



Forestry and the British Columbia Economy

British Columbia is a major player in the world-wide forestry sector. The province is the world's largest exporter of softwood lumber to international markets.

Forestry is one of B.C.'s largest manufacturing sectors and its largest single source of exports. The forest sector accounted for 4.6 per cent of B.C. employment and 9.2 per cent of all economic activity (indirect and induced) in 2009. The forest sector generates \$9.07 billion in economic activity for the province each year. In 2009, the value of B.C.'s forestry products accounted for 30 per cent of B.C.'s total exports and 31 per cent of Canada's total for forest products exports.

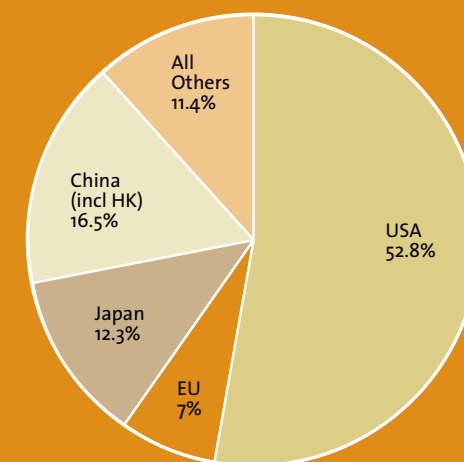
The pulp and paper sector is significant to the British Columbia economy with total pulp and paper exports representing approximately 46 per cent of the total value of B.C. forest products exports in 2009. Pulp and paper exports totalled \$3.5 billion in 2009, 14 per cent of all provincial exports. China is B.C.'s largest export market for pulp, representing 40 per cent of the province's total pulp exports.

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As B.C. continues to diversify its markets, China has emerged as B.C.'s second largest export market representing a 16.5 per cent share of B.C. total forest product exports. Japan's market share is 12.3 per cent. Overall the U.S. remains the most important forest product export destination for British Columbia, accounting for 52.8 per cent of exports in 2009.

The province's primary wood products export market is the United States with Asian markets replacing Europe as the second major regional market. In 2009, B.C.'s annual lumber shipments to China were more than \$327 million, almost tripling from 2007.

B.C. Forest Product Export Market Sales 2009 - \$7.6 billion





Our Products



British Columbia produces a full range of forest products from logs to lumber to engineered wood products and beyond for domestic and international use.

These products can be grouped into three broad categories: commodities, traditional value-added and next generation manufacturing.

Commodity production is dominant in British Columbia's forest sector. Commodity products include standard dimensional lumber, pulp and paper, and panel boards. These products compete in the extremely cost-competitive global market and are typically manufactured by large, integrated primary producers. These primary producers also may manufacture engineered wood products and cogenerate electricity.

Value-added products include a wide array of products such as treated lumber, engineered wood products, shakes and shingles, posts, poles, log and timber-frame homes, mouldings, and other finished or semi-finished goods. Value-added manufacturing is done mainly by small- and medium-sized firms, some of which may also manufacture commodity lumber and panel products.

The next generation of forest products and services include engineered wood products, new building systems, bio-chemicals, and bio-energy alternatives.

B.C. Forestry GDP and Shares of B.C. Goods Sector, 1997-2009

