

The distinctive and different characteristics of the forest regions affect the economies of the districts lying within their boundaries. The Boreal Region is noted for its stands of black spruce and white spruce, the backbone of the pulp and paper industry of Quebec and Ontario. The poplar and jack pine of the Region also are finding more extensive use in the manufacture of wood-pulp. Further west in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta white spruce comprises the bulk of the lumber manufactured by the sawmills. The Coast Region is renowned for its tall timbers—Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, western cedar, and western hemlock. Douglas fir has established itself in world markets as the finest of structural timbers. This area alone provides over one-third of the lumber sawn annually in this country.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region is the source of most of the hardwood lumber sawn in Canada, particularly hard maple, yellow birch and oak. This is the area that supported the great stands of eastern white pine for which Canada was so long famous. Most of these stands have been cut out, but the Region is still the source of much Canadian white pine. In the forests of the Acadian Forest Region, spruce and balsam are of primary importance; pine and some valuable hardwood species are associated with them. This Region supports vigorous pulp and paper, and lumber industries and provides primary forest products for export.

While not of great importance commercially, the Deciduous Forest Region is the one area in Canada dominated by hardwood species alone. This Region and southern portions of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region, provide small quantities of such lumber as beech, hickory, walnut and butternut.

Productive and Non-Productive Forest Resources.—Canada's forest resources are inventoried periodically by provincial forest authorities and with their co-operation, the Forestry Branch of the Department of Resources and Development compiles the National Forest Inventory. The latest estimates of total forest stands in the provinces, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories appear in Table 1 of this chapter, p. 442. These estimates are subject to constant revision as more accurate and complete inventories are prepared.

