

15 per cent for mining and oil, and 6 per cent for agriculture. In real terms, however, mining and energy registered the largest gains during the last decade. The leading industrial activities are petroleum refining, motor vehicle production, pulp and paper milling, meat processing, iron and steel milling and machinery and equipment manufacturing.

Technology

Canada's manufacturing industry is undergoing profound technological changes. The advent of new technologies in electronics, robotics, computers and communications has brought Canada to the forefront in many areas of technology. Canada's industries are dedicated to serving world markets and increasingly, companies are moving towards world product mandating. Increased facilities and incentives in research, development and education in electronics hardware and software are demonstrating the aptitude in application and adaptability of Canada to advanced technology.

International Trade

Canada exports approximately 31 per cent of all its production and imports almost 32 per cent of all the goods and services it consumes.

Foreign trade accounts for over 30 per cent of the GNP and is extremely important to Canada. The U.S. is Canada's most important trading partner. Other major trading partners are Japan, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, Venezuela, and Italy. Similarly Canadian businessmen are very active in South America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa.

Industrial and Regional Development

Through the 1980s and beyond, Canada faces the double challenge of realizing its substantial potential while fostering economic development in all regions of the country.

The Federal Government's Department of Regional Industrial Expansion (DRIE) has the specific mandate to stimulate national economic growth, to reduce regional disparities and to promote industrial development and trade.

A number of development agreements with each of the provinces, as well as a number of comprehensive programs, are available to assist in dealing with problems of economic growth and social adjustment.