BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS **Infoline**

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# highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

## *The Economy*

- **Exports of BC products rebounded in August, rising 1.3% (seasonally adjusted) following a 5.3% decline in July.** The greatest increases were seen in exports of agricultural and fish products (+16.2%) and mineral products (+15.6%). Forest product exports were down 4.2% overall, as international shipments to both the US (-2.3%) and overseas (-6.6%) declined.

  US-bound exports were up slightly in August (+0.3%) despite the drop in the value of forest products shipped to the States. Exports from the agricultural and fisheries sector showed the strongest increase (+17.7%), while mining exports were weak (-5.4%). International shipments to countries other than the US increased 3.3% in August after falling in the two previous months.

  *Source: BC STATS*

- **BC retail sales increased by 0.5% between July and August, continuing a period of overall advances which started in the fall of 1998.** August's increase was mostly due to higher sales in the automotive sector. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of regular employment insurance (EI) recipients in BC fell by 11.0% between August 1999 and August 2000.** This represents a decrease of 6,301 people, leaving an estimated 50,850 EI benefit recipients in the province.

  *Source: Statistics Canada*

## *Giving to Charities*

- **Last year, one in four (25.5%) Canadian taxfilers reported making charitable donations on their income tax forms.** Those aged 65 and over reported the highest donations (averaging $1,200 per donor).

  In British Columbia, 641,790 taxfilers reported charitable donations totalling $716 million. The median donation was $220, up from $200 in the previous year.

  There were marked differences among the regions in terms of charitable giving. People living in the poorest parts of the country–Atlantic Canada and Nunavut–were typically more generous than other Canadians. The median donation in these regions ranged from $240 in Nova Scotia to $290 in both PEI and Nunavut. In Ontario, Alberta and BC, the median was $220. Quebecers typically gave far less–their median donation of $100 was just over half the national level of $180. However, the giving in Quebec was more polarized than in other provinces. Despite having the lowest median, the province had the highest average ($2,383) donation in the country, indicating that among those who gave larger amounts were some very generous Quebecers. The national average donation was $1,113. In BC, it was $896, less than in any other region except Alberta ($890). *Source: SC, The Daily*

## *Saving for Retirement*

- **British Columbia taxfilers invested $3.8 billion in RRSPs last year.** The average contribution made by the 822,640 BC taxfilers with RRSP contributions was $4,680. The national average was $4,477. Among the regions, average contributions ranged from $3,815 in Manitoba to $6,098 in Nunavut. Nunavut, NWT ($5,223) and Ontario ($4,804) were the only regions where taxfilers made bigger average contributions to their retirement savings plans than in BC. Last year, the number of RRSP contributors rose in every region except Saskatchewan. *Source: SC, The Daily*

*Report*

## Value-added wood exports grow fast in BC, but faster in rest of Canada

***Did you know...***
***Six out of ten Canadians aged 12 and over say they exercise at least three times a week, while two in ten admit to being couch potatoes, exercising less than once a week or not at all.***

## *Savers and Investors*

- **Last year, 415,260 British Columbians reported dividend income on their tax returns, an increase of 20.5% over 1998.** The jump in the number of investors followed a national trend that saw the number of taxfilers with dividend income rise 24.0%, to 3.1 million, as growing numbers of Canadians chose to invest money in a bullish stock market. The number of investors shot up in every region, rising as much as 84.6% in Newfoundland. Nunavut (+13.7%), Manitoba (+18.0%) and Alberta (+18.5%) were the regions with the smallest increases. At the same time, the number of Canadians reporting interest income declined 4.2%, to 4.8 million, continuing a downward trend that began in the early 1990s. Despite this, there were still three savers (those with interest income) for every two investors (those with dividend income) in the country. *Source: SC, The Daily*

## *Tourism*

- **The number of visitors entering Canada via BC fell (-2.1%, seasonally adjusted) for the fourth straight month in August as entries from both the US (-1.7%) and overseas countries (-4.3%) slipped.** Overnight entries from the United States were off 2.6%, while the number of same-day trips fell 2.2%. International travel to all of Canada has been declining since the beginning of the year, and was down 1.8% in August.

  The drop in overseas entries to BC occurred across the board. Asian entries were down sharply (-12.3%), as the dominant Japanese market fell 15.7%, while entries from Taiwan (-8.4%) and Hong Kong (-14.9%), the next biggest sources of Asian visitors, were also weak. European entries were off 5.4%, despite a 4.4% gain from the UK, the source of about half the European visitors who come to Canada via British Columbia. The drop was largely due to a 40.0% decline in German entries. Entries from Australia, New Zealand and other South Pacific nations were down 14.2%.

  Following a long period of decline, the number of Canadians coming home from the US via BC appears to be making a modest comeback. Entries by Canadians were up 0.9% in August.
  *Source: BC STATS and Statistics Canada*

## *Watching the Birds and Beasts…*

- **BC is the third most popular destination in Canada for nature lovers who enjoy bird and wildlife viewing.** About 16% of viewers who travelled in Canada to view birds or wildlife during 1998 came to this province. Ontario (41%) was by far the most popular destination in the country, with Quebec (23%) in second place. Those visiting BC have the opportunity to explore the most biologically diverse set of bird and mammal species in Canada. About 70% of the bird species known to breed in Canada can be found here, as can 72% of the mammal species.
  *Source: SC, Catalogue 87-003*

## *Banks and Other Financial Institutions*

- **Electronic banking and ATMs are becoming increasingly popular, but banks and other financial institutions still generate most of their income from retail banking services–those provided through a traditional branch network.** In 1998, Canadian deposit-accepting institutions produced services valued at $41.6 billion. Of this total, $28.2 billion was generated by retail banking services. This compares to $1.9 billion from ATM, telephone banking and e-banking services. Investment banking ($7.5 billion), corporate finance ($3.4 billion) and fiduciary services ($0.7 billion) accounted for the remainder. The total value of services provided by financial institutions in 1998 includes $23.9 billion in net interest income (the difference between interest earned and interest paid) and $17.8 billion from other sources such brokerage and credit services, service charges, or other types of income. *Source: Statistics Canada*

## *Movie Theatres*

- **British Columbians bought 16.2 million movie tickets in 1998/99.** Nearly all of the admissions were to regular theatres, but 102,000 were to the five remaining drive-in theatres in the province. The average ticket price was $5.94. Theatres employed 280 full-time and 2,105 part-time workers, as well as 32 working proprietors and family members. *Source: SC, Catalogue 87F0009XPE*

**highlights,** Issue 00-43
October 27, 2000

# *Infoline Report:* Value added wood exports grow fast in British Columbia, but faster in rest of Canada

Contact: George Dufour / (250) 387-0376

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***Note:*** *No universally accepted definition exists for value added wood products. However, the term usually refers to products made from lumber, such as mouldings, siding, engineered wood, and completed articles made primarily from wood. Engineered wood products include, for example, finger-jointed edge glued, 'I' beams, and laminated veneer lumber. Articles made from wood could include doors, windows, prefabricated houses and furniture.*

*The definition of value added wood used here has been constructed by BC STATS. It is designed to provide a means of determining trends and comparing provincial export performances. Included are most wood products that might be considered value added. Not included are shakes and shingles, or panel products such as plywood, oriented strand board and medium density fibreboard.*

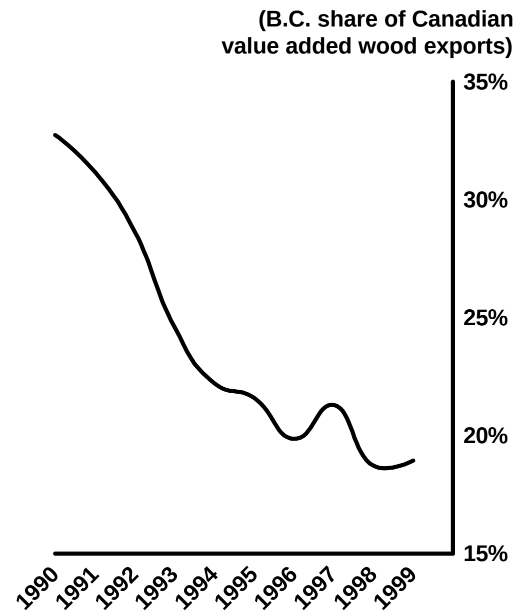
Exports of value added wood products from British Columbia rose rapidly over the 1990s. They now account for a larger proportion of solid wood exports than ever before, having risen 296 per cent between 1990 and 1999. Total solid wood product exports rose 114 per cent over the same period.

However, value added wood exports have risen even faster in other parts of Canada, with growth averaging 584 per cent for the country as a whole. British Columbia has been part of the national trend to shipping higher proportions of solid wood products in value added form, but has not kept up with other provinces. Evidence of this can be seen in its declining share of total Canadian value added wood exports.

## Persistent Decline In B.C. Share of Canadian Value Added Wood Exports

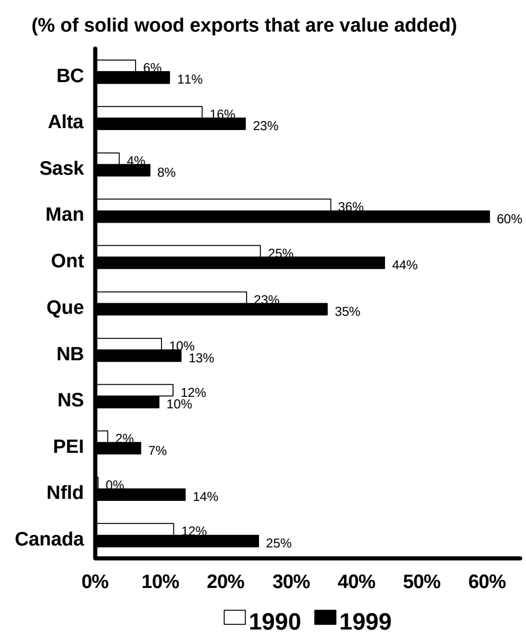
British Columbia has traditionally shipped relatively little of its solid wood exports in value added form compared to other provinces. It has nonetheless accounted for a large part of total Canadian value added wood exports because its total volume of wood exports has been very large.

***B.C.'s Diminished Role In Canadian Exports of Value Added Wood Products***



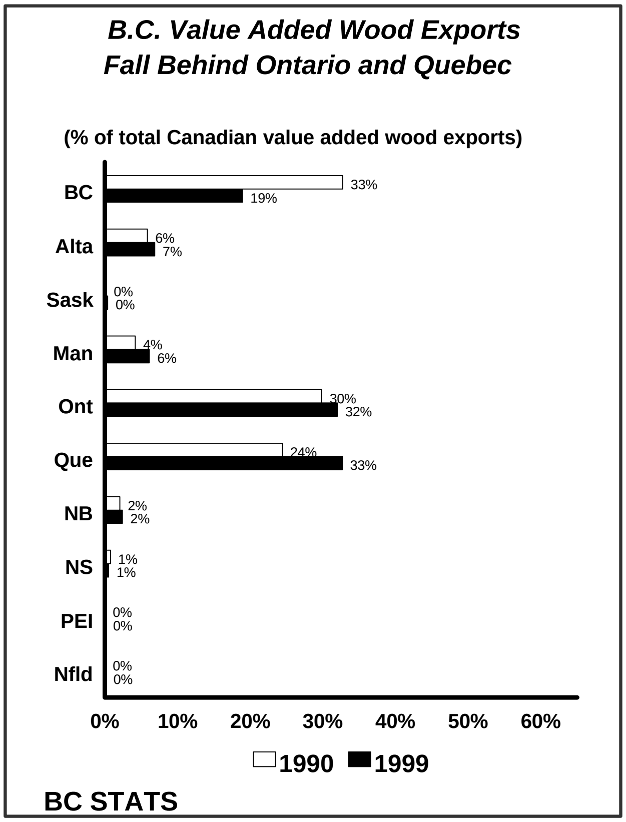

BC STATS

***Value Added Products Still Small Part of B.C. Wood Product Exports***




BC STATS

At the beginning of the last decade British Columbia was the leading exporter of value added wood products in Canada, shipping 33 per cent of the national total. The next most important provinces for value added wood exports were Ontario with 30 per cent of the total and Quebec with 24 per cent.




But by the end of the decade, faster growth of value added wood exports from those other provinces had changed this picture. In 1999, British Columbia ranked in third place behind Quebec and Ontario. Its 19 per cent of Canadian value added wood exports in that year compared to 33 per cent from Quebec and 32 per cent from Ontario.

Other provinces have been increasing their value added wood exports at faster rates than British Columbia. Alberta increased its share of Canadian value added wood product exports from 6 per cent in 1990 to 7 per cent in 1999. Manitoba increased its share from 4 per cent in 1990, to 6 per cent in 1999.

### Most B.C. Value Added Wood Exports Concentrated In Two Products

Over half (56 per cent) of British Columbia's 1999 value added wood exports were concentrated in two product groups - softwood siding and builder's joinery.

Softwood siding is mainly sawn from red cedar. Because this tree species is harvested nowhere else in Canada, British Columbia was the source of 97 per cent of 1999 Canadian softwood siding exports. However, red cedar is becoming increasingly scarce. This, and the availability of similar looking cement, vinyl and metal siding products could limit future growth of softwood siding exports.

## Exports of Selected Secondary Manufactured Wood Products

### from B.C. ($ millions)

| | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | % growth 1990-99 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **softwood siding** | 146 | 137 | 143 | 141 | 144 | 142 | 131 | 176 | 154 | 149 | 2% |
| **builder's joinery** | 23 | 20 | 28 | 42 | 60 | 82 | 122 | 266 | 386 | 492 | 2039% |
| **softwood moulding** | 9 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 31 | 244% |
| **hardwood moulding** | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 300% |
| **pre-fab buildings** | 36 | 34 | 24 | 34 | 64 | 108 | 130 | 153 | 110 | 126 | 250% |
| **doors** | 9 | 8 | 14 | 16 | 28 | 33 | 33 | 25 | 25 | 45 | 400% |
| **windows** | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 1100% |
| **furniture** | 33 | 30 | 26 | 31 | 47 | 49 | 65 | 67 | 83 | 112 | 239% |
| **other *** | 33 | 37 | 48 | 58 | 69 | 74 | 84 | 122 | 135 | 181 | 448% |
| **Selection Total** | 291 | 273 | 294 | 337 | 425 | 503 | 585 | 831 | 919 | 1,152 | 296% |

### from other Canada ($ millions)

| | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | % growth 1990-97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **softwood siding** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 150% |
| **builder's joinery** | 15 | 19 | 22 | 37 | 75 | 103 | 163 | 288 | 415 | 671 | 4373% |
| **softwood moulding** | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 17 | 24 | 34 | 3300% |
| **hardwood moulding** | 13 | 8 | 9 | 14 | 18 | 20 | 26 | 28 | 33 | 32 | 146% |
| **pre-fab buildings** | 57 | 59 | 62 | 63 | 105 | 152 | 240 | 238 | 269 | 311 | 446% |
| **doors** | 15 | 16 | 20 | 24 | 53 | 69 | 102 | 134 | 171 | 207 | 1280% |
| **windows** | 9 | 13 | 20 | 28 | 42 | 44 | 66 | 76 | 92 | 113 | 1156% |
| **furniture** | 347 | 344 | 439 | 668 | 935 | 1,113 | 1,423 | 1,826 | 2,369 | 2,773 | 699% |
| **other *** | 139 | 141 | 158 | 194 | 246 | 309 | 327 | 462 | 612 | 784 | 464% |
| **Selection Total** | 598 | 603 | 733 | 1,033 | 1,488 | 1,827 | 2,361 | 3,071 | 3,989 | 4,930 | 724% |

### B.C. share of Canadian total

| | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 1990-99 Percentage Point Difference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **softwood siding** | 99% | 99% | 99% | 99% | 99% | 99% | 99% | 99% | 97% | 97% | -2% |
| **builder's joinery** | 61% | 51% | 56% | 53% | 44% | 44% | 43% | 48% | 48% | 42% | -18% |
| **softwood moulding** | 90% | 86% | 90% | 80% | 48% | 44% | 54% | 48% | 41% | 48% | -42% |
| **hardwood moulding** | 7% | 0% | 0% | 7% | 0% | 5% | 4% | 3% | 8% | 11% | 4% |
| **pre-fab buildings** | 39% | 37% | 28% | 35% | 38% | 42% | 35% | 39% | 29% | 29% | -10% |
| **doors** | 38% | 33% | 41% | 40% | 35% | 32% | 24% | 16% | 13% | 18% | -20% |
| **windows** | 10% | 7% | 9% | 7% | 2% | 4% | 6% | 6% | 6% | 10% | 0% |
| **furniture** | 9% | 8% | 6% | 4% | 5% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 3% | 4% | -5% |
| **other *** | 19% | 21% | 23% | 23% | 22% | 19% | 20% | 21% | 18% | 19% | 0% |
| **Selection Total** | 33% | 31% | 29% | 25% | 22% | 22% | 20% | 21% | 19% | 19% | -14% |

***** '**other**' includes fencing, flooring, cases, pallets, etc.

**BC STATS**

## 1999 Exports of Selected Secondary Manufactured Wood Products

**Value in millions of dollars**

| | BC | Alta | Sask | Man | Ont | Que | Atlantic | Total Canada |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **softwood siding** | 149 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 154 |
| **builder's joinery** | 492 | 69 | 1 | 14 | 237 | 301 | 49 | 1,163 |
| **softwood moulding** | 31 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 17 | 0 | 65 |
| **hardwood moulding** | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 12 | 1 | 36 |
| **pre-fab buildings** | 126 | 35 | 19 | 19 | 166 | 47 | 23 | 437 |
| **doors** | 45 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 100 | 90 | 1 | 252 |
| **windows** | 12 | 3 | 0 | 42 | 50 | 17 | 3 | 125 |
| **furniture** | 112 | 272 | 3 | 236 | 1,177 | 1,040 | 44 | 2,885 |
| **other** * | 181 | 36 | 2 | 42 | 183 | 461 | 60 | 965 |
| **Selection Total** | 1,152 | 417 | 25 | 371 | 1,945 | 1,987 | 183 | 6,082 |

**Distribution**

| | BC | Alta | Sask | Man | Ont | Que | Atlantic | Total Canada |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **softwood siding** | 13% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 3% |
| **builder's joinery** | 43% | 17% | 4% | 4% | 12% | 15% | 27% | 19% |
| **softwood moulding** | 3% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 1% |
| **hardwood moulding** | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| **pre-fab buildings** | 11% | 8% | 76% | 5% | 9% | 2% | 13% | 7% |
| **doors** | 4% | 0% | 0% | 4% | 5% | 5% | 1% | 4% |
| **windows** | 1% | 1% | 0% | 11% | 3% | 1% | 2% | 2% |
| **furniture** | 10% | 65% | 12% | 64% | 61% | 52% | 24% | 47% |
| **other** * | 16% | 9% | 8% | 11% | 9% | 23% | 33% | 16% |
| **Selection Total** | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

**1990 to 1999 growth**

| | BC | Alta | Sask | Man | Ont | Que | Atlantic | Total Canada |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **softwood siding** | 2% | -100% | -100% | NA | -100% | NA | NA | 4% |
| **builder's joinery** | 2039% | 6800% | NA | NA | 3850% | 3663% | NA | 2961% |
| **softwood moulding** | 244% | NA | NA | NA | 1500% | NA | NA | 550% |
| **hardwood moulding** | 300% | NA | NA | 200% | 100% | 200% | NA | 157% |
| **pre-fab buildings** | 250% | 52% | 1800% | 533% | 592% | 1075% | 1050% | 370% |
| **doors** | 400% | NA | NA | NA | 809% | 2900% | NA | 950% |
| **windows** | 1100% | 200% | NA | 4100% | 733% | 1600% | NA | 1150% |
| **furniture** | 239% | 988% | NA | 687% | 640% | 719% | 780% | 659% |
| **other** * | 448% | 1709% | NA | 2000% | 273% | 559% | 233% | 461% |
| **Selection Total** | 296% | 702% | 2400% | 903% | 634% | 816% | 632% | 584% |

**BC STATS**

Growth prospects are more positive for builder's joinery products. These include fabricated structural members for buildings, such as roof trusses or laminated beams. Some of these fit into the growing range of engineered wood products made from chips, strands, veneer, etc. glued together to produce substitutes for traditional lumber. They have become increasingly competitive as demand for wooden building materials has grown faster than available sources of high quality timber.

Exports of builder's joinery products from British Columbia grew 2,039 per cent between 1990 and 1999, faster than exports of any other type of value added wood products. Builder's joinery products have now become the largest single component of the province's value added wood exports, having expanded from 8 per cent in 1990, to 43 per cent in 1999. If trends of the 1990s continue through this decade, they may soon account for most value added wood exports from the province.

Although builder's joinery product exports from British Columbia have grown very rapidly, exports from other provinces have grown even faster. British Columbia's 2,039 per cent increase in builder's joinery exports over the decade was exceeded by export gains of 6,800 per cent in Alberta, 3,850 per cent in Ontario, and 3,663 per cent in Quebec.

The effect has been to reduce the British Columbia share of all Canadian builder's joinery exports from 61 per cent in 1990, to 42 per cent in 1999. Values of builder's joinery products shipped in 1999 were $492 million from British Columbia, $69 million from Alberta, $237 million from Ontario, and $301 million from Quebec.

Those provinces were British Columbia's most important competitors in international markets. The stands of tall straight conifers that originally established British Columbia as Canada's largest producer of siding and sawn lumber confer less advantage, if any, in the competition to export builder's joinery products to international markets. These products can be made from a variety of tree species available in other provinces, including some that are unsuitable for traditional sawn lumber.

### Pre-Fabricated Buildings and Furniture Account For Another 21 Per Cent

Prefabricated buildings are British Columbia's third most important type of value added wood export, accounting for 11 per cent of the total in 1999.

They can be shipped in various stages of assembly from lumber kits, to completed buildings with some of the appliances installed. Because they are constructed primarily of wood, the finished product is regarded as a value added wood product.

Prefabricated buildings have followed a pattern similar to exports of other value added wood products - growing faster than most other British Columbia exports, but not as fast as exports of the same products from other provinces.

There was a 250 per cent increase in the value of prefabricated building exports from British Columbia between 1990 and 1999, from $36 million to $126 million. This compared to a 446 per cent increase for the rest of Canada, from $57 million to $311 million.

Other provinces shipping substantial values of prefabricated buildings in 1999 included Ontario ($166 million), Quebec ($47 million), and Alberta ($35 million).

Wooden furniture is British Columbia's fourth largest value added wood export, accounting for 10 per cent of the total in 1999. However, wooden furniture is a much more important category in the value added wood exports of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. In all those provinces, it accounts for over half the value of total value added wood exports.

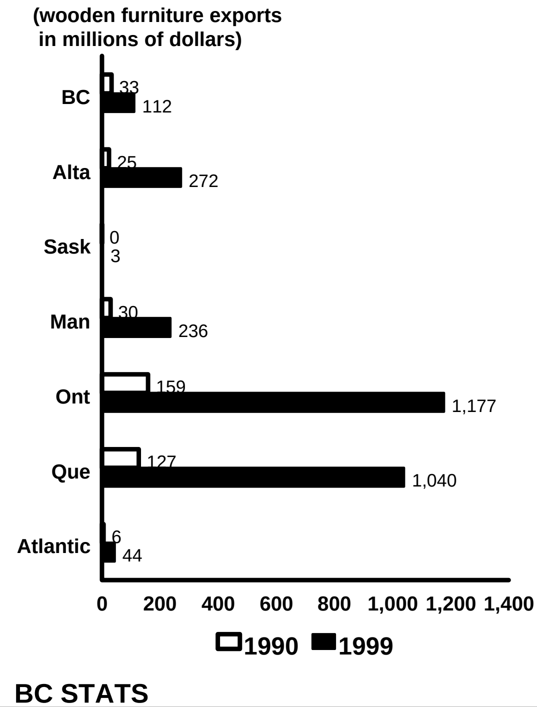
It is not surprising then, that British Columbia does not produce a large share of total Canadian wooden furniture exports. The province was the source on 4 per cent of Canadian wooden furniture exports in 1999, down from 9 per cent in 1990.

As with other value added wood products, exports of wooden furniture from British Columbia grew faster than the average for other British Columbia exports, but considerably less fast than exports of the same products from other provinces. British Columbia wooden furniture exports grew 239 per cent between 1990 and 1999, as compared to growth rates of 988 per cent for Alberta, 687 per cent for Manitoba, 640 per cent for Ontario, and 719 per cent for Quebec.

Substantial timber resources clearly do not ensure that a province will develop a major furniture manufacturing industry. Most of British Columbia's wood resources are not particularly suitable for furniture manufacturing, and the province's wood industry tradition has been mainly in high volume production of lumber, with relatively little production of completed goods.

Nevertheless, wood resources count as something of an asset for furniture manufacturing, and British Columbia's usually high net inflows of migrants provide a strong domestic market. It is possible that these may someday provide the basis for a much larger furniture manufacturing industry that could boost the province into the top ranks of Canadian furniture exporters.

***Booming Exports of Wooden Furniture From Ontario, Quebec, Alberta & Manitoba***

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# Infoline

October 27, 2000

fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

also on the Internet at http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

## BC at a glance . . .

| POPULATION (thousands) | Jul 1/00 | % change on one year ago |
|---|---|---|
| BC | 4,063.8 | 0.9 |
| Canada | 30,750.1 | 0.8 |
| **GDP and INCOME** | | % change on |
| *(BC - at market prices)* | 1998 | one year ago |
| Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)* | 110,948 | -0.2 |
| GDP *($ 1992 millions)* | 99,708 | 0.2 |
| GDP *($ 1992 per Capita)* | 24,908 | -0.8 |
| Personal Disposable Income *($ 1992 per Capita)* | 15,969 | -1.6 |
| **TRADE ($ millions)** | | |
| Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Aug | 3,077 | -1.6 |
| Merchandise Exports (raw) Aug | 2,776 | 11.2 |
| Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Aug | 2,993 | 6.9 |
| **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX** | | % change on |
| *(all items - 1992=100)* | Sep '00 | one year ago |
| BC | 114.3 | 1.9 |
| Canada | 114.4 | 2.7 |
| **LABOUR FORCE (thousands)** | | % change on |
| *(seasonally adjusted)* | Sep '00 | one year ago |
| Labour Force - BC | 2,118 | 1.6 |
| Employed - BC | 1,955 | 1.8 |
| Unemployed - BC | 164 | -1.2 |
| | | Sep '99 |
| Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)* | 7.7 | 7.9 |
| Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)* | 6.8 | 7.4 |
| **INTEREST RATES (percent)** | Oct 25/00 | Oct 27/99 |
| Prime Business Rate | 7.50 | 6.25 |
| Conventional Mortgages - 1 year | 7.90 | 7.35 |
| - 5 year | 8.25 | 8.25 |
| **US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE** | Oct 25/00 | Oct 27/99 |
| *(avg. noon spot rate)* Cdn $ | 1.5154 | 1.4709 |
| US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)* | 0.6589 | 0.6795 |
| **AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE** | | % change on |
| *(industrial aggregate - dollars)* | Sep '00 | one year ago |
| BC | 648.06 | 3.6 |
| Canada | 624.19 | 3.8 |

**SOURCES:**

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm

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- Business Indicators, October 2000
- Exports, August 2000
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