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SOURCE The Sulfuric Acid Industry in the USSR, published by Wirtschaftsgruppe  
Chemische Industrie (Industrial Group Chemical Industry), (GMDS Document  
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#### PATTERN OF PREWAR SOVIET SULFURIC ACID PRODUCTION

At the outbreak of World War II, sulfuric acid was mainly produced in the central region of the European USSR, in the Urals, Ukraine, and the Leningrad area, while the Caucasus and West Siberia played a comparatively small part in the production.

The following table gives the planned geographical distribution of the sulfuric acid production for 1937, thus indicating the prevailing pattern of regional allocation of that period. The shift of industrial activities to the East had already started prior to World War II and was, of course, accelerated during the war. A series of plants, especially those located in the Ukraine and in the Leningrad area, were transferred to the Urals and Siberia. It has been assumed that a part of these installations has returned to their original location, while the capacity of the remaining eastern plants would subsequently be increased.

	Percent
Moscow area	24
Sverdlovsk area	24
Ukraine	18
Leningrad area	11
West Siberia	5
Transcaucasus	3
Tatar ASSR	3
Gor'kiy area	3
Remainder of RSFSR	3
Ivanovo area	2
Northern Caucasus	2

The volume of Soviet sulfuric acid production can only be estimated. The 1939 output was to reach 2 million tons of sulfuric acid (calculated on the basis of 100-percent sulfuric acid) and by 1942 was to have increased to 4 million tons, of which 2.5 million tons were to have been produced by existing plants whereas the rest was to be obtained from newly constructed plants. During World War II, the production was estimated to be between 2 and 3 million tons.

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The Soviet sulfuric acid industry always has had difficulties in the procurement of its raw materials. Their main sources are the iron and copper pyrites in the Urals, as well as to a smaller degree the pyrites of the central Volga region and Glauber's salt (sodium sulfate decahydrate) from the Caspian Sea and Lake Aral. Prior to the war, the pyrite production amounted to about one million tons per year. Since most sulfuric acid plants are rather distant from the raw material deposits, the latter had to be transported over distances up to 2,000 kilometers. On the other hand, the shift of plants to the Urals, Caucasus, and Siberia was to improve the situation, since waste gas of the metallurgical plants of these regions was to be processed for the production of sulfuric acid.

In addition, local raw materials, as coal pyrites in the Donets Basin and Moscow lignite basin and pyrrhotin on the Kola Peninsula, were to be used as raw materials.

It can, however, be assumed that, of these plans, only the transfer of industrial plants to the East has been materialized, while the problem of transportation of raw materials for the plants in Central Russia and more western regions still prevails.

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