

10.1.4 Statistics of the forest industries

The forests of Canada provide raw materials for several large primary industries. 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 imports. Statistics of manufacturing activity and total activity of the wood industries and the paper and allied industries are given in Chapter 17.

10.1.4.1 Logging industry

Tables 10.4 and 10.5 give the estimated quantities of wood cut in Canada, by province and by type of product, for 1973-76. The total volume of wood cut increased from 115 million m³ in 1975 to 140 million m³ in 1976.

10.1.4.2 Wood industries

The standard industrial classification subdivides the wood industries group as follows: sawmills and planing mills, shingle mills, veneer and plywood mills, sash, door and other millwork plants, hardwood flooring mills, manufacturers of prefabricated buildings, manufacturers of kitchen cabinets, wooden box factories, the coffin and casket industry, the wood preservation industry, the wood handles and turning industry, particleboard, and miscellaneous wood industries.

The sawmills and planing mills, the shingle mills, the veneer and plywood mills and the particleboard 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. 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 1975 amounted to \$1,996.9 million of which lumber accounted for \$1,473.3 million. In addition to this lumber, a small amount is produced by establishments classified to other industries bringing total lumber production in Canada in 1975 to 27 304 million m³.

Shingle mill industry. Most of the shingles and shakes produced in Canada are from British Columbia mills. Considerable quantities are produced by establishments classified to other industries and by individuals intermittently operating one or two shingle machines or producing shingles by hand; although no adequate measure of this production is available it is known to contribute significantly to the total.

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 used because of availability of its large-diameter logs from which large sheets of clear veneer can be obtained. Of the hardwoods, birch is by far the most important species. Although most of the raw materials are of Canadian origin, some decorative woods are imported, particularly walnut.

Most of the production of softwood veneers is further manufactured into softwood plywood by Canadian mills. Some hardwood veneers are also shipped to other veneer and plywood mills in Canada for further manufacture or to other industries such as the furniture industry for veneering purposes but a significant portion is exported.

10.1.4.3 Paper and allied industries

The standard industrial classification subdivides the paper and allied industries group into the pulp and paper industry, the asphalt roofing manufacturers, the paper box and bag manufacturers, and other paper converters.

Pulp and paper industry. This industry is by far the most important of the group. Part of its production is consumed in Canada or serves as raw material for the paper-using or secondary paper and allied industries. A great part of it is exported, particularly