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GDR STATE PLANNING COMMISSION REPORTS  
ON FULFILLMENT OF 1950 ECONOMIC PLAN

The report of the German Democratic Republic's State Planning Commission on the fulfillment of the 1950 Economic Plan gives detailed information on the development of industry, agriculture, and transportation, the production of capital goods, the expansion of commodity sales, and the rise of East German cultural and living standards under the 1950 plan.

## Industrial Developments

Total GDR industrial production during 1950 exceeded the planned 1950 quota by 9 percent, an increase of 26 percent over 1949. [According to the Berlin newspaper Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel of 21 February 1951, the commission's report showed that 1950 production was 12 percent in excess of 1936 figures.] People-owned industry was largely responsible for this development.

The 1950 quotas were realized by the various branches of industry as follows (in percent):

Electric power	107
Mining	102
Metallurgy	116
Machine construction	106
Electrical industry	106
Precision mechanics and optics	98
Chemicals	108
Building materials	97
Wood industry	108
Textile industry	119
- leather, shoes, and clothing	118
Cellulose	112
Crude lumber	99.9
Polygraphic industry	98
Food industry	110

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Quotas under the 1950 plan were exceeded considerably for crude brown coal, potash salt, crude steel, milled nonferrous products, lathes, milling machines, freight and passenger railroad cars, bicycles, incandescent lamps, typewriters, calcium carbide, lacquer and paints, solvents, synthetic rubber, diesel fuel, cement, cut wood, cellulose wool, knitted apparel and undergarments, ready-made clothing, and paper.

The quality and variety of industrial products have been improved. Significant increases have been recorded in the metallurgical, cellulose, food, and textile industries, and in the production of leather shoes and ready-made clothing. While planned targets have been fulfilled and exceeded for most of the important industrial products, heavy industry failed to meet its quotas for black coal, copper ore, sulfuric acid, carbon disulfide, phosphate fertilizers, bricks, composition roofing, and window glass. In addition, the machine construction industry did not fulfill the planned quotas for diesel motors, metallurgical equipment, rolling mill equipment, motor vehicles, locomotives, steel casting, and electric motors over 10 kilowatts. Light industry did not fully meet the requirements for rayon and wool yarn.

The 1950 output of important industrial products compares with 1949 figures as shown by the following percentages: black coal 93, crude brown coal 108, brown coal briquettes 108, iron ore 131, copper ore 115, potash salts 112, raw iron 135, raw steel in blocks 165, rolled ferrous metal products 219, electrolytic copper 138, rolled nonferrous metal products 109, ball bearings 160, electric motors over 10 kilowatts 132, freight cars 140, passenger railroad cars 163, passenger motor vehicles 204, trucks 271, motorcycles 226, bicycles 156, 22-horsepower tractors 612, 40-horsepower tractors 602, sulfuric acid 115, calcined soda 110, caustic soda 115, phosphate fertilizers 120, automobile tires 155, cement 118, bricks 139, window glass 112, incandescent lamps 159, rayon 122, cellulose wool 134, textile fabrics 144, footwear 131, leather shoes 132, paper 116, flour 113, dough products (macaroni, etc.) 125, refined vegetable oil 189, margarine 173, and meat 179.

The available industrial supply of raw materials, fuels, semifinished products, and capital goods was greater in 1950 than in 1949, and more economical use was made of materials and fuels. Nevertheless, urgently needed raw materials were frequently used to produce items of minor importance, waste was not always held to a minimum, and local sources were not exploited sufficiently.

The flow of production was not always even. The output of export goods was increased considerably. The quality of these goods was also improved. However, conversion of industry to the manufacture of important industrial equipment for export was not brought about until the last quarter of 1950. Production costs of people-owned industries were further reduced by lowering the consumption of raw materials, supplies, fuels, and electric power in the case of certain products, and by increasing labor efficiency.

#### Agricultural Developments

Total yields for the various crops showed the following percentage increases over 1949: winter wheat 13.7, summer wheat 16.2, summer rye 22.6, oats 11.0, summer barley 19.2, sugar beets 48.2, and potatoes 47.5.

The 1950 harvest equaled, and in some cases even surpassed, the 1934 - 1938 peacetime level. The basis for this increase was created by a more regular supply of seed and fertilizers to farm enterprises and by intensified work of the machine rental stations.

Per-hectare yields of people-owned farms were considerably higher than average. For example, winter wheat yielded 2,930 kilograms per hectare, summer wheat 2,590, summer barley 2,440, and oats 2,620.

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The number of tractors made available by machine rental stations at the end of 1950 was 36 percent higher than in December 1949. Tractor capacity increased 25 percent from 1949 to 1950. Despite this rise in the over-all capacity of the machine rental stations, the assignments undertaken by them were not always fully accomplished.

Favorable conditions have been established for the 1951 harvest. Fertilizer supplies made available for the second half of 1950 showed increases of 15 percent for phosphate and 41 percent for potash fertilizer over deliveries during the second half of 1949.

Livestock inventories in the GDR showed an increase of 289,000 head of cattle, 1,365,000 pigs, and 188,000 sheep from December 1949 to the end of 1950. These increases are all the more remarkable because the number of animals slaughtered in 1950 has been increased 33.6 percent for cattle, 71.2 percent for pigs, and 26.9 percent for sheep. According to the livestock census of 3 December 1950, the above number of cattle represented 98.6 and the number of pigs 99.7 percent of planned goals.

A favorable feed situation and the activities of the Peasants' Mutual Aid Association in instructing peasants in the care of livestock have effected an average increase of 21.7 percent in milk production.

A number of deficiencies have become apparent in carrying out the agricultural plan. The utilization of cultivated areas was often assigned arbitrarily to the kreise, communities, and villages, regardless of existing conditions in the various regions. The farmers' aid has not yet been sufficiently developed.

Some people-owned farms and machine rental stations still fail to operate on a profitable basis, because of lack of organization and failure to take full advantage of progressive techniques. The people-owned farms have not yet become centers for the implementation and dissemination of the USSR's modern, scientific agricultural methods.

#### Increase in Transportation of Freight

With an increase of 17 percent (kilometer-tons) over 1949, the figures for freight moved by rail, ship, and motor vehicles came within close range of the fixed quota. Percentage increases amounted to 17.3 for railroad, 9.1 for water, and 17.6 for truck-hauled freight. The total loading capacity per day for freight cars has been increased 13.8 percent as compared with 1949, while the turnaround time for freight cars has been reduced by 4.7 percent. The quota for rebuilding passenger coaches has been exceeded, and the number of repairs carried out surpassed 1949 figures by 6.8 percent. The number of railroad passengers has increased by 9 percent.

The competition started by the 500-Kilometer-Tons-per-Day activist movement has produced an increase in performance of 10.8 percent for locomotives used in freight and of 14 percent for those used in passenger traffic. The quota for freight moved via inland waterways has been fulfilled 105.1 percent. The over-all total for freight processed showed an increase of 19.2 percent as compared with 1949.

Transportation of freight by motor vehicles has been increased 17.6 percent over 1949. The number of passengers carried on busses has increased 26 percent.

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Increase in Capital Investments

On the basis of data now on hand, the GDR's fulfillment of the 1950 investment plan shows an increase of 46.2 percent over the previous year. Percentage increases in specific spheres were as follows: electric power 83, metallurgy 143, chemicals 135, building materials 112, food industry 118, and public education 76. The investment plan was fulfilled 92 percent. The quota for construction of dwellings was completed only 85 percent.

Increase in Employment and Productivity

During 1950, a 13.5-percent increase in labor efficiency, as compared with 1949, was achieved by people-owned industries. As the result of governmental measures, average wages of skilled workers in people-owned industries were increased by 13 percent during the third quarter 1950. The number of workers employed in people-owned industries has been increased by 260,000 as compared with 1949. The plan for vocational training of youth has been fulfilled 96 percent, and the number of apprentices has been increased to 500,000.

Development of Foreign Trade

Expansion of the GDR's foreign trade has made it possible to increase production and subsequently the supply of consumers' goods.

Foreign-trade transactions in 1950 showed an increase of 42.9 percent over 1949. Trade with the USSR and the people's democracies has been increased 56 percent.

Of special significance is the rise in imports of foodstuffs from the USSR, Poland, and Hungary. Increases in imports of grain, meat products, and fats amounts to 600, 940, and 350 percent, respectively, of the 1949 figures.

Raw iron imports were 65.2 percent higher than in 1949, while imports of coke increased 44.4 and of cotton 220 percent.

The rise in GDR imports was brought about chiefly by an increase in the export of finished goods. The following percentage increases are to be noted: machinery 94.6, electrical products 182.1, and precision mechanisms and optical goods 398.3.

Development of domestic trade was unsatisfactory because of trade restrictions imposed by the Western occupation powers and the Adenauer government.

Retail Trade and Consumers' Goods

The development of the East German economy as a whole is reflected in the rise of retail sales turnover. The 1950 retail sales quota was fulfilled 107.1 percent. The HO trade organizations fulfilled their target 113.8 percent.

Total sales for 1950 were 24.6 percent higher than in 1949. Turnover increases of 73.7 percent for HO, 19.6 percent for cooperatives, and 11.1 percent for other retail business have been recorded. The sale of food products shows a rise of 61.2 percent for HO stores, and 17.4 percent for consumer cooperatives. Sales of industrial goods rose 69 percent in HO stores and 36.6 percent in consumer cooperatives.

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The supply of textiles and clothing was increased considerably. As compared with 1949, allocations were raised by the following percentages: fabrics 67, knitted outer garments 36.0, knitted undergarments 42.8, leather shoes 45.9, and rubbers 136.5. The development of trade was accompanied by a general decline in the price level, which is reflected in the reduced cost of living.

Measures were taken by the government in 1950 to raise the standard of living. Wages were increased considerably; debts of new farmers, resettlers, and old farmers were remitted and favorable credit terms granted. Meat and fat rations were increased appreciably, and HO prices were reduced substantially.

Operation of large-sized craft for deepsea and coastal fishing and extension of the fishing area made it possible to raise the catch of fish 42.6 percent as compared with 1949.

#### Cultural Affairs and Public Health

Cultural institutions in the GDR were greatly expanded in 1950. The number of pupils per teacher was decreased 4 percent in schools for general education. The number of vocational schools was increased from 1,679 to 2,169, with a total of 882,000 pupils.

Attendance at people's institutes of advanced education by large groups of workers was evidenced by a rise in the number of students from 140,000 to 380,740. Student participation in agricultural and industrial courses increased 11 percent as compared with 1949. New enrollments showed a rise of 15 percent. Theaters and libraries came in for greater attention.

In the field of public health, approximately 4,000 hospital beds were added. Forty-one polyclinic ambulances, 49 rural mobile clinics, 26 polyclinics, and 391 first-aid stations were established in 1950. The over-all capacity of children's homes was increased from 2,273 to 4,335 places.

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