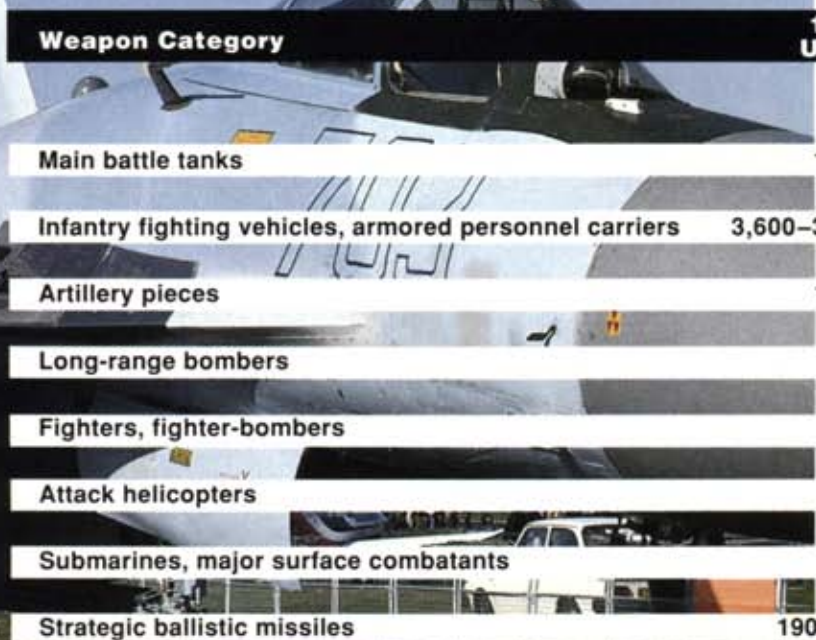


The Chart Page

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor

The Drop in Russian Arms Production

Weapons production dropped dramatically in 1992, the year after the collapse of the old Soviet Union, though output is still large by Western standards. Some plants idled arms production lines and laid off workers. Other factories continued to produce arms in order to keep workers employed, sometimes at the initiative of local managers and sometimes under government orders.



Weapon Category	1990 USSR	1991 USSR	1992 Russia
Main battle tanks	1,300	1,000	675
Infantry fighting vehicles, armored personnel carriers	3,600-3,900	2,100	1,100
Artillery pieces	1,900	1,000	450
Long-range bombers	35	30	20
Fighters, fighter-bombers	575	350	150
Attack helicopters	70	15	5
Submarines, major surface combatants	20	13	8
Strategic ballistic missiles	190-205	145-165	45-75

Russia accounts for ninety percent of the arms exports of the combined former republics. Russian exports, such as a major Su-27 "Flanker" deal with China, provide hard currency to the Russian Federation and enable the defense infrastructure to continue production. Russia is pushing arms sales to such big Third World countries as China and India. Moscow can no longer afford the cold war practice of providing large, subsidized arms shipments to poor Third World countries, such as Afghanistan and Nicaragua.

Source: Joint Economic Committee of Congress, June 11, 1993, statement by William Grundman, Defense Intelligence Agency.