

For all sectors, the value of shipments of manufactured products amounts to over \$22 billion annually (1979). Major international companies such as Honeywell Inc., Control Data Corporation and 3M Company have headquarters in Minnesota. This is the marketing and distribution centre of the Upper Midwest. The largest grocery wholesaler in the United States, Super Valu, and one of the nation's largest consumer goods retailers, Gamble-Skogmo, operate from this state.

Transportation plays a vital role in keeping Minnesota the major commercial centre of the Upper Midwest. Because of its location at the head of the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Mississippi River, this state has direct links with the world's great seaports. The twin ports of Duluth and Superior rank second only to New York in annual tonnage. A total of 139 public and 127 privately owned airports, plus 27 seaplane bases, serve the state. Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is geared to handle nine million passengers. In 1981, it processed 80,947 short tons of freight (one short ton equals 2,000 pounds). Northwest Orient and Republic Airlines have their headquarters in Minnesota. The state is the third largest trucking distribution centre in the United States. The Twin Cities are served by six major railroads and are home base for the Burlington Northern and the Soo Line (controlled by Canadian Pacific). These cities are also well served by both surface and air freight forwarding companies. There is, as well, heavy barge traffic: 40 per cent of all grain from Minnesota moves to the Gulf coast ports via the Mississippi River.

With a population of more than two million, the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul form the most important distribution and manufacturing centre, not only for the state, but for the entire Upper Midwest. The Twin Cities also form a centre for the high technology and electronic industries, particularly computers, for agribusiness and milling, food processing, production of machinery, metal fabricating and textile production. Such diversity helps to minimize the effects on the area's economy of recession and inflation.

Canadian exports to Minnesota totalled \$3,108.6 million in 1981, led by petroleum, natural gas, lumber, wood pulp, newsprint and fertilizers.