

Construction

Some \$400 million is spent each year in Manitoba on new construction. About three-quarters of this is carried out in the city of Winnipeg.

Two out of every three dollars' worth of construction in 1978 went towards housing Manitobans.

Agriculture

Agriculture is particularly important to Manitoba's economy. Manitoba farmers are known for their impressive volume of grain deliveries. There are approximately 30,000 farms in the province and most produce grain crops. In addition to wheat and other cereals (oats, barley, rye), farmers have emphasized the cultivation of specialty crops such as sugar beets and sunflower seeds. Since the agricultural sector is healthy, this has meant better returns for Manitoba's large manufacturing and retail industries.

The average farm is 245 hectares in size and farmers have recently been receiving excellent world prices for their produce. Net farm income increased by 35 per cent in 1978 and cash receipts were valued at more than \$1.1 billion.

Dairy farming produces enough to meet domestic needs and some of the province's butter and cheese is exported. The raising of beef cattle is widely carried out.

While the number of farms in Manitoba has decreased in recent years, individual farm size has increased considerably. These economies of scale have led to greater efficiency. And so too has the amount of money which has been spent on agricultural research and development.

There are three major agricultural research facilities in Manitoba. They are located near the cities of Brandon and Morden and on the University of Manitoba campus, near Winnipeg. Their main fields of study are beef cattle breeding and management, swine breeding, forage crop physiology, agronomic practice, weed control, cereal and field crop development, insect and pest control, and soil-climate factors.

Mining

At a time when the presence of mineral resources is a key factor in determining economic strength and security, Manitoba is indeed fortunate to possess significant quantities of minerals. It is similarly blessed with vast tracts of forested land and marine resources.

Nickel, zinc, copper, cadmium, gold, silver selenium, tellurium and other minerals are mined in the province. But activity is not confined to the mines or pits. A considerable amount of smelting and refining is carried out in the province. Minerals are turned into concentrates for export or further processing in Canada.