

Colombia Aug urban unemployment falls to 11.1 pct

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BOGOTA, Sept 30 (Reuters) - Colombia's urban unemployment dipped to 11.1 percent in August from 12.6 percent in the same month last year, the government's National Statistics Department said at the weekend.

The gauge measures joblessness in metropolitan areas where about 70 percent of jobs are found in this Andean country.

Colombia's economy is expanding as crime drops under President Alvaro Uribe, popular for his U.S.-backed crackdown on leftist rebels fighting a four-decade-old insurgency.

The country's current account deficit doubled in the first half of the year to \$3.2 billion due in part to a trade deficit driven by the strong peso <COP=RR>, the central bank said late on Friday. (Reporting by Nelson Bocanegra and Javier Mozzo)

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