

**Subsection 1.—The Manufactures of the Atlantic Provinces**

The Atlantic Provinces are of economic importance in a number of fields, such as pulp and paper, fish processing, sawmills and primary iron and steel. In *Newfoundland* manufacturing production is dominated by the forest and fisheries resources. Pulp and paper was the most important industry in 1955 with shipments valued at \$62,615,842 followed by fish processing with \$17,445,197. These two industries accounted for 69 p.c. of the total production of the Province. In *Prince Edward Island* agriculture and fishing resources, butter and cheese, fish processing, and prepared stock and poultry feeds are the leading industries. *Nova Scotia* is renowned for its coal mines and its fisheries as well as extensive forests and agricultural lands and is favoured with easy access by sea to the high grade iron ore supply of Newfoundland. On these resources are based the leading manufactures of fish processing, primary iron and steel, sawmills, pulp and paper, shipbuilding and butter and cheese. In addition an important petroleum refinery, cotton yarn and cloth, and coke and gas plants add to the diversification of manufacturing in the Province. The forests of *New Brunswick* give a leading place to its pulp and paper and sawmilling industries. Other important manufacturing and processing is based on fish and agricultural resources.

Considering the Atlantic Provinces as an economic unit, pulp and paper was the leading industry in 1955 with factory shipments valued at \$178,103,158. This was followed by fish processing with \$88,652,293, sawmills \$46,516,711, primary iron and steel \$43,561,192, shipbuilding \$26,806,967, and butter and cheese \$25,830,553. These six industries accounted for 53.5 p.c. of the total factory shipments of the Atlantic region. Other leading industries with shipments valued at \$10,000,000 or more were (in order of value): sugar refining, petroleum products, sash, door and planing mills, bread and other bakery products, slaughtering and meat packing, miscellaneous food preparations, railway rolling-stock, printing and publishing, prepared stock and poultry feeds and breweries.

In the Atlantic region the program of industrial development has been more selective than in some of the other provinces. Fish processing, new sawmills, increased pulp-making capacity and the manufacture of non-metallic building materials like cement and gypsum products have accounted for well over 50 p.c. of the industrial growth. There are, however, a few outstanding exceptions. Two sizable defence plants have been established in *Nova Scotia*, one to repair and overhaul naval aircraft and the other to build and repair radar and related electronic equipment. Considerable development has taken place in *Newfoundland*. Besides plants for the manufacture of cement and gypsum wallboard and plaster, factories for producing boots and shoes, birch veneer, cotton textiles, leather and optical goods, industrial machinery and a leather tannery were established, thus broadening the industrial base of the Province.

Despite the rapid development in the Atlantic Provinces since 1949, manufacturing production did not quite keep pace with the development in the more industrialized provinces of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. This is indicated by a slight drop in the Atlantic Provinces' share of the Canadian total which declined from 4.5 p.c. in 1949 to 3.9 p.c. in 1955. In number of persons employed there was an increase of 1.0 p.c. for the Atlantic Provinces as compared with an increase of 10.6 p.c. for Canada as a whole. For earnings of employees the increase was 37.8 p.c. as compared with 59.7 p.c. for Canada.

Up to 1952 the increase in employment in the Atlantic Provinces was about the same as for Canada as a whole. From 1953 to 1955, however, employment in the Atlantic Provinces declined by 6.0 p.c. while for Canada as a whole the decline was 2.2 p.c. The increased employment since 1949 reported by Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and *Nova Scotia* was offset by a drop of 4.3 p.c. in *New Brunswick*, resulting in a net increase of only 1.0 p.c. for the Atlantic Provinces as compared with an increase of 10.6 p.c. for Canada. Selling value of factory shipments were 32.5 p.c. higher in the Atlantic Provinces while for Canada as a whole they were 56.2 p.c. higher.