

Renewable resources Chapter 10

Forestry

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The forests of Canada are largely coniferous and make up 35% of the total land area; of this forest, less than 5% is reserved, i.e. parks and reserves where, by legislation, wood production is not primary. In 1974, 4,871 million cu ft (138 000 000 m³) of roundwood was cut. The harvesting and processing of this timber generated work for 297,000 persons with \$3,281 million in salaries and wages. The "value added" by processing beyond the raw materials stage amounted to \$6,934 million which was 10.5% of the value added of all goods-producing industries.

Canada is a major exporter of forest products. Exports of wood, wood products and paper in 1974 amounted to \$5,652 million which was 18% of the value of all commodity exports. Paper and paperboard constituted 38% of all forest products exports; newsprint alone accounted for 30%.

British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec are the most important timber-producing provinces. In 1974 British Columbia sawmills produced 64% of all lumber in Canada and most of the sulphate pulp and softwood plywood while Ontario and Quebec produced most of the groundwood pulp and hardwood plywood.

There is a growing awareness of the importance of the forest in such areas as recreation, wildlife habitat and streamflow regulation. The recognition of these values is fostering a broader and more realistic concept of forestry.

Forest resources

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Forest regions

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The forests of Canada cover a vast area in the north temperate climatic zone but wide variations in physiographic, soil and climatic conditions cause marked differences in their character; hence, eight fairly well-defined forest regions can be recognized. By far the largest of these is the Boreal Region which represents 82% of the total forested area. The Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Region covers 6.5% and the Subalpine Region 3.7%. The Montane, Coast, and Acadian regions each account for approximately 2% while the remaining Columbia and Deciduous regions each represent less than 1%.

Boreal Forest Region. This region comprises the greater part of the forested area of Canada. It forms a continuous belt from Newfoundland and the coast of Labrador westward to the Rocky Mountains and northwestward to Alaska. White spruce and black spruce are characteristic species; other prominent conifers are tamarack which ranges generally throughout, balsam fir and jack pine in the eastern and central portions, and alpine fir and lodgepole pine in the western and northwestern parts. Although the Boreal forests are primarily coniferous there is a general admixture of deciduous trees such as white birch and poplar; these are important in the central and south-central portions, particularly along the edge of the prairie. In turn, the proportion of spruce and larch increases to the north and, with the more rigorous climate, the close forest gives way to an open lichen-woodland which finally changes into tundra. In the eastern section, along the southern border of the region, there is a considerable intermixture of species from the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence forest, such as eastern white pine, red pine, yellow birch, sugar maple, black ash and eastern white cedar.

Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Forest Region. Extending inland from the edges of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River lies a forest of a very mixed nature which is characterized by eastern white pine, red pine, eastern hemlock and