

Natural Resources

The region enjoys a bounty of natural resources, including forest products, oil, gas, gravel, water, and favorable soils and climate for agricultural production, with a number of industries based on these resources enjoying continued potential for growth.

The region's specific soil and climate help to produce several species of hardwood timber that are unequaled in other parts of the world, including maple, ash, red oak and black cherry. The estimated annual net growth of timber amounts to over 1.6 million tons a year. At present, about one third of this amount is being removed through harvesting, leaving a significant potential for future economic development, including the potential for increased domestic secondary use and export use.

The region possesses an abundant supply of surface and sub-surface water. Two of the top ten primary aquifers in New York State are located in the region (the Jamestown and the Olean/Salamanca aquifers), which have potential for future business development. The region also contains a number of highly productive principal aquifers, which also have potential for future business development.

The region has significant natural gas, petroleum, and gravel resources in all three counties, and potential for natural gas, petroleum, and gravel extraction still remains. There also is potential for the commercialization of the region's renewable natural energy resource base (i.e., geothermal and hydroelectric power).