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COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET 1/

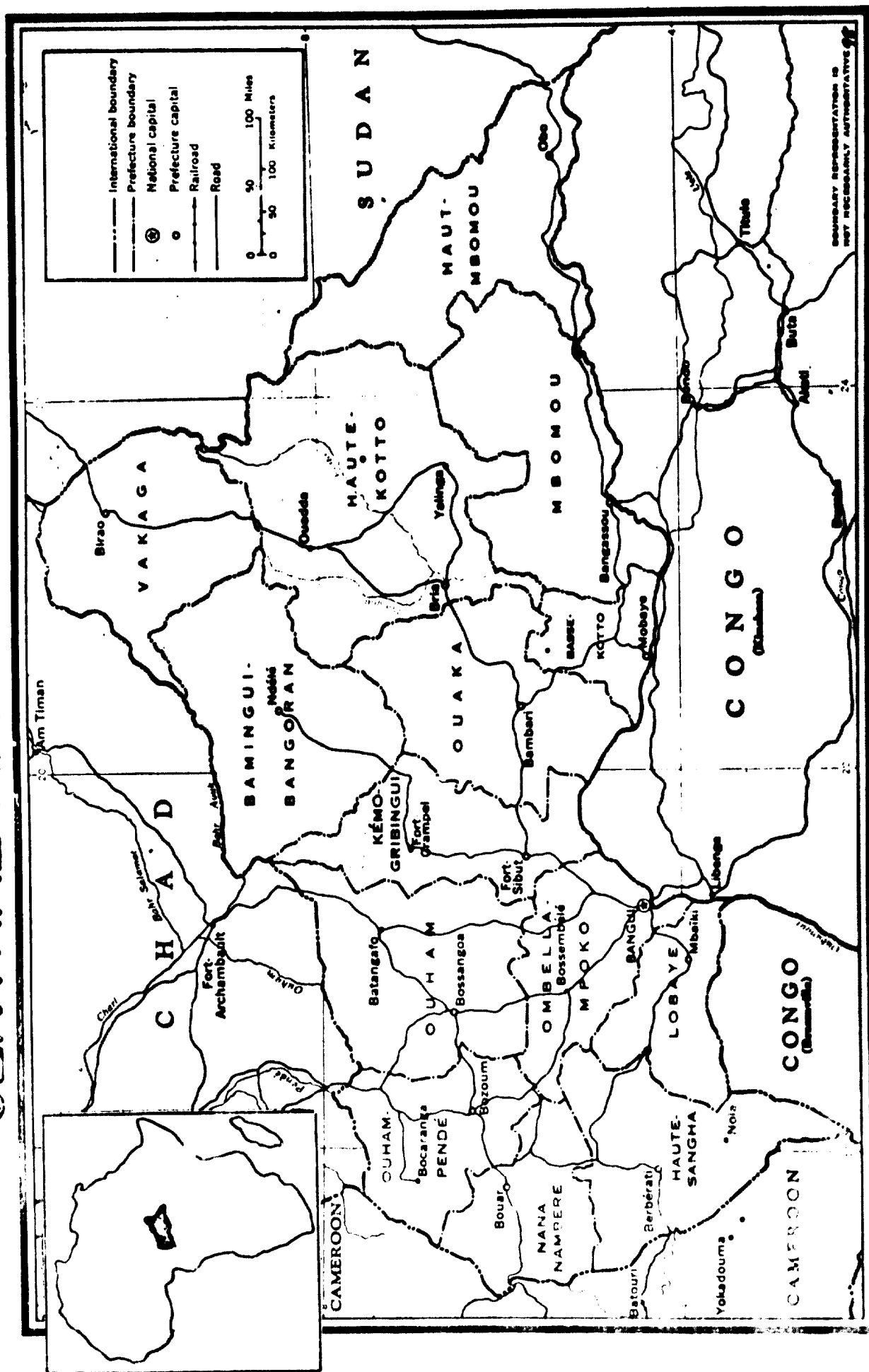
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



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ECONOMIC BACKGROUND HIGHLIGHTS

A. THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

1) ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY:

- a) AREA: 238,000 square miles; 616,400 sq. km.
- b) GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE: The Central African Republic is surrounded by Chad, Cameroon, the two Congos and Sudan. The climate is humid and tropical in the south, "Sudan-Guinea" type climate with abundant rainfall in the centre, and it is a "Sudan-Sahelian" climate which is very dry in the north. The average temperature for the country is 26° Centigrade.
- c) POPULATION: 1,528,000 in 1968 estimate with a rate of growth 3.2%
- d) LANGUAGES: French is the official language.
- e) MAIN CENTRES: The main cities are:

Bangui "Capital": 240,000	Bambari: 31,000
Berberati: 38,000	Bangassou: 28,000
Bossangoa: 35,000	Bouar: 28,000
- f) TRANSPORT FACILITIES: - Roads are 12,000 miles.
 - The extension of the trans-Cameroon railway line to Bangui is planned.
 - The river transport is of great importance in providing external outlets because the Ouhamou joins the Congo river which then flows between the two Congos down to the sea.
 - Bangui port "as a river port" is one of the most important connections in the communications system between Fort Lamy in Chad and Pointe Noire, in Congo-Brazzaville on the Atlantic and from the middle of Equatorial Africa to the sea over a distance of 1800 miles.
 - Bangui-M'Poko is an international airport for jets.

2) POLITICAL STATUS AND GOVERNMENT

STRUCTURE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD: The Central African Republic has representatives at UN, UNESCO and the EEC. It is a member of the Central African States Union, UDEAC; of the Afro Malagasy State Union, OCAM; of the OAU and of the Central African States Customs Union, UDEAC.
The Ministries in the economic field are:
Ministry of Development
Ministry of Power and Transport
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of National Economy
Secretary of State for Internal and External Trade.

Sources: - I.R.R.D. The Economy of the Central African Republic 1969

- EUROPE Year Book 1969

- AID Data Book - Africa 1969

- Africa 1969/70 - The editorial staff of "Jeune

Africaine"

B. BASIC ECONOMIC DATA

1) ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

- a) NATIONAL CURRENCY: The national currency is the CFA Franc.
The rate of exchange is US\$ 1 = CFAF 275.
- b) GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT: in 1964 (market prices) CFAF 41.4 billion.
Per Capita: US\$ 110
Agriculture: 37%
Mining and Manufacturing Sector: 14%
Transport, Trade, Services: 49%
Rate of growth, 1961-1964: 10%
5% (at current prices) =====

c) PER CAPITA INCOME: US\$ 102 in 1963

d) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:

	1965	1964	1965	1966	1967
European Consumer prices	100	180	197	202	206
	1960	1964	1965	1966	1967
African Consumer prices	100	125	..	145	..

e) BALANCE OF PAYMENTS:

1966 billion CFA Francs

Total Exports f.o.b.	0.5	
Total Imports c.i.f.	-10.8	
Trade Balance	-1.3	
Services net	-1.1	
Total	-2.4	
Net factor Payments	-1.8	
Balance of Current Account		- 4.2
		=====
Transfers from abroad	+3.7	
Change in Foreign Assets	+0.8	
Capital Movements and Errors and Omissions	-0.3	+ 4.2
		=====

- 2) NATURAL RESOURCES: - The agricultural land is only 10% of area.
Of the 15 million acres of agricultural land, 50% lies fallow. Cotton and coffee are the principal export crops, accounting for about 20% each of the value of total exports.
- Forests are 28,600 sq. miles or 12% of total area.
- Diamonds and gold are the only minerals currently exploited. Diamonds account for 50% of total exports. Deposits of iron ore, zinc, copper, tin and uranium recently discovered.
- 3) LABOUR FORCE: In 1965 the labour force was 35% of the population.
90% of the labour force were in agriculture.

A) ORIGIN OF GDP:(in billions of CFA francs)

	1961	1964	1964 /
Agriculture	14.4	15.3	36.9
Diamonds	1.3	2.3	5.6
Industry	3.0	3.4	8.2
Administration	4.8	6.9	16.7
Construction	1.0	1.2	2.9
Commerce	7.4	9.7	23.4
Transport	0.6	0.8	1.9
Services	1.6	1.8	4.3
<u>Total GDP at market prices</u>	<u>34.1</u>	<u>41.4</u>	<u>100.0</u>

- 5) MAIN INDUSTRIES: Food: 5 vegetable oil mills (1.6 million litre of oil in 1966). 2 coffee roasting plants (135 tons in 1966)
 A slaughter house - A dairy (37 tons of butter and cheese)
 - Brewery: beer and mineral water.
Planned: Two dairies and a new slaughter house.
Chemicals: An oil mill - 3 soap factories - grain mill - cattle food complex - Plastics factory - Gas factory - Paint factory - 19 cotton ginneries.
Leather and textiles: A new textile complex. A textile factory. A garments factory, Shoe factory.
Mechanical and electrical: Cycle and motorcycle assembly; Kitchenware in aluminium - Metal workshops, Repairs to radios and electrical apparatus.
Timber: 7 saw mills
Diamonds: Diamond cutting by the National Diamond Office.

C. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 1) INVESTMENTS: A Four-Year Plan has been prepared for the years 1967-1970. The Plan projects an annual growth rate of real per capita incomes of 4 percent, and total Plan investment of CFAF 36.9 billion over the four years.

This Table below shows the distribution of Plan expenditure between the different sectors, and the composition of expenditure carried out in 1967. Nearly 80 percent of Plan expenditure is in the public sector: concentrated in agriculture, transport, technical training, housing and urban development. Private investment is expected to play its main role in industry, mining and forestry. Out of total expenditures of CFAF 36.9 billion, CFAF 28.3 billion would be made in the public sector and CFAF 8.6 billion in the private sector.

The Four-Year Plan (in billion CFA francs)

	Planned for 1967-70	Implemented in 1967 Amount	% of Total Plan
<u>Total Plan Investment</u>	36.9	6.4	17%
<u>Productive Sectors</u>	14.7	4.4	30%
of which:			
Agriculture + rural developm.	6.6	0.8	12%
Industry	6.2	3.6	58%
Mining	1.9	-	-
<u>Transport and Communications</u>	5.3	1.1	21%
<u>Power</u>	0.5	0.03	6%
<u>Commerce and Tourism</u>	1.2	0.1	9%
<u>Social Investments</u>	11.3	0.7	6%
of which:			
Education	2.6	0.2	8%
Public Health	0.8	0.04	5%
Housing + Urban Development	7.1	0.1	1%
Other	0.8	0.4	50%
<u>Studies and Research</u>	3.3	0.3	9%
<u>Debt Service</u>	0.6	0.1	17%

- 2) SOURCES OF FINANCING: In macro-economic terms, the 1961 and 1965 national accounts and balance of payments estimates show that 90 to 95 percent of the financing of all investment come from abroad. (in billion CFA francs)

	1961	1964	1965
<u>Domestic investment</u>	6.1	7.2	7.6
<u>National savings</u>	0.3	0.9	1.5
Domestic savings	(3.7)	(4.5)	(2.9)
Net factor payments	(-3.4)	(-3.6)	(-1.4)
<u>External financing</u>	5.8	6.3	6.1
Transfers	(6.3)	(5.9)	(2.5)
Other capital inflow (net)	::	(-0.7)	(2.8)
Net change in external assets	::	(1.1)	(0.8)

D. FOREIGN TRADE DATA

1) FOREIGN TRADE BALANCE: (in million CFA francs)

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967 Jan.-Sept.	Percentage of total V.
Exports						
France	2,553.0	3,317.8	2,453.4	2,811.3	2,312.0	44.0
Common Market (excl. France)	350.7	744.9	788.2	907.2	314.0	6.0
Other African Countr. (excl. IMFAC)	198.7	158.1	186.9	94.9
Others	2,327.9	2,920.3	3,078.4	3,747.6	2,665.0	50.0
TOTAL	5,430.3	7,141.1	6,506.9	7,591.0	5,321.0	100.0
Imports						
France	3,929.3	4,329.8	4,099.9	5,067	6,486	59
Common Market (exc. France)	1,018.8	1,172.8	893.6	1,323	2,136	20
Other African Countr. (excl. IMFAC)	376.2	444.8	395.6	514	581	6
Others	1,190.3	1,422.3	1,387.2	1,718	1,705	15
TOTAL	6,514.6	7,369.7	6,776.3	8,622	10,908	100

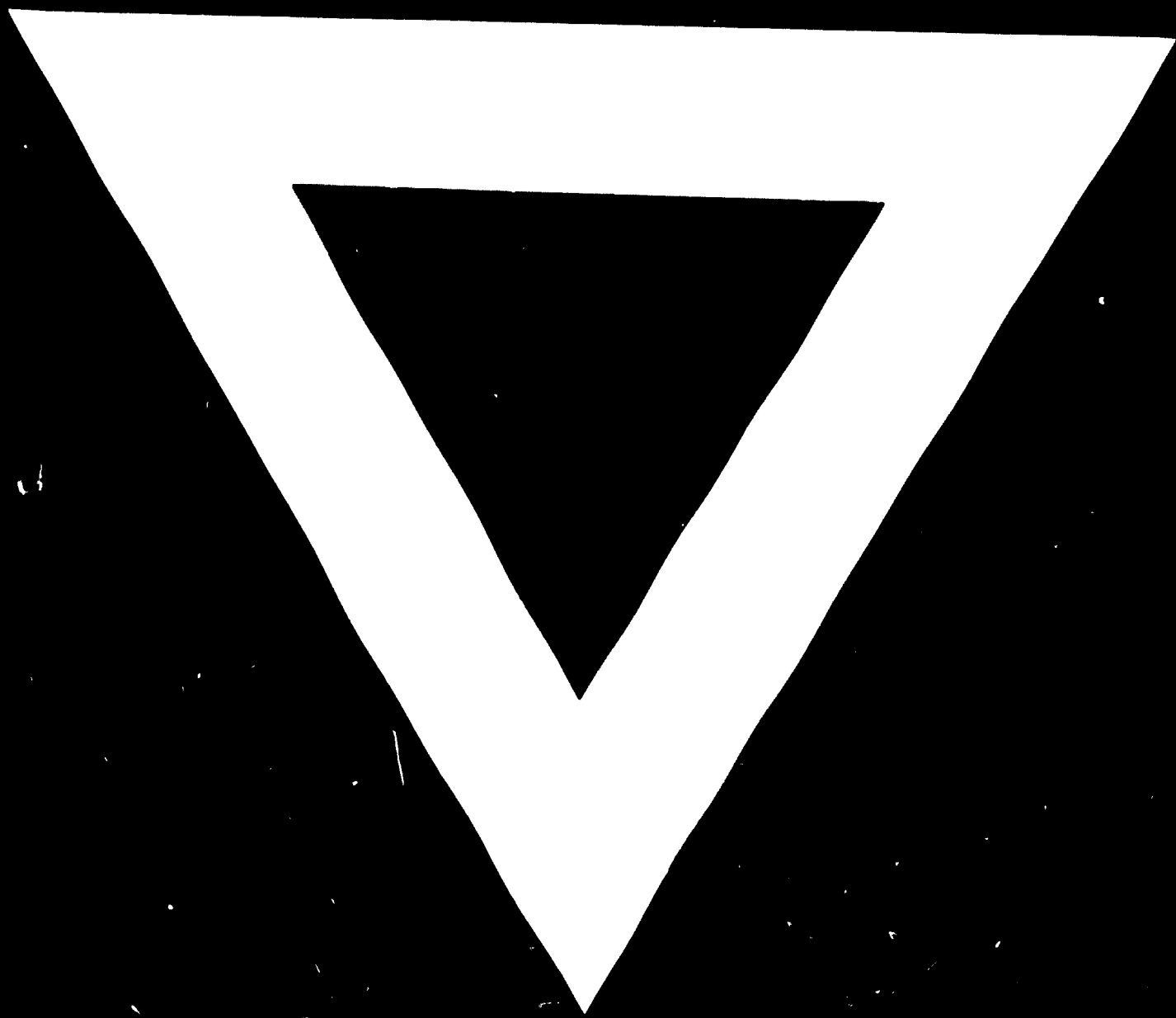
2) VALUE OF IMPORTS; MAIN PRODUCTS: (in millions of CFA francs)

	1964	1965	1966	1967	
Live animals + animals prod.	180.4	189.0	207.8	226.9	2.1
Vegetable products	298.4	306.0	501.0	687.3	6.3
Fats and oils	16.8	19.8	41.8	62.0	0.6
Food prod., beverages, tobacco	577.6	401.3	628.4	648.0	5.9
Mineral products	478.3	581.2	1,030.4	1,093.8	10.0
Chemical products	505.0	462.3	641.2	991.0	9.1
Plastics + rubber prod.	270.5	278.0	316.0	383.2	3.5
Skins and hides	30.0	33.5	47.4	38.6	0.4
Timber and cork	12.8	9.3	14.2	12.0	0.1
Wood pulp and paper	178.4	187.1	208.5	194.3	1.8
Textiles	1,567.9	1,150.4	1,195.8	1,376.0	12.6
Shoes and hats	304.6	177.2	136.3	75.0	0.7
Stone work, ceramics + glass	80.4	90.2	146.0	111.4	1.0
Pearls, gems + precious metals	16.7	14.4	27.2	53.3	0.5
Common metals + metal works	687.7	600.0	828.2	920.8	8.4
Machinery, apparatus + elect. equipment	903.6	907.2	1,122.9	2,667.6	24.5
Transportation equipment	963.6	1,012.7	1,244.5	1,044.7	9.6
Scientific + precision instruments	117.9	103.3	111.4	111.3	1.0
Weapons + ammunition	47.4	20.4	8.5	16.2	0.1
Products, N.E.C.	112.3	114.9	160.9	191.4	1.8
Art + collectors' items	0.5	1.3	3.3	-	-
TOTAL	7,369.7	6,776.3	8,622.6	10,908.0	100.0

3) VALUE OF EXPORTS: MAIN PRODUCTS: (in million CFA Francs)

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	Percentage of total V.
Cotton	1,364.9	1,386.7	1,236.2	1,115.8	1,635.1	22.7
Coffee	783.0	1,077.2	1,005.5	1,797.8	1,427.3	20.0
Diamonds	2,625.6	3,061.5	3,511.9	4,062.0	3,348.8	46.6
Rubber	121.0	105.4	95.0	129.4
Groundnuts	37.9	87.8	83.4	-	-	..
Sesame	63.7	92.7	122.1	33.0	53.2	..
Palmkernels and nuts	40.1	34.4	44.4	43.0		..
Tobacco	39.7	38.0	45.2	52.7) 140.7	..
Timber	60.3	134.5	120.7	93.1	(210.3	..
Logs	30.5	25.0	30.6	64.8)	..
Ivory	32.4	19.5	10.2	7.1	7.5	..
Others	231.2	177.5	192.7	192.3		..
TOTAL	5,430.3	7,141.1	6,506.9	7,591.0	7,166.1	100.0





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