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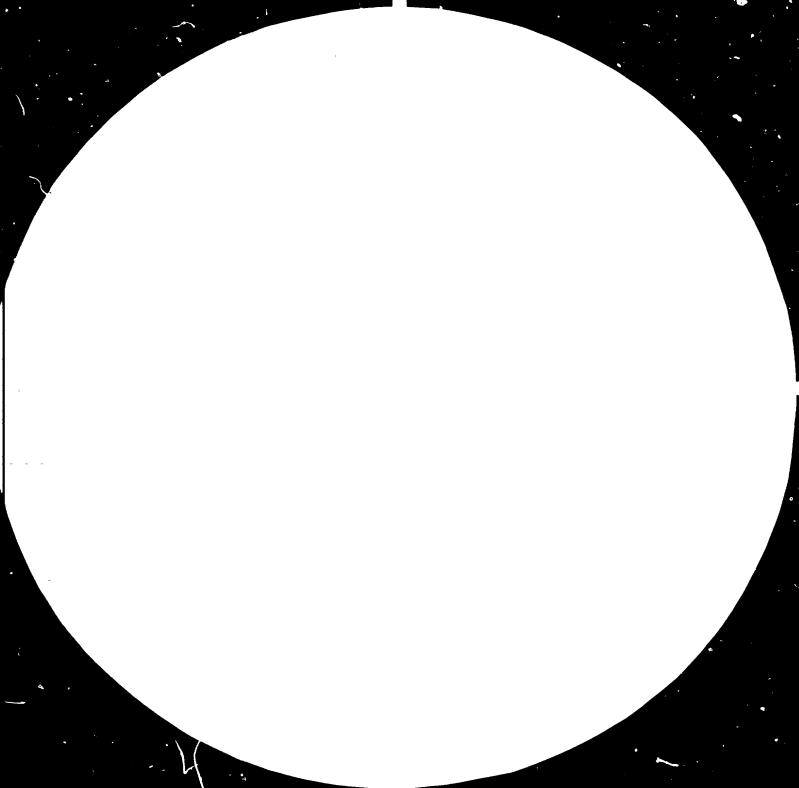
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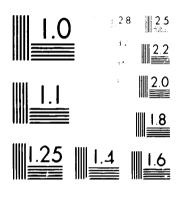
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UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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ENGLISH

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

Country Brief*

Prepared by the
Regional and Country Studies Branch
Division for Industrial Studies

69 - 13

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PREFACE

The Division for Industrial Studies, Regional and Country Studies Branch, undertakes within its work programme the preparation of Country Industrial Development Briefs. These briefs are desk studies, providing statistical and economic analysis of the manufacturing sector, its recent growth, present status and future prospects. It is hoped that the briefs will provide information which will be useful particularly in programming technical assistance and in industrial redeployment and investment activities.

The country brief on the Central African Republic is based on documents, reports, and publications available at the Joint ECA/UNIDO Industry Division, Addis Ababa. No field survey has been undertaken and this is the main reason why some of the data and the information contained in this document are neither up-to-date nor comprehensive.

The views and comments expressed in this brief do not reflect those of the Government of the Central African Republic nor do they officially commit the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to any particular course of action.

SELECTED BASIC INFORMATION

Land area:

620,000 sq. km

Population:

2.3 million (1979 estimate)

Main towns (population in 1979): Bangui, the capital (301,000)

Barberati (93,000) Bambari (35,000)

Languages:

French, official language;

numerous local languages

Education:

Literacy estimated at 18 per cent.

About 200,000 students enrolled.

Currency unit:

CFA_franc (CFAF) - 100 cents

US \$1.00:

CFAF 214.32 (1975)

CFAF 245.00 (1976-1977) CFAF 220.00 (1978)

CFAF 330.00 (1982)

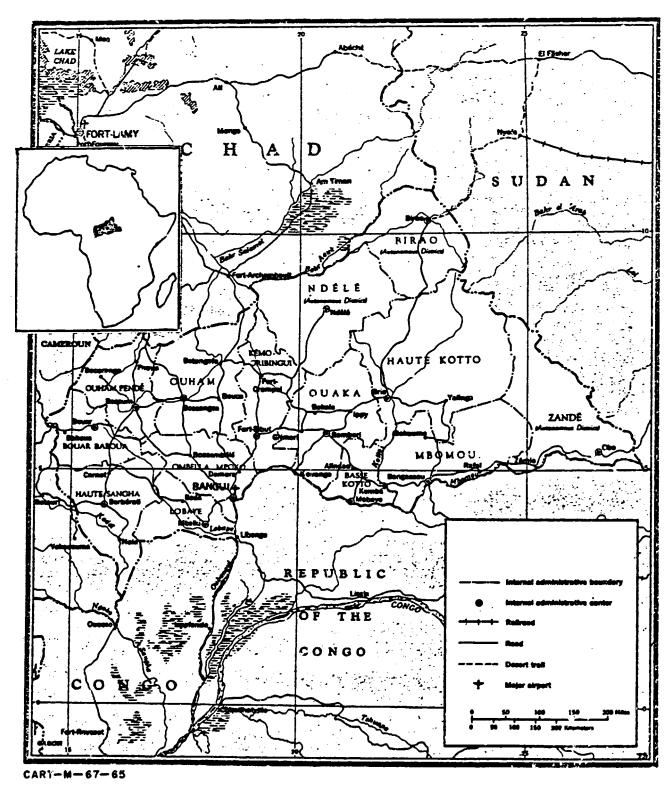
Weights and measures:

metric system

Fiscal year:

January 1 - December 31

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



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SUNYARY AND CONCLUSTORS

The Republic is classified by the United Nations as one of the world's least developed countries and is among those most seriously affected by the present world economic crisis. According to the Government estimates, per capita gross national product (GNP) at constant prices has been declining in recent years, from CFAF 56,760 in 1977, to CFAF 46,100 in 1980. This decline has been attributed to a lack of investment and poor administration under the previous regime. Per capita CMP in 1980 at current prices is estimated by the Government at \$310.

The economy is essentially agricultural and has a large subsistence sector. There are an estimated 350,000 farms with an average farm size of 1.7 hectares. With a working population of 1.1 million, only 50,000 are directly engaged in wage labour and of these 25,000 are employed by the State. 1

Most of the country's food-stuffs are locally produced. Cassava is the predominant food crop except in the north-east, where millet is grown. Other food crops are ground-nuts, maize, yams, sesame, rice and vegetables.

Cattle breeding is an important and traditional activity. The cattle herd is estimated at 1,150,000 head, with about 800,000 of these located in the western zone centered on Bouar, and about 350,000 in the eastern zone centered on Bambari.

The Republic has a diversified natural rescurce base, producing diamonds, coffee, cotton, timber and tobacco, and these constitute the principal exports. Palm oil and its products appear also to have potential. However, owing to a combination of factors, including lack of investment and past mismanagement, the productive potential

^{1 /} ECA/UNIDO Report.

of the country's assets is far from being realized. It is the intention of the new Government of the Republic to carry out a programme of economic rehabilitation.

The country is handicapped, however, by its landlocked position. Exports and imports moving between the Central African Republic and the nearest ports must pass over routes which are for the most part in neighbouring countries. High transport costs make the country's exports less competitive and inflate the domestic prices of imports.

Internal transport relies almost exclusively on the road network, much of which is in need of rehabilitation and reconstruction. The long distances with the sparsely-populated country make for high transport costs and necessitate high investment in vehicles, road maintenance and road construction.

The Republic is a member of the Central African Customs Union (UDEAC) and the Bank of Central African States (BEAC) and is a party to the Lome Convention with the European Economic Community.

I. ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

1. Physical Characteristics

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a landlocked country in Equatorial Africa, with an area of 620,000 square kilometers. It is classified by the United Nations as one of the world's least developed countries and is among those seriously affected by the present economic crisis.

The country is bordered on the west by Cameroon, on the north by Chad on the east by the Sudan and on the south by Zaire and the People's Republic of Congo. The vegatation is equatorial forest in the southern part of the country and Sudanese savannah in the north, with large transitional areas of wooded savannah which are more suitable for animal husbandry than for crop production. The climate is hot and humid: equatorial in the south, inter-tropical in the central region and sub-Sahelian in the extreme north. There are two rainy sessons, August through November and April through May.

2. Population

The country has a relatively small population, officially estimated at 2,362,400 on 1 December 1980. The population density is 3.7 per square kilometer and the average annual growth rate of the population is 2.5 per cent. However, the urban population is growing at an average rate of 6 per cent while rural population is growing at 1.6 per cent. As Table 1 shows, out of 2,362,400 persons, only 688,300 or 29.1 per cent live in urban centers and 1,647,100 or 70.9 per cent live in rural areas. In 1975, 46.8 per cent of the population was under 15 years, 53.2 per cent between 15 and 59 years and 3.6 per cent over 60 years.

Table 1 Central African Republic - Demographic characteristics
1975-1980

Α.	Geographical	distribution
A:	RECEIRDITICAL	GT2 rt. Thir r TOU

Population (in thousand)	1975	1976	~977	1978	1979	1980
Urban	534.2	559.1	584.9	611.3	659.4	688.3
Rural	1,553.8	1,581.1	1,608.8	1,637.2	1,645.4	1,674.1
Total	2,088.0	2,140.2	2,193.7	2,248.5	2,304.8	2,362.4

B: Distribution by sex and age, 31 December 1975

Àge	у.	ales	F	emales	Tot	Total	
	People	Percentage	People	Percentage	People	Percentage	
0-5	207.0	20.2	213.0	20.0	420.0	20.1	
6-14	249.7	24.4	232.6	21.9	482.3	23.1	
15-59	526.6	51.5	583.7	54.8	1,110.3	53-2	
60 and plus	39.8	3•9	35.6	3•3	75-4	3.6	
Total	1,023.1	100.0	1.064.9	100.0	2,088.0	100.0	

Source: United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 1981
Document LDC/CP/20, pp. 29 and 30.

3. Labour Force, Employment and Wages

As shown in Table 2, the country's labour force increased from 1,208,500 in 1979 to 1,261,000 in 1980. However, the share of total population accounted for by the labour force declined slightly from 52.4 per cent in 1979, to 52.1 per cent in 1980. This is due to the relatively high natality rate, which lead to a decline in the average age of the population. Furthermore, as can be noted from Table 1: B, the number of women between 15 and 59 years is higher than the number of men. This imbalance is a partial explanation of the structure of labour force, since the female component between 15 and 59 years is about 11 per cent larger than the male one.

Table 2 Central African Republic - Labour force, 1979-1980

	1	979 -		1980
Labour Force	People	Percentage of total population	Paople	Percentage of total population
Ken	572,900	24.9	598,900	24.7
Women	635,600	27.6	662,100	27.4
Total	1,208,500	52.4	1,261,000	52.1

Source: United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 1981, Document LDC/CP/20, p.32

Accurate data on employment are not available. What is known is that the country has a large subsistence agriculture sector which employs approximately 80 per cent of the labour force. The number of wage earners also is far from certain. It was estimated to be 50,000 in 1980, half of whom were employed in the public sector. No information on incomes and government income policy is available. However, provisions for wages in the government budget rose from 9.0 billion CFAF in 1975, to 18.7 billion CFAF in 1980. Wages and other salaries represented 64.6 per cent of government total expenditures in 1980, as shown in Table 3 below:

Table 3 Central African Republic's Government expenditure, 1980

Item	Amount in billion CFAF	Percentage
Wages and salaries	19.7	64.6
Equipment and furniture	6.2	20.3
Official debt service	1.4	4.6
Other payments and transfers	2.2	7.2
Other Equipment	1.0	3•3
Total Government Expenditure	30•5	100.0

Source: United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 1981, Document LDC/CP/20, p. 89.

^{1/} U.S. Department of Commerce, International Marketing Information Series, Market Profiles for Africa, June 1981, OBR 81-14, 2.7.

4. Transport System

The country is handicapped by its landlocked position. Indeed, international transport relies almost exclusively on the road network, much of which is in need of rehabilitation and reconstruction. The long distances within the sparsely-populated country make for high transport costs and necessitate high investment in vehicles, road maintenance and construction.

Exports and imports moving between the Central African Republic and the nearest ports, located at a distance of 1,800 kilometers (Pointe-Noire) and of 1,400 kilometers (Douala) must pass over routes which are for the most part in neighbouring countries. The transport connexion to the Atlantic Ocean is by way of the Oubangui - Congo river to Brazzaville (1,300 kilometers) and then by railway to Pointe-Noire (510 kilometers). During the dry season, between January and April, river traffic is very limited. There is a road connexion with the port of Douala in Cameroon. Parts of this access route are currently being upgraded with external assistance.

The road network consists of 5,025 kilometers of state roads, 3,880 kilometers of regional roads, and over 12,000 kilometers of rural feeder roads. But only 442 kilometers are paved, and the rest are in poor condition, largely due to the lack of both financial and technical resources required for maintentance.

River traffic has been declining since 1973. In 1978, it represented 70 per cent of the freight as against 90 per cent in 1973. The situation was even worse in 1979. A number of factors such as the fluctuating level of the river, inadequate services from the Congolese transit points, and unsatisfactory performance of the Congo-Ocean railway, are partly responsible for this deterioration. Another important factor was the misfunctioning of the parastatal "Agence Centrafricaine de Communications Fluviales (ACCF)" which was unable to promote and stimulate fluvial transport due to a wide range of shortcomings such as personnel and financial mismanagement and absence of

^{1/} ECA/UNIDO Report.

equipment maintenance. However, following the organization of a mixed group ACCF/SOCATRAF (Société Centrafricaine des Transports Fluvial) in April 1980, a four year programme to rehabilitate traffic was started which already has achieved encouraging results.

Development and operation of the air transportation system is also uneven. There are 39 airfields, but only 12 of these are connected with the only international airport, Bangui-Mpoko. While international air service is relatively satisfactory, domestic air service is very poor.

5. Gross National Product (GNP)

During the 70s, gross national product at current prices increased but its average annual growth rate was less than that of the population. As a result, per capita GNP recorded a 5 per cent average annual decrease during this period. During 1977-80, GNP fell from 123.0 billion CFAF to 107.6 billion CFAF (in real terms). Consequently, per capita real GNP which has been declining in recent years, dropped from CFAF 56,760 in 1977, to CFAF 46,100 in 1980.

6. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and its Sectoral Composition

Table 4 reports the shares of value added by sector in 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975 and 1978.

Table 4 Central African Republic - Sectoral shares of GDP, 1965-1978, selected years

Sector	1960	1965	1970	1975	1978
Agriculture	46.22	41.63	33.44	36.97	35.28
Mining and Quarrying	3.09	5.26	4.51	3.05	2.29
Manufacturing	6.68	8.59	12.76	12.32	13.59
Utilities	0.37	C.74	1.65	1.82	1.99
Construction	4.32	5.06	4.33	3.31	3.98
Services	39.31	38.72	43.32	42.53	42.87
CDP (US 1975 dollar million)	316.5	328.5	392.3	397.5	445.8

Source: Industrial Data System, Regional and Country Studies Branch, Division of Industrial Studies, UNID.

Except manufacturing and utilities, which gained substantially most in their shares (from 6.68 and 0.32 per cent in 1960 to 13.59 and 1.99 per cent, respectively, in 1978), the rest of the sectors either remained about the same in their relative position or recorded noticeable reductions. As Table 4 shows, agriculture's share of value added in GDP was reduced from 46.22 per cent in 1960 to 33.44 per cent in 1970. However, this relative share increased to 36.97 per cent in 1975 and in 1978 stood at 35.28 per cent. The mining and quarrying sector also experienced peaks and troughs with the highest recorded share in 1965 (5.26 per cent) and the lowest in 1978 (2.29 per cent).

Table 5 Central African Republic - Trend growth rates of economic sectors and GDP (in per cent), 1960-1978

Year	Agriculture	Mining and Quarrying	Manufacturing	Utilities	Construction	Services	GDP
1960-7	8 0.6	-0.4	5.5	11.9	-0.6	2.6	2.0
1960-6	5 -1.5	13.7	7.0	17.3	2.3	-0.8	0.3
1965-7	0 -0.2	0. 8	11.1	20.4	5.9	5.8	4.0
1970-7	5 2.8	-8.7	0.1	2.5	<u>-5.8</u>	-Ó.2	0.4
1975-7	8 2.5	-4.7	8.2	6.9	12.2	4.4	4.3

Source: Industrial Data System, Ibid

^{1/} Industrial Data System, op.cit.

Growth rates of real GDP over the period 1960-1978 by sector of origin are reported in Table 5. Increases were recorded in most of the sectors in the 1960s, except for agriculture. In the 1970s, mining and quarrying declined noticeably while all other sectors, especially during the 1975-78 period, registered growth rates ranging from 2.5 per cent in agriculture and 4.4 per cent in services, to 8.2 per cent in manufacturing and 12.2 per cent in construction.

GDP grew at the low rate of 2.0 per cent annually between 1960 and 1978. However, between 1975 and 1978, GDP grew farter at an avera: annual rate of 4.3 per cent. Only two identifiable sectors had a growth rate less than the rate of growth of GDP during that period: agriculture with an average annual growth rate, as it was mentioned earlier, of 2.5 per cent and mining and quarrying with an average annual decline of -4.7 per cent.

a) Agricul ure

The Central African Republic's economy is mainly agricultural. The agricultural sector's share of GDP remains predominant even though it has been declining from 46.22 per cent in 1960 to 35.28 per cent in 1978 and 32.0 per cent in 1980. The same sector involves roughly 80 per cent of the population and contributes over 50 per cent of total exports.

The main food crops include cassava (257,000 tons in 1979), groundnuts (95,000 tons), maize (34,000 tons), sorgo-mill (47,000 tons), sesame (10,000 tons) rice-paddy (12,000 tons) and fruits and vegetables (90,000 tons). The cash crops are principally cotton seed (27,800 tons), coffee (10,000 tons), and tobacco (1,800 tons).

^{1/} United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 1981, Documents LDC/CP/20, p.13.

Although the country has good potential for agricultural development, the sector has suffered from a long period of neglect. As a result of insufficient investment, deterioration of the road network, inadequate support services and absence of price incentives, the situation has become critical. The output of staple crops, at an average rate of growth of 1.6 per cent, has not kept pace with the expansion of population (2.5 per cent annually), resulting in some malnutrition, food shortage in some places, and high food prices in the urban centres. Indeed, during 1970/71-1977, the production of cassava and sorgo-mill grew only by 1.3 per cent and 1.2 per cent, respectively. During 1977-1979/80, the situation worsened as these growth rates fell to 0.5 per cent and 0.7 per cent, respectively. Furthermore, at the same time, the production of the two main export crops has either stagnated (coffee) or decreased (cotton).

b) Mining

Although the country seems to have some mineral potential, including uranium (671,000 tons of ore proven reserves at Bakouma), hydrocarbons (forests, north and north east), limestone (Bangui), and gold (300 metric tons of ore produced in 1979) $\frac{2}{1}$, at present only diamond mining constitutes an important economic activity. This particular mineral is the country's major export earner, representing half of the total value of exports. 2 According to official statistics, the production of diamonds decre_sed from 600,000 carats in 1968, to 340,000 carats in 1980, $\frac{4}{}$ although over this perithe average price per carat has risen sharply. The bulk of the production is contributed by private individual diggers working in small teams; private foreign companies account for less than 10 per cent. Local cutting and polishing is on the increase. A significant part of the production, estimated at 50 per cent, is smuggled out of the country der iving the Government of some 4.3 million US dollars in revenue annually. The sector as a whole has been declining since 1970 (Tables 4 and 5).

^{1/} ECA/UNIDO Report.

^{2/} Market Profiles for Africa, op.cit.

Economist Intelligence Unit, Quarterly Economic Review of Cabon, Congo, Cameroon, C.A.R., Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Annual Supplement 1361, p.31.

ய∕ 3.I.U., <u>ioid.</u>

^{5/} Document LDC/CP/20 p.53, on.cit.

c) Energy

Electricity production and distribution are the responsibility of ENERCA, a State-owned corporation. Almost 10 per cent of the population has access to electricity and annual per capita consumption is only 22 kmh. Total consumption increased only by 3 per cent per annum during 1971-1979. Some other energy sources are either being used (although on a very small scale) or are likely to be used in the future. These include:

- Sclar energy: a project has been developed to install a solar pump at Berberati
- -- Biomass: scrap wood is already being used by forest companies for their steam generating stations; charcoal is extensively used mostly for household requirements
- Biogas could be used where livestock is developed

The country's hydro-electric potential is sizeable. The total installed capacity is only 29.55 MW. The capacity is inadequate in relation to demand and the distribution system in the whole country needs urgent repair as it is old and in poor condition.

II. THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

The manufacturing sector is almost entirely concentrated in the Bangui area. Small- and medium-scale manufacturing is predominant and production takes place in private units. The main activities in the manufacturing sector are the production of beer, soft drinks and textiles. Other goods manufactured locally include cut diamonds, cigars, cigarettes, edible oils, roasted coffee, plastic footwear, garments, sawn timber and veneer, sheet metal, bicycles and motorcycles, metal furniture, household goods, paints and varnishes, etc. In addition, there is a small automobile assembly plant (Citroen), a fruit juice cannery, shoe and cigarette/cigar factories, and a watch and clock assembly plant. There are also some craft/engineering workshops such as plumbing, cold storage plants, slaughterhouses, carpentry workshops, etc. Export trade in manufactures is very limited as tobacco and forest industries are the only contributing activities.

Productive capacity is grossly under utilized and in recent years several industrial plants were closed down. These include a flour mill, a brickmaking factory (BRICERAM), an industrial oil, soap and animal feeds plant, and two soap factories. At the same time, the decline of textile industries accelerated while footwear production by BATA decreased by 40 per cent between 1973 and 1980. The above unfavourable developments were not offset by the establishment of one cigarette factory (SACACIG), and one cigar factory (MANUCACIG), the expansion of the output of the brewery (MOCAF) and the establishment of a corrugated sheet and ridge-tile unit by COLALU. The Government has attributed the decline to a growing lack of confidence on the part of investors as well as to the rapid fall in the purchasing power of the population. 2/

Table 6 reports the shares, in selected years, of manufacturing activity accounted for by individual manufacturing brancies. The food, beverages, and tobacco branches represented in 1978 approximately 66 per cent of total value added (35.2 per cent in 1960). On the other hand, the shares of textiles and wearing apparel in total value added have been

^{1/} Market Profiles for Africa, op.cit.

^{2/} ECA/UNIDO Report; UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, A/Conf. 104/SP/21, 8 April 1981.

Table 6 Central African Republic - Branch structure of manufacturing value added (Branch shares in total NVA - per cent) 1/ selected years

Branch	ISIC	1960	1965	1970	-1975	1978	TGR * 1960-1978
Food products	3110	1.9	3.1	1.4	2.3	3•5	7.4
Paverages	3130	16.0	27.1	12.4	19.9	30.3	7.4
Tobacco	3140	17.3	29.3	13.4	21.5	32.7	7.4
Textiles	3210	52.5	32.2	40.3	28.2	12.9	3.1
Wearing apparel	3220	7.7	4.8	5•9	4.2	1.9	3.1
Leather and fur products	3230	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Pootwear	3240	-	-	_		-	-
Wood products	3310	4.7	3,-2	2.1	9-3	10.9	13.8
Furniture and fixtures	3320	-	-	_	-	-	-
Paper	3410	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Printing and publishing	3420	-	_	_	-	-	-
Industrial chemicals	3510	-	•	0.7	1.2	1.0	5.5
Other chemical products	3520	-	-	1.4	2.3	1.9	5•5
Petroleum refineries	3530	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	_
Misc. products of petroleum and coal	3540	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Rubber products	3550	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Plastic products	3560	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	_
Pottery, china and eartherware	3610	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Glass	3620	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Other non-metallic mineral products	3690	-	0.0	2.2	0.7	_	-24. 2
Iron and steel	3710	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Non-ferrous metals	3720	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Metal products, except machinery	3810	-	0.3	0.6	1.2	-	12.1
Electrical machinery	3830	-	0.1	0.1	0.2	_	12.1
Transport equipment	3840	_	_	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.0
Professional and speicific equip- ment, photographic and optical tools	1850				2.5	-	26.9
other mamufactures	3850	-	-	1.7	0.5	-	-26.8
- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	3900	100 0	-	1.7	0.5	-	-26.8
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	7.4

^{1/} Branch shares are based on constant 1975 US\$. Although shares reflect industrial distribution more accurately if they are based on current values, in this case data are only available for all relevant years in constant US\$. However, an inspection of values and shares in current values available for two years only (1970,1975) and their comparison to the constant values for the same years reveals little or no differentiation.

^{*} Trend growth rate (in per cent).

Table 6 reports the shares, in selected years, of manufacturing activity accounted for by individual manufacturing branches. The food, beverages, and tobacco branches represented in 1978 approximately 66 per cent of total value added (35.2 per cent in 1960). On the other hand, the shares of textiles and wearing apparel in total value added have been reduced between 1960 and 1978 from 52.5 and 7.7 per cent in 1960 to 12.9 and 1.9 per cent in 1978, respectively. Wood products increased its share from 4.7 per cent in 1960, to 10.9 per cent in 1978, recording the highest average annual growth rate (13.8 per cent) of all manufacturing branches during the 1960-1978 period. In terms of average annual growth between 1960 and 1978, wood products have been followed by metal products (except machinery) and electrical machinery (12.1 per cent), footwear (7.8 per cent), food, beverages and tobacco (7.4 per cent), chemicals (5.5 per cent) and textiles and wearing apparel (3.1 per cent).

As becomes clear from Table 6, manufacturing activity is concentrated in only a few manufacturing branches with an average annual rate of increase of manufacturing output of 7.4 per cent between 1960 and 1978.

Additional information on patterns and trends in manufacturing is provided by the data in Table 7. This table shows the distribution by branch of manufacturing value added, wages and salaries in manufacturing, employment in manufacturing, number of establishments, gross fixed capital formation and gross output in 1973 and 1976. The table shows that wages and salaries earned in food, beverages and tobacco products, accounted for 18.3 per cent of the total earned in manufacturing in 1973, and that in 1976, wages and salaries earned in these branches accounted for 33.0 per cent of the total. Noticeable increases in the relative shares are recorded for all of the indicators in the food, beverages and tobacco branches. Textiles and wearing apparel commanded by far the largest share in employment, wages and salaries, gross output, and gross fixed capital formation in both 1973 and 1976. However, during this period there has been a tremendous reduction in these shares.

Table 7 Central African Republic - Selected industrial indicators, by manufacturing branch, 1973 and 1976

ISIC	311B			321B			3320A Wood products/ furniture		
Indicator	Food and beverages			Textiles and wearing apparel					
	1973	1976	Ratio	1973	1976	Ratio	1973	1976	Ratio
Establishments Employment Wages and salaries Gross output	23.1 9.1 18.3 28.6	27.3 22.3 33.0 39.9	1.18 2.45 1.80 1.39	25.6 79.2 63.4 58.9	21.2 59.8 45.1 43.4	0.82 0.75 0.71 0.73	15.4 2.5 4.7 2.1	18.2 5.5 6.2 3.1	1.18 2.20 1.31 1.47
Gross fixed capital formation Manufacturing value added	31.3 34.8	35.1 48.5	1.12	58.9 53.1	41.6	0.70	3.2	6.0 4.0	1.25

ISIC		351A			381C	
		Chemical	.8		ietal pro	iucts
Indicator	1973	1976	natio	1973	1976	Ratio
Establishments	10.3	9.1	0.88	25.6	24.2	0.94
Employment	2.0	2.1	1.05	7.2	10.2	1.41
Wages and salaries	3.6	4.3	1.19	10.6	11.3	1.06
Gross output	3.0	3.1	1.03	7.4	10.5	1.41
Gross fixed capital						
formation	17.8	1.2	0.06	1.0	16.2	16.2
Mamufacturing value						
added	3.0	2.9	0.96	5.8	8.0	1.37

Indicator		Total	Increase		
	1973	1976	Ratio		
Establishments					
(in units)	39	33	0.84	1.18	
Employment					
(in units)	7,512	4.637	0.61	1.62	
Wages and salaries		1,569*	1.15	0.86	
Gross output	11,456*		1.00	0.99	
Gross fixed capital		, , ,			
formation	387*	599*	1.54	0.64	
Manufacturing value	J .		> +		
added	50*	47*	0.94	1.06	
	•	* 1	, ,	2.00	

Note:	321B	includes: includes: includes:	3210,	3220,	3230	
	351A		3510,	3520		3840

⁺ in million CFAF.

Although comparison of distributions in two years may be unduly influenced by unusal events in the years selected and the closeness of the selected years does not provide the bases for depicting a trend, in general the changes reflected in Table 7 fairly reflect changes over a longer period. Changes in the distribution of any indicators, both absolute and relative to other indicators, are most easily analyzed by reference to the columns of the table denoted by "Ratio". These columns repor the ratios of the shares in 1976, to corresponding shares in 1973. Ratios of greater than 1.0 indicate that the share of the industrial branch in question has increased; ratios of less than 1.0 indicate that it has decreased.

Whether or not a given branch had a larger number of employees or establishments in 1976 than in 1973 can also be determined by comparing the branch's ratios with the corresponding figures reported in the very last column of the table, denoted by "increase".

For example, all branches reporting a ratio for establishments of 1.18 or greater had at least as large a number of establishments in 1976 as in 1973; all reporting a ratio of less than this amount had fewer establishments in 1976 than in 1973.

Examination of Table 7 reveals several interesting patterns. First, there is a shift toward employment in food, beverages, wood products and furniture. The shift has been away from textiles and wearing apparel products.

Second, the distribution of wages and salaries has shifted toward food, beverages, wood products, chemical and metal products. A similar shift is observed in the distribution of gross output.

Third, in terms of manufacturing value added the distribution clearly has shifted toward food and beverages, wood products, and metal products.

¹/ See also appendices for a more complete set of data on distribution of the various manufacturing activities shown in Table 7.

Fourth, the absolute number of establishments in some branches did not increase, such as, food and beverages, wood products, and furniture; alternatively, in the branches of textiles, wearing apparel, chemicals and metal products the number of establishments fell. No branch recorded an increase in the number of its establishments over the period considered. As noted in Table 7, no branch has a ratio for establishments greater than 1.18.

Finally, from the available information, shares of investment shifted toward food, beverages, and metal products.

III. INDUSTRIAL POLICY

The Government is aiming to revive industrial production. Although the country is handicapped by several constraints (see Section V below), the Government believes that opportunities for manufacturing activity exist, especially in the processing of the country's available raw materials. Among the manufacturing processes considered to be economically viable are the production of textiles, clothes, cigarettes, soap, shoes and honey for import substitution.

To this end, the Government is encouraging mixed economy undertakings and inviting private investment to associate with existing public enterprises with a view to strengthening these enterprises and promoting the processing of raw materials such as cotton fiber and groundnuts. Fiscal incentives are provided for, especially in respect of production taxes. A new investment code was published in May 1980, which seeks to regularize conditions under which private investors function and to create, through fiscal and tax advantages, a climate of stability, thereby providing incentives for private investment in the country.

The activities of the Office de Promotion des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises are being reactivated by strengthening this Office and increasing the financial, physical, and human resources available to it. The Ministry of Industry also has been strengthened by providing foreign technical assistance in order to enable it to improve its performance of planning and co-ordination of studies.

Studies have been embarked upon in connexion with new projects, namely undertaking of an in-depth study of a cement plant, of rehabilitation and re-opening of the brickmaking factory, of a soap factory, and of financing for a tannery. Studies of pharmaceuticals have been continued. 1

^{1/} ECA/UNIDO Report.

IV. TRADE STRUCTURE

The country is heavily dependent upon foreign trade. Most of the Government's revenue is derived from export earnings and 80 per cent of consumer goods are imported. The total value of exports declined during 1976-1979. These exports consisted mainly of diamonds (31 per cent), coffee (27 per cent), wood (23 per cent), cotton (9 per cent), tobacco (4 per cent). According to preliminary information available for 1980, there are indications that the volume of diamond exports rose by 25 per cent whereas their value remained unchanged during 1978-1980. During the same period the value of coffee exports declined by 38 per cent and their volume by 14 per cent. Timber was the only export commodity recording an increase in the value of exports, whereas no change was observed in the volume. The main export markets are France and other EEC countries. The share of UDEAC is negligible.

Unlike the declining trend shown by the exports, the total value of imports has been rising. From 1976 to 1977 there was a 13 per cent increase in the imports volume and a 24 per cent increase in value. This value then fell in 1978, amounting to 20 billion CEAF before skyrocketing to an estimated 32 billion CEAF in 1980. The country's main imports are minerals (18 per cent, out of which 16 per cent represent the value of fuel imports), transport machinery (11 per cent), food imports, and related industrial items (5 per cent).

The marked increase in the value of imports in 1980, as compared with 1979, stems in part from the increased volume of imports which has been necessitated by the Government's investment programme for the years 1980 and 1981. It is also worth noting that freight a d insurance represent a substantial debit item in the current account of this landlocked country. The main supplier countries are France (over 50 per cent of the Central African Republic's total imports), other EEC countries, and UDEAC from which the Central African Republic's imports amount up to 3 billion CFAF in value. Among the UDEAC countries, Cameroon is the Central African Republic's main trade partner.

^{1/} ECA/UNIDO Report.

V. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

As a combined result of the above mentioned decline in the value of exports and the increase in that of imports of the Central African Republic, the trade surplus, which was 1.2 billion CFAF in 1976, 3.1 billion CFAF in 1977, and 0.9 billion CFAF in 1978, was changed into a fast growing deficit of 2.5 billion CFAF in 1979, and 19 billion CFAF in 1980 (see Table 8).

Table 8 Balance of payments (billion CFAF), 1976-1982

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981*	1982*
Exports F.O.B.	19.3	28.6	27.8	26.0	23.6	25.4	20.2
Coffee	4.3	10.8	8.0	6.9	5.0	5.1	5.5
Diamonds	3.4	5•5	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.5	10.0
Cotton	5.0	4.8	2.9	2.4	2.2	2.6	3.7
Tobacco	1.3	1.9	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.5
Timber	4.3	-4.6	5•5	5•9	5.8	6.2	7.0
Miscellaneous	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.8	2.0
Imports F.O.B.	-18.1	-25.5	-26.9	-28.5	-42.6	-45.9	-46.8
Trade balance	1.2	3.1	0.9	-2.5	-19.0	-20.5	-17.1
Services	-9.7	-16.0	-16.7	-19.1	-21.9	-25.9	-28.7
Goods and Services balance	-8.5	-12.9	-15.8	-21.6	-42.9	-46.4	−45. ℃
Private transfers	-1.0	-0.2	-1.0	-2.0	-2.5	-2.8	-3.0
Current paymonts balance	-9.5	-13.1	8	-23.6	-43.4	-49.2	-48.8
official transfers	10.8	8.7	11.0	18.5	26.2	30.8	31.3
Non monetary capital	. 4.5	1.7	3•5	7.3	14.6	13.5	13.7
Monetary capital	-2.0	3.2	-0.9	-0.7	-3.0	_	-
DIS allocation	-	-	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	-
Errors and omissions (net)	-0.1	-0.3	0.7	-0.4	-	_	-
Overall balance (net)	3.7	0.2	-2.5	1.6	~5.1	-4.4	-3.8
Reserves and related items	-3.7	-1.2	0.8	- 5.0	2.6	1.4	3.8
IMF reserves	_	-	0.5	_	0.5		-
DIS	0.2		0.1	-	-	-	-
Foreign exchange and other							
assets	-5.2	-1.2	1.0	-4.4	2.1	2.0	4.0
IMF credit allocation	1.3	-	0.2	-0.6	-	2.4	-0.2
Special financing	-	1.0	1.7	3.4	2.5		

Source: United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 1981, Document LDC/CP/20, p. 97.

Based on information provided by:

1976-79 : Comité National De La Balance Des Paiements

1980 : Estimation Banque Centrale (ECAC)

1981-82 : Previsions FML (Dec. 1980)

^{*} Porecasts

At the same time, the balance of services recorded a deficit which rose from 9.7 billion CFAF in 1976 to 16.0 billion CFAF in 1977 before reaching 21.9 billion CFAF in 1980. Consequently, the deficit on the balance of goods and services, which amounted to 8.5 billion CFAF in 1976, rose to 40.9 billion CFAF in 1980, and the deficit on current account, which was 9.5 billion CFAF in 1976, totaled 43.4 billion CFAF in 1980. According to Government projections, these deficits will be further increased in 1981, when the deficit on current account is expected to total 49.2 billion CFAF.

Meanwhile, inflows of capital have recorded a notable increase, rising from an annual average 10 billion CFAF during 1976-78 to 18.5 billion CFAF in 1979, and 26.2 billion CFAF in 1980. These capital inflows which included public transfers, direct private investments, and public and private long- and short-term loans, contributed to bringing the overall external account into or close to balance in recent years. The balance of payments surplus which occured during almost ten consecutive years, reached 3.7 billion CFAF in 1976, before falling to 0.2 billion CFAF in 1977, and turning into a deficit of 2.5 billion CFAF in 1978, and 5.1 billion CFAF in 1980. The 1980 deficit was financed with the Country's reserves (2.6 billion CFAF) and special financing (2.5 billion CFAF).

^{1/} ECA/UNIDO Report.

VI. CONSTRAINTS ON DEVELOPMENT

A wide range of constraints inhibit industrialization as well as overall economic development of the country. These include:

- Weak institutional infrastructure for planning, preparing, implementing and monitoring development projects
- Mismanagement of public sector enterprises and lack of technical-managerial skills
- Small size of the domestic market
- Limited market access in the foreign countries and inability to face the high competitiveness of the neighbouring coastal countries with maritime ports
- Inadequate foreign investment
- Unavailability of local raw materials
- High transport costs for raw materials due to the country's landlocked position, the poor condition of the roads and the soaring petrol prices
- Unavailability of cheap energy sources.

^{1/} ECA/UNIDO Report.

APPENLICES

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TABLE A-1

Central African Republic - Wages and salaries of employees (in million francs)

1510	197 VALUE		1472 Valuf/Share	197 VALUE/		197 Våluf./		197 VALUE		VALUE/		71-76 TGH
3)] A	307	25.9	•	250	18.3	442	26.7	527	34.5	518	33.0	14.6
414	603	50.1	-	-		-		-		-		
3214	-		•	R54	63.4	977	59.1	723	47.4	708	45.1	-8.5
3530	0	0.0	•	-		-		-		-		-1/6./
3240	-		•	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	_
33204	-		•	64	4.7	62	3.7	73	4 - 8	98	6.5	15.5
7410	0	0.0	-	_		-	_	-		-		19+9
3516	-		-	49	3.6	58	3.5	67	4.4	67	4.3	• • • • •
35.10	-		•	0	0.0	Ú	0.0	0	0.0	Ď	0.0	11-4
3540	-		-	Õ	0.0	Ď	0.0	ŭ	0.0	Ď	0.0	-
3550	-		-	Ō	0.0	Ô	0.0	ŏ	0.0	, i	0.0	-
3440	-		-	Ō	0.0	Ö	0.0	Ď	0.0	ŏ	0.0	-
3410	-	•	-	0	0.0	Ď	0.0	n	0.0	ň	0.0	-
3620	-		-	Ŏ	0.0	ő	0.0	ä	0.0	ŏ	0.0	-
3710	0	0.0	-	n	0.0	Ō	0.0	Ŏ	0.0	Ď	0.0	-
3720	O	0.0	-	Ä	0.0	ō	ñ. u	ä	0.0	Ň	0.0	-
3A1C	_		-	136	10.0	115	7.0	136	8.9	178	11.3	
3430	193	16.0	•					150	0.,	4.0	11.5	10.2
30008	101	8.4	_	_		-		_		_		-
	• 17 :	•••	_ •	-		_		-		•		-
TOTAL	1204	100.0	-	1363	100.0	1654	100.0	1526	100.0	1509	100.0	5.8

TGR = Trend growth rate (all growth rotes in per cent).

TABLE A-2

Central African Republic - Average number of employees (in units)

1810	JOY VALUE	ላዊ በ ለ ነላይ	AUTHENSE 1610	jay Hofyalufy	1 Smart	1472 VALUE/SHAHE	197 VALUE/		197 VALUE/		197 Value/		VALUE/		10M 10M
3114	417	4.7	-	-		•	-		-		-		-		-
31 JA	-		-	H42	9.4	-	680	9.1	1101	19.3	1049	15.0	1034	22.3	6.6
3214	1644	39.3	•	-		•	-		•		-		-	, , • ,	-
3210	-		-	2704	30.8	•	-		-		-		-		_
4516	-		. -	•		•	5453	79.2	3902	68.3	4924	73.9	2775	4,3,4	-14.5
3220	-		· •	593	6.6	-	-		-		-		-		- 11.00.0
1531	0	0.0	-	0	9.0	-	-		-		-		-		_
3240	-		-	-		-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	n	0.0	-
3310	1116	20.0	-	3047	40.6	-	0	0.0	0	0 • 0	0	0.0	0	0.0	_
3350	307	7.1	-	246	7.1	-	-		-		-		-		
3.1204	-,	,	-	-		-	188	2.5	164	2.9	108	2.5	256	5.6	10.0
3410	0	0.0	-	0	0.0	•	-		-		-	•	•		-
3420	43	1.5	-	-		-	-		-		-		-		_
3 m 1 v	553	5.5	-	-		-	152	2.0	158	2.8	134	2.0	.371	2.1	-4.7
3514A	-		-	111	1.2	-	-		-		-		-		-
35.40	-		-	-		-	0	0.0	0	0.0	C	0.0	ð	0.0	_
3540	-		-	-		-	0	0 • 0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	_
3650	-		-	-		-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	ņ	0.0	-
3550	-		-	-		· •	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-
1.10	-		-	•		-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	()	0.7	-
4620	-		-	-		-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.u	0	0.4	-
3/10	0	0.0	-	n	0.0	44	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	(1	0.0	-
3720	0	0.0	-	O	0.0	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	O.	0.0	-
31.14	460	11.5	•	-		-	-		-		-		-		_
3410	-	•	••	1405	3.3	-	-		-		-		-		_
3111	-		-	-		-	539	7.2	367	6 • H	365	5.8	474	10.7	-3.7
3930	-		-	149	2.1	-	-		-		-		-		-
3-4400	•		-	540	3.3	-	-		•		-		-		-
TOTAL	4295	100.0	-	4040	100.0	-	7512	100:0	5712	100.0	6660	100.0	46.37	100.0	-0.1

TGR = Trend growth rate (all growth rates in per cent).

1510	1 - 1 1 VAI UF/5		1972 VALUE/SHAPE	197 VALUE/	3 SHARE	197 VALUF/		197 Value/		197 VALUE/	6 Share	71-76 TGH
3)] 4	10	19.6	•	9	23.1	10	∂7.0	10	27.8	9	27.3	-0.9
351V	5	4.4	-	-		-		-		•		-
3214	-		-	10	25.6	10	27.0	Ą	25.0	7	21.2	-11.0
ろっこの	3	5.9	•	•		•	•	-		-		-
3 / 3 M	0	4.0	-	•		-		-		-		-
3240	•		-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	U. 0	0	0.0	-
7310	13	25.5	•	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	_
3320	4	7.8	•	•		-		-		-		~
ABSEE.	•		-	6	15.4	6	14.5	b	16.7	6	18.2	0.0
7410	n	0.0	- '	-		-		-		-		-
34144	3	5.9	-	-		•		-		-		_
3414	-		•	•	.10.3	•	10.4	4	11-1	3	9.1	-4.2
3~30	-	•	•	0	U. 0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-
3440	-		•	•	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-
3440	-		•	0	0.0	0	0.0	Ü	0.0	0	0.0	-
3560	-		•	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-
3419	-		•	•	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-
3420	-		•	0	0.0	•	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-
3710	0	0.0	-	n	9.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	٥	0.0 .	-
3720	n	9.0	-	10	1.1	۵	0.0	9	0.0	٥	0.0	-
3410	6	11.4	-	-		•	•	,		•		_
3416	-		-	10.	25.6	7	14.9	7	19.4	8	24.2	-0.4
363C	3	5.9	-	•		-		-		-		= 17 4 4
39000	4	7.4	₩.	•		-		-		-		-
JATAL	31	100.0	•	34	100.0	37	100.0	36	100.0	33	100.0	,-7.A

TGR - Trend growth rate (all growth rates in per cent).

T Sk

1510	197 VALUEZ		1472 Value/Share	AVENEY 191		34: VALUE	74 /SHARE	141 VALUE		147 VALUE/		71-76 768
3) 0	3024	23.4	-	3271	24.6	4570	33.9	4636	35.5	44.03	30.0	14. 2
4510	4947	34.4	-	_	-		6377	717,30	3363	4603	39.9	10.3
3718	-		_	6744	58.9	7640	57.0	6945	53.1	5005	43.4	-9.4
コンジリ	558	4.4	-				5	0740	23.1	500A	43.4	-7.4
3530	υ	0.0	-	-				_		-		_
3260	-		-	0	0.0	٥	0.0	_		-		_
3314	2720	21-0	-	Ō	0.0	ŏ	0.0	ŏ	0.0	0	0.0	_
3330	234	1.8	-	-			0.0		0.0	0	0.0	_
AUCEE	-		-	245	2.1	199	1.5	266	2 1	200		, L ,
3410	0	00	=	_		• • •	1	. 200	2.1	355	3.1	15.1
35144	197	1.5	-	_		_		_		-		_
35] A	-		-	349	3.0	361	2.7	432				2.3
3530	-		-	ń	0.0	Ü	0.0	732	3.3 0.0	355	3.1	7.3
7540	-		-	0	0.0	ñ	0.0			0	0.0	_
3440	-		•	ő	0.0	Ä	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-
3540	-		· •	ö	0.0	ä	0.0	Ŭ	0.0	0	0 - 0	-
3410	-		-	Ŏ	0.0	ň	.0.0	ŭ	0.0	0	0.0	-
ろくみど	-		-	Ŏ	0.0	0	0.0	v	0.0	0	0.0	_
3710	0	0.0	-	Ö	0.0	ä	0.0	v	0.0	0	0.0	•
3720	n	0.0	-	Ŏ	0.0	ŏ	0.0	•	0.0	0	0.0	-
3410	375	2.5	-	-		_	0.0	•	0.0	0	0.0	-
3410	-		-	847	7.5	680	5.0	789	. .			
3 <i>6</i> 3C	334	5.4	-	-		-	3.0	104	6.0	1213	10.5	13.0
39000	529	4 • 1	-	-		_		-		-		-
TOTAL	12927	100.0	-	11456	100.0	13500	100.0	13071	100.0	11534	100.0	~0.8

TCR = Trend growth rate (all growth rates in per cent).

TABLE A-5

Central African Republic - Gross fixed capital formation (in million francs)

isto	1971 VALUFZSHARE	1473 Value/Shapf	1973 VALUEZSHARE	1974 Value/Shahe	1475 Value/Shahe	1976 VALUE/SHARE	71-76 TGH
3119	147 11.4	-	121 31.3	240 35.5	217 48.1	210 35.1	
3510	427 33.2	-	•	-	-	1.0 3501	10.7
3516	. . .	-	22A 5A.Y	385 56.4	197 43.7	249 41.6	·
3550	13 1.7	-	-	-	~	247 4110	-3.4
3230	n v.u	-	-	•	_	Ξ	-
3740	-	-	0.0	J 0.0	0 0,0	0 0.0	-
3310	648 50.3	•	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0		-
3350	10 0.9	-	•			0 0.Q	-
33204	- ·	-	-35 -A.9	20 3.0	- -	3	
3410	0 0.0	-		3,0	6 1.3	36 ბ. ე	34.2
35144	10 o.u	-	_	_	Ξ	-	-
35] A	-	-	69 17.8	H 1.2	22		-
3530	-	-	0 0.0	0 0.0	22 4.9	7 1.2	-44.2
3540	_	-	0 0.0		0 0.0	0 0.0	-
3550	-	•	0 0.0	0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	-
3560	-	_	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	-
3010	-	-	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	-
3620	-	_		0 0.0	0 v.0	0 0.0	-
3710	0 0.9	_	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	-
3720	0 0.0	_	0.0	0 0.0	9 0.0	0 0.0	-
3810	5 0.5	_	0.0	b 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	-
3410	_	Ξ	4	•	-	-	-
383C	4 0.3	_	4 1.0	24 3.5	9 2.0	97 16.2	135.9
39000	23 1.8	-	-	•	-	-	-
	£9 1.5	-	•	-	•	-	-
TOTAL	1289 100.0	-	387 100.0	677 100.0	451 100.0	599 100.0	-13.2

Source: Industrial Data System, op.cit.

TGR = Trend growth rate (all growth rates in per cent).

Central African Republic - Value added by manufacturing branch, 1973-1976 (million CFAF)

ISIC	Description	197	'3		1974		975		1976	1973-1976
		Value	Share (%)	Value	Share (%)	Value		Value	Share (%)	Average growth rate
311B	Food and beverages	1,579	34.8	2,301	37.9	2,322	47.6	2,423	48.5	12.94
321B	Textiles and wearing apparel	2,410	53.1	3,272	53.9	1,976	40.5	1,835	36.7	-13.24
3320A	Wood products/furniture	147	3.2	107	1.8	142	2.9	199	4.0	11.92
351A	Chemicals	137	3.0	159	2.6	173	3.5	145	2.9	2.55
381C	Metal products	262	5.8	234	3.9	268	5•5	398	8.0	13.90
	Total	4,535	100.0	6,073	100.0	4,881	100.0	5,000	100.0	0.74

Note: 311B includes: 3110, 3130, 3140
321B includes: 3210, 3220, 3230
3320A includes: 3320, 3410, 3420

351A includes: 3510, 3520

3810 includes: 3810, 3820, 3830, 3840

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