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PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF 1951 GRAIN PRODUCTION  
IN THE USSR AND THE EUROPEAN SATELLITES

30 November 1951

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This report has not been coordinated with the intelligence organizations of the Departments of State, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force. It contains information available to CIA as of 1 October 1951.

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PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF 1951 GRAIN PRODUCTION  
IN THE USSR AND THE EUROPEAN SATELLITES

Summary

Production of the major grains in the USSR and its European Satellites\* in 1951 is tentatively estimated to be 128.7 million metric tons (range: 120 million to 135 million tons), of which the USSR is estimated to have produced 86.5 million tons (range: 80 million to 90 million tons) and the Satellites 42.2 million tons (range: 40 million to 44 million tons). This crop is the largest harvested since the war, although the combined total is only 91 percent of the prewar average production. With the exception of a few areas, the growing conditions under which this crop was produced ranged from good to excellent throughout the growing season for winter-\*\* and spring-sown grains.

If these estimates are approximately accurate, taking into consideration the domestic distribution patterns of past years, it is possible for the USSR and the Satellites to obtain\*\*\* an unconsumed combined surplus of 6 million to 8 million tons of grain for reserves and for trade.

1. USSR Production.

Weather in the USSR generally was favorable for the development of winter- and spring-sown grains except in a few areas. The dry weather of late June and July came after the critical period for the development of winter and spring grains, and harvesting losses were at a minimum, as contrasted to 1950, when excessive rain fell during the harvest period. The total grain crop in 1951 is estimated to be 86.5 million metric tons (range: 80 million to 90 million tons), or the largest since before the war. (See

\* Included in the European Satellites are Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Albania.

\*\* Winter grain includes wheat and rye seeded in the fall of 1950 for harvest in the early summer of 1951, and spring grain includes wheat, rye, barley, oats, and corn seeded in the spring of 1950 and harvested during the following summer and fall.

\*\*\* Because of the increase in population and the failure of total grain production to reach prewar levels, the USSR and the European Satellites have had to control the amount of grain for domestic consumption in order to carry out the programs for state reserves and export.

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Table 1.) The 1951 crop is considerably above the 1950 level, although 10 percent below the prewar (1935-39) average production. On a per capita basis, 1951 grain production is 15 percent below the prewar level. Production of bread grains is slightly above the prewar level, while coarse-grain output is only 71 percent of the prewar level. Since grain products form approximately 70 percent of the diet of the Soviet people, bread-grain production for direct human consumption has been emphasized at the expense of coarse grains for the livestock expansion program.

If the policy of the Kremlin so dictates, from 2.5 million to 5 million metric tons of grain can be extracted from the 1951 estimated production for trade and reserves. About 2.5 million tons of grain already have been committed for export during the 1951-52 trade year. The only known Soviet Bloc commitment is an agreement to supply East Germany with 945,000 metric tons from the 1951 crop.

## 2. Satellite Production.

Growing conditions for the development of winter- and spring-sown grains generally have been advantageous throughout the Satellite countries. Because of rain, the harvesting of bread grains was delayed in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania and may have resulted in somewhat above-normal harvesting losses. These losses, however, are not considered large enough to affect materially the total grain supply.

The production of all grains in 1951, in the Satellites as a whole, estimated at 42.2 million metric tons (range: 40 million to 44 million tons), is the largest since World War II. (See Tables 2 through 9.) Acreage and production, however, are still 8 percent below the prewar average.

It is estimated that the Satellites may have a combined net exportable surplus\* from the 1951 harvest of approximately 3 million tons of bread grains plus a small quantity of coarse grains. This surplus, which is the quantity in excess of estimated domestic consumption, will be available for trade and stockpiling. It is believed, however, that above-normal quantities of grain probably will be required to replace the stocks depleted in 1950, particularly in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania, the countries most affected by the drought in 1950.

\* This is a statistical surplus based on the assumption that all grain not utilized by the peasants on their farms will enter commercial channels.

APPENDIX

TABLES\*

Table 1

Grain Acreage and Production in the USSR  
1935-39 and 1951 a/

Grain	1935-39		1951	
	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)
Wheat	42,100	33,750	44,320	36,721
Rye	24,600	22,400	24,600	21,337
Subtotal	66,700	56,150	68,920	58,058
Barley	10,760	9,250	8,500	6,988
Oats	20,030	16,900	14,900	11,771
Corn	4,050	4,320	3,700	3,515
Other Grains b/	12,160	9,330	9,980	6,209
Subtotal	47,000	39,800	27,080	28,482
Total	113,700	95,950	106,000	86,541

a. Production figures for 1950 are omitted, as the estimate is being substantially revised.

b. Include buckwheat, millet, rice, legumes.

\* Production figures in all tables are production in barn, or amounts actually garnered.

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Table 2

Grain Acreage and Production in Albania  
1935-39, 1950, and 1951

Grain	1935-39			1950			1951 a/		
	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	
Wheat	40	41	62	62	62	68	62	68	
Rye	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	
Subtotal	44	44	66	65	66	72	66	72	
Barley	8	5	8	5.6	9	7	9	7	
Oats	12	10	12	9.6	12	10	12	10	
Corn	95	129	105	136.0	105	152	105	152	
Subtotal	115	144	125	151.2	126	169	126	169	
Rice	b/	c/	b/	1	b/	1	b/	1	
Total	159	188	191	217.2	192	242	192	242	

- a. Preliminary estimate; information as of 1 Sep 1951.
- b. Less than 1,000 hectares.
- c. Less than 1,000 metric tons.

Table 3

Grain Acreage and Production in Bulgaria  
1935-39, 1950, and 1951

Grain	1935-39		1950		1951 a/	
	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)
Wheat	1,361	1,880	1,540	1,900	1,500	2,070
Rye	257	283	240	254	240	264
Subtotal	<u>1,618</u>	<u>2,163</u>	<u>1,780</u>	<u>2,154</u>	<u>1,740</u>	<u>2,334</u>
Barley	274	378	293	403	295	428
Oats	147	131	156	131	155	140
Corn	825	906	809	566	800	880
Subtotal	<u>1,246</u>	<u>1,415</u>	<u>1,258</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>1,448</u>
Rice	8	19	8	19	8	20
Other Grains b/	99	126	60	60	60	66
Total	<u>2,971</u>	<u>3,723</u>	<u>3,106</u>	<u>3,332</u>	<u>2,058</u>	<u>2,868</u>

a. Preliminary estimate; information as of 1 Sep 1951.

b. Include mixed grain and millet.

Table 4

Grain Acreage and Production in Czechoslovakia  
1935-39, 1950, and 1951

Grain	1935-39			1950			1951 a/		
	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	
Wheat	873	1,550	809	1,415	800	1,712			
Rye	961	1,577	718	1,168	665	1,350			
Subtotal	<u>1,834</u>	<u>2,127</u>	<u>1,527</u>	<u>2,583</u>	<u>1,465</u>	<u>3,062</u>			
Barley	648	1,128	577	1,002	620	1,258			
Oats	740	1,234	567	914	630	1,102			
Corn	160	287	158	305	137	288			
Subtotal	<u>1,548</u>	<u>2,649</u>	<u>1,302</u>	<u>2,221</u>	<u>1,387</u>	<u>2,648</u>			
Total	<u>3,382</u>	<u>5,776</u>	<u>2,829</u>	<u>4,804</u>	<u>2,852</u>	<u>5,710</u>			

a. Preliminary estimate; information as of 1 Sep 1951.



Table 5

Grain Acreage and Production in Hungary  
1935-39, 1950, and 1951

Grain	1935-39		1950		1951 a/	
	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)
Wheat	1,656	2,482	1,497	2,041	1,450	2,363
Rye	641	746	567	660	560	711
Subtotal	<u>2,297</u>	<u>3,228</u>	<u>2,064</u>	<u>2,701</u>	<u>2,010</u>	<u>3,074</u>
Barley	471	657	567	719	483	666
Oats	226	291	253	290	227	290
Corn	1,183	2,337	1,214	1,905	1,105	2,380
Subtotal	<u>1,880</u>	<u>3,285</u>	<u>2,034</u>	<u>2,914</u>	<u>1,815</u>	<u>3,336</u>
Rice	N.A.	N.A.	15	35	15	35
Other Grains b/	25	25	25	20	25	25
Total	<u>4,202</u>	<u>6,538</u>	<u>4,138</u>	<u>5,670</u>	<u>3,865</u>	<u>6,470</u>

a. Preliminary estimate; information as of 1 Sep 1951.

b. Millet.

Table 6

Grain Acreage and Production in Poland  
1935-39, 1950, and 1951

Grain	1935-39		1950		1951 a/	
	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)
Wheat	1,319	2,014	1,275	1,715	1,300	1,850
Rye	5,433	7,214	4,897	6,274	4,800	6,400
Subtotal	6,752	9,228	6,172	7,989	6,100	8,250
Barley	1,040	1,655	1,012	1,350	1,000	1,400
Oats	1,983	2,961	1,659	2,177	1,650	2,400
Other Grains b/	N.A.	540 c/	N.A.	235	N.A.	250
Total	2,775	14,384	8,843	11,751	8,750	12,300

a. Preliminary estimate; information as of 1 Sep 1951.

b. Include corn, millet, etc.

c. 1933-38 average.

Table 7

Grain Acreage and Production in Rumania  
1935-39, 1950, and 1951

Grain	1935-39			1950			1951 a/		
	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	
Wheat	2,793	3,048	2,400	2,088	2,400	2,520	2,400	2,520	
Rye	259	254	152	123	150	140	150	140	
Subtotal	2,052	2,302	2,552	2,211	2,550	2,660	2,550	2,660	
Barley	822	610	607	395	670	482	670	482	
Oats	656	544	607	427	600	510	600	510	
Corn	3,994	4,369	4,000	2,920	4,000	4,160	4,000	4,160	
Subtotal	5,472	5,523	5,214	3,742	5,270	5,152	5,270	5,152	
Rice	b/	1	2	16	2	16	2	16	
Other Grains c/	26 d/	25	90	72	90	85	90	85	
Total	8,550	8,851	7,858	6,041	7,912	7,913	7,912	7,913	

- a. Preliminary estimate; information as of 1 Sep 1951.
- b. Less than 1,000 hectares.
- c. Include mixed grain and millet.
- d. Millet.

Table 8

Grain Acreage and Production in East Germany  
1935-39, 1950, and 1951

Grain	1935-39		1950		1951	
	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)
Wheat	605	1,589	550	1,374	461	1,200
Rye	1,198	2,134	1,125	2,159	1,330	2,400
Subtotal	1,803	3,723	1,675	3,533	1,791	3,600
Barley	433	1,078	324	719	253	600
Oats	732 b/	1,691	625	1,197	625	1,300
Other Grains c/	N.A.	N.A.	155	201	155	210
Total	2,968	6,492	2,779	5,650	2,824	5,710

- a. Preliminary estimate; information as of 1 Sep 1951.
- b. Includes other grain.
- c. Include corn and mixed grain.

Table 9

Total Area and Production of Major Grains  
in the European Satellites a/  
1935-39, 1950, and 1951 (Preliminary)

Grain	1935-39		1950		1951	
	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand Metric Tons)
Wheat	8,647	12,604	8,133	10,595	7,973	11,783
Rye	8,753	12,211	7,703	10,641	7,749	11,269
Subtotal	17,400	24,815	15,836	21,236	15,722	23,052
Barley	3,700	5,511	3,388	4,593	3,330	4,841
Oats	4,496	6,862	3,879	5,145	3,899	5,752
Corn	6,257	8,028	6,286	5,832	6,147	7,860
Subtotal	14,453	20,401	13,552	15,570	13,376	18,452
Other Grains b/	158 c/	736	347 c/	659	355 c/	708
Total	32,011	45,952	29,736	37,465	29,452	42,213

a. Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, and East Germany.

b. Include rice.

c. Acreage statistics incomplete.