
Fisheries: Commercial fish are caught chiefly along more than 12,000 miles of coastline on the Atlantic and some 7,000 miles on the Pacific. A continental shelf extending from both coasts provides water shallow enough to ensure ample feeding-grounds and cold enough to give sea fish firm flesh and fine flavour. In addition, Canada reaps a rich harvest in fresh-water fish from large inland lakes. Canada ranks consistently among the world's top three fish-exporting countries, and its fishing-grounds provide recreation to many visitors as well as Canadians.

Forestry: Canada's more than 1,000,000 square miles of productive timber stands -- a constantly renewable resource -- provide about one-fifth the value of the country's exports, including nearly half the world's newsprint needs and a diversity of packaging and shipping materials. Canada is also the world's largest exporter of softwood lumber and wood products, which include plywood and other construction materials.

Minerals: Huge developments in recent years have made the metallic and non-metallic mineral industries one of the fastest-growing groups of industries in Canada, accounting for more than one-quarter of Canadian export values. With an average annual growth-rate of over 8 per cent in the 1960s and early 1970s, the extraction and processing of minerals of all kinds was, by 1972, adding to the Canadian economy gross revenues of more than \$6 billion a year -- with vast areas yet to be tapped.

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.

Among these are very extensive resources of oil and natural gas, the first major discoveries of which were made at Leduc, Alberta, in 1947. These discoveries were quickly followed by hundreds more until, by the late 1960s, Canada was producing, on balance, all its needs in petroleum and natural gas and exporting some of this production to the Western United States. Canada has consequently become a significant producer of petro-chemicals.

Geography and
transportation

Canada is the second-largest country in the world, the largest being the Soviet Union. It extends 4,000 miles across approximately the 45th Parallel of the North American continent and has an area of nearly 4,000,000 square miles.
