



LOCALLY GROWN

The forest industry has long been the cornerstone of the provincial economy and one of the largest employers in B.C. The industry is adapting, evolving and innovating, and continues to be one of the most significant economic drivers in the province.

THE BACKBONE OF THE ECONOMY

The forest industry is the primary employer in many communities throughout the province with 140 communities in B.C. dependent on the industry. The forest industry is one of the highest paying industries in the province, and directly employs more than 60,000 people.



KEY FACTS

- 1 in 17 jobs in B.C. are tied to the forest industry
- 140,000 jobs in B.C. are tied to the forest industry
- The forest industry provides the economic foundation of 140 B.C. communities
- B.C.'s forest industry contributes \$12.9 billion to the provincial GDP
- More than 1 in 4 manufacturing jobs are in the forest industry
- \$8.6 billion in wages are generated through forest industry activity

The forest sector continues to be foundational to the B.C. economy generating \$33 billion in output and \$12.9 billion in GDP. Additionally, the sector contributed \$4.1 billion in payments to municipal, provincial and federal governments from forest industry operations. That figure includes \$1.4 billion to the federal government, almost \$200 million in taxes to municipal governments, and \$2.6 billion to the B.C. provincial government.

This revenue is key to providing essential public services to British Columbians such as education, health care and infrastructure.



Forest products companies are major purchasers of transportation services, energy, equipment, silviculture services, and other professional services such as foresters and geoscientists.

B.C.'s forest industry invested \$650 million in new capital expenditures in 2016, not including maintenance capital, and is expected to continue that level of investment annually over the next five to ten years. Over the past ten years, the industry invested on average \$1.5 billion annually in both strategic capital and maintenance.

B.C.'s forest industry contributes \$12 billion to the provincial GDP every year. It is one of the major drivers of the provincial economy, and is the largest forest products industry in North America. For every \$1 that the forest industry spends, \$1.99 is generated in economic activity.



The BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI) is the voice of the B.C. forest industry. B.C.'s forest industry is adapting, evolving and innovating, and continues to be one of the most significant economic drivers in the province and the largest producer of softwood lumber in Canada.