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# Forest Products Facts

## Provincial Economy

The forest products industry is an integral part of the provincial economy:

- In 1995, British Columbia manufacturing industries shipped \$33.4 billion of products to domestic and export markets. Forest industry shipments accounted for 52 per cent of this total.
- More than half of British Columbia's merchandise exports are from the forest industry. In 1995, British Columbia exports were \$26.9 billion. Forest products accounted for more than 60 per cent of this total.
- Major markets for B.C. forest products are the United States (about 50 per cent), Japan (24 per cent) and the European Union (14 per cent). Major forest product exports include lumber (more than 40 per cent), pulp (more than 30 per cent) and newsprint (about 10 per cent).
- In recent years, direct employment in B.C.'s forest industries has accounted for about six per cent of provincial employment. In 1995, approximately 106,000 people were directly employed in the forest industry.
- It has been estimated that this level of employment in the forest industry creates an additional 159,000 indirect and induced employment opportunities throughout the province. In total, the forest industry generates an estimated 265,000 jobs or about 15 per cent of total employment in the province.

## Canadian Context

British Columbia's forest industry accounts for a significant share of Canada's output and production. In 1994, British Columbia accounted for:

- 56 per cent of Canadian softwood lumber production
- 58 per cent of Canadian market pulp production
- 16 per cent of Canadian paper production
- 81 per cent of Canadian plywood production.

## World Context

British Columbia's forest products are an important part of the world's forest industry and economy. The forest products industry includes forestry, logging, wood, pulp and paper.





Latest available data (1993) indicate that:

- British Columbia's softwood growing stock is about seven per cent of the world total. The rest of Canada accounts for approximately eight per cent. By comparison, the former U.S.S.R. has about 60 per cent and the U.S. has about 14 per cent of the world total.
- About seven per cent of the world's softwood harvest comes from British Columbia. The rest of Canada accounts for another eight per cent. The former U.S.S.R. has about 10 per cent and the U.S. has 27 per cent.
- World exports of forest products total US \$99.6 billion. British Columbia's share is nine per cent and the rest of Canada accounts for another 11 per cent. Only the Scandinavian countries (Norway, Sweden and Finland as a group) export more forest products than Canada—about 16 per cent of world exports.
- By volume, British Columbia accounts for about 33 per cent of world exports of softwood lumber. This is more than any other province, state or country. The rest of Canada accounts for another 18 per cent. Altogether, Canada accounts for more than half of the world's exports of softwood lumber.
- British Columbia accounts for more than 10 per cent, by volume, of world exports of newsprint. The rest of Canada accounts for another 45 per cent of these exports. Altogether, Canada accounts for more than 55 per cent of world exports of newsprint.

### Future Developments

Despite the gradual movement towards a service-based economy in British Columbia, the forest industry is still the most important industry in the province. It is a major contributor to the wealth of the province, providing significant revenues to the province's health, social and educational programs and it remains the major economic base for many smaller communities throughout the province.

To maintain its contribution to the domestic economy and to world markets, the British Columbia forest industry continues to explore opportunities to diversify its markets and to increase value-added processing of its products.

### For more information contact:

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Sources: *Fact Book*, 1995, published by Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia; *Labour Force Survey*, 1995, published by Statistics Canada. Statistics are from Statistics Canada and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and are subject to revision.