
Substantial programs are in place to assist Canadian workers and businesses to respond to the Agreement. The most important federal program directed at labour adjustment is the Canadian Jobs Strategy, which provides financial assistance for training, job development and relocation of workers. Employment and Immigration Canada also runs the Industrial Adjustment Service and provides counselling, referral and placement services. Unemployment Insurance is always available to help Canadians make the transition from one job to another. An equally extensive range of programs is available which will help Canadian businesses capitalize on the new opportunities created by the Agreement. They include: the Trade Commissioner service of the Department of External Affairs; the Program for Export Market Development; the Microelectronics and Systems Development Program and the Technology Outreach Program operated by the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion; and the new approach to regional development embodied in the programs and services of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Western Economic Diversification and the Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario. The Prime Minister has recently announced the establishment of the Advisory Council on Adjustment, composed of representatives from business, labour organizations and academics, to advise the government on the effectiveness of these programs in the context of the Agreement.

The Forest Sector

This paper assesses the expected impact of the Agreement on the three major components making up Canada's forest industry.

These include the primary producers (lumber, pulp, newsprint, and shingles and shakes), the higher value-added or intermediate forest products (paper, paperboard, waferboard, particleboard, and plywood) and producers of converted wood and paper products.