

Principal crops are wheat and sugarcane. Other crops produced in abundant quantities include oats, barley, maize, sorghum, rice, tobacco and cotton. Many fruits and vegetables are also grown, and large proportions of the peach, pear, apricot and pineapple crops are canned for domestic and overseas consumption. Grapes are used in the production of raisins and wine.

Australia has one of the largest livestock industries and is the world's leading supplier of wool, accounting for about 50 per cent of international wool exports. The sheep industry also produces large quantities of mutton and lamb.

Beef cattle farming is another important industry. Production of beef and veal has increased substantially in recent years and meat has surpassed wool as Australia's most valuable agricultural commodity.

Another leading agricultural industry is dairy farming. Significant stocks of milk products, including whole milk, butter, cheese, milk powder and edible casein are produced both for domestic consumption and export.

Major agricultural products are marketed by Australia's Wool Corporation, Wheat Board, Dairy Produce Board, Canned Fruits Board, Apple and Pear Board, Dried Fruits Control Board, Egg Board, Honey Board and Wine Board.

Forestry

Australia has about 43 million hectares (more than 100 million acres) of forest, most of which includes various species of eucalyptus. About half the total forest area is being worked to produce lumber, plywood, pulpwood and other forest products including newsprint, fine writing paper, printing and wrapping paper.

Almost half of the country's forest resources is hardwood, although plantation radiata pine is being developed for local lumber and pulpwood markets. The domestic supply of coniferous timber remains deficient, resulting in imports of softwoods. Australia's forest product exports are moderate; however one product with promising export potential is eucalyptus wood chips for pulp and paper manufacturing.

Minerals

Minerals play a key role in the economy. The country has rich deposits of coal, iron ore, gold, lead, zinc, copper, uranium, bauxite, silver, nickel, manganese, mineral sands, crude oil and natural gas. The main mineral deficiencies