

position of being one of the world's ranking exporters of forest products. Exports of wood, wood products and paper in 1978 amounted to \$9,429 million, which was about 18 per cent of the value of all commodity exports. Softwood lumber accounted for one-third the value of all forest products exports; newsprint for 31 per cent, woodpulp for 23 per cent and the balance was in other wood and paper products.

The forests of Canada, which are largely coniferous, make up 35 per cent of the total land area. British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec are the most important timber-producing provinces.

Minerals: Canada leads the world in mineral exports and ranks third in mineral production behind the United States and the Soviet Union. The mineral industry has been a major factor in Canada's economic development. The strength of the industry is based on export sales. About 82 per cent of total mineral production was exported in one year recently.

Mineral production is divided into four sectors; metallics, non-metallics, mineral fuels and structural materials. Petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, copper, nickel and zinc together contribute more than three-quarters of total Canadian mineral output value, with petroleum and natural gas production and refining being Canada's largest mineral industry.

Canada is the world's leading producer of nickel, zinc and asbestos and is among the top two or three leading producers of the following: gold, uranium, molybdenum, titanium, gypsum, potash, silver, sulphur, cobalt, platinum metals and lead. Canada also ranks high in the production of iron ore, magnesium, copper, barites and several other minerals.

At present, there is special interest in Canada's extensive endowment in energy resources, crude petroleum, natural gas, coal, uranium and electric power. Canada currently has a net deficiency of about 15 per cent in crude petroleum requirements but this is well below the relative dependence on foreign supplies of nearly all major OECD countries. Because of the vast potential of its non-conventional sources of energy, chiefly frontier oil and gas and synthetic fuels, there has been increasing emphasis on attainment of relative self-sufficiency in energy requirements in the longer run, although this involves very large outlays of capital.

This will be accomplished through the building of pipelines, generating stations, development of the tar sands and heavy oil plants, offshore and Arctic production.

Geography and transportation

Canada is the largest country in the Western Hemisphere and the second largest in the world, the largest being the Soviet Union. From east to west