

Forests, fish and fur-bearing animals were sources of shelter, food and clothing from the time of earliest habitation in what is now Canada. Development of these resources and the industries resulting from their use have played a continuing role in Canada's growth. Production from agricultural lands is treated separately in Chapter 11 Agriculture, and the generation of electricity from waterfalls, which could be considered among renewable resources, is described in Chapter 13 Energy.

Canada is a major exporter of forest products. Exports of wood, wood products and paper in 1978 amounted to \$9.6 billion which was 19% of the value of all commodity exports. Paper and paperboard constituted 36% of all forest products exports; newsprint alone accounted for 30%.

The Canadian fishing industry also had a bonanza year in 1978, becoming the world's largest fish exporter when the value of its exports reached \$1.1 billion compared to \$818 million in 1977. Total landings on the Atlantic Coast were well over 1.0 million tonnes, with a huge increase in the cod catch. On the Pacific Coast, although herring landings decreased and salmon landings remained about the same as in 1977, the landed value of herring and salmon increased 75% and 45% respectively. Further details are given in Tables 10.14 -10.16.

In the fur industry, Canada's exports of finished furs in 1978 rose by 50% over the previous year to \$72 million. Exports to the United States accounted for \$19 million, an increase of almost 150%. Domestic sales reached a record level of \$206 million.

Forestry

10.1

The forest land area of Canada bears largely coniferous forests and makes up 37% of the total land area; of this forest land area, little more than 3% is reserved — parks and military areas where, by law, it is not available for growing and harvesting forest crops. In 1978, 156 million cubic metres of roundwood were cut. Timber harvesting and processing generated work for 300,000 persons with \$5 billion in salaries and wages. The value added by processing beyond the raw materials stage amounted to \$9.8 billion which was 17.8% of the value added of all goods-producing industries.

British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec are the leading timber-producing provinces. In 1978 British Columbia sawmills produced 66% of all lumber in Canada and most of the sulphate pulp and softwood plywood. Ontario and Quebec produced most of the groundwood pulp and hardwood plywood.

There is a growing awareness of the importance of the forest in recreation, wildlife habitat and stream flow regulation. Recognition of these values is fostering a broader concept of forestry.

Forest resources

10.1.1

Forest regions

10.1.1.1

Forests cover a vast area in the north temperate zone but wide variations in physiography, soil and climate cause marked differences. Hence, eight fairly well-defined forest regions can be recognized. By far the largest is the boreal region which represents 82% of 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 forms a continuous belt from Newfoundland and the coast of Labrador west to the Rocky Mountains and northwest to Alaska. White spruce and black spruce are characteristic; other prominent conifers are tamarack, which ranges throughout, balsam fir and jack pine in the eastern and central portions, and alpine fir and lodgepole pine in the west and northwest. Although boreal forests are primarily