



*Glacier-fed streams such as this still attract gold panners to northern British Columbia.*

measures 7,022 kilometres, supporting a large international and coastal shipping industry through ice-free, deep-water ports. British Columbia's total area contains approximately 54 million hectares of forest, 2.7 million hectares of arable or potentially arable land, 6.6 million hectares of land that can be used for grazing, and 3.6 million hectares of lakes and rivers.

British Columbia is endowed with an abundance of diverse natural resources, including forests, minerals, petroleum and natural gas, hydroelectricity, agricultural land, fisheries and scenic attractions. As a result, economic activity in the province has been based in large measure on the development of these resources. While service industries comprise 60% of gross domestic product in British Columbia, much of the provincial economy depends on goods-producing industries.

The contribution of goods-producing industries has grown in the last decade from 37.3% of gross domestic product in 1970 to 40.6% in 1980. Increased resource prices are responsible for much of this change. Prices in the goods-producing industries increased at an annual average rate of 10.9% between 1970 and 1980, while service industry prices rose by only 8.2%. The primary (extractive) industries provided almost 25% of the value added in goods production in 1980, and combined with related resource processing industries comprised over 60%. Forestry, including processing activities, forms the largest component (32.9%) of the value added in goods production, followed by mining (18.2%) and agriculture and fishing (10.6%). Among the non-resource industries, construction activities provided 19.2% of the value added in goods production, with utilities adding 7.6% and other