

able energy programs. The latter includes the use of wood wastes or biomass.

As might be expected, the province's manufacturing industry has largely developed on a resource base: forest products, refined non-ferrous metals, fish products and processed agricultural products. However, as in the rest of Canada, there has been a concerted effort to increase the role of secondary industry in the economy. The transportation equipment industries (particularly boats and trucks), chemical industries (fertilizers), machinery industries (relating to forestry and mining), and metal fabricating industries have all enjoyed substantial growth in recent years. Employment in the manufacturing sector is approximately 150,000. The major manufacturing centre of the province is the greater Vancouver/New Westminster area, with Vancouver Island ranking second.

The movement of goods to the large population centres of the south and to eastern and foreign markets is largely by road and rail. Much of B.C.'s 52,000 km of highways and 7,300 km of track lead to Vancouver, the province's largest city and the busiest Pacific port of the Americas. The port facilities handle 43.5 million metric tonnes yearly. Among the major commodities shipped from Vancouver are potash, sulphur, coal, grain, forest products and mineral concentrates.

British Columbia's location on the Pacific rim is a major factor in the province's trading patterns. The United States and Japan are its two leading export markets and sources of imports. The most important exports are lumber, pulp, newsprint, crude petroleum, natural gas, and refined non-ferrous metals. The United States is a prime customer for forestry machinery and Japan for resource products. Other Pacific rim countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are important markets for fish and forest products and equipment. The U.S. accounts for nearly 55 per cent of B.C. imports, most of which are manufactured goods.

British Columbia entered into the Canadian Confederation in 1871, four years after the British North America Act created the Dominion of Canada. Under the Act, matters of national concern (such as defence, trade and commerce) are under federal jurisdiction. The Act grants exclusive provincial jurisdiction in 16 specific areas such as education and civil and property rights. British Columbians are represented at the federal level by 28 members of Parliament and six senators and at the provincial level by 55 members of the Legislative Assembly. The provincial government consists of the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. Members of the