



Voluntary Report - public distribution

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GAIN Report #JA1063

## **Japan**

### **Solid Wood Products:**

### **Canada's Log Exports to U.S. & Japan**

#### **- Update in 2000**

#### **2001**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**Canada's log exports to the U.S. and Japan in 2000 totaled almost 2,500,000 cubic meters, up 32.5 % from the previous year. Of total Canadian log exports, 66% of the volume went to the U.S. and the remainder to Japan in 2000.**

According to the reports of Statistics Bureau of the Government of Canada, as reprinted in the Japanese Forest Products Journal, Canadian log exports to the United States and Japan in 2000 totalled almost 2.5 million cubic meters (mm<sup>3</sup>), up 32.5 % from the previous year. Exports of logs from Canada to the U.S. and Japan totaled just over 1.0 mm<sup>3</sup> in 1998 and almost 1.9 mm<sup>3</sup> in 1999.

Of all the species exported by Canada, 78.7 % represented three key species of Balsam Fir, Hemlock and Spruce, as shown in the following table.

Canada's Log Exports in 2000						
Species	To U.S. (m <sup>3</sup> )	% Change (00/99)	To Japan (m <sup>3</sup> )	% Change (00/99)	Total (m <sup>3</sup> )	% Change (00/99)
Balsam	598778	+ 72.1 %	627484	+ 1.6 %	1226262	+27.0 %
Hemlock	350411	+ 107.5 %	132945	+ 49.3 %	483358	+ 87.4 %
Spruce	200488	+ 72.7 %	56658	+ 2.2 %	257146	+ 49.9 %
W. Red Cedar	216846	+ 169.0 %	26872	+ 103.2 %	243718	+ 159.7 %
Douglas Fir	206226	- 37.1 %	10307	+ 111.9 %	216533	- 34.9 %
Pine	43375	+ 4.6 %	424	+ 731.4 %	43799	+ 5.5 %
Others	22671	+ 6.7 %	3925	-	26596	+ 24.8 %
Total	1638795	+ 48.4 %	858617	+ 10.0 %	2497412	+ 32.5 %

( Source: Japan Forest Products Journal / Mar.31, 2001 issues)

Some of the background factors behind this growth in Canadian log exports:

- Prices of the close grain Hemlock, which used to be much higher than the coastal type, have become more affordable. Japanese log importers and sawmills, in pursuit of better market value for their converted lumber products, have shifted demand from coastal type logs from the U.S. West Coast to the close grain Cascade type Hem.-Fir in B.C. and Alaska.
- Sawmills in the Pacific Northwest region of the U.S. are increasing purchases of Canadian logs.
- As a result of the current depressed economic conditions for lumber products in Canada, a series of tradition regulations restricting log exports out of the Crown's provincial lands have been eased under a "relief program" for forest workers.

*End of report*