



PRESS RELEASE

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March 2010's monthly index of economic activity, IMACEC

According to preliminary information, last March the IMACEC fell 2.8% over the same month a year before. The seasonally-adjusted series dropped 6.6% with respect to the previous month, influenced by the shock caused by the earthquake of 27 February on the productive infrastructure of the affected areas. Meanwhile, the cyclical trend series recorded an annualized expansion of 4.4%.

The result of the month reflected the decreases in natural resource related sectors (fishery and forestry), the manufacturing industry and educational and housing ownership services. These decreases were partly offset by the dynamism of trade, both wholesale and retail, and communications.

Unlike the previous month, March's IMACEC presented no problems for the gleaning of the basic information used in its calculation.

According to the pre-defined public calendar of national accounts disclosure, the preliminary figures for first-quarter GDP will be published next 18 May.