

forestry, fisheries and mining has declined during the past 15 years, although it is still the mainstay of the provincial economy, while electric power and construction have become industries.

A top priority for the New Brunswick government is to assist the manufacturing and processing sectors of the economy. To this end, government policies are aimed at attracting industry, supporting and strengthening existing industries, increasing employment, expanding the tax base, alleviating regional disparities and attending to social and environmental concerns.

Various boards, agencies and Crown corporations invest in industries wishing to locate in the province, and provide or guarantee loans to manufacturing industries, supply cash grants and give technical support and engineering management or consulting services as required.

During the past ten years, the New Brunswick work force has expanded substantially. From 1971 to 1981 more than 85 000 people joined the labour force. Today more than 260 000 individuals are employed in New Brunswick.

Manufacturing

The manufacturing sector is very important in terms of jobs and income,

as is the processing of New Brunswick's natural resources. Manufacturing industries employ more than 30 000 New Brunswickers and the gross value of shipments is more than \$3 billion each year. The manufacturing sector has diversified considerably since 1970, when processing resource products was dominant, and there are now many companies in the metal-fabricating, machinery, plastics-fabricating and electrical-product fields.

The food, beverage and fish-processing industries are also important manufacturing concerns.

Forestry

Much of the province's manufacturing activity is centred on forest-related industries. Forestry employs approximately one-third of the manufacturing work force and is responsible for more than 30 per cent by value of the province's manufactured shipments. Mechanical harvesting methods and an elaborate system of all-weather roads have made forestry operations highly efficient.

Forest lands are owned by the New Brunswick government; the province plays an active role in managing these Crown lands to ensure that Crown timber is harvested wisely.