

Over 50 per cent of the total area has sustainable commercial forests, and forestry is the leading primary industry in the West Coast region. In 1987, the total value of shipments (logging, the wood industry and paper and allied products) was \$13.7 billion and some 90 000 people were employed in these operations.

Mining is the second-ranking primary industry in British Columbia; in 1987 mineral production reached \$3.4 billion. Copper, molybdenum, zinc and lead are the leading metals. Much of the region's coal is exported to Japan. Oil and natural gas production is focused in the Peace River and Fort Nelson country.

Pulpmills, lumbermills, smelters and refineries are among the province's largest employers and considerable value is added to these resources through processing.

Most fish processors are located in the lower mainland and around Prince Rupert but fishermen are active along the coast and off the coastal islands as well. Farms crowd not only the lower mainland and southern Vancouver Island but also special districts such as the Okanagan Valley and the Peace River country beyond the mountains.

