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PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS AND STOCKS ON HAND OF SAWMILLS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia totalled 411 506 M ft. in October, 1956 as compared with 421,281 M ft. in October, 1955 a decrease of 2.3 p.c. from the previous year but an increase of 1.5 p.c. over the previous month. Production of Coast mills, which account for 52.9 p.c. of the total, showed an increase of 7.3 p.c. over the same month of the previous year, and the Interior mills, which produced the remaining 47.1 p.c. showed an increase of 37.4 p.c. Shipments in October 1956 totalled 362,964 M ft., as compared with 392,014 M ft. the previous year, a decrease of 7.4 p.c. with Coast mills registering a decrease of 1.6 p.c. and Interior mills a decrease of 13.6 p.c. Total shipments for October decreased by 9.5 p.c. from the September figure of 400,969 M ft. Stocks on hand at the end of October, 1956 amounted to 558,029 M ft., as compared with 513,221 M ft. at the end of October the previous year and 510,224 M ft. at the end of September of this year. Coast mills reported stocks totalling 283,429 M ft., while Interior mills showed 274,600 M ft.

Summary Figures

Table 1 gives a comparative summary of production shipments and stocks of sawn lumber and ties for all British Columbia sawmills for September and October, 1955 and 1956. Details by species are given for production and stocks while shipments are shown by destination. Total production decreased from 460,150 M ft. in September, 1955 to 421,281 M ft. in October 1955 but increased from 405,388 M ft. in September to 411,506 M ft. in October, 1956. Shipments totalled 400,969 M ft. in September 1956 and 362,964 M ft. in October 1956 as compared with 435,098 M ft. in September and 392,014 M ft. in October of 1955. Stocks on hand at sawmills increased from 472,478 M ft. in September, 1955 to 513,221 M ft. in October and increased from 510,224 M ft. in September, 1956 to 558,029 M ft. in October of this year.

Production

Table 2 gives particulars of lumber and tie production for Coast mills and Interior mills separately, and also shows separately the production of lumber and ties, by species. Production of sawn lumber in Coast mills amounted to 215,663 M ft. in October, 1956 as compared with 188,873 M ft. reported by Interior mills. Sawn tie production of Coast mills was 1,949 M ft. in October as compared with 5,021 M ft. for Interior mills. Coast mills accounted for 52.9 p.c. of the total production of sawn lumber and ties in October, 1956 as compared with 59.0 p.c. the previous year. The percentages of Coast mills during September, 1956 and 1955 respectively, were 49.9 and 52.1 p.c.

Prepared in the Forestry Section, Industry and Merchandising Division.

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Shipments

Table 3 gives details of lumber and tie shipments, by months, for Coast mills and Interior mills separately. Shipments by truck, by rail and waterborne are shown for each Canadian province, to points in the United States, to the United Kingdom and to other countries, for all mills reporting. Total estimated shipments of non-reporting mills are also given. It is to be noted, however, that some lumber originally reported as having been shipped to points in British Columbia may have been re-shipped to other provinces or exported by the purchasers and reported by them also, thereby causing a certain amount of duplication.

Shipments of Coast mills amounted to 197,867 M ft. in October of 1956 and 204,993 M ft. in September, 1956 as compared with 200,993 M ft. in October, 1955 and 242,931 M ft. in the previous month, while the Interior mills shipped 165,097 M ft. and 191,021 M ft. in October, 1956 and 1955 and 195,976 M ft. and 192,167 M ft. in September 1956 and 1955. Of all shipments actually reported for October, 40.8 p.c. went to points in Canada, 42.1 p.c. to points in United States, 7.4 p.c. to the United Kingdom and 9.7 p.c. to other countries. Waterborne shipments accounted for 22.2 p.c. of the total, while 51.8 p.c. went by rail, and 26.0 p.c. by truck.

Stocks

Table 4 gives particulars of stocks of lumber and ties at sawmills by months. It distinguishes between stocks sold but not shipped and stocks unsold, and between stocks at Coast and Interior mills, by species. Total stocks at Coast mills in September and October, 1956 amounted to 261,914 M ft. and 283,429 M ft. as compared with 248,081 M ft. and 273,445 M ft. in September and October of 1955. Interior mills stocks increased from 224,397 M ft. in September to 239,776 M ft. in October, 1955 and increased from 248,310 M ft. in September to 274,600 M ft. in October, 1956. Unsold stocks accounted for approximately 34.5 p.c. of the total in October, 1956 as compared with 17.8 p.c. in October, 1955, for Coast mills, while for the Interior mills the percentages were, respectively, 88.8 and 81.3.

Orders on Hand

Table 5 shows the distribution of orders on hand at the end of the months of September and October, 1955 and 1956 for Coast mills only. Similar information is not collected from Interior mills and no attempt has been made to estimate orders on hand of non-reporting mills on the Coast. Destination and mode of shipments are shown in this table, which also gives total lumber purchases reported by some mills. Total orders on hand at the end of October, 1956 amounted to 256,608 M ft. as compared with 318,788 M ft. in October, 1955. Orders on hand at the end of September 1956 and 1955 amounted to 240,220 M ft. and 308,945 M ft. respectively. Purchases of lumber from other mills amounted to 3,944 M ft. in October, 1956 and 6,146 M ft. in October, 1955 as compared with 5,446 M ft. in September, 1956 and 5,308 M ft. in September, 1955.

Active Mills Reporting

Table 6 gives the number of active mills reporting each month for the Coast and Interior of British Columbia. The mills reporting for October accounted for 80.2 p.c. of the total production on the basis of the annual returns from 1954 compared with 78.9 p.c. for the previous year. The percentages for September, 1955 and 1956 were 78.2 and 78.5 respectively. It is hoped that the compilation will eventually include all mills in the 500,000 feet and over classification.

The co-operation of the British Columbia Lumber Manufacturers' Association, Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association and Northern Interior Lumbermen's Association in the collection of these statistics is gratefully acknowledged.

Table 1. - Comparative Summary of Production, Shipments and Stocks of Lumber and Ties of British Columbia Sawmills, October, 1956.

	October		September		10 months	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.
PRODUCTION						
Douglas Fir	197,511	196,328	211,354	183,706	1,853,907	1,836,401
Hemlock	68,903	73,684	74,759	71,113	729,415	686,767
Balsam Fir	4,811	3,900	4,529	3,666	23,053	39,069
Red Cedar	41,461	42,470	46,573	40,032	453,475	415,467
Spruce	77,857	70,151	87,760	81,301	735,663	748,618
White Pine	7,411	6,461	7,716	6,901	65,702	60,694
Ponderosa Pine	4,191	3,714	5,352	3,548	45,434	45,087
Lodgepole Pine	6,373	5,352	7,626	5,959	51,039	56,131
All other softwoods ..	11,813	9,146	14,026	8,804	98,357	83,255
Total, softwoods	420,831	411,206	459,695	405,030	4,056,045	3,971,489
Red Alder	139	52	180	81	1,540	1,112
Maple	198	205	165	226	1,540	2,098
Birch	60	29	55	36	553	380
Cottonwood	47	14	48	15	1,024	853
All other hardwoods ..	6	-	7	-	48	28
Total, hardwoods	450	300	455	358	4,705	4,471
Total, production ...	421,281	411,506	460,150	405,388	4,060,750	3,975,960
SHIPMENTS						
TO: Points in Canada ..	119,311	125,002	139,041	130,862	1,165,157	1,321,418
Points in U.S.A. ..	131,096	129,084	145,562	119,161	1,293,763	1,266,200
United Kingdom	38,149	22,735	56,296	28,343	519,827	295,431
Other Countries ...	24,068	29,592	24,580	29,217	337,596	276,114
Shipments reported	312,624	306,413	365,479	307,583	3,316,343	3,159,163
Estimated shipments non-reporting mills ..	79,390	56,551	69,619	93,386	759,965	718,753
Total shipments	392,014	362,964	435,098	400,969	4,076,308	3,877,916
STOCKS ON HAND						
	October		September			
	1955	1956	1955	1956		
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.		
Douglas Fir	212,284	214,566	181,863	202,028		
Hemlock	97,683	112,462	89,851	89,562		
Balsam Fir	768	1,404	1,019	428		
Red Cedar	54,010	65,750	58,043	63,908		
Spruce	107,099	120,290	105,475	123,053		
White Pine	13,091	10,418	10,420	8,443		
Ponderosa Pine	13,229	16,525	13,381	11,925		
Lodgepole Pine	4,975	7,823	3,812	6,761		
All other softwoods ...	10,016	8,262	8,545	3,907		
Total, softwoods	513,155	557,500	472,409	510,015		
Red Alder	3	45	-	45		
Maple	14	45	11	63		
Birch	7	17	8	12		
Cottonwood	39	421	46	88		
All other hardwoods ...	3	1	4	1		
Total hardwoods	66	529	69	209		
Total stocks	513,221	558,029	472,478	510,224		

Table 2. - Lumber and Ties Sawn, October, 1956

Species	COAST MILLS			INTERIOR MILLS		
	Reported	Estimated	Total	Reported	Estimated	Total
	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.
LUMBER						
Douglas Fir	92,947	4,325	97,272	52,861	40,281	93,142
Hemlock	66,283	1,103	67,386	5,511	645	6,156
Balsam Fir	2,651	92	2,743	441	675	1,116
Red Cedar	39,991	785	40,776	1,004	690	1,694
Spruce	3,910	176	4,086	36,344	29,710	66,054
White Pine	2,045	128	2,173	2,022	2,236	4,258
Ponderosa Pine	-	5	5	1,994	1,620	3,614
Lodgepole Pine	-	8	8	1,978	2,860	4,838
All other softwoods ..	937	3	940	3,079	4,896	7,975
Total, softwoods ..	208,764	6,625	215,389	105,234	83,613	188,847
Red Alder	29	23	52	-	-	-
Maple	172	29	201	-	4	4
Birch	16	5	21	-	8	8
Cottonwood	-	-	-	-	14	14
All other hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ..	217	57	274	-	26	26
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ..	208,981	6,682	215,663	105,234	83,639	188,873
TIES						
Douglas Fir	1,547	283	1,830	1,334	2,750	4,084
Hemlock	112	7	119	-	23	23
Balsam Fir	-	-	-	-	41	41
Red Cedar	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spruce	-	-	-	-	11	11
White Pine	-	-	-	30	-	30
Ponderosa Pine	-	-	-	-	95	95
Lodgepole Pine	-	-	-	-	506	506
All other softwoods ..	-	-	-	-	231	231
Total, softwoods ..	1,659	290	1,949	1,364	3,657	5,021
Red Alder	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maple	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birch	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cottonwood	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ..	1,659	290	1,949	1,364	3,657	5,021
Lumber and Ties	210,640	6,972	217,612	106,598	87,296	193,894

Table 3. - Shipments of Sawn Lumber and Ties, October, 1956.

	By Truck (Local Sales)	By Rail	Water- borne	Total Shipments
	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.
<u>COAST MILLS</u>				
TO: <u>Points in Canada:</u>				
British Columbia	50,648	2,405	634	53,687
Yukon and Northwest Territories		-	-	-
Alberta		1,839	xxxxxx	1,839
Saskatchewan		976	xxxxxx	976
Manitoba		1,202	xxxxxx	1,202
Ontario		7,665	-	7,665
Quebec		1,516	-	1,516
New Brunswick		857	-	857
Nova Scotia		198	-	198
Prince Edward Island		-	-	-
Newfoundland		93	-	93
Total for Canada	50,648	16,751	634	68,033
<u>Points in U.S.A.:</u>				
Pacific Ports		324	-	324
Atlantic Ports		460	17,530	17,990
Other points, by rail		56,144	xxxxxx	56,144
Total for U.S.A.		56,928	17,530	74,458
United Kingdomx		1,302	21,159	22,461
Other countriesx		989	28,483	29,472
Destination or carrier not specified				
Total shipments reported	50,648	75,970	67,806	194,424
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				3,443
Total shipments, reported and estimated				197,867
<u>INTERIOR MILLS</u>				
TO: <u>Points in Canada:</u>				
British Columbia	28,133	4,010	-	32,143
Yukon and Northwest Territories		-	-	-
Alberta	879	4,571	xxxxxx	5,450
Saskatchewan		3,409	xxxxxx	3,409
Manitoba		5,241	xxxxxx	5,241
Ontario		9,673	-	9,673
Quebec		1,053	-	1,053
New Brunswick		-	-	-
Nova Scotia		-	-	-
Prince Edward Island		-	-	-
Newfoundland		-	-	-
Total for Canada	29,012	27,957	-	56,969
<u>Points in U.S.A.:</u>				
Pacific Ports		144	-	144
Atlantic Ports		2,085	-	2,085
Other points, by rail		52,397	xxxxxx	52,397
Total for U.S.A.		54,626	-	54,626
United Kingdomx		101	173	274
Other countriesx		120	-	120
Destination or carrier not specified				
Total shipments reported	29,012	82,804	173	111,989
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				53,108
Total shipments, reported and estimated				165,097
x Shipped by rail to Eastern Seaboard Port.				

Table 4. - Stocks of Lumber and Ties at Sawmills, October, 1956.

Species	COAST MILLS			INTERIOR MILLS		
	Reported	Estimated	Total	Reported	Estimated	Total
	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.
<u>SOLD (but not shipped)</u>						
Douglas Fir	74,110	2,453	76,563	6,375	5,221	11,596
Hemlock	71,922	2,381	74,303	1,114	912	2,026
Balsam Fir	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red Cedar	26,485	877	27,362	400	328	728
Spruce	3,854	128	3,982	7,089	5,806	12,895
White Pine	2,825	93	2,918	851	697	1,548
Ponderosa Pine	-	-	-	1,112	910	2,022
Lodgepole Pine	-	-	-	32	26	58
All other softwoods ..	529	17	546	-	-	-
Total, softwoods ...	179,725	5,949	185,674	16,973	13,900	30,873
Red Alder	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maple	26	1	27	-	-	-
Birch	5	-	5	-	-	-
Cottonwood	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other hardwoods ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ...	31	1	32	-	-	-
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ...	179,756	5,950	185,706	16,973	13,900	30,873
<u>UNSOLD</u>						
Douglas Fir	37,985	1,257	39,242	47,921	39,244	87,165
Hemlock	19,999	662	20,661	8,506	6,966	15,472
Balsam Fir	-	-	-	772	632	1,404
Red Cedar	32,140	1,064	33,204	2,450	2,006	4,456
Spruce	2,326	77	2,403	55,533	45,477	101,010
White Pine	1,225	40	1,265	2,577	2,110	4,687
Ponderosa Pine	266	9	275	7,822	6,406	14,228
Lodgepole Pine	-	-	-	4,269	3,496	7,765
All other softwoods ..	565	19	584	3,921	3,211	7,132
Total softwoods	94,506	3,128	97,634	133,771	109,548	243,319
Red Alder	43	2	45	-	-	-
Maple	17	1	18	-	-	-
Birch	9	-	9	2	1	3
Cottonwood	16	-	16	222	183	405
All other hardwoods ..	1	-	1	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods ...	86	3	89	224	184	408
Total, softwoods and hardwoods ...	94,592	3,131	97,723	133,995	109,732	243,727
Sold and Unsold	274,348	9,081	283,429	150,968	123,632	274,600

Table 5. - Distribution of Orders on Hand at End of October, 1956 and Lumber Purchased from Other Mills (Coast Mills Only)

	October		September	
	1955	1956	1955	1956
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.
<u>ORDERS ON HAND</u>				
For Shipments to points in British Columbia				
Local	16,863	18,843	18,555	20,078
Coastwise and Interior	2,976	3,498	2,469	2,422
Total	19,839	22,341	21,024	22,500
For shipments by rail to:				
Prairie Provinces	9,824	7,815	5,648	6,469
Eastern Provinces	13,494	21,253	15,131	14,442
United States of America	45,321	39,479	47,244	42,380
Total	68,639	68,547	68,023	63,291
For waterborne shipments to:				
California	3,726	540	93	-
U.S. Atlantic Ports	29,978	22,715	22,935	24,844
Eastern Markets	-	-	3,346	365
Export Markets	196,606	142,465	193,524	129,220
Total	230,310	165,720	219,898	154,429
TOTAL ORDERS ON HAND	318,788	256,608	308,945	240,220
LUMBER PURCHASED FROM OTHER MILLS	6,146	3,944	5,308	5,446

Table 6. - Number of Active Mills Reporting October, 1956

		October		September	
		1955	1956	1955	1956
Coast	No.	103	92	104	90
Interior	No.	306	275	318	285
Total, British Columbia		409	367	422	375

A few returns received after compilations were closed have been omitted.

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