

Type of Economic Activities

Primary Sector Jobs

Definition: The extraction and/harvesting of natural resources.

Examples: Farming, fishing, logging, oil drilling, mining, etc.

Location: These activities must occur where the natural resource is found on the Earth.

Importance: These are the most basic of all activities, so these professions are among the oldest in the world. They provide for the necessities of living, and most land in the world is devoted to these activities.

Secondary Sector Jobs

Definition: These activities are involved with the refining of raw materials into useable products or the manufacturing of goods.

Examples: Manufacturing, canning, food processing, oil refining, etc.

Location: These activities occur in either of two places:

- near the source of the raw materials,
- near the market where the good is to be sold.

Importance: These activities ADD VALUE to raw materials. The production of these activities signals a shift from agricultural to industrial.

Tertiary Sector Jobs

Definition: These are activities associated the service sector.

Examples: Retail, banking and finance, transportation, education, etc.

Location: These economic activities occur in urban areas. However, there are identifiable patterns to their location.

Importance: As an area becomes more developed the tertiary sector grows. In the USA, this sector is the largest sector of the economy.

Quarternary Sector Jobs

Definition: These are activities are associated with the accumulation and dissemination of data.

Examples: Research and development, census, marketing, etc.

Location: These activities are can also occur anywhere, but are often concentrated in research areas

Importance: These activities are the sign of an extremely advanced economy.

Quinary Sector Jobs

Definition: These activities are associated with executive decision-making (corporate hdqtrs) that affects people in other locations.

Examples: CEOs, Corporate officers, Corporate Boards.

Location: These occur mostly in large urban areas

Importance: These professions make decisions that have far-reaching impacts on the way a business is run, employment, location of industries and sites.