

HISTORY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY

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The Vologda region's economy in the period of Great Patriotic war

The article covers the organization of the regional industrial and agricultural functioning, shows the labor feat of Vologda's inhabitant in wartime.

The Vologda region, the war of 1941 – 1945, economy of the war years.



**Konsnantin I.
EFREMOV**
Ph. D. in Economics

The Vologda region was established by the decree of Central Executive Committee of the USSR as of September, 23, 1937. The territory of the region was 145.5th km as of January, 1, 1940 (here and further according to the Vologdastat data), according to the census in 1937 the population was 1,599 thousand people including the rural population – 1311.7. The population density – 9 persons per km².

The region consisted of 42 districts, 13 towns, 16,001 settlements, 769 Rural Councils.

In the pre-war year of 1940 the Vologda region's economy worked stably. The state plan of industry development was fulfilled, the volume of gross industrial production made up 356.4 million rubles by the prices of 1927 – 1928. By the forms of subordination the enterprises were divided into the union ones (42.7%), the republican ones (37.6%), the regional ones (18.1%) and other (1.6%), the average full list of industrial and production personnel was

16.67 thousand people. The timber industry was the leading one, the removal of logs made up 8836.0th m³.

There were 5,871 kolkhozes and 17 sovkhoses and 222.7 thousand kolkhoz farms in agriculture. Sown areas in all categories of farms made up 979.8 including grain areas – 661.3, fibre flax – 78.4 thousand ha. Crop yield was 6.7 centners per ha. In all categories of farms cattle stock made up 622.9 thousand heads including cows – 336.8. Milk yield per one fodder cow was 961 kg in the public sector. In 1940 in all categories of farms there was produced the following: cattle and poultry – 34.1th tons, milk – 384.1th tons, sheep's wool – 640 tons, eggs – 97.1 million.

As of the end of 1940 the operational length of public railroads made up 667 km. The railways to Moscow, Leningrad, Murmansk, Arkhangelsk and Kirov passed through Vologda. The railway workers of the Vologda region

serviced the railways, accepted and dispatched freight, did passenger transportation. Over the year of 1940 there was dispatched 3.2 million tons of freight. The water transport workers sent 3.14 million tons and accepted 1.7 million tons of freight. The stretch of hard-surfaced motor-car roads made up 962 km. There were 34.4th relaying radio sets including in the countryside – 11.7th sets.

The main direction of capital construction was to strengthen material and technical basis in the timber industry, to build enterprises for agricultural products processing. The principal objects were the Volga-Baltic and the North-Dvina water ways construction. Housing construction was put on a wide scale. Over the year of 1940 the volumes of capital investment made up 48.1 million rubles by estimated cost.

There were 3,790 sales outlets of state trade and 2,297 sales outlets of consumer's cooperation in operation. Retail turnover made up 101.7 million rubles by established prices.

As of the beginning of 1940 – 1941 academic year there were 2,312 schools including 1,857 primary schools where 301.6 thousand people studied. There were 4 higher educational establishments with 3.1 thousand students.

There were 139 hospitals and 579 first-aid stations and obstetrical services where 424 doctors and 3,542 nurses worked. Over the year of 1940 the number of newly-born babies was 30.6 per 1,000 people, the number of dead – 25.8.

The region's economy developed in accordance with the state plan of region development and the plans of towns and districts, enterprises, organizations, kolkhozes and sovkhozes taking into account the splitting into quarters and months. The oblast committee of all-USSR Communist Party (of Bolsheviks), the oblast council of deputies of working population conducted the organizational and mass and political activity about the plans to be fulfilled, they started up socialist emulation in order to achieve certain results, using the moral and material stimulation. The similar work was conducted among work collectives in the towns and in the countryside. The third 5-year period

was passing on. In the country and in the field the Stakhanov movement for early completion of plans was being put on a wide scale. But progressive and constructive development of the country and the region was broken off by Great Patriotic War of 1941 – 1945.

War is a great disaster of nations, devastation, economic and political crisis. Fascist Germany set the goal: to annihilate Soviet government, to plunder our country and to occupy our lands, bread, subsoil and cultural treasures. The Soviet Union was in great danger. It was important to realize it, to make it clear to population's consciousness, to prevent panic and to transfer the economy to war condition. The Vologda region was announced to be front-line area, there was imposed a state of emergency in the region. The oblast committee of all-USSR Communist Party (of Bolsheviks), the oblast executive committee were responsible for territory defense, socialist property protection, delivery of the human and material resources to the front, supply of the population, good organization and order. The demand of that time was "All is for the front – all is for the victory!"

Following the directions of Central Committee of all-USSR Communist Party (of Bolsheviks), Council of Peoples Commissars of the USSR and State Defense Committee the oblast committee of all-USSR Communist Party (of Bolsheviks), the oblast executive committee worked out the measures to transfer the region's economy to war production; they conducted the activity to mobilize the resources. The district committees of all-USSR Communist Party (of Bolsheviks), district (city) executive committees received the letter about organization of mass-political work among the population in order to clarify the political situation, about the fact that the country is in great danger, about true fascism's goals, about necessity to defense the manufacturing entities, about protection of communications, bridges, water reservoirs etc. There was stressed the importance of replacement of the men having gone to the front. There was introduced double-shift work from 6 to 23 o'clock in enterprises, from 6 to 22 o'clock

in trade. In kolkhozes the working hours were fixed from necessity (sometimes 16 hours).

The Vologda region was an agricultural region that's why the main task of the whole war period was production, processing and supply the country with farming products. It was very important to prevent reducing the sown areas, cutting down the livestock and its productivity. And it was a very difficult task.

The mechanization of farm works was at the low level even in the basic year of 1940. In kolkhozes being at the service of machine and tractor stations, fallow land was ploughed by the tractors in 52% of areas, land ploughed in autumn for spring sowing – in 33%, winter crops sowing – 14%, spring crops sowing – 6%, crops gathering – in 6% of areas. Flax, potatoes and vegetables were grown by horses and by hand.

All high-powered caterpillar tractors and the most of trucks and 74 thousand horses were directed to the army from the machine and tractor stations, kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Workload per horse increased and in 1944 it made up: arable land – 11.8, haying – 10.3 ha. For ploughing in spring people had to use bullocks (bull that has been castrated) and even cows.

The year of 1942 appeared to be especially unfavourable one for agriculture because of drought. Crops yield made up 5.8 centners, potatoes yield – 65.9 centners per ha. But the region performed the agricultural produce plan. However in 1943 tensional situation arose connected with supply of seeds in all categories of farms. The state issued repayable loans to kolkhozes to supply them with seeds. In all towns and districts the region executive committee established collection of "eyeholes" (an apical part of tuber with future sprouts) to get potato seeds. It is the example of problem solution and way out of the situation.

The arable land load increased because 85 thousand horses, 66 thousand cattle heads and 50 thousand sheep were taken from the evacuated regions in 1941. Under the instructions from the region executive committee they were distributed among kolkhozes and population households at material liability and

with payment for care. The region performed the task by Council of Peoples Commissars of the USSR, and in 1944 there were 68 thousand cattle heads and 3000 horses sent to the liberated territories. It is the evidence of both kolkhoz peasantry's patriotism and assistance to border regions.

The region's authority controlled the provision of population with foodstuffs permanently. The region lacked for bread. There remained too little to its own use. There introduced a card system to distribute some staple foods for industrial and office workers. The rural population was fully self-sufficient during the whole war period. To improve the nourishment of townspeople the region executive committee allotted some plots of land for individual and collective gardening (for potato growing) in the suburban zone, the area of this land reached 7,876 ha by the end of 1943. It was a serious help, you might say, you might say, salvation from famine.

When taken in the harvest the kolkhozes got a great help from townspeople, industrial and office workers, housewives, secondary school students, technical school students and higher school students. By-turn under the instructions from the district executive committees on the termination of threshing the kolkhozes sent their people to the logging enterprises for logging and removal of logs, they also worked off animal-drawn duty which was free of charge till February, 1941. According to the mobilization young people (teenagers and young girls) from villages were sent for peat stocking and for studying to the trade schools.

In the region the main producers of agricultural products were kolkhozes, their total number was 5,871 as of the beginning of war. They were small. At the average there were 155.2 ha of arable land per farm and 41 kolkhoz farms, 1,429 kolkhozes had no more than 10 horses and only 130 kolkhozes had 40 horses. Agricultural bodies gave great consideration to labour organization in kolkhozes. There were worked out and recommended for introduction some working standards and remuneration of

labor in horse-hand and manual operations. Field-husbandry teams and stock-raising farms became the main production units in agriculture, their number was constantly increasing. Specialized groups on flax cultivation, potato and vegetable growing were set up in the field-husbandry teams. All these measures promoted the growth of labor productivity and the increase of product quality, especially flax fibre. In 1945 by the beginning of spring-and-field works there were 8,960 groups created in the region including 4,554 flax-growing groups.

In war time there was a very acute question connected with managerial personnel and mass professions personnel training instead of those who went to the front. This problem was solved by organizing different courses for agriculture and economy training of personnel. There were regional and district courses, courses at the machine and tractor stations as well as mass professions teaching groups in the farms. The performed analysis showed that the peak of organizing training of personnel fell on the year of 1944, during this year 2,767 chairmen of the kolkhozes were qualified, 2,133 tractor drivers, 165 foremen tractor team, 126 mechanics, 3,670 foremen field-husbandry team, 4,375 group leaders and 2980 storekeepers were trained. Over 16,000 people were trained in the agriculture circles.

The Vologda region's contribution of into agricultural production of the USSR was considerable. In 1943 the region took the third place by the number of cattle head and the fourth place by cow head. In spite of war time complexity and lack of resources and experienced personnel the kolkhoz peasantry of the region secured the delivery of agricultural products to the country (the front) and kept the sown areas up; the productive livestock was preserved.

The positive work of the region's agriculture was recorded in the decree of Central Committee of all-USSR Communist Party (of Bolsheviks) and Council of Peoples Commissars of the USSR "On the state plan of agriculture development for 1943" in 1943 and in the materials of Supreme Soviet of the USSR in 1944.

In war period the industrial enterprises of the region worked under difficult conditions, there was lack of raw material, electric power and fuel. The skilled workers were sent to the front. The leading branch was timber and woodworking ones as well as pulp and paper industry, the latter had logging as a main part of work. The volumes of logging were declined drastically. In 1942 they made up 4,167 thousand cubic metres, and it was twice as little as the pre-war time. So the principal task of the region and timber industry leaders was to supply Moscow, Leningrad and rail way with raw material of special users and woodworking mills and with firewood. The performance of task on timber delivery was under constant control of Peoples Commissariat of timber industry of the USSR.

The oblast committee of all-USSR Communist Party (of Bolsheviks) and the oblast executive committee worked out measures for performance of logging plans: according to the mobilization plans the logging enterprises got the season work force from the kolkhozes, brigade form of labour organization was introduced, "icy" roads were built, the payment for animal-drawn duty was introduced, allocation of pieces of woodland was allowed near rivers and forest settlements. The timber workers took part in all-USSR socialist emulation for early fulfillment of the stocking plans, the front ten-day periods of high-powered work were announced constantly.

Wood and converted timber need increased greatly while liberating the USSR territories from the German invaders. In 1944 the region supplied with wood to restore the national economy in 39 regions, 3 union republics and 3 autonomic republics. The region took the fifth place among the USSR regions in the volumes of logging. During the war years the region fulfilled the plan of wood delivery for railway transport. In such way the freight followed the roads of the regions. In February, 1945 the Vologda region was rewarded with the challenge Red Flag of State Defense Committee for successful performance of this task.

In war time the enterprises of light industry were transferred to production output under war orders. By August, 1945 there was organized the production of sheepskin, sewing of soldier's blouses, overcoats, raincoats, quilted jackets and short sheepskin coats. Later the task on repairing of war uniform was fulfilled. The tasks were intense, the work shift lasted ten hours. Under acute shortage of resources the most rigid austerity policy was introduced at the enterprises. The progress schedule of production was brought to the notice of every enterprise, shift, workshop, production area and work place. Any disruption of schedule fulfillment was examined by the commission. If there were no objective factors of non-fulfillment an enterprise leader was called to account in accordance with war time. The share of engineering enterprises in the industrial production was small. The production of mortars, mines, shells and other components was organized on their basis.

The role of local industry increased greatly in war time. Its share in the industrial production reached 47% by 1945. The advantage was that the production was made of local raw material, at the same time the folk crafts and small producers' artels and handicraftsmen were attracted. Local industry enterprises produced some special goods for the front and consumer goods. The product mix was wide: sledge, trelga, churn, ski, brick, lime, harmonica, saddlery, felt boots etc. The volume of industrial production of local enterprises increased by 10.6% for 1941 – 1944. 29 district food centers and 9 district integrated industrial plants worked in the region. There was a branched chain of various small producers' artels.

In war period there was capital construction in the region. 44.9 million rubles by estimated cost were contributed in the region's economy for 1941 – 1945. It was by 24 million rubles less than for three and a half pre-war years (1938 – 1940). The following construction projects were put in commission: the plywood plant in Sokol, the bread-baking plant in Vologda, the power station at the Vologda flax-mill, the soap factory

in Vologda. The shipyard in Cherepovetz and some other projects were under construction. Besides it under the orders of the region executive committee 20 thousand people were sent to build lines of defense in the region's territory (Vytegra, Sholsk and Kirillov districts). Each forth had a horse and the others used spades and saws.

After the men had gone to the front the problem of their substitution arose at the industrial enterprises. The women and teenagers took their workplaces on-site. An additional chain of trade schools was put in place, factory-and-workshop training was extended. For 1941 – 1945 21.3 thousand young workers were trained, it was by two times as much as in pre-war five-year period. The pure "male" workplaces were substituted by the women. For example, the share of women in the payroll of the Vologda railway department reached 54% by the end of war.

Putting the slogan "All is for the front – all is for Victory!" in practice the oblast committee of all-USSR Communist Party (of Bolsheviks), the oblast executive committee, the oblast committee of all-USSR Lenin Communist Union of Young, the trade union committees expanded socialist emulation for achievement of high labour results by working people, early fulfillment of the plans and the tasks. They organized Stakhanov's movement for acquirement of leading labour methods, conducted intensified watches, ten-day periods, month – periods in honour of outstanding country's events and military victories of the Army and the Navy. Creative initiatives, undertakings of working innovators and Stakhanov followers were covered widely by the regional mass media, the district press and the large-circulation educations and the creative teams.

The participation of the Vologda region's population in fund-raising for air connection as a present for heroic city of Leningrad was a bright display of patriotism and expression of willingness to give all their strength and resources to the front. Over 150 million rubles were collected in all [1, p. 16]. The peasants

of the Vologda region widely supported patriotic initiative of collective farm workers from agricultural artel “Builder” of Velikiy Ustyug district about fund-raising for tank column “Vologda collective farm worker”. At the earliest possible date 67,0 million rubles and 175 thousand poods of bread were collected [1, p. 16]. The population constantly collected warm clothes, tobacco pouches and handkerchiefs for the soldiers of armed forces. As of June, 23, 1944 the Vologda region's population sent: 17.0 thousand short sheepskin coats, 60.0 thousand pairs of felt boots, 7.0 thousand fir waistcoats, 143 thousand pairs of mittens,

23.0 thousand sets of warm underwear, a great number of tobacco pouches and handkerchiefs [1, p. 16].

The USSR government appreciated the labour contribution of the Vologda region's people in supplying the Army and the Navy and the USSR regions with timber, firewood, outfits and provision in a proper manner. In war period of time 545 residents of the Vologda region were decorated with orders and medals for their feat of labor, 162 thousand workers of the region were decorated with the medal “For valorous work in Great Patriotic War of 1941 – 1945” [1, p. 15].

The key indicators of national economy work of the Vologda region in 1940 and 1945

Indicators	1940	1945	1945 as against 1940 in %
Volume of gross industrial production, million rubles (in prices of the years 1927/1928)	356.4	286.47	80.3
Average annual number of workers, thousand people	103.4	82.09	79.6
Production of the most important kinds of industrial production in physical terms:			
- removal of logs, thousand cubic meters	8,836	5,590	63.2
- saw timber, thousand cubic meters	403	133	33.0
- paper, thousand tons	46.9	25.2	53.7
- fuel peat, thousand tons	53.8	144.5	268.6
- building brick, million bricks	26.4	7.0	26.3
- windowpane, thousand square meters	2,032	711	34.9
- electric power, million kilowatt-hour	124.2	88.0	70.8
- linen cloth, thousand meters	5,447	2,938	53.9
- meat, thousand tons	10.9	7.2	72.1
- animal oil, thousand tons	6.6	3.5	53.0
- tinned meat, million tins	12.8	25.3	197.6
- leather footwear, thousand pairs	203	152	74.8
- felt footwear, thousand pairs	181	227	125.4
Arable land in all categories of farms, in total, thousand ha including:	979.8	998.1	101.8
- leguminous plants	465.2	427	91.7
- flax	78.1	82.7	105.8
- potato	58.4	38.5	65.9
- vegetables	7.6	5.5	72.3
- winter crops	196.1	250.0	127.4
Livestock population in all categories of farms, in total, thousand heads:			
- horses	199.2	120.1	60.3
- cattle	622.9	559.3	89.7
including cows	336.8	297.0	88.2
- pigs	142.1	65.9	46.3
- sheep and goats	631.3	709.9	112.4
Procurement in all categories of farms :			
- cattle and poultry, thousand tons	16.8	18.1	107.7
- milk, thousand tons	153.0	82.9	54.1
- wool, tons	172.0	242.5	141.0
- egg, million eggs	12.4	10.9	87.9
- bread, thousand tons	80.81	109.50*	135.5

* For the year of 1944.

You can see the main results of national economy work of the Vologda region in 1945 as against the pre-war year of 1940 in *table*.

On the basis of the analysis above we can draw the following conclusions:

1. Under the conditions of war time and crisis and with lack of resources the Vologda region economy kept the main parameters. Using the available material and technical basis the region performed the major task – to supply the front with outfit and provision, to support the life activity of region's population and to protect its property. The field of production was kept.

2. Under the conditions of crisis the government greatly increased its influence while working out the plans and mobilization tasks, developing the strategy and the tactics of economy maintenance, allocating funds, controlling over fulfillment of the plans and searching for some additional resources. At the same time the importance of local factors increased: local authorities responsibility for fulfillment of the finished plans and tasks, searching for additional sources, activation of local industry, training and retraining of personnel. In war

time all these factors were used by the Vologda region authority actively.

3. The slogan "All is for the front – all is for Victory!" was simple and clear, it was apprehended by the region's population, young and old with all their heart. For victory the people of the Vologda region worked at full stretch, suffered hardship and destitution, rendered additional assistance to the front with their personal savings, warm clothes, took, fed and warmed the population of the occupied regions.

4. After the military operations had finished the Vologda region authority set a new task to restore the economy and to help it out of the crisis. In September, 1945 the departments of the region executive committee started to work out the forth five-year period plan for the national economy restoration and development for 1946 – 1950, later this plan was approved at the session of the oblast board of deputies of working people and realized. By 1950 the region's economy had been restored, the war level of social and economic development had been surpassed in all indicators. It was the period of high rate of economic development and complex approach to the solution of goal tasks.

References

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