

Montana

Montana's economy is dependent on its natural resources. The state's soil and mineral wealth, natural beauty and forests provide the basis for its most important economic activities. Agriculture is a major force in the economy, contributing over \$1.3 billion in cash receipts in 1979. Wheat is the chief crop, and other grains include barley, sugar beets, alfalfa and rye. In the southern counties, livestock and poultry production are important industries.

The largest untapped resources are in its mineral reserves: coal, natural gas and petroleum. Timber is also a major source of Montana's natural wealth, with forest production valued at over \$300 million annually.

Industry has been slow to develop in Montana. The state's remoteness from major markets and the resulting high costs of transportation, together with the small size of the labor force, has lessened its appeal to manufacturing firms. The pre-eminent industries are those involved in the processing of raw materials from farms, forests and mines. More than four-fifths of the state's industrial workers are employed in food processing, lumber and wood products, smelting and mining of ferrous metals and the refining of petroleum.

Canadian exports totalled \$980.3 million to the state in 1981, led by sales of oil, natural gas, fertilizer petroleum, coal products and precious metals in ores, concentrates and scrap.

North Dakota

Agriculture is the backbone of the state's economy, with over \$2.3 billion in farm receipts in 1979. North Dakota leads the nation in the production of spring wheat, durum wheat, sunflower seeds, rye, flax and barley.

Livestock production is also important to the economy. It is an adjunct to grain farming in the eastern part of the state, but assumes greater importance toward the western border of the state, where it becomes the mainstay of agriculture. The principal varieties of livestock in North Dakota are beef cattle, dairy cattle and hogs.

North Dakota is the site of massive lignite deposits; it ranks 15th in proven reserves of oil; the state also has