

4. AGRICULTURE

4.1. Agriculture in Rhône-Alpes only represents 6.5% of French agriculture, both in cultivated land and in the final value of the produce. Agricultural activities are undertaken in conditions which are often difficult: mountainous areas, hazardous climate, difficult access, small size of farms, urban pressure, etc.

Mixed farming is widely practiced. Wine-making (in Beaujolais and Côte du Rhône), fruit-farming (peaches, apricots, apples, pears, nuts, small red fruits), market-gardening and horticulture are the main activities. The mountainous areas are rapidly expanding dairy farming geared towards cheese. Corn, wheat, barley and rape-seed are grown on the plains.

This area also produces beef and pork. Finally, forests cover 30% of the region's surface and supply about 2.1 million cubic metres of timber a year (particularly coniferous trees).

4.2. In 1992, total agricultural production in Rhône-Alpes was estimated at 3.8 billion Canadian dollars.

5. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

5.1. As the second industrial centre of France, Rhône-Alpes employs more than 520,000 workers (38.4% of total number in France). This work-force produced an output equivalent to 30% of French value-added industrial production.

5.2. The area has witnessed the establishment and development of a certain number of firms which have become multi-national concerns (**Péchiney**, **Ugine-Kuhlmann**, **Rhône-Poulenc**, **Thompson-**