

Australian standards. Canadian explorers and equipment/service companies are actively engaged in exploration initiatives.

Australia has significant uranium deposits accounting for 16 per cent of the Western world's low-cost reserves. Three uranium mining projects are operating and six others are planned for development. While political and market difficulties will place limitations on further investments, uranium mining has significant potential in the medium-term.

## Manufacturing

Australia's secondary industry expanded significantly over the past few decades. Growth in the manufacturing sector has been encouraged to a considerable degree by government industry support policies. Manufacturing accounts for about 17 per cent of GDP.

The steel industry is an important base for Australian manufacturing and has given rise to a significant motor vehicle industry. Subsidiaries of major Japanese, American and British automakers have developed assembly and manufacturing plants to supply the Australian market with automobiles, automotive parts and components. Canadian on-road and off-road automotive parts are also available in the Australian automotive market.

Heavy engineering industries in Australia manufacture some of the machinery required in such industries as mining, mineral processing and fabricating, petroleum, chemicals and transportation (road, rail, air and sea).

The chemicals industry has grown steadily in the past decade. From primary materials such as coal, sugar, limestone, oil, natural gas, sulphur and salt, the industry produces basic chemicals such as ammonia, chlorine, ethyl alcohol, ethylene, methanol, phenol, soda ash and sulphuric acid. From these and other chemicals a range of products are manufactured, including dyestuffs, explosives, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, plastics, insecticides and soaps.

The electrical and electronics industry produces many industrial and consumer items including transformers, electric motors, wires, cables, electrical control apparatus, refrigerators, radios, TVs and miscellaneous household appliances.