

10.1.4 Statistics of forest industries

This Section is concerned with the many industries engaged in the felling of timber and its transformation into a variety of products required in modern living. The extensive forests of Canada provide raw materials for several large and growing primary industries: sawmills and planing mills, shingle mills, veneer and plywood mills, particle board plants and pulp and paper mills, which in their turn provide raw materials for a wide range of secondary industries that convert the products of the primary industries into more highly manufactured goods such as sash, doors, millwork, wooden boxes, furniture, converted papers and paper goods. However, much of the output of the primary forest industries is exported; the sawmill industry and the pulp and paper industry, especially, contribute substantially to the value of the export trade of Canada and thereby provide an important part of the foreign exchange necessary to pay for the imports from other countries.

Statistics of manufacturing activity and total activity of the wood industries and the paper and allied industries may be found in Chapter 17.

10.1.4.1 Logging industry

The forests of Canada provide the raw materials for its sawmills and planing mills, shingle mills, veneer and plywood mills, particle board plants and pulp and paper mills as well as roundwood for export in unmanufactured state and other products such as fuelwood, poles and piling, fence posts, mining timber and Christmas trees. Tables 10.5 and 10.6 give the estimated quantities of wood cut in Canada, by province and by type of product, for 1968-70. The total volume of wood cut declined slightly from 4,304 MM cu ft in 1969 to 4,288 MM cu ft in 1970.

10.1.4.2 Wood industries

The standard industrial classification subdivides the wood industries group into the following industries: sawmills and planing mills, shingle mills, veneer and plywood mills, sash, door and other millwork plants, hardwood flooring mills, manufacturers of prefabricated buildings, wooden box factories, the coffin and casket industry and miscellaneous wood industries. The latter item is further subdivided into the wood preservation industry, the wood handles and turning industry, particle board, and miscellaneous wood industries.

The sawmills and planing mills, the shingle mills, the veneer and plywood mills and the particle board plants (the latter are included in the miscellaneous wood industries group) use mainly roundwood as a raw material and sometimes are called primary wood industries; they are dealt with separately below. The other industries, which constitute the secondary wood industries, further manufacture part of the production of the primary wood industries into a great variety of products. However, most of the production of the primary wood industries is not further processed.

Sawmill and planing mill industry. Lumber is by far the most important single commodity in this industry and British Columbia is the most important province in this field. The total value of shipments of establishments classified to this industry in 1970 amounted to \$1,135.4 million of which lumber accounted for \$925.4 million; shipments of lumber from British Columbia alone amounted to \$632.2 million (Tables 10.7 - 10.8).

In addition to the lumber produced by the sawmill and planing mill industry a small amount is produced by establishments classified to other industries bringing total lumber production in Canada in 1970 to 11,263 MMfbm compared with 11,535 MMfbm in 1969.

Shingle mill industry. Most of the shingles and shakes produced in Canada are from British Columbia mills. All establishments in this classification reported shipments of 1,971,650 squares of shingles and shakes valued at \$31.5 million in 1970. British Columbia alone accounted for 1,831,980 squares valued at \$30.1 million. However, it should be mentioned that considerable quantities are produced by establishments classified to other industries and by individuals intermittently operating one or two shingle machines or producing by hand; although no adequate measure of this production is available, it is known to contribute significantly to the total. Of the total production in 1970, 2,202,526 squares were exported, of which 2,166,289 squares went to the United States.

Veneer and plywood industry. The production of hardwood veneer and plywood in Canada is confined largely to the eastern provinces and the production of softwood veneer and plywood almost entirely to British Columbia. For the latter, Douglas-fir is most commonly utilized because of the availability of large-diameter logs of this species from which large sheets of