



OVERVIEW

Forests, fish and fur-bearing animals were early sources of shelter, food and clothing. Production from these renewable resources continues to play a leading role in Canada's economy.

About 44% of Canada's area is forest land, 4.4 million square kilometres, with almost 2.6 million accessible for harvesting forest crops. Canada is a major exporter of forest products, notably newsprint and other paper goods, pulp and lumber.

In value of fish exports, Canada has been the world leader in recent years, although surpassed in quantity by Norway, Denmark, Japan and Chile.

About 60% of fur production comes from wildlife pelts and 40% from fur farms. Rising prices for Canadian wild furs encouraged trappers to extend their traplines. Many mink farms ceased operations in the early 1970s but the number has been increasing as value of pelts rose. In fox farming, production has been increasing since the mid-1960s as the market for long-haired furs improved.