

steel-works, for example, produce about 60 per cent of Canada's steel requirements in the transportation, construction, appliance and domestic hardware industries. An estimated one-third of Canada's consumer market lies within 160 kilometres of downtown Toronto.

Until the Great Depression, Canada was the world's second largest automotive manufacturer. Today, Canada's auto industry is centred on the 1965 Automotive Agreement between Canada and the United States. The pact allows for the duty-free import and export of vehicles and parts between the two countries. Since 1965, the total trade of automotive products with the United States has been some \$150 billion. The industry employs more than 76 000 workers in Ontario and accounts for some \$13.4 billion every year. This represents approximately 5 per cent of Canada's gross national product.

The ten leading manufacturing sectors in Ontario are: transportation equipment; food and beverage; primary metal; metal fabricating; electrical products; chemicals and chemical products; paper and allied industries; machinery; printing, publishing and allied industries; and rubber and plastic products.

A key sector of the manufacturing industry is food and beverages. The milling industry processes wheat, oats, barley, rye and corn from Ontario and the western provinces.

Several industries are dependent on these mills for their raw materials, notably bakeries, cookie manufacturers and cereal producers. Industrial milk is used to make cheese, which is the basis for one of Ontario's oldest established industries. The vegetable industry is located in southwestern Ontario, in the heart of the agricultural district.

Manufacturing in Ontario accounts for 72 per cent of the province's total industrial output and for 50 per cent of the country's total manufacturing. The province's prime location, with easy access to markets and transportation routes, ensures it a prominent place in Canada's future.

Transportation

The rugged country north and north-east of Lake Superior has always been a formidable barrier between eastern and western Canada. The area contains thousands of lakes and the dense rock of the Canadian Shield. In the 1880s it drove the builders of the Canadian Pacific Railway to despair and almost to bankruptcy. It was the construction of the railway through this territory that opened western Canada to settlement and economic development and thereby brought the far-flung colonies into union. Today there are over 16 000 kilometres of track and some 155 000 kilometres of road throughout Ontario.