Panama.

Sources: International Monetary Fund; U.S. Agency for International Development; other U.S. Government agencies.

Table 2 --Western Hemisphere: indices of total and per capita agricultural and food production by countries and regions, 1974-76 ^{1/}

(1961-65 = 100)

Country	Total						Per capita					
	Agricultural			Food			Agricultural			Food		
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976
Canada	112	126	139	112	128	142	94	105	114	94	106	116
Mexico	142	149	147	148	166	164	98	99	94	102	110	105
Dominican Republic	146	136	147	146	137	151	106	96	101	106	97	103
Haiti	104	99	102	108	104	107	85	80	80	89	84	84
Jamaica	89	84	86	89	83	86	76	70	71	76	69	71
Trinidad and Tobago	92	76	85	91	76	87	75	62	69	74	62	70
Caribbean	123	115	123	124	116	125	97	89	93	98	90	95
Costa Rica	157	179	175	166	202	193	114	126	120	120	142	133
El Salvador	154	130	148	155	173	163	106	87	96	107	116	106
Guatemala	166	173	176	179	207	208	123	124	123	132	149	145
Honduras	138	119	141	130	110	132	95	79	91	89	73	85
Nicaragua	147	152	153	154	166	158	108	109	107	113	119	110
Panama	144	152	149	147	154	151	105	108	103	107	110	104
Central America	153	152	159	155	168	168	110	106	108	111	117	114
Argentina	122	123	133	126	126	138	106	105	112	109	108	116
Bolivia	138	138	143	129	131	139	103	100	101	96	95	98
Brazil	150	153	158	162	168	186	110	109	110	119	120	129
Chile	119	126	122	122	128	124	95	99	94	97	100	95
Colombia	144	150	149	152	161	161	107	109	106	113	117	114
Ecuador	131	129	137	128	128	136	96	92	94	94	91	94
Guyana	110	109	98	110	109	98	86	84	74	86	84	74
Paraguay	134	132	137	127	126	128	100	95	96	95	91	90
Peru	103	102	103	114	115	119	75	72	70	83	81	81
Uruguay	100	101	114	112	111	128	96	96	108	107	106	121
Venezuela	158	174	160	162	174	164	111	119	106	114	119	108
South America	137	140	144	144	148	158	103	103	103	109	109	114
Latin America ^{2/}	138	141	145	144	151	159	102	102	102	107	109	112
Latin America ^{3/}	139	142	146	145	152	160	103	102	102	107	109	112

^{1/} Revised data for 1974 and 1975; preliminary for 1976.

^{2/} Production for 22 countries shown.

^{3/} Excludes Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Source: Economic Research Service, Indices of Agricultural Production for the Western Hemisphere, Stat. Bull. No. 569.

Table 3 --Western Hemisphere: Fertilizer consumption in nutrient equivalent, average 1961-65, annual 1973-74

Country	N			P ₂ O ₅			K ₂ O			Total		
	1961-65	1973	1974	1961-65	1973	1974	1961-65	1973	1974	1961-65	1973	1974
	1,000 tons											
Canada	152	513	510	252	472	472	119	202	230	523	1,187	1,222
Mexico	199	526	654	53	173	223	8	33	45	269	732	922
Barbados	4	2	2	1/	1/	1/	3	3	5	7	5	7
Cuba	64	130	140	60	50	61	45	97	102	169	277	303
Dominican Republic	8	40	47	1	14	25	2	21	26	11	75	98
Jamaica	3	11	12	2	4	7	6	7	9	16	23	23
Trinidad & Tobago	3	7	5	1	1/	1/	3	3	5	7	10	19
Other Caribbean	5	13	13	4	9	9	10	16	14	19	39	35
Caribbean	92	203	219	68	77	101	69	147	161	209	427	431
Belize	1/	1	1	1/	2	1	1/	1/	1	1/	3	3
Costa Rica	14	34	40	7	10	12	5	29	27	26	64	79
El Salvador	21	68	62	7	32	34	7	20	3	35	110	104
Guatemala	9	34	42	5	7	14	2	11	14	16	52	70
Honduras	7	14	10	1/	2	2	1/	8	7	7	24	19
Nicaragua	3	35	32	2	12	12	1	8	3	11	55	47
Panama	9	16	14	--	7	7	--	7	6	9	30	27
Central America	68	202	201	21	72	82	15	64	66	194	338	349
Argentina	16	44	56	5	25	24	3	7	5	24	79	95
Bolivia	1/	3	4	1/	2	2	1/	1	1	1/	6	7
Brazil	58	343	399	86	724	907	99	529	531	326	1,601	1,717
Chile	25	59	52	57	115	100	13	14	15	95	189	167
Colombia	40	154	127	48	67	86	34	59	75	122	279	238
Ecuador	6	29	33	5	15	19	4	9	14	15	53	66
Guyana	5	9	13	2	3	2	2	2	2	9	14	17
Paraguay	1/	1	1	1	1/	1	1/	?	2	1	3	4
Peru	64	80	114	23	9	13	7	8	12	94	97	139
Surinam	1	2	4	1/	1/	1	1/	1/	1	1	2	6
Uruguay	3	15	10	19	25	18	4	6	7	31	45	35
Venezuela	13	41	50	6	24	49	6	21	32	25	86	122
South America	236	785	853	252	1,012	1,113	153	657	687	641	2,454	2,653
Latin America	595	1,716	1,927	394	1,334	1,519	245	901	959	1,234	3,951	4,405

1/ Less than 500 tons.

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization, Annual Fertilizer Review, 1975.

Table 4 --Area and production of selected agricultural products by principal Western Hemisphere countries or regions, annual 1974-76 ^{1/}

Commodity by country	Area ^{2/}			Production		
	1974	1975	1976 ^{3/}	1974	1975	1976 ^{3/}
	1,000 hectares			1,000 tons		
Wheat:						
Canada	8,935	9,479	11,149	13,295	17,100	23,522
Mexico	790	804	840	2,400	2,840	3,100
Central America	43	33	47	31	41	52
Argentina	4,233	5,270	6,300	5,970	8,570	11,000
Brazil	2,306	3,111	3,624	2,814	1,555	3,050
Chile	591	686	585	734	900	702
Uruguay	430	456	500	526	456	550
Other South America	372	332	327	389	316	329
Total Latin America	8,765	10,692	12,223	12,864	14,678	18,783
Rice, rough:						
Mexico	173	214	155	487	719	450
Cuba	202	218	200	492	535	420
Other Caribbean	151	152	157	336	341	380
Panama	116	115	115	175	185	140
Other Central America	126	162	130	324	446	246
Brazil	4,463	5,250	6,000	6,483	7,000	8,500
Colombia	354	372	365	1,540	1,614	1,549
Guyana	122	123	153	256	280	154
Peru	115	118	122	426	473	530
Uruguay	43	47	52	158	188	217
Other South America	426	477	439	1,168	1,433	1,268
Total Latin America	6,291	7,248	7,880	11,845	13,214	13,854
Corn:						
Canada	591	633	673	2,577	3,645	3,676
Mexico	7,700	7,900	8,050	7,780	9,200	9,700
Caribbean	172	167	167	339	333	334
Guatemala	858	863	874	698	881	828
Honduras	310	321	330	335	334	304
Other Central America	538	647	520	695	835	643
Argentina	3,486	3,070	2,766	9,900	7,700	5,355
Brazil	9,940	10,269	11,090	15,000	16,355	17,885
Chile	107	92	107	366	329	273
Colombia	650	700	648	775	847	884
Peru	360	370	400	600	625	670
Venezuela	462	506	480	524	653	532
Other South America	764	738	832	926	901	1,015
Total Latin America	25,347	25,643	26,264	37,938	38,993	38,923
Grain sorghum:						
Mexico	1,137	1,170	1,185	2,760	3,500	3,350
Caribbean	243	243	243	255	258	259
Central America	320	340	322	295	372	339
Argentina	2,324	1,938	1,834	5,980	4,830	5,060
Colombia	151	134	174	235	450	428
Uruguay	100	54	54	193	77	118
Other South America	288	289	370	558	599	862
Total Latin America	4,563	4,168	4,092	10,196	10,086	10,416
Beans, dry:						
Canada	70	66	64	93	90	92
Mexico	1,680	1,910	1,900	930	1,130	1,080
Caribbean	118	109	117	104	97	106
Central America	337	355	417	220	237	247
Brazil	4,258	4,136	4,047	2,238	2,271	1,842
Chile	105	68	81	75	74	71
Peru	50	50	50	35	36	36
Venezuela	88	103	80	37	41	34
Other South America	318	368	368	259	269	324
Total Latin America	6,954	7,099	7,060	3,898	4,155	3,742

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4 --Area and production of selected agricultural products by principal Western Hemisphere countries or regions, annual 1974-76 ^{1/}--Continued

Commodity by country	Area ^{2/}			Production		
	1974	1975	1976 ^{3/}	1974	1975	1976 ^{3/}
	1,000 hectares			1,000 tons		
Sweet potatoes and yams:						
Mexico	10	10	10	105	105	105
Caribbean	124	124	124	703	673	683
Central America	--	--	--	1	1	1
Argentina	45	43	40	295	418	354
Brazil	160	150	183	1,814	2,150	2,250
Paraguay	12	12	12	97	85	90
Peru	13	14	14	146	150	155
Other South America	56	54	58	428	430	418
Total Latin America	420	407	441	3,589	4,012	4,056
Potatoes:						
Canada	115	105	115	2,501	2,195	2,641
Mexico	40	40	58	460	480	695
Caribbean	18	18	19	139	158	183
Central America	10	12	12	77	85	86
Argentina	128	113	110	2,173	1,349	1,528
Bolivia	118	118	118	749	740	750
Brazil	187	197	302	1,673	1,669	1,791
Chile	93	72	82	1,012	738	726
Colombia	88	90	121	1,135	1,150	1,400
Peru	268	265	270	1,722	1,700	1,750
Other South America	89	80	93	800	782	933
Total Latin America	1,039	1,005	1,085	9,940	8,851	9,842
Cotton:						
Mexico	585	234	245	510	207	218
Caribbean	13	13	13	7	7	7
Guatemala	103	111	84	119	105	160
Nicaragua	178	143	199	121	111	116
Other Central America	91	78	86	79	64	69
Argentina	474	505	425	127	172	133
Brazil	2,085	2,025	1,815	517	515	370
Colombia	258	281	314	151	121	133
Peru	164	146	104	88	73	57
Other South America	256	269	228	96	102	81
Total Latin America	4,207	3,805	3,513	1,815	1,477	1,284
Peanuts:						
Mexico	40	40	42	62	68	70
Caribbean	88	83	87	98	78	90
Argentina	330	383	363	290	375	338
Brazil	352	245	282	530	375	422
Other South America	76	67	69	70	62	65
Total Latin America	886	818	843	1,050	918	985
Soybeans:						
Canada	168	158	149	280	367	251
Mexico	255	355	150	420	625	256
Argentina	377	370	442	496	485	695
Brazil	5,143	5,824	6,416	7,876	9,892	11,227
Colombia	54	88	38	114	168	75
Other South America	145	189	213	204	263	301
Total Latin America	5,974	6,826	7,259	9,110	11,433	12,556
Tobacco:						
Canada	50	42	38	115	101	90
Mexico	39	37	39	68	52	64
Cuba	65	69	75	90	50	55
Other Caribbean	34	27	28	45	25	43
Central America	9	10	11	15	17	17
Argentina	88	85	87	98	97	95
Brazil	244	252	287	226	286	258
Colombia	26	32	33	41	53	54
Other South America	44	43	49	59	60	69
Total Latin America	549	555	609	602	640	655

^{1/} Time reference is calendar year to include crops harvested mainly in year shown. Latin American totals are for the 23 Latin American countries, including Cuba.

^{2/} Seeded area for Canada; harvested area for other countries insofar as possible.

^{3/} Preliminary.

Sources: Economic Research Service; Foreign Agricultural Service; Food and Agricultural Organization, Production Yearbook of Agriculture; and Cuban Yearbook.

Table 5 --Western Hemisphere: Production of selected agricultural products by principal countries or regions, 1974-76 ^{1/}

Commodity by country	Production			Commodity by country	Production		
	1974	1975	1976 ^{2/}		1974	1975	1976 ^{2/}
	1,000 tons				1,000 tons		
Cassava (yuca):				Cocoa beans:			
Caribbean	431	412	471	Mexico	35	37	38
Central America	132	137	138	Dominican Republic	33	31	37
Brazil	24,715	25,812	26,446	Other Caribbean	20	18	19
Colombia	1,390	1,350	1,900	Central America	10	10	10
Paraguay	1,395	1,428	1,450	Brazil	267	257	249
Other South America	1,975	1,897	1,968	Ecuador	72	75	64
Total Latin America	30,038	31,036	32,373	Venezuela	17	19	18
				Other South America	29	31	30
				Total Latin America	483	478	465
Sugar, centrifugal, (raw value):				Wool, shorn:			
Canada	101	128	130	Canada	3	3	3
Mexico	2,834	2,727	2,724	Mexico	7	7	7
Cuba	5,925	6,432	6,000	Argentina	155	160	167
Dominican Republic	1,194	1,135	1,179	Brazil	30	32	32
Other Caribbean	883	814	853	Uruguay	55	61	62
Central America	1,317	1,498	1,598	Other South America	38	39	40
Argentina	1,532	1,349	1,600	Total Latin America	285	299	308
Brazil	7,400	6,200	7,500				
Colombia	940	970	803	Beef and veal:			
Peru	990	990	950	Canada	941	1,052	1,134
Venezuela	514	495	456	Mexico	844	889	955
Other South America	1,162	1,403	1,503	Cuba	162	162	162
Total Latin America	24,691	24,013	25,166	Other Caribbean	75	65	74
				Central America	286	303	329
Cottonseed:				Argentina	2,163	2,411	2,792
Mexico	875	340	358	Brazil	2,100	2,250	2,230
Caribbean	5	5	5	Colombia	423	470	542
Central America	517	432	498	Uruguay	330	345	400
Brazil	1,130	1,100	786	Other South America	740	770	797
Colombia	249	235	235	Total Latin America	7,123	7,665	8,281
Peru	160	132	102				
Other South America	434	520	442	Pork:			
Total Latin America	3,370	2,764	2,426	Canada	611	544	476
				Mexico	354	370	395
Bananas:				Caribbean	96	109	106
Mexico	832	1,241	1,230	Central America	51	55	53
Caribbean	1,143	1,062	1,118	Argentina	240	239	250
Costa Rica	1,110	1,300	1,300	Brazil	725	750	784
Honduras	1,181	772	1,134	Other South America	360	343	327
Panama	700	720	720	Total Latin America	1,826	1,866	1,915
Other Central America	806	834	842				
Brazil	6,974	7,081	7,966	Milk:			
Ecuador ^{3/}	2,295	2,130	2,425	Canada	7,562	7,927	7,684
Other South America	2,866	2,959	2,899	Mexico	6,331	6,619	6,915
Total Latin America	17,907	18,089	19,634	Cuba	606	626	620
				Other Caribbean	476	481	487
Coffee:				Central America	1,208	1,334	1,396
Mexico	237	252	240	Argentina	5,133	5,645	5,975
Cuba	27	25	16	Brazil	9,023	10,003	10,701
Other Caribbean	91	105	87	Chile	933	985	1,052
Central America	520	456	508	Colombia	2,600	2,650	2,200
Brazil	1,650	1,440	570	Other South America	3,156	3,288	3,289
Colombia	510	539	510	Total Latin America	29,466	31,631	32,635
Other South America	185	196	187				
Total Latin America	3,220	3,013	2,118				

^{1/} Crops harvested mainly in year shown; cocoa beans and coffee harvests begin in years shown.

^{2/} Preliminary.

^{3/} Exportable type only.

Sources: Economic Research Service; Foreign Agricultural Service; Food and Agriculture Organization, Production Yearbook of Agriculture; Cuban Yearbook.

Table 6 --Western Hemisphere: Agricultural exports and imports by principal countries, 1971-74

Country	Exports ^{1/}				Imports ^{1/}			
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1971	1972	1973	1974
	Million dollars							
Canada	1,989.1	2,213.4	3,040.3	3,902.0	1,265.8	1,534.5	2,127.0	2,817.0
Mexico	693.0	851.9	942.2	1,001.2	182.9	252.8	524.8	1,035.1
Barbados	20.4	18.9	21.9	35.6	30.0	34.0	40.9	43.5
Cuba ^{2/}	686.0	655.0	1,110.0	2,409.0	286.0	294.0	384.0	645.0
Dominican Republic	210.5	263.0	322.8	482.1	38.9	40.8	57.3	134.6
Haiti	26.3	23.0	28.1	37.1	14.5	16.4	23.8	38.6
Jamaica	70.0	79.5	81.5	122.2	83.5	111.1	131.6	196.8
Trinidad and Tobago	39.4	47.6	41.1	75.9	61.6	72.4	82.4	126.9
Caribbean ^{3/}	1,052.6	1,087.0	1,605.4	3,152.9	514.5	568.7	720.0	1,185.4
Costa Rica	169.3	218.6	260.9	315.5	42.2	38.0	47.9	85.3
El Salvador	160.0	208.8	233.8	307.1	30.6	29.7	43.6	49.5
Guatemala	196.6	230.1	302.7	391.2	29.5	29.2	34.8	50.0
Honduras	144.2	142.0	163.6	135.8	18.3	20.2	29.3	37.2
Nicaragua	140.7	190.4	207.2	269.1	21.4	24.5	41.7	39.6
Panama	73.3	78.5	81.7	86.6	37.8	36.0	40.7	43.3
Central America ^{3/}	884.1	1,068.4	1,249.0	1,505.3	179.8	177.6	238.0	304.9
Argentina	1,451.0	1,515.4	2,475.0	2,670.6	121.7	151.8	241.8	233.9
Bolivia	12.1	23.3	37.1	n.a.	29.4	31.0	35.7	n.a.
Brazil	1,937.7	2,745.6	4,190.1	4,873.1	317.0	374.5	705.0	1,097.2
Chile	41.5	35.2	26.5	67.6	231.4	311.0	317.7	709.5
Colombia	534.4	628.0	821.8	930.3	97.3	85.7	141.2	207.9
Ecuador	188.3	213.4	245.3	371.1	20.2	24.8	36.1	70.4
Guyana	60.0	65.8	50.8	153.4	22.2	22.5	29.2	37.5
Paraguay	53.5	76.0	121.5	138.0	5.6	5.4	5.7	14.9
Peru	161.9	189.5	247.5	305.6	133.2	167.9	216.2	262.2
Uruguay	189.5	198.4	274.6	302.2	21.1	36.8	25.0	n.a.
Venezuela	33.5	56.1	48.0	83.0	189.7	216.6	340.6	469.4
South America ^{3/}	4,663.4	5,746.7	8,538.2	10,094.9	1,188.8	1,428.0	2,094.2	3,102.9
Latin America	7,293.1	8,754.0	12,335.7	15,754.3	2,066.6	2,427.1	3,577.0	5,628.3
Western Hemisphere	9,282.2	10,967.4	15,376.0	19,656.3	3,331.8	3,961.6	5,704.0	8,445.3

^{1/} Exports and imports include SITC categories for food, beverages (less distilled) and agricultural raw materials, excluding fish and manufactured tobacco.

^{2/} Estimates by Economic Research Service.

^{3/} For countries shown.

Sources: Food and Agriculture Organization, Trade Yearbooks; Central Bank of Paraguay; and U.S. Agricultural Attache to Uruguay.

Table 7 --Western Hemisphere: Exports and imports of selected agricultural commodities, 1974-76

Exports				Imports			
	1974	1975 1/	1976 1/		1974	1975 1/	1976 1/
	1,000 tons				1,000 tons		
Wheat (including flour in wheat equivalent):				Wheat (including flour in wheat equivalent):			
Canada	10,628	11,648	11,000	Mexico	976	86	2
Mexico	19	31	30	Cuba	824	870	850
Central America	1	1	1	Dominican Republic	109	147	152
Argentina	1,771	1,768	3,143	Jamaica	43	75	75
Other South America	1	67	31	Trinidad and Tobago	98	100	102
Total Latin America	1,792	1,867	3,205	Other Caribbean	248	320	299
				Central America	350	334	400
				Bolivia	207	194	216
				Brazil	2,165	2,083	3,426
				Chile	879	663	1,108
				Colombia	339	339	360
				Peru	698	825	753
				Venezuela	540	671	700
				Other South America	372	316	426
				Total Latin America	7,848	7,023	8,869
Rice, milled:				Rice, milled:			
Mexico	4	5	5	Canada	53	57	48
Central America	24	18	14	Mexico	71	2/	2/
Argentina	15	36	86	Cuba	276	275	250
Brazil	57	3	76	Jamaica	40	49	45
Colombia	150	156	150	Trinidad and Tobago	45	29	26
Guyana	49	52	83	Other Caribbean	108	94	106
Peru	7	2/	2/	Central America	11	13	11
Uruguay	73	91	117	Chile	17	21	35
Other South America	117	92	64	Other South America	66	139	169
Total Latin America	496	447	595	Total Latin America	634	620	642
Corn:				Corn:			
Canada	6	4	312	Canada	1,290	773	752
Mexico	2/	3	2/	Mexico	1,270	2,620	902
Central America	10	1	10	Cuba	250	330	375
Argentina	5,613	4,001	3,059	Jamaica	110	106	115
Brazil	1,109	1,148	1,372	Trinidad and Tobago	55	60	65
Other South America	49	26	49	Other Caribbean	99	92	107
Total Latin America	6,776	5,179	4,490	Central America	133	172	106
				Chile	145	116	15
				Peru	273	322	278
				Venezuela	175	450	360
				Other South America	58	71	60
				Total Latin America	2,568	4,339	2,383
Sugar, raw basis:				Sugar, raw basis:			
Canada	43	94	43	Canada	901	998	872
Mexico	427	185	~	Caribbean	38	40	37
Cuba	5,491	5,744	5,100	Central America	1	1	1
Barbados	93	83	89	Chile	270	263	165
Dominican Republic	1,055	975	1,100	Uruguay	21	20	2/
Jamaica	276	254	240	Other South America	48	36	28
Trinidad and Tobago	142	110	169	Total Latin America	378	360	231
Other Caribbean	137	120	131				
Central America	592	690	890				
Brazil	2,362	1,096	1,802				
Colombia	205	183	110				
Guyana	307	289	336				
Peru	462	422	256				
Other South America	752	333	658				
Total Latin America	12,301	10,484	10,875				
Coffee, green or roasted:				Coffee, green or roasted:			
Mexico	125	132	162	Canada	82	90	80
Dominican Republic	35	46	25	Caribbean	1	1	1
Other Caribbean	22	34	33	Argentina	43	38	35
El Salvador	195	132	200	Other South America	20	14	13
Guatemala	114	132	114	Total Latin America	64	53	49
Other Central America	174	157	172				
Brazil	684	780	804				
Colombia	453	421	480				
Other South America	123	129	134				
Total Latin America	1,925	1,963	2,124				

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued

Table 7 --Western Hemisphere: Exports and imports of selected agricultural commodities, 1974-76--Continued

Exports	1974	1975 1/	1976 1/	Imports	1974	1975 1/	1976 1/
	1,000 tons				1,000 tons		
Bananas, plantains, fresh:				Bananas, plantains, fresh:			
Mexico	1	3	2	Canada	221	212	235
Jamaica	73	80	80	Caribbean	6	10	6
Other Caribbean	437	390	400	Nicaragua	22	22	23
Costa Rica	1,038	1,119	1,108	Argentina	149	140	140
Honduras	628	361	581	Chile	50	40	50
Panama	424	558	560	Uruguay	6	6	6
Other Central America	430	395	450	Total Latin America	233	218	225
Brazil	156	147	92				
Colombia	336	486	360				
Ecuador	1,381	1,362	1,200				
Other South America	155	192	137				
Total Latin America	5,059	5,093	4,950				
Cocoa beans:				Cocoa beans:			
Mexico	3	4	8	Canada	13	1/	12
Dominican Republic	26	27	30	Central America	2/	2/	2/
Other Caribbean	14	20	12	Argentina	10	10	10
Central America	5	6	5	Colombia	6	8	8
Brazil	130	177	129	Other South America	3	3	4
Ecuador	59	57	26	Total Latin America	19	21	22
Other South America	21	18	18				
Total Latin America	258	309	228				
Beef and veal:				Beef and veal: 3/			
Canada	17	12	44	Canada	54	58	98
Mexico	22	9	22	Caribbean	54	49	49
Caribbean	8	5	5	Central America	2/	2/	2/
Costa Rica	28	30	27	Brazil	--	--	5
Nicaragua	16	22	22	Chile	40	--	13
Other Central America	34	41	45	Peru	9	9	13
Argentina	289	262	529	Total Latin America	103	58	67
Brazil	54	47	76				
Paraguay	19	21	12				
Uruguay	120	113	194				
Other South America	46	40	21				
Total Latin America	636	590	953				
Cotton raw:				Cotton, raw:			
Mexico	166	157	143	Canada	62	52	53
Guatemala	107	89	108	Caribbean	24	23	24
Nicaragua	132	113	116	Central America	2	5	4
Other Central America	50	75	65	Argentina	7	11	5
Brazil	170	107	39	Chile	21	31	31
Peru	35	39	37	Uruguay	7	8	5
Other South America	128	173	176	Other South America	13	4	3
Total Latin America	788	753	684	Total Latin America	74	82	72
Tobacco, unmanufactured:				Tobacco, unmanufactured:			
Canada	34	26	27	Canada	5	5	4
Mexico	26	18	17	Caribbean	6	4	4
Cuba	18	18	20	Central America	1	1	1
Dominican Republic	41	17	17	Chile	6	7	6
Central America	7	8	2	Uruguay	3	3	3
Brazil	91	98	101	Other South America	5	2	2
Colombia	27	13	13	Total Latin America	21	17	16
Paraguay	24	25	25				
Other South America	25	37	34				
Total Latin America	259	234	229				

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Less than 500 tons.

3/ Carcass weight basis; excludes fats and offals.

Sources: Economic Research Service; Foreign Agricultural Service; Food and Agriculture Organization, and Trade Yearbooks.

Table 8 --U.S. agricultural exports to Western Hemisphere countries and dependencies by value, 1971-76

Country	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976 ^{1/}
	<u>Million dollars</u>					
Canada ^{2/}	608.2	842.8	1,034.1	1,282.0	1,305.0	1,497.0
Mexico	128.3	181.4	362.0	862.6	585.7	369.9
Bahamas	27.8	28.3	37.2	45.2	45.3	44.4
Barbados	3.9	5.0	6.5	7.5	8.5	10.7
Bermuda	8.6	10.0	12.4	16.8	18.3	20.8
Cuba	^{3/}	^{3/}	^{3/}	^{3/}	^{3/}	^{3/}
Dominican Republic	41.1	45.8	63.4	117.3	96.0	106.8
French West Indies	2.8	2.8	3.2	4.1	3.9	5.8
Haiti	9.0	9.8	15.5	27.5	38.7	31.5
Jamaica	39.1	41.3	63.1	83.5	73.8	75.4
Leeward & Windward Isles	5.7	6.1	8.3	9.3	8.8	10.6
Netherlands Antilles	14.7	17.1	22.5	32.1	33.8	39.0
Trinidad and Tobago	16.8	20.6	33.6	50.0	52.3	46.4
Caribbean	169.6	186.8	265.9	393.0	379.4	391.4
Belize	3.0	2.7	2.7	4.3	5.7	5.8
Costa Rica	11.6	11.2	20.3	28.7	26.5	27.3
El Salvador	11.3	9.0	24.4	26.2	33.2	31.0
Guatemala	16.7	17.5	23.5	40.7	37.9	40.1
Honduras	9.6	9.4	11.0	21.0	29.5	19.5
Nicaragua	7.6	8.0	16.9	18.0	17.1	19.9
Panama	32.1	25.0	30.4	56.7	43.8	45.7
Central America	91.9	82.7	129.1	195.8	193.7	189.3
Argentina	10.7	6.9	95.6	9.6	8.7	5.7
Bolivia	7.5	7.7	5.3	38.0	8.3	12.5
Brazil	90.0	68.2	271.2	239.9	322.9	254.8
Chile	22.5	28.4	110.0	112.7	125.3	125.2
Colombia	56.2	50.8	118.2	137.6	84.9	97.3
Ecuador	18.5	21.0	30.7	56.7	65.8	70.9
French Guiana	.1	.2	.2	.3	.2	.2
Guyana	4.5	6.6	10.8	15.5	16.7	18.9
Paraguay	4.1	1.4	.9	.8	1.2	.9
Peru	54.2	72.0	121.6	170.1	192.8	111.2
Surinam	5.0	5.6	8.7	9.9	11.7	12.9
Uruguay	2.0	14.8	2.6	9.0	5.8	2.2
Venezuela	108.6	137.1	159.7	323.3	277.0	273.6
South America	384.0	420.8	935.4	1,113.2	1,121.3	986.3
Total Latin America	773.8	871.7	1,692.4	2,564.7	2,280.1	1,936.9
Total Western Hemisphere	1,382.0	1,714.4	2,726.5	3,846.7	3,585.1	3,433.9
Total World	7,694.9	9,400.7	17,680.5	22,026.3	21,884.1	22,995.2
Hemisphere as percentage of world total	18.0	18.2	15.4	17.5	16.4	14.9

Note: Columns may not always add because of rounding.

^{1/} Preliminary.

^{2/} Excludes exports transshipments, mostly grains and oilseeds, to Western Europe.

^{3/} Less than \$50,000.

Sources: Bureau of the Census and Foreign Agricultural Service.

Table 9 -- U.S. agricultural imports from Western Hemisphere countries and dependencies by value, 1971-76

Country	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976 ^{1/}
	<u>Million dollars</u>					
Canada	313.9	353.4	530.5	527.1	491.4	600.3
Mexico	500.3	589.9	743.4	766.6	508.7	711.1
Bahamas	1.9	.6	.8	.9	.9	1.5
Barbados .....	.8	.3	1.7	16.1	17.9	13.8
Bermuda	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}
Cuba	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}
Dominican Republic	155.4	196.7	239.0	357.6	549.3	400.2
French West Indies	7.5	.4	.3	.2	.3	.4
Haiti	16.4	18.2	18.6	28.3	20.1	30.1
Jamaica	15.0	11.2	4.4	45.3	38.7	27.6
Leeward & Windward Isles .....	.5	.8	.8	1.8	4.3	6.4
Netherlands Antilles	^{2/}	.1	^{2/}	12.4	1.5	6.3
Trinidad and Tobago	8.7	8.8	5.3	17.9	17.2	29.2
Caribbean	206.5	237.1	271.0	498.4	650.2	515.8
Belize (formerly Br. Honduras) ..	6.4	6.3	7.5	23.6	25.2	4.7
Costa Rica	100.0	118.4	121.7	147.1	156.8	192.9
El Salvador	42.6	38.3	101.5	121.1	131.8	204.6
Guatemala	87.9	98.3	151.2	193.1	149.3	257.9
Honduras	103.3	91.9	120.0	102.8	93.2	153.6
Nicaragua	56.1	60.8	86.1	62.8	90.0	131.3
Panama	34.9	25.7	24.7	38.1	68.8	48.8
Central America	431.4	439.7	612.8	688.5	715.2	993.8
Argentina	111.9	119.7	133.2	209.7	144.6	155.3
Bolivia	3.2	3.8	3.6	3.3	3.8	16.3
Brazil	582.2	659.7	713.2	1,030.7	772.1	965.9
Chile	6.1	6.2	5.2	15.1	18.0	21.8
Colombia	183.1	207.7	291.2	364.6	420.8	470.7
Ecuador	71.8	82.5	90.2	175.2	147.9	232.7
French Guiana	^{2/}	^{2/}	.2	.1	.1	^{2/}
Guyana	16.4	13.8	7.4	43.2	44.2	13.6
Paraguay	10.0	12.9	18.7	20.4	15.3	16.2
Peru	85.5	114.9	112.2	190.8	135.6	170.0
Surinam .....	.3	.4	.1	.4	.2	.1
Uruguay	4.1	1.1	1.7	2.5	1.4	3.5
Venezuela	23.3	29.9	30.2	35.1	33.2	43.0
South America	1,097.8	1,252.6	1,407.0	2,091.0	1,737.1	2,109.1
Total Latin America	2,236.0	2,519.4	3,034.2	4,044.4	3,611.2	4,329.8
Total Western Hemisphere	2,549.9	2,872.7	3,564.7	4,571.5	4,102.6	4,930.1
Total World	5,823.4	6,466.9	8,419.1	10,247.3	9,310.1	10,991.8
Hemisphere as percentage of world total	43.8	44.4	42.3	44.6	44.1	44.9

Note: Columns may not always add because of rounding.

^{1/} Preliminary.

^{2/} Less than \$50,000.

Sources: Bureau of the Census and Foreign Agricultural Service.

Table 10 -- U.S. agricultural exports by SITC categories to

Country	Live animals	Meat and preparations	Dairy products and eggs	Cereals and preparations	Fruits, vegetable and preparations	Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	Coffee, cocoa, tea and spices	Animal feed	Miscellaneous food preparations
Million dollars									
Canada ^{1/} :									
1972	32.2	55.9	11.3	138.4	297.3	6.3	27.1	37.5	15.5
1973	98.7	79.2	11.6	89.9	354.3	8.1	37.4	56.8	17.3
1974	69.1	69.0	13.4	163.9	411.2	38.9	36.5	70.1	39.1
1975	39.6	93.1	16.9	147.9	458.2	51.7	59.5	73.6	43.5
1976	50.9	183.0	20.0	143.1	504.7	32.2	53.2	90.9	44.9
Mexico:									
1972	11.7	4.2	21.0	72.8	8.7	1.2	0.9	9.8	7.9
1973	20.2	8.6	8.6	166.6	11.7	1.6	1.2	13.3	13.3
1974	33.3	16.0	10.3	467.3	45.3	2.5	2.0	23.3	21.0
1975	36.2	15.4	16.2	330.4	49.4	1.6	2.1	14.9	22.7
1976	36.8	18.3	16.5	96.2	17.6	1.9	2.7	9.7	22.9
Caribbean:									
1972	2.6	32.3	10.9	50.2	16.5	2.4	2.5	19.2	11.3
1973	2.2	43.5	7.2	98.8	23.9	2.3	2.6	30.8	13.2
1974	2.5	48.7	10.5	170.5	24.3	5.9	3.3	32.1	18.5
1975	2.9	48.9	10.4	143.6	28.3	4.9	3.4	32.7	22.6
1976	2.9	55.9	13.5	132.8	34.1	6.8	4.6	40.8	25.2
Central America:									
1972	5.1	2.8	6.3	32.7	6.9	1.3	1.0	6.1	5.7
1973	4.7	2.9	2.3	72.4	9.5	1.7	1.3	9.1	8.2
1974	3.9	4.6	3.1	97.0	14.4	1.9	1.5	18.2	12.2
1975	4.0	4.5	3.2	108.5	14.7	2.2	1.2	7.2	11.7
1976	4.6	4.2	6.0	88.2	16.5	2.6	1.8	11.7	14.0
Andes Region:									
1972	3.1	1.0	10.4	183.9	17.5	0.4	0.2	5.6	21.3
1973	4.4	2.6	1.2	392.2	20.7	0.5	0.5	3.4	19.0
1974	4.2	4.8	2.5	547.2	25.2	0.7	0.7	22.1	19.7
1975	5.7	3.5	5.5	533.5	30.1	2.0	0.9	12.9	25.7
1976	7.4	5.2	10.3	448.2	35.0	0.8	0.7	17.5	30.0
Other South America:									
1972	2.3	0.9	7.6	58.6	9.6	0.5	0.8	3.3	2.3
1973	3.1	0.9	2.9	326.7	22.8	0.8	0.4	4.1	2.7
1974	6.1	1.5	1.8	192.0	12.9	0.7	0.4	4.6	4.2
1975	6.3	0.9	3.1	298.2	11.5	1.3	0.3	5.9	4.5
1976	6.9	0.6	2.5	244.5	8.2	1.2	0.3	8.5	4.5
Latin America:									
1972	24.9	41.2	56.2	398.1	59.3	5.9	5.4	44.0	48.5
1973	34.7	58.6	22.2	1,056.8	88.6	6.9	6.0	60.7	47.4
1974	50.1	75.5	28.4	1,474.0	121.8	11.7	8.1	100.3	75.7
1975	55.2	73.1	38.4	1,414.2	134.1	12.1	7.9	73.8	87.2
1976	58.7	84.3	48.9	1,009.9	111.0	13.4	10.3	88.2	94.8
Western Hemisphere:									
1972	57.0	97.1	67.5	536.5	356.5	12.2	32.5	81.5	64.0
1973	133.4	137.7	33.8	1,146.6	442.9	15.0	43.4	117.5	64.7
1974	119.2	144.5	41.8	1,637.9	533.0	50.6	44.6	170.4	114.8
1975	94.8	166.0	55.3	1,562.1	592.3	63.8	67.4	147.4	130.7
1976	117.6	267.3	68.9	1,153.0	615.7	45.6	63.5	179.1	139.7

Note: Columns may not always add because of rounding.

^{1/} Excludes transshipments.

^{2/} Less than \$50,000.

Sources: Bureau of the Census and Foreign Agricultural Service.

Canada, Mexico, and Western Hemisphere regions, 1972-76

Country	Unmanu- factured tobacco	Hides, skins, and furskins undressed	Oilseed, oilnuts, and oilkernels	Natural rubber	Natural fibers	Crude animal and vegetable material	Animal and vegetable fats and oils	Other	Total
<u>Million dollars</u>									
Canada 1/:									
1972	3.1	28.9	96.5	1.7	42.3	19.1	18.9	10.8	842.8
1973	5.5	37.2	109.1	2.1	62.1	27.3	21.8	15.7	1,034.1
1974	4.9	43.2	148.2	2.9	61.8	33.2	56.5	20.1	1,282.0
1975	2.2	41.2	133.5	1.0	39.3	36.5	45.5	19.8	1,305.0
1976	3.6	64.3	134.1	3.7	51.9	48.5	36.6	23.4	1,407.0
Mexico:									
1972	2/	25.1	3.6	0.1	0.6	9.0	1.5	3.2	181.4
1973	2/	36.2	34.6	0.1	1.0	13.8	26.9	4.3	362.0
1974	2/	36.7	95.7	0.6	1.7	19.9	80.8	6.2	862.6
1975	2/	27.4	8.7	0.7	1.5	16.7	36.1	5.7	585.7
1976	2/	30.5	70.1	0.2	0.3	21.7	14.1	10.4	369.9
Caribbean:									
1972	9.1	0.2	1.4	0.1	0.7	2.0	22.5	2.8	186.8
1973	7.2	0.2	2.5	0.1	1.2	2.8	23.3	4.1	265.9
1974	12.7	0.1	1.3	0.1	1.7	3.0	51.6	6.2	393.0
1975	20.9	0.5	5.1	0.1	1.4	1.0	45.2	5.5	379.4
1976	20.3	0.6	8.2	0.5	0.5	3.6	41.8	1.3	291.4
Central America:									
1972	1.6	2/	1.3	0.1	0.8	1.2	7.9	1.8	82.7
1973	1.7	2/	0.4	0.1	0.5	1.4	10.9	2.0	129.1
1974	1.9	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.4	2.4	28.6	2.6	195.8
1975	1.4	0.4	2.6	0.2	2.7	2.2	24.7	2.3	193.7
1976	1.7	2/	1.3	0.1	1.9	2.5	29.2	2.8	189.7
Andes Region:									
1972	3.6	5.7	17.4	1.0	2/	6.4	35.9	3.3	317.0
1973	4.8	7.4	26.3	0.7	4.0	8.7	53.5	4.6	545.5
1974	6.6	4.9	41.8	1.6	4.2	9.3	127.8	5.2	828.5
1975	6.4	2.1	32.4	1.8	0.4	8.8	75.7	6.7	754.1
1976	11.4	2.3	15.4	2.0	2.4	10.6	84.5	7.0	690.7
Other South America:									
1972	1.4	0.3	--	0.7	0.2	5.0	8.5	1.6	103.8
1973	3.0	2.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	6.1	11.8	1.2	389.9
1974	3.3	2.8	0.9	0.1	0.2	7.7	40.8	4.9	285.0
1975	1.1	3.9	1.4	0.3	0.4	9.0	16.1	3.1	367.1
1976	1.0	1.4	0.3	0.2	2/	7.4	2.2	5.7	295.6
Latin America:									
1972	15.7	31.3	23.7	2.0	2.4	23.6	76.3	13.1	871.7
1973	16.7	46.0	64.3	1.3	6.9	32.8	126.4	16.2	1,692.4
1974	24.5	45.3	140.8	2.5	9.1	42.2	329.5	25.1	2,564.7
1975	29.8	34.3	50.7	3.1	6.1	39.9	197.9	22.8	2,280.1
1976	34.6	35.0	95.1	3.1	5.1	46.1	171.8	26.6	1,936.9
Western Hemisphere:									
1972	18.8	60.3	120.2	3.7	44.7	42.7	95.2	23.9	1,714.5
1973	22.2	83.3	173.4	3.5	69.0	60.1	148.2	31.9	2,726.5
1974	29.4	88.5	289.0	5.4	70.9	75.4	386.0	45.2	3,846.7
1975	32.0	75.5	183.7	6.1	45.4	76.4	243.4	42.6	3,585.1
1976	38.2	99.3	229.2	6.8	57.0	94.6	208.4	50.0	3,433.9

Table 11.--U.S. agricultural imports by SITC categories from

Country	Live animals	Meat and preparations	Dairy products and eggs	Cereals and preparations	Fruits and vegetables and preparations	Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	Coffee, cocoa, tea and spices	Animal feed	Miscellaneous food preparations
Million dollars									
Canada									
1972	65.9	75.4	3.0	51.0	30.6	9.1	14.7	29.5	2.2
1973	114.1	101.6	40.8	59.8	41.5	8.8	19.0	38.5	3.1
1974	68.6	66.8	21.9	122.3	52.9	9.2	19.1	36.7	2.7
1975	83.8	46.4	6.2	117.4	0.9	29.0	14.6	31.3	2.5
1976	138.0	81.2	5.3	91.0	37.0	28.1	23.1	38.2	3.1
Mexico									
1972	106.8	50.4	--	--	191.9	120.6	78.3	0.4	--
1973	104.2	52.6	--	0.7	251.5	144.3	140.9	1.2	0.8
1974	67.8	32.3	--	2.4	193.8	272.5	125.9	1.4	2.3
1975	25.1	18.6	--	8.0	185.2	48.0	148.4	0.9	2.3
1976	61.0	32.7	--	3.4	208.5	34.8	291.1	1.7	2.4
Caribbean									
1972	--	8.5	--	--	9.5	144.4	56.9	0.5	0.1
1973	--	12.8	--	--	10.1	148.3	76.1	0.5	1/
1974	--	10.1	--	--	15.2	137.6	109.8	0.7	0.1
1975	1/	5.9	--	--	17.6	523.3	78.3	0.5	1.2
1976	1/	10.9	--	0.1	18.0	295.1	162.4	0.2	2.8
Central America									
1972	--	106.4	--	--	155.8	57.7	105.2	--	--
1973	--	143.3	--	--	159.5	70.2	222.4	--	--
1974	1/	115.0	--	--	147.4	167.3	234.3	--	--
1975	0.6	107.0	--	--	164.2	221.7	193.1	--	--
1976	0.1	132.9	--	--	220.6	226.6	374.2	1.8	--
Andes Region									
1972	0.6	0.7	--	0.1	45.1	118.8	263.1	--	0.6
1973	1.2	--	--	0.1	48.5	114.3	342.8	--	0.7
1974	1.3	--	--	0.2	78.6	244.4	414.7	0.4	0.9
1975	1.1	--	--	0.4	87.0	175.8	443.8	0.7	1.9
1976	1.3	--	--	0.2	97.4	155.9	644.3	1.6	0.8
Other South America									
1972	2.6	105.4	4.2	1.7	35.1	130.0	453.9	--	0.8
1973	3.6	125.9	4.1	2.7	31.7	137.4	478.7	--	1.0
1974	2.2	148.0	5.5	3.2	38.5	536.9	429.3	0.4	1.2
1975	2.5	76.1	6.8	4.8	46.5	214.0	540.3	1.2	1.4
1976	4.7	137.8	7.1	5.9	58.5	53.1	764.0	3.2	1.0
Latin America									
1972	110.0	271.4	4.2	1.8	434.7	575.1	957.4	0.4	1.5
1973	109.0	334.6	4.1	3.5	501.3	614.5	1,260.9	1.7	2.5
1974	71.3	305.4	5.5	5.8	473.5	1,550.7	1,314.0	2.9	4.5
1975	29.3	207.6	6.8	13.2	500.5	1,182.8	1,403.9	3.3	6.8
1976	67.1	314.3	7.1	9.6	603.0	765.5	2,256.0	8.5	7.0
Western Hemisphere									
1972	175.9	346.8	7.2	52.8	465.3	584.2	972.1	29.9	3.7
1973	223.1	436.2	44.9	63.3	542.8	623.3	1,279.9	40.2	5.6
1974	139.9	372.2	27.4	128.1	526.4	1,567.9	1,333.1	29.6	7.2
1975	113.1	254.0	13.0	130.6	541.4	1,211.8	1,418.5	34.6	9.3
1976	205.1	395.5	12.4	100.6	640.0	793.6	2,279.1	46.7	10.1

Note: Columns may not always add because of rounding.

1/ Less than \$50,000.

Sources: Bureau of the Census and Foreign Agricultural Service.

Canada, Mexico, and Western Hemisphere regions, 1972-76

Country	Unmanu- factured tobacco	Hides, skins, and furskins undressed	Oilseed, and oilnuts, and oilkernels	Natural rubber	Natural fibers	Crude animal and vegetable material	Animal and vegetable fats and oils	Other	Total
Million dollars									
Canada									
1972	1.6	15.2	5.4	--	--	34.1	0.3	15.4	353.4
1973	0.6	31.5	6.2	--	--	43.5	2.0	19.5	530.5
1974	1.1	28.4	17.5	--	--	54.2	3.2	22.5	527.1
1975	2.3	30.4	16.7	0.4	--	42.1	2.4	25.0	491.4
1976	3.3	39.5	23.7	4.1	--	38.6	2.6	43.4	600.3
Mexico									
1972	4.0	--	4.5	--	7.6	12.1	1.9	11.4	589.9
1973	8.8	--	5.2	--	5.4	12.7	1.3	13.8	743.4
1974	16.1	--	6.2	--	6.6	16.6	1.8	20.9	766.6
1975	11.0	--	5.8	--	11.9	21.1	1.1	21.3	508.7
1976	9.4	--	10.7	--	7.6	22.5	1.5	23.8	711.1
Caribbean									
1972	6.0	--	--	--	0.1	1.0	1/	10.1	237.1
1973	8.1	0.1	--	--	0.9	0.3	5.6	8.2	271.0
1974	7.7	1/	--	--	1.1	0.3	0.2	15.6	498.4
1975	9.1	0.2	--	--	0.2	0.5	1/	13.4	650.2
1976	8.4	0.5	1/	--	0.2	0.9	0.1	15.8	515.4
Central America									
1972	3.7	--	3.2	--	0.2	1.9	--	5.6	439.7
1973	4.9	--	4.4	--	--	2.8	--	5.3	612.8
1974	5.3	--	7.1	--	--	5.1	--	7.0	688.5
1975	9.0	--	7.1	--	--	6.6	--	5.9	715.1
1976	9.5	--	9.7	--	--	8.1	--	10.1	993.8
Andes Region									
1972	4.0	0.1	--	--	3.3	3.6	0.3	4.7	445.0
1973	5.2	0.1	--	--	4.5	10.6	0.1	4.5	532.6
1974	5.3	0.1	--	--	8.1	20.4	0.8	9.0	784.2
1975	8.1	0.5	--	--	6.5	22.1	0.4	11.1	759.3
1976	3.1	0.2	--	--	13.2	25.8	1.0	9.7	954.5
Other South America									
1972	8.7	3.1	--	--	8.2	6.8	22.8	24.3	807.6
1973	12.2	2.6	--	--	10.8	4.0	39.2	20.5	874.4
1974	15.1	2.8	--	--	7.8	6.4	75.5	33.7	1,306.5
1975	18.8	2.1	--	0.7	7.5	7.7	27.4	20.1	977.9
1976	23.6	1.5	--	1.0	13.1	3.0	34.6	22.4	1,154.5
Latin America									
1972	26.4	3.2	7.7	--	19.4	25.4	25.0	56.1	2,519.4
1973	39.2	2.8	9.6	--	21.6	30.4	46.2	52.3	3,034.2
1974	49.5	2.9	13.3	--	23.6	48.8	48.3	86.4	4,044.4
1975	56.0	2.8	12.9	0.7	26.1	58.0	28.9	71.8	3,611.1
1976	54.0	2.2	20.4	1.0	34.1	60.3	37.2	82.0	4,329.3
Western Hemisphere									
1972	28.0	18.4	13.1	--	19.4	59.5	25.3	71.5	2,872.7
1973	39.8	34.3	15.8	--	21.6	73.9	48.2	71.8	3,564.7
1974	50.6	31.3	30.8	--	23.6	103.0	81.5	108.9	4,571.5
1975	58.3	33.2	29.6	1.1	26.1	100.1	31.1	96.8	4,102.7
1976	57.3	41.7	44.1	5.1	34.1	98.9	39.8	125.4	4,929.5

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