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Forest industry: a major contributor to the Canadian economy

With almost half the country's land area covered by forests, chiefly conifers, the forestry industry has become Canada's largest industry. Its value to the economy is estimated at \$20 billion annually and it contributes more to the national economy than metals, food and agriculture, fisheries, and the automotive industries combined.

The forest industry directly employs some 300 000 Canadians across the country in pulp and paper and wood manufacturing and logging. It also indirectly employs another half million Canadians through service or related industries such as residential building, printing and publishing, industrial packaging, and furniture manufacturing. It consumes large quantities of energy and requires efficient transportation services, and machinery and equipment, including control systems using advanced technologies. It has been estimated that one job in every ten in Canada, therefore, depends to some extent upon the forest industry.

All regions of Canada participate in the forest industry activity. In British Columbia, forest products represent over half the province's industrial production and exports, while in the maritimes forest products total about one-third of manufacturing activity. Other provinces reflect varied levels: Quebec, 15 per cent; Ontario, 7 per cent; the prairie provinces, 10 to 15 per cent.

Over 5 000 companies located across Canada, from small operations to multi-national corporations, comprise this in-

dustry. And more than 300 communities in the country depend upon the forest industry for their existence.

A major world supplier

Canada is the second largest wood producer in the world and softwood growth represents about 14 per cent of the total. In harvesting softwood stock, the country ranks third in world production, but it is the largest exporter of softwood lumber, supplying 45 per cent of world markets. Canada also accounts for more than one-fifth of world exports of manufactured forest products.

Primary forest products divide into two major categories, with wood products including lumber, plywood and others accounting for about one-third of the value of all shipments, and pulp paper and paperboard representing the other two-thirds.

Lumber is first in production in the wood products sector, fol-

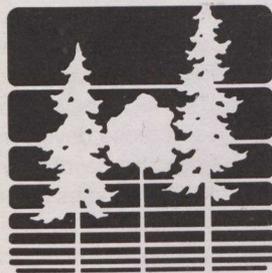
lowed by millwork, exterior panels of softwood plywood and waferboard, and prefabricated housing. Shipments in paper and allied industries are more equally divided, with market pulp leading slightly, followed by newsprint, converted paper and board products, and other paper and paperboard.

Lumber, pulp and newsprint are responsible for about 85 per cent of Canada's forest products exports. Plywood, waferboard and various paper grades are sold to both domestic and international markets, while some valued-added products service the Canadian market only.

Canadian softwood lumber shipments



Forests cover almost half of Canada's vast land area.



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