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SURINAME

This preliminary version of the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1979 is being distributed in 27 separate parts: an Introduction of a general nature, bearing the symbol E/CEPAL/R.227, and 26 Addenda to this document, each containing a study of the economic development of a country of the region. These Addenda will not appear in alphabetical order, but in order of completion. The complete Survey will be published in the usual printed version when the comments arising out of this preliminary version have been collected.

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SURINAME

1. Recent economic trends: Introduction and summary

No official estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are available for the years 1978 and 1979, but indications are that, in current prices, the GDP for 1979 must have been of the order of some SF 1,430 million.^{1/}

There was a high level of construction activity throughout the economy in 1979 as funds from the Dutch Government continued to be disbursed for ongoing development projects, but in the second half of the year there was a marked decrease in government spending, mainly because of difficulties over the interpretation of the nature of the activities on which Dutch grants should be spent.

The expansion of some 10% in the agricultural land under cultivation is expected to have provided impetus for an expansion of agricultural output in 1979. Palm oil production is estimated to have risen during the year, and this product should soon establish itself as a very important export item. The acreage under rice cultivation and consequently its production also showed gains in 1979.

The output of forestry and wood products is mainly determined by the level of activity of a single large firm engaged in this area. Over the last two or three years, this firm has diversified its output to include prefabricated houses and its general production facilities have been improved and expanded.

In the important bauxite, alumina and aluminium industry there were falls in the volume of production and exports; however, the export value of these commodities rose on account of higher prices. The national bauxite industry will benefit when the new mines in the Bakhuis Mountains of West Suriname start production. Furthermore, additional aluminium smelting capacity will become feasible with the added electrical power supplies from the Kabalebo dam, expected to come on stream sometime before 1985.

^{1/} In 1979 1.79 Suriname Florins were equivalent to 1 US dollar.

/As regards

As regards foreign trade, data for the first three quarters of 1979 suggest a significant increase in the merchandise trade surplus with respect to the previous year. However, a sharply increased net outflow in respect of factor and non-factor services increased the current account deficit over the same period. Up through September 1979 capital inflows - heavily supported by Dutch Government grants - were more than sufficient to cover the current deficit, thus ensuring a continued surplus on the overall balance of payments (see table 1).

2. Sectoral trends

(a) Agriculture

The agricultural sector consists of a few modern large and medium-sized mechanized enterprises producing mainly rice and palm oil, and a large number of small farms producing various crops, mostly on a subsistence basis. More than 80% of the nation's agricultural units are small farms of 5 hectares or less.

The most recent official GDP estimates are for 1977 (see table 2), but the indications are that there was some growth in agriculture in 1979, basically due to new land put under cultivation (see table 3). An overall increase of some 10% in cultivated land was noted for 1979. The average amount of land under rice production grew by some 12%, partly because of a transfer of acreage from bananas and plantains to rice. Major export markets for this product included the Netherlands, Germany, the Netherlands Antilles and Martinique.

Increased activity in sugar cane cultivation was noted in 1979, as the Government revitalized the Marienburg plantation in an attempt to make Suriname at least self-sufficient in sugar. It is estimated that the production of sugar cane rose by some 37% with respect to 1978 (see table 4).

Palm oil production in 1979 rose sufficiently to meet 90% of domestic demand, and it is expected that it will soon become a very important export item. The Government has donated 10,000 hectares to a leading estate for the purpose of expanding production of this item.

/The production

The production of peanuts and other root crops is also thought to have increased in response to more extensive cultivation.

In the livestock subsector, a higher price for milk had no great effect on the production of dairy products. Beef and port production, which had dropped in 1976, rose considerably in 1978, and indications are that a higher level of output was achieved in 1979 (see table 4).

In 1979 the agricultural sector suffered from problems of an institutional nature with regard to the disbursement of the Dutch grant money, and this resulted in a shortage of funds to finance certain projects. Thus, the Agricultural Bank, instead of receiving a planned SF 6 million, actually received only SF 1 million.

(b) Forestry and wood products

Output of forestry and wood products has been stimulated by the completion of a road linking the capital city of Paramaribo with many points in West Suriname. The building of a railway from the Bakhuis Mountains to Apoera has also greatly improved access to forestry resources. Activity in this area is dominated by a single large firm which accounts for over 40% of local timber production and employs over 1,200 persons; it also produces and exports plywood, particle board and prefabricated houses, the latter product having gained importance within the last two years. The company has recently improved and expanded its facilities, while at the same time admitting the Government as a partner in the venture.

(c) Mining

Indicators suggest a fall in production, and consequently exports, of bauxite, alumina, and aluminium in 1979 (see table 5). Bauxite production in the Bakhuis Mountains, which was to have come on stream in 1979, did not do so. Although exploration is still in course, it is already estimated that there are at least 100 million tons of bauxite in that location which will be extracted at the rate of 2 million tons per year. Further exploration is being undertaken in West Suriname.

/The Government

The Government-owned aluminium company, GRASSALCO, which holds the mining concession in Bakhuis, is seeking partners at the mining and/or processing stages of production. In the event that GRASSALCO exploits the deposits on its own, then a partner for the marketing of products would be sought. At the same time, the Government is proceeding with the construction of the 90-kilometre rail link between the Bakhuis Mountains and the river port at Apoera. The authorities also plan to employ the Kabalebo dam to supplement the power from the Afobaka dam for the refining of bauxite into aluminium. In this way, refining capacity can be expanded from the present 10% of total bauxite production, thereby enhancing the local value-added in mining operations.

(d) Manufacturing and construction

Table 6 gives an indication of the range of products manufactured in Suriname. The manufacturing sector is only in its infancy, and the unclear production trends reflect the limited growth possibilities of the small domestic market. Data for 1979 are still too limited to suggest trends in production.

(e) Construction

Much of the construction activity undertaken in Suriname has been led by the public sector and funded through Dutch grants. Partly because of problems in administering these grants, a number of public sector construction activities in housing and road-building have not progressed as planned. The construction activity in West Suriname is designed to facilitate the production of bauxite, as the mining sector is the only one that has potential for substantially improving the current account position of the balance of payments. Construction activity has also been directed towards the clearing of land for use in agriculture, where as already mentioned production has tended to be of the extensive rather than the intensive type.

(f) Energy

No major improvements in the energy supply situation took place in 1979, but on the other hand, Suriname has remained somewhat insulated from the full effect of world petroleum price increases because of the exploitation of the country's hydroelectric potential. Data in table 7 indicate a continued increase in energy supplies.

/The Government

The Government reacted to the substantial increases in the world price of crude petroleum in 1979 by establishing a seven-man commission to survey the national energy situation and make proposals with respect to both short and long-term energy policy. The short-term goals identified by the commission involve a reduction in the consumption of petroleum and its derivatives through a shortening of the hours for the marketing of these products to the public. At the same time, certain oil companies, because of supply problems, could market only 85% of the previous year's sales volume of petroleum products. The public sector's campaign aimed at promoting the conservation of energy was also complemented by the adoption of a similar campaign in the private sector. The result of all this was a fall of 10 to 15% in the consumption of petroleum products in 1979. The national energy commission estimates that a further 10% reduction in petroleum consumption can be effected, and it has recommended that experts should be contracted to devise conservation systems.

The long-term measures proposed by the commission comprise the establishment of a permanent energy bureau which is to collaborate closely with the University of Suriname in the development of alternative sources of energy, especially solar energy. Two projects involving the use of solar energy have been drawn up and are awaiting technical and financial assistance. The commission also advised that the hydroelectric project at Kabalebo, in West Suriname, be expedited so that it will come on stream before 1985; this source of energy should replace at least a quarter of the total amount of fuel imported. The commission has also recommended that after the completion of the hydroelectric project, oil exploration should be undertaken in Suriname.

3. The external sector

At the end of the third quarter of 1979, the deficit on current account stood at US\$ 36 million - a deterioration of some US\$ 13 million since the corresponding date of the previous year. The merchandise trade surplus of US\$ 21 million (see table 8) reflected the continuing favourable position in exports of bauxite, alumina and aluminium, whose export value rose by some 6% over the figure for the previous year (see table 9). The favourable

/trade performance

trade performance was basically due to the higher average unit values of some major export items. When the new bauxite mine in the Bakhuis Mountains of West Suriname comes on stream, the trade surplus will no doubt increase further. Other important export commodities in 1979 were rice, shrimp and wood products.

The deficit in the non-factor services account derived from the lack of nationally-owned transport facilities and a continuing high incidence of foreign travel, as many Suriname migrated to Holland in preference to remaining in Suriname. The principal factor influencing the deficit situation in factor services is foreign direct investment income.

Despite a slowing down in the rate of capital inflows from Holland in the form of government grants, the balance on the capital account remained positive at the end of the third quarter of 1979, the net effect of movements in this account being a surplus of some US\$ 59 million. The overall balance of payments displayed a surplus of US\$ 26 million over the same period (see table 8).

4. Prices, employment and wages

(a) Prices

The rate of inflation, as measured by the retail price index, accelerated in 1979 (see table 10) in response to increased import prices and local wage increases which outstripped production and productivity gains. It should be noted, however, that the existence of official price controls and the possible divergence between official and actual prices, coupled with the use of a somewhat outdated retail price survey, all mitigate against complete confidence in official estimates of price behaviour.^{2/}

^{2/} The General Bureau of Statistics has recently conducted a new survey, the results of which will be used to construct a new index.

(b) Employment

The mass emigration of Surinamese to Holland before independence has caused a change in the shape of the age pyramid of the labour force and brought on a deficiency of nationals in the middle to lower income brackets. The result is that now some 10,000 foreign workers (mainly from Guyana) perform most of the unskilled labour functions in agriculture and construction. Emigration continued in 1979, with many Surinamese opting for Dutch citizenship.

(c) Wages

Wages in the bauxite sector set the pace for collective bargaining in other economic sectors. In recent years, wage rates have risen rapidly and have aggravated the rural-urban population drift. Reflecting this problem, production on small farm holdings has tended to stagnate in recent years.

5. Monetary policy

In 1979 the money supply expanded by 11%, which is roughly similar to the rate of growth of the two previous years (see table 11). The main factor of expansion was the net foreign assets of the banking system, reflecting the relatively strong performance of the balance of payments. On the other hand, as in 1978, government credit had a contractionary effect on the money supply.

As regards the credit allocation of the domestic banking system, the strongest growth in 1979 was witnessed in the services, agriculture and construction sectors.

Table 1

SURINAME: MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979(a)
A. Basic economic indicators						
Gross domestic product at factor cost (millions of Suriname florins at 1970 prices)	543	528	546	582	...	...
Population (thousands of inhabitants)	397	388	371	381	...	...
Per capita gross domestic product (Suriname florins at 1970 prices) (b)	1 368	1 360	1 472	1 528	...	...
<u>Growth rates</u>						
B. Short-run economic indicators						
Gross domestic product	-1.7	-2.8	3.5	6.5	...	...
Per capita gross domestic product	-2.1	-0.6	8.2	3.8	...	...
Current value of exports of goods (c)	55.8	4.0	1.1	14.3	13.7	7.7
Current value of imports of goods (c)	53.4	14.8	7.0	40.6	...	...
Consumer price index						
December-December	4.0	9.4	14.6	4.2	10.9	15.7
Variation between annual averages	16.9	8.6	9.8	9.7	8.8	14.9
Money	5.2	20.5	17.8	10.8	12.2	11.1
Current income of government	28.3	47.7	-4.2	9.9	14.3	...
Total expenditure of government	14.2	40.3	21.7	21.4	22.3	...
Fiscal deficit/total expenditure of government (d)	20.6	16.1	34.0	40.3	44.2	...
<u>Millions of dollars</u>						
C. External sector						
Trade balance (goods)	39.2	13.3	20.8	-13.9	11.8	21.3(e)
Balance on current account	-24.6	-47.7	-13.3	-81.1	-46.0	-35.7(e)
Variation in net international reserves	6.2	34.6	20.6	-17.4	37.1	30.0(e)
External debt (f)	118.1	12.3	11.0	9.7	29.9	...

Source: CEPAL, on the basis of official data.

(a) Preliminary estimates.

(b) In 1979 1.79 Suriname florins were equivalent to 1 US dollar.

(c) Rates of growth calculated on the basis of values in Suriname florins.

(d) Percentage.

(e) January-September.

(f) Public external debt.

Table 2

SURINAME: GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, BY KIND OF ACTIVITY, AT FACTOR COST

	Millions of Suriname florins at 1970 prices			Percentage breakdown		Growth rates		
	1975	1976	1977(a)	1970	1977(a)	1975	1976	1977(a)
Agriculture and fisheries	46.0	48.6	51.0	7.7	8.8	15.2	5.2	5.1
Forestry and wood industry	13.8	14.8	13.7	2.8	2.4	11.3	7.3	-7.4
Mining and bauxite	145.7	145.9	159.5	33.1	27.4	-22.1	0.1	9.3
Manufacturing	58.0	59.0	67.7	7.8	11.6	10.9	2.1	14.2
Construction	6.0	9.8	11.0	1.4	1.9	-33.0	60.7	12.2
Subtotal goods	269.9	278.0	303.0	52.8	52.1	-10.3	3.2	8.8
Trade and commerce	84.0	89.0	95.0	17.6	16.3	18.2	5.6	7.0
Banking	9.0	9.5	9.7	2.6	1.7	-3.1	1.1	2.1
Transport	15.0	15.7	16.0	2.4	2.8	-0.6	3.3	3.2
Government	109.0	112.6	116.0	19.2	19.9	3.0	3.0	3.0
Others	39.8	41.0	41.7	5.4	7.2	0.8	3.0	1.7
Subtotal services	258.0	267.8	278.8	47.2	47.9	6.7	3.8	4.1
Total gross domestic product	527.9	546.0	581.8	100.0	100.0	-2.8	3.5	6.5

Source: Ministry of Finance, Suriname, *Financiële Nota* 1980, September 1979.

(a) Preliminary figures.

Table 3

SURINAME: AGRICULTURAL AREA UNDER CULTIVATION

	Hectares				Growth rates			
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1976	1977	1978	1979
Paddy rice	48 400	49 700	55 200	62 000	1.9	2.7	11.1	12.3
Maize	94	110	140	125	-35.6	17.0	27.3	-10.7
Sugar cane	2 120	2 188	2 303	2 428	-7.3	3.2	5.3	5.4
Palm oil	1 710	1 880	2 025	2 025	3.9	9.9	7.2	-
Bananas	1 965	1 870	1 760	1 710	0.8	-4.8	-5.9	-2.8
Plantains	201	250	216	160	62.1	24.4	-13.6	-25.9
Root crops	402	400	452	500	8.4	-0.5	13.0	10.6
Other vegetables (a)	781	867	939	750	-8.3	11.0	8.3	-20.1
Cocoa	390	390	208	147	-2.7	0.0	-46.7	-29.3
Coffee	360	360	209	190	-14.3	0.3	-41.9	-9.1

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Stock Raising and Fisheries of Suriname, *Agrarisch-Statistische gegevens* 1970-1977, and CEPAL, on the basis of official information.

(a) Includes green vegetables, peanuts, pulses, cabbage, tomatoes and other vegetables.

Table 4

SURINAME: INDICATORS OF AGRICULTURAL, LIVESTOCK AND FISHING PRODUCTION

	1976	1977	1978	1979	Growth rates		
					1977	1978	1979
Agriculture (tons)							
Paddy rice	172 500	202 866	223 946	...	17.6	10.4	...
Maize	132	230	273	...	74.2	18.7	...
Sugar cane	146 685	135 325	119 760	164 060	-7.7	-11.5	37.0
Palm oil	1 330	1 870	2 808	...	40.6	50.2	...
Bananas	41 425	31 568	32 675	...	-23.8	3.5	...
Plantain	1 572	1 700	2 850	...	8.1	67.6	...
Root crops	1 699	2 200	2 742	...	29.5	24.6	...
Other vegetables (a)	3 035	3 587	3 746	2 352	18.2	4.4	-37.2
Cocoa	58	61	47	52	5.2	-23.0	10.6
Coffee	76	90	25	18	18.4	-72.2	-28.0
Livestock (head)							
Cattle	25 850	24 000	34 495	...	-7.2	43.7	...
Pigs	17 619	18 259	18 000	...	3.6	-1.4	...
Goats and sheep	4 500	4 200	8 888	...	-6.7	111.6	...
Other	425	425	265	...	-	-37.6	...
Poultry (b)	4 312	4 400	4 500	...	2.0	2.3	...
Number of animals slaughtered							
Cattle	7 375	6 986	7 929	...	-5.3	13.5	...
Pigs	11 219	11 759	12 981	...	4.8	10.4	...
Goats and sheep	354	415	658	...	17.2	58.6	...
Poultry (b)	3 800	3 900	4 000	...	2.6	2.6	...
Production (tons)							
Beef	980	943	1 194	...	-3.8	26.6	...
Pork	774	811	948	...	4.8	16.9	...
Fishing production (tons)	2 377	2 294	...	...	-3.6	...	...
Shrimps	81	189	338	...	133.3	79.1	...
Other	2 295	2 105	...	...	-8.3	...	...

Source: Data supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture, Stock Raising and Fisheries of Suriname and Statistical Office of Suriname.

(a) Includes green vegetables, peanuts, pulses and cabbage, tomatoes and other vegetables.

(b) Thousand head.

Table 5

SURINAME: INDICATORS OF MINING PRODUCTION

	1976	1977	1978	1979(a)	Growth rates		
					1977	1978	1979
Index of mining production (1970 = 100)	92.6	98.0	106.0	96.0(b)	5.8	8.2	...
Production (thousands of metric tons)							
Bauxite	4 587	4 856	5 025	4 769	5.9	3.5	-5.6
Alumina	1 163	1 215	1 316	1 312	4.5	8.3	-0.3
Aluminium	46	50	59	53	8.9	18.0	-10.2
Export volume (thousands of metric tons)							
Bauxite	1 989	2 172	2 239	1 825	9.9	3.1	-18.5
Alumina	1 071	1 097	1 188	1 127	4.1	8.3	-5.1
Aluminium	46	59	48.5	55	27.4	-17.8	13.4

Source: Bureau of Statistics, Suriname, Kwartaal Statistiek van de Industriale Produktie 1970-1977, and data supplied to CEPAL.

(a) Preliminary figures.

(b) First quarter of 1979.

Table 6

SURINAME: INDEX OF MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION
(1970 = 100)

	1976	1977	1978	1979(a)	Growth rates		
					1977	1978	1979(b)
Index of manufacturing production							
Butter	420	850	631	249	102.4	-25.8	...
Sugar	69	61	49	116	-11.6	-19.7	...
Wheat flour	107	103	106	127	-3.7	2.9	48.1
Cattle fodder	169	206	253	302	21.9	22.8	...
Margarine	159	120	149	182	-24.5	24.2	...
Milk (consumption)	149	165	175	171	10.7	6.1	-1.0
Alcohol	50	44	43	45	-12.0	-2.3	...
Molasses	60	69	42	71	15.0	-39.1	...
Cigarretes	183	189	189	188	3.3	-	-1.1
Cigars	47	36	33	40	-23.4	-8.3	48.5
Shoes	424	344	441	303	-18.9	28.2	

Source: Bureau of Statistics, Suriname, Kwartaal Statistiek van de Industriale Produktie 1970-1977; and data supplied to CEPAL.

(a) Preliminary data for January-March.

(b) Rate of growth over 12 months ending in March.

Table 7

SURINAME: INDICATORS OF ENERGY SUPPLIES

	1976	1977	1978	1979	Growth rates		
					1977	1978	1979
Gas (thousands of cubic metres)(a)	1 789	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water (thousands of cubic metres)	7 272	8 708	9 828	6 984(b)	19.7	12.9	...
Electricity (millions of KWH)	1 328	1 421	1 511	...	7.0	6.3	...
Public sector	58	106	140	157	82.8	32.1	12.1
Private sector	1 270	1 315	1 371	...	3.5	4.3	...

Source: Bureau of Statistics, Suriname, Kwartaal Statistiek van de Industriële Produktie, 1970-1977 and Kwartaal, 1978 (No. 86, July 1978).

(a) In 1976 the local gas company ceased production, and since then it has merely purchased gas for resale to consumers. This explains the lack of data for production after 1976.

(b) January-September.

Table 8

SURINAME: BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
(Millions of dollars)

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979(a)
<u>Current account</u>						
Merchandise trade	39.2	13.3	20.8	-13.9	11.8	21.3
Non-factor services	-35.2	-45.0	-21.8	-35.0	-30.8	-28.2
Factor services	-25.4	-14.2	-36.8	-34.3	-30.9	-32.6
Unrequited private transfers	-3.2	-1.8	24.5	2.1	3.9	3.8
Balance on current account	-24.6	-47.7	-13.3	-81.1	-46.0	-35.7
<u>Capital account</u>						
Private capital	0.4	39.3	-52.4	-11.8	-4.6	-15.2
Government grants	22.8	179.0	89.1	77.5	55.5	68.6
Government loans received	12.5	13.9	-	-	22.4	-
Repayments on government loans	-3.2	-151.4	-1.3	-1.3	-1.1	-0.7
Other government capital	-1.0	1.6	-1.5	-1.2	-0.7	3.4
Capital movements by banks	0.7	-	-0.1	-	-2.5	2.7
Balance on capital account	31.4	82.4	33.8	63.2	69.0	58.8
Allocation of Special Drawing Rights	-	-	-	-	-	3.4
Errors and omissions	-	-	-	0.4	0.3	-0.1
Balance on total account	6.8	34.7	20.5	-17.5	23.3	26.4

Source: Central Bank of Suriname.

(a) January-September.

Table 9

SURINAME: EXPORTS OF GOODS'

	Millions of dollars				Percentage breakdown		Growth rates		
	1976	1977	1978	1979(a)	1970	1977	1977	1978	1979(b)
	<u>Bauxite, alumina and aluminium</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>283</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>86.9</u>	<u>81.7</u>	<u>19.4</u>	<u>-12.5</u>	6.2
Bauxite	57	66	72	51	25.7	19.0	16.1	9.9	-4.7
Alumina	141	158	175	140	46.3	45.5	11.5	11.1	9.8
Aluminium	39	59	62	46	14.9	17.2	52.7	3.6	9.1
<u>Agricultural products</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>54</u>	...	...	<u>4.1</u>	<u>15.6</u>	<u>1.1</u>	...	...
Rice	23	22	...	...	2.7	6.3	-6.5	...	...
Bananas and plantains	4	3	...	...	1.4	1.0	-7.7	...	...
Shrimps	27	29	...	...	-	8.3	8.9	...	...
<u>Wood and wood products</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2.7</u>	<u>1.8</u>	<u>-6.0</u>	<u>11.8</u>	<u>60.5</u>
Others	7	3	...	...	6.3	0.9	-53.2	...	...
<u>Total (c)</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>346</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>313</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>13.9</u>	<u>13.7</u>	<u>7.7</u>

Source: Central Bank of Suriname and Ministry of Agriculture.

(a) January-September.

(b) January-September 1979 with respect to January-September 1978.

(c) Derived from the balance of payments.

Table 10

SURINAME: EVOLUTION OF DOMESTIC PRICES

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
	<u>Variation between annual averages</u>						
Consumer price index	13.0	16.9	8.6	9.8	9.8	8.8	14.9
Food and beverages	22.5	16.8	7.4	9.9	7.3	4.9	12.8
Housing and furnishing	3.5	23.9	8.8	6.7	7.5	17.0	12.5
Clothing and footwear	10.9	12.5	12.9	18.0	21.0	14.8	24.4
Other items	6.8	12.7	8.3	10.2	10.5	6.3	15.5

Source: Bureau of Statistics, Suriname, Prijsindexcijfers van der Gezinsconsumptie.

Table 11/

SURINAME: MONETARY BALANCE

	Balance at end of: (millions of Suriname florins)				Growth rates (a)		
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979
	<u>Money</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>219</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>10.8</u>	<u>12.2</u>	11.1
Currency outside banks	110	125	145	156	14.3	15.8	7.8
Demand deposits	88	94	101	117	6.3	7.5	15.9
<u>Factors of expansion</u>	<u>494</u>	<u>577</u>	<u>712</u>	<u>806</u>	<u>17.5</u>	<u>23.5</u>	<u>13.1</u>
Foreign assets (net)	246	211	282	334	-12.8	33.4	18.4
Domestic credit	249	366	431	472	47.1	17.7	9.6
Government (net)	8	70	58	36	825.0	-17.9	-37.1
Private sector	241	296	373	436	22.6	26.2	16.9
<u>Factors of absorption</u>	<u>261</u>	<u>325</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>493</u>	<u>24.5</u>	<u>34.2</u>	<u>14.9</u>
Quasi-money (savings and time deposits)	32	33	37	39	2.8	10.9	5.7
Long-term foreign borrowing	234	296	364	421	26.9	25.7	15.7
Other items (net)	27	28	65	72	-20.5	3.7	131.9

Source: Central Bank of Suriname.

(a) Calculated on the basis of unrounded data.

Table 12

SURINAME: LOANS AND ADVANCES OF COMMERCIAL BANKS(a)

	Millions of Suriname florins at 30 September			Percentage breakdown		Growth rates		
	1977	1978	1979	1974	1979	1977	1978	1979
	Agriculture	30.3	39.2	54.1	6.1	12.3	52.3	29.4	38.0
Fishery	1.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.1	-46.4	-73.3	25.0
Forestry	0.7	1.4	1.6	0.1	0.3	1.2	100.0	14.3
Mining	28.3	25.4	27.6	7.0	6.3	-2.1	-10.2	8.7
Manufacturing	30.5	37.2	44.3	17.4	10.1	21.5	22.0	19.1
Construction	11.0	15.4	21.3	2.3	4.9	19.1	40.0	38.3
Electricity, gas and water	13.4	20.3	19.2	5.1	4.4	24.1	51.5	-5.4
<u>Subtotal productive sectors</u>	<u>115.7</u>	<u>139.3</u>	<u>168.6</u>	<u>38.4</u>	<u>38.4</u>	<u>20.3</u>	<u>20.4</u>	<u>21.0</u>
Commerce	94.7	122.5	136.0	32.2	31.0	29.2	29.4	11.0
Transport	7.5	9.4	12.6	1.5	2.9	38.9	25.3	34.0
Services	10.0	9.2	16.5	3.0	3.8	16.3	-8.0	79.4
Other (including building loans)	74.2	93.9	105.0	24.9	23.9	6.5	26.6	11.8
<u>Subtotal services</u>	<u>186.4</u>	<u>237.0</u>	<u>270.1</u>	<u>61.6</u>	<u>61.6</u>	<u>18.7</u>	<u>27.2</u>	<u>14.0</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>302.1</u>	<u>376.3</u>	<u>438.7</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>19.3</u>	<u>24.6</u>	<u>16.6</u>

Source: Central Bank of Suriname.

(a) Includes Suriname Postal Savings Bank.

