

climate, which varies from dry to very humid. Production in this area has expanded very rapidly in recent years. Although, until a few years ago, the wood was used almost exclusively for lumber, there are now several pulp-mills in the region.

Canada's only area of true deciduous forest is a relatively small one in the southernmost part of Ontario, a predominantly agricultural zone.

Wood production

Canada's total area of commercial forest is 436 million acres, roughly 8 per cent of the world total. Four-fifths of this forest is coniferous; the remainder is deciduous.

The pattern of use for the harvest of this forest varies widely across the country. In Eastern Canada, about two-thirds of the wood is used for the production of pulp and paper, while lumber is the major product on the West Coast.

Nearly 4,900 million cubic feet of wood were cut from Canada's forests in 1974 — about 90 per cent coniferous. A recent estimate placed the annual allowable cut from lands now accessible, and using present practices, at 8,480 million cubic feet, so that roughly 57 per cent of the allowable cut is currently being taken.

Economists predict by the year 2000 an annual harvest of 7,620 million cubic feet — still within the present allowable cut. In addition, much of the timber in Canada's northern forests — about 25 per cent of all the country's forested land — has not yet been inventoried, so that no allowable cut has been calculated for this area.

Forest industries

In 1974, Canadian forest industries employed almost 300,000 workers, who earned some \$3,281 million. Of these, about 59,000 worked in logging operations, 107,000 in wood industries and the remainder in paper and allied industries.

The largest lumber-mills are located on the West Coast, some employing as many as 600 or 700 people, while a typical large mill in Eastern Canada employs between 75 and 100. There has been a steady reduction in the number of sawmills in Canada in recent years, with many small mills going out of production.