

The whole region is north of latitude 60° and part is beyond the Arctic Circle. In summer, long hours of daylight promote rapid growth where there is suitable soil. In winter, the days are short with little effective sunshine. Despite wide variations in temperature, winters are remarkably mild for the latitude and periods of intense cold are of short duration.

The Alaska Highway provides a transport link with British Columbia and Alberta. The capital and main urban centre is Whitehorse.

**Northwest Territories** includes all Canadian territory north of the 60th parallel of latitude except Yukon, the northwestern tip of Quebec and Labrador, and all islands south of the 60th parallel in Hudson Bay and James Bay. This vast area, more than one-third of Canada, is one of extremes in topographical characteristics, flora and fauna, and climate with permafrost throughout. East of the mountain fringe along the Yukon boundary, the mainland plains slope east to Hudson Bay and northeast to the Arctic Archipelago. The interior plains of the central continent extend to the Arctic Ocean. Across the low-lying mainland area flows the Mackenzie River, draining Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake and emptying into the Arctic Ocean. The whole northeastern portion of the mainland is treeless tundra studded with countless lakes, swamps and muskeg. In southern areas summers last for about three months with temperatures above 10°C. North of the treeline, freezing temperatures may occur during any month and winters are long and bitterly cold. In the Archipelago, high mountain ranges lie in a general north-south direction across Baffin, Devon and Ellesmere islands. Climates are moderated by the sea so that extremes are not as severe as in a continental area of the same latitude. Temperatures in the Archipelago are generally below -18°C for six months or more. Occasional mild periods occur during the winter, particularly in the western Arctic. Summers are short and cool. Winter nights and summer days are long, reaching a maximum of 24 hours. Precipitation is extremely light and falls mostly in late summer.

The capital, Yellowknife, is situated on the north shore of Great Slave Lake. Road access to the rest of Canada is restricted to the Mackenzie Delta and Great Slave Lake areas. In the eastern Arctic, the focal point is Iqaluit (Frobisher Bay).

### 1.1.2 Economic geography

**Newfoundland.** The economy is based largely on natural resources and their processing. Pulp and paper and food processing are the main elements of manufacturing. Iron ore is the largest

component of the substantial mineral production with zinc and asbestos having some importance. Cod forms over half the value of landed species in the extensive fishing industry.

**Prince Edward Island.** Agriculture is the principal occupation. Almost 70% of the land is cultivated, producing mixed grain crops but specializing in potato growing. Dairying and livestock raising are also important. The lobster catch accounts for about 60% by value of primary fishery production. Food processing makes up the bulk of manufacturing.

**Nova Scotia.** The fishery is one of Canada's largest; principal species by landed value are lobster, cod, scallop and haddock. Agriculture is centred on dairy products, livestock and fruit. Coal is the principal mineral produced; others are gypsum and salt. Manufacturing is varied and includes food processing, forest products and transportation equipment.

**New Brunswick.** Forest products and food processing are the principal types of manufacturing. The most important species in the provincial fishery in terms of landed value are lobster and crab. Agriculture is varied, with dairy products and potatoes being the most important products. In mineral production, zinc, lead and byproduct metals form most of the value of minerals produced.

**Quebec** accounts for about one-quarter of Canadian manufacturing. Leading are textile and clothing industries, followed by food processing, pulp and paper, primary metals, chemicals, metal fabricating, the wood industries and transportation equipment. Quebec is a major producer of gold, iron ore and copper, and a leading world producer of asbestos. Agriculture is concentrated on dairy products and livestock. There is a sea fishery with cod being the principal species. Quebec is a major producer of hydroelectric power.

**Ontario** accounts for about half of Canadian manufacturing. The largest single sector is transportation equipment; others include food processing, primary metals, metal fabricating, electrical products, chemicals, pulp and paper, and printing. Ontario ranks first among the provinces in agricultural receipts. In farming, livestock and dairy products predominate but there is a large production of cash crops, notably tobacco and vegetables. Although Ontario ranks second in mineral production by value, it is first in metals production including nickel, copper, uranium, gold and zinc. There is a freshwater fishery, primarily in the Great Lakes.