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Overview: Washington State Forest Products Industry and International Trade

Daniel W. Bagger and Thomas R. Waggener. 1985

Summary

Forest Products is one of the major industries in the Washington State economy. In 1984 the timber industry employed 56.4 thousand people, and generated gross revenues in excess of 3 billion dollars (U.S.). During the last several years, this industry has been experiencing a transition as both domestic and foreign markets have changed dramatically. Continued competition in both product and factor markets has increased the State's involvement in overseas markets, especially those in the Pacific Rim countries. Many of the technological changes and industry renovations taking place within the forest products industry are focusing on these international markets. Legislative and government organizations at both the State and Federal levels are seeking to encourage and implement free trade policies in forest products as a means of expanding the natural economic benefits of trade. This brief overview of the forest products industry in the State of Washington seeks to identify the major features of this industry and the current levels of international trade in forest products. This overview has been prepared by CINTRAFOR in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Trade and Economic Development and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

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