

Mexico was shuttering for concrete constructional work, followed by prefabricated buildings and other articles made of wood. Exports of other items have fallen significantly, in particular those of lumber, veneer, fibreboard and builders' carpentry. Canadian imports from Mexico fell by 7% from Cdn\$606,000 in 1988 to Cdn\$565,000 in 1989 and have been increasing annually to reach Cdn\$890,000 1991. Imports have been varied as can be seen above, but have consisted mostly of articles of wood with some basic manufacturing process rather than of lumber and other wood.

### 3.3 LOCAL PRODUCTION

#### 3.3.1 RESOURCES

Mexico's wood and forestry sector, comprising wood and wood products, accounted for 1.5% of the country's total GDP and 2.5% of manufacturing GDP in 1991, equivalent to Mex\$31.5 billion 1980 pesos (or roughly \$1.4 billion). During the 1985-1991 period, this sector's GDP decreased at an average annual rate of 4.7%, as compared to a 3.3% annual increase of manufacturing GDP as a whole. Although during the 1981-1986 period the forestry sector followed the general trend of manufacturing GDP, between 1987 and 1991 the latter has experienced moderate to high growth rates averaging 4.6% annually, while the forestry sector has shown a continuing decrease of 8.2% per annum. In 1991 alone, manufacturing GDP grew by 4.5%, while the wood sector fell by 15.1%.

Mexico's total forested areas represent 143.6 million hectares, or 73.3% of the country's total territory. This places Mexico among the 11 countries in the world with the largest forestry resources. Approximately 12 million people live in forested areas and an estimated 300,000 live off primary forestry production.

Mexico's total forested area can be further subdivided as follows: