

grains and pasture, which are the mainstay of the dairy industry, the largest sector in the agricultural economy. The region around the Annapolis Valley accounts for one-third by value of Nova Scotia's agricultural production. The province's three biggest fruit crops — apples, blueberries and strawberries — are rivalled by dairy products, poultry, hogs and alternate crops like vegetables and potatoes.

Forestry

In the 1880s there were some 1,400 sawmills in Nova Scotia; they now number about 400, though the production levels are much the same. Forest lands total more than 10.7 million acres. About 70 per cent is held by hundreds of small-woodlot owners and by forest products corporations. The remainder is the provincial government's Crown land.

The forestry industry employs more than 8,000 Nova Scotians in harvesting and processing. Approximately 140 million cubic feet of timber are used annually in the production of pulp, paper, hardboard and sawn products.

Mining

Nova Scotia is endowed with rich resources of industrial minerals, notably coal, gypsum and salt. Until the 1950s when the demand for coal dropped sharply, coal fields were a major force in the provincial economy. Today the

rising cost of alternative fuels has restored coal's popularity and the industry is expanding. Coal production is about 3 million tons a year and includes both thermal and metallurgical coal used in steel-making processes. Gypsum is produced from five major quarries and much is shipped to the United States.

Two lead and zinc mines began operation in 1978 and interest is being shown in indications of tungsten, tin, molybdenum and uranium in the province. Recent finds of hydrocarbons in the offshore areas suggest the possibility of oil and natural gas deposits.

Manufacturing

Of every 100 persons in the Nova Scotia labour force in 1978, 14.7 were engaged in manufacturing. This represents a labour force of 46,000 persons in more than 700 plants across the province. In less than a decade, manufacturing shipments have doubled and are now nearly \$3 billion annually. Almost 65 per cent of manufacture is exported outside the province, a quarter of this abroad. While 70 per cent of products sold abroad go to the United States, many firms manufacture for overseas markets.

The main areas of manufacturing are petroleum refining, food and beverages, pulp, paper and wood products and transportation equipment, including automobile and automotive parts, ships, railway stock and aircraft parts.