

Building Products and Technologies

Industry at a Glance

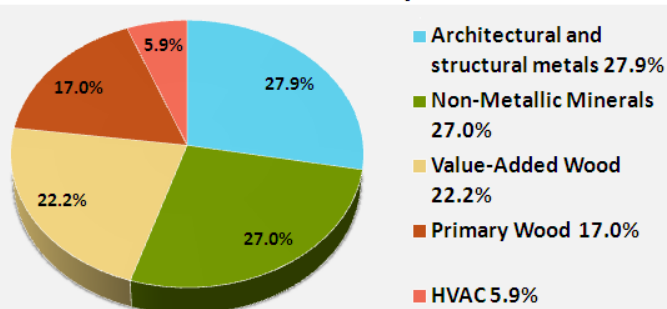
Alberta's building products and technologies industry is one of the largest and strongest in the province and has earned a reputation for excellence, particularly in the area of cold-weather construction. Alberta's building products and services companies manufacture a variety of commodity and value-added products. Most of these companies are small to medium size businesses specializing in custom work and leading edge technology.

Alberta's changing business environment is providing immense opportunities for the advancement of green building products and technologies. Alberta is home to a large number of innovative green building products; building materials made from recycled tires, high efficiency furnaces, quality windows, unique air barrier systems, specialized LED lighting, structural insulated panels, moveable wall systems, and innovative structure solutions (ICF/SIP), fibre glass rebar, etc. all of which offer solutions to the industry.

Fast Facts

- Annual sales are \$7 billion.
- The industry exports 15% of its products, valued at \$1.1 billion annually.
- Currently, the industry employs approximately 30,000 people in over 1,200 companies. About 86% of those companies have fewer than 50 employees.
- The Green Building Products and Technologies market in Alberta is expected to grow from \$800 million in 2009 to \$4.4 Billion in 2025.

Revenue Shares in 2009 for Major Sub-Sectors



Trends

The building products and technologies industry saw declines between 2007 and 2009 due to the global economic crisis and the weak US housing market. However, the value of shipments has begun to rebound in 2010.

Low interest rates and an inclination toward home ownership are fuelling housing demand, which is expected to remain vigorous over the coming years. Housing starts in Alberta reached 27,100 units in 2010 and are expected to reach 28,000 units in 2011. (Source: Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation, 2010)

Alberta's top building product exports include SPF dimensional softwood lumber, oriented strand board (OSB) wooden office furniture, glass fiber insulation, prefabricated buildings, metal furniture, wooden bedroom furniture, medium density fibreboard, plywood and Portland cement.

Building Products and Technologies

Areas of Expertise

- **Green Building Products and Technologies:** Alberta companies have gained worldwide recognition in the area of energy efficient building with innovative products ranging from shingles, pavers and patio tiles produced from recycled tires to high efficiency furnaces and the “Energy Star” line of products for windows and doors.
- **Dimensional Softwood Lumber and Engineered Wood Products:** Alberta’s spruce, pine and fir (SPF) wood products possess strength and clarity properties desirable among builders.
- **Energy Efficient Building Envelopes:** Alberta temperature extremes provide an ideal setting for perfecting building envelopes that maximize energy use by ensuring a building retains heat in the winter and remains cool in the summer.
- **Composite Building Products:** These are products manufactured from two or more different raw materials, such as wood and plastic. They are becoming increasingly popular, and with Alberta’s abundant supply of raw materials, the industry has the opportunity to develop a range of new products for this market.

How we Can Help

The Alberta Government can provide your company with contacts and information on potential partnerships and investment opportunities in the Building Products and Technologies Sector. We can help you:

- Gain insight into the challenges and opportunities of the sector;
- Build strategic alliances with local and international partners; and
- Connect you with local business development representatives.

Industry Resources

Visit the Building Products and Technologies homepage at www.albertacanada.com/building-products to learn about:

- Industry facts and opportunities
- Policies and regulations
- Key stakeholders and industry associations
- News and events

Contacts

For further information about Alberta’s building products and technologies sector, please contact:

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