

## Forests and the Economy

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Forests sustain the economies of hundreds of communities across Canada and directly or indirectly employ 1 out of every 17 workers in Canada. Forests are an important source of income in remote areas where job opportunities are rare. In 1999, there were 12 348 forest related companies contributing 352 800 direct jobs to Canada's economy.

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Canada is unique in that 94% of its forest lands are publicly owned. The provinces own 71% and 23% are owned by the Crown. The remaining 6% of Canadian forests are owned by approximately 425 000 private owners - individuals, families, communities and forest companies.

The Canadian forest sector contributes billions to Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The forest product export value in 2001 reached \$44.1 billion and the contribution to GDP was \$28.5 billion for the same year. The value of export products represents about 19% of the world-wide trade in forest products and almost 11% of all Canadian exports.

Source:

Statistics Canada. 2001. Canada Yearbook. Ottawa.

Natural Resources Canada. Canadian Forest Services. 2003. The State of Canada's Forests, 2001-2002. Ottawa.