

sources of instability were controlled and the country was able to maintain a 3.4% average real growth rate throughout the decade.

The government has made an important contribution to development by building costly infrastructures for transportation, communications, power generation and distribution, drinking water systems and other services which are essential for industrial and urban growth. Additionally, the land reform, together with rural development programs and modern taxation systems, have contributed to the improvement of the country's property and income structure.

The once all-important agricultural activities have been substituted by a diversification of the manufacturing industry, mining and construction. At present agriculture and manufactured goods account for nearly 40% of the Gross Domestic Product, while mining accounts for 8% and construction and public works for 6%.

The manufacturing industry accounts for approximately 20% of the Gross Domestic Product and has made substantial progress in the production of consumer goods. However, it is still affected by the limitations of a small domestic market and the capacity of the production plants which have not allowed for a greater production of intermediate and capital goods.

Coffee, which had historically been the largest export product, at present accounts only for 25% of foreign sale revenues. Its importance has diminished as a result of the growth in exports of products such as hydrocarbons, coal, precious metals, emeralds and the so-called minor exports which comprise other agricultural products and mass-consumption manufactured goods.

Most of the external financing comes from multi-lateral credit agencies such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and other institutions before which Colombia appears as the sole Latin American nation which did not reschedule its foreign debt service during the difficult years of the region's economic crisis. On the contrary, the country's foreign debt and trade indicators and the position of its international reserves reflect quite a positive situation in 1991.

The policies adopted by the government in the past year have improved the prospects of the Colombian economy despite the problems of public order derived from the country's struggle against drug traffic and the two guerrilla groups that still remain active after the government effort to achieve peace and democratize the political life in the country.