



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
Industry and Merchandising Division
OTTAWA

Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

13-4089 Vol. 4 No. 5

Price: 25 cents per copy, \$2.00 per year.

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

MAY, 1950

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia totalled 291,004 M ft. in May 1950, as compared with 250,811 M ft. in May 1949, an increase of 13.8 p.c. over the previous year and an increase of 21.6 p.c. over the previous month. Production of Coast mills, which account for 77.8 p.c. of the total, showed an increase of 17.0 p.c. over the same month of the previous year, and the Interior mills, which produced the remaining 22.2 p.c. showed an increase of 2.7 p.c. Shipments in May 1950 totalled 294,922 M ft., as compared with 244,791 M ft. the previous year, an increase of 17.0 p.c. with Coast mills registering an increase of 16.7 p.c. and Interior mills an increase of 18.2 p.c. Total shipments for May increased by 18.7 p.c. over the April figure of 239,888 M ft. Stocks on hand at the end of May 1950 amounted to 327,946 M ft., as compared with 374,435 M ft., at the end of May the previous year and 334,021 M ft. at the end of April of this year. Coast mills reported stocks totalling 230,131 M ft., while Interior mills showed 97,815 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 April and May 1949 and 1950. Details by species are given for production and stocks, while shipments are shown by destination. Total production increased from 206,958 M ft. in April 1949 to 250,811 M ft. in May 1949 and from 228,005 M ft. in April to 291,004 M ft. in May 1950. Shipments totalled 239,888 M ft. in April 1950 and 294,922 M ft. in May 1950 as compared with 220,703 M ft. in April and 244,791 M ft. in May of 1949. Stocks on hand at sawmills increased from 341,411 M ft. in April 1949 to 374,435 M ft. in May but decreased from 334,021 M ft. in April 1950 to 327,946 M ft. in May 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 224,276 M ft. in May 1950 as compared with 62,145 M ft. reported by Interior mills. Sawn tie production of Coast mills was 2,219 M ft. in May as compared with 2,364 M ft. for Interior mills. Coast mills accounted for 77.8 p.c. of the total production of sawn lumber and ties in May 1950 as compared with 75.0 p.c. the previous year. The percentages of Coast mills during April 1950 and 1949 respectively, were 80.3 and 80.5 p.c.

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 236,537 M ft. in May of 1950 and 204,715 M ft. in April 1950 as compared with 197,045 M ft. in May 1949 and 183,334 M ft. in the previous month, while the Interior mills shipped 58,385 M ft. and 47,746 M ft. in May 1950 and 1949 and 35,173 M ft. and 37,369 M ft. in April 1950 and 1949. Of all shipments actually reported for May 34.4 p.c. went to points in Canada, 50.9 p.c. to points in United States, 7.6 p.c. to the United Kingdom and 7.1 p.c. to other countries. Waterborne shipments accounted for 42.4 p.c. of the total, while 39.0 p.c. went by rail, and 18.6 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 April and May 1950 amounted to 234,346 M ft. and 230,131 M ft. as compared with 245,234 M ft. and 250,213 M ft. in April and May of 1949. Interior mills stocks increased from 96,177 M ft. in April to 124,222 M ft. in May 1949 but decreased from 99,675 M ft. in April to 97,815 M ft. in May 1950. Unsold stocks accounted for approximately 34.1 p.c. of the total in May 1950, as compared with 36.4 p.c. in May 1949 for Coast mills, while for the Interior mills the percentages were, respectively, 67.5 and 76.4.

Orders on Hand

Table 5 shows the distribution of orders on hand at the end of the months of April and May 1949 and 1950, 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 May 1950, amounted to 381,727 M ft. as compared with 229,897 M ft. in May 1949. Orders on hand at the end of April 1950 and 1949, amounted to 367,290 M ft. and 287,449 M ft., respectively. Purchases of lumber from other mills amounted to 8,202 M ft. in May 1950 and 7,112 M ft. in May 1949 as compared with 8,000 M ft. in April 1950 and 11,402 M ft. in April 1949.

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 May accounted for 82.1 p.c. of the total production on the basis of the annual returns from 1948 compared with 74.6 p.c. for the previous year. The percentages for April 1949 and 1950 were 83.8 and 83.7 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, May, 1950.

	May		April		5 Months	
	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949
PRODUCTION	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.
Douglas Fir	158,307	135,143	123,927	112,559	598,829	580,012
Hemlock	55,772	43,936	42,789	38,840	224,763	198,638
Balsam Fir	1,099	1,218	6,463	966	16,452	5,289
Red Cedar	26,974	24,542	23,191	22,492	117,222	100,942
Spruce	30,360	29,780	23,243	20,587	130,854	132,165
White Pine	4,279	3,851	2,148	2,953	13,057	14,441
Ponderosa Pine	6,390	5,143	1,897	3,735	12,702	14,552
Lodgepole Pine	1,043	700	604	669	3,121	3,733
All other softwoods	5,565	5,250	2,669	3,042	15,070	17,676
Total softwoods	289,789	249,563	226,931	205,843	1,132,070	1,067,448
Red Alder	474	584	408	638	2,062	2,743
Maple	378	260	372	208	1,543	1,390
Birch	147	133	125	67	442	443
Cottonwood	171	243	169	166	756	1,227
All other hardwoods	45	28	-	36	45	86
Total hardwoods	1,215	1,248	1,074	1,115	4,848	5,889
Total softwoods and hardwoods	291,004	250,811	228,005	206,958	1,136,918	1,073,337
SHIPMENTS						
To: Points in Canada	89,295	101,368	75,598	87,286	345,095	392,230
Points in U.S.A.	132,024	39,295	118,018	51,502	550,148	244,574
United Kingdom	19,794	33,967	11,081	32,162	41,877	145,626
Other countries	18,469	16,838	12,990	20,605	92,921	95,853
Destination not specified	-	1,534	-	1,671	-	6,317
Total shipments reported	259,582	193,002	217,687	193,226	1,030,041	884,600
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills	35,340	51,789	22,201	27,477	119,287	162,244
Total shipments reported and estimated	294,922	244,791	239,888	220,703	1,149,328	1,046,844
STOCKS ON HAND						
	May		April			
	1950	1949	1950	1949		
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.		
Douglas Fir	162,579	176,389	163,655	166,788		
Hemlock	57,340	66,004	51,746	65,074		
Balsam Fir	928	2,024	11,291	1,320		
Red Cedar	27,888	34,967	25,677	32,597		
Spruce	46,226	58,398	56,214	45,402		
White Pine	6,907	8,390	6,587	7,842		
Ponderosa Pine	12,126	13,390	8,174	9,009		
Lodgepole Pine	1,538	1,442	1,168	1,592		
All other softwoods	11,388	11,849	8,407	10,521		
Total softwoods	326,920	372,853	332,919	340,145		
Red Alder	425	536	393	461		
Maple	307	387	318	314		
Birch	127	145	127	103		
Cottonwood	167	514	259	388		
All other hardwoods	-	-	5	-		
Total hardwoods	1,026	1,582	1,102	1,266		
Total softwoods & hardwoods	327,946	374,435	334,021	341,411		

Table 2. - Lumber and Ties Sawn
May, 1950

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	121,953	11,875	133,828	12,774	8,135	20,909
Hemlock	51,470	2,747	54,217	436	787	1,223
Balsam Fir	365	180	545	221	300	521
Red Cedar	23,110	2,595	25,705	680	520	1,200
Spruce	4,583	1,328	5,911	9,822	14,422	24,244
White Pine	2,460	71	2,531	1,084	660	1,744
Ponderosa Pine	-	33	33	4,809	1,541	6,350
Lodgepole Pine	-	2	2	54	879	933
All other softwoods	332	4	336	1,482	3,492	4,974
Total, softwoods.	204,273	18,835	223,108	31,362	30,736	62,098
Red Alder	283	191	474	-	-	-
Maple	250	128	378	-	-	-
Birch	81	57	138	-	9	9
Cottonwood	100	33	133	6	32	38
All other hardwoods	45	-	45	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods	759	409	1,168	6	41	47
Total softwoods and hardwoods	205,032	19,244	224,276	31,368	30,777	62,145
TIES						
Douglas Fir	1,333	474	1,807	846	917	1,763
Hemlock	231	99	330	-	2	2
Balsam Fir	-	2	2	-	31	31
Red Cedar	64	-	64	-	5	5
Spruce	-	16	16	4	185	189
White Pine	-	-	-	-	4	4
Ponderosa Pine	-	-	-	-	7	7
Lodgepole Pine	-	-	-	-	108	108
All other softwoods	-	-	-	126	129	255
Total, softwoods	1,628	591	2,219	976	1,388	2,364
Red Alder	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maple	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birch	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cottonwood	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, softwoods and hardwoods	1,628	591	2,219	976	1,388	2,364
LUMBER AND TIES	206,660	19,835	226,495	32,344	32,165	64,509

Table 3. - Shipments of Sawn Lumber and Ties, May, 1950

	By Truck (Local Sales)	By Rail	Water- borne	Total Shipments
		M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.	M ft.b.m.
COAST MILLS				
TO: Points in Canada:				
British Columbia	41,242	2,751	925	44,918
Yukon and Northwest Territories		16	-	16
Alberta		3,465	xxxxxx	3,465
Saskatchewan		3,889	xxxxxx	3,889
Manitoba		4,167	xxxxxx	4,167
Ontario		9,300	-	9,300
Quebec		2,496	1,326	3,822
New Brunswick		260	-	260
Nova Scotia		145	-	145
Prince Edward Island		-	-	-
Newfoundland		27	-	27
Total for Canada	41,242	26,516	2,251	70,009
Points to U.S.A.				
Pacific Ports		846	5,027	5,873
Atlantic Ports		865	64,742	65,607
Other points, by rail		44,370	xxxxxx	44,370
Total for U.S.A.		46,081	69,769	115,850
United Kingdom	x	154	19,467	19,621
Other countries	x	-	18,411	18,411
Destination or carrier not specified				-
Total shipments reported	41,242	72,751	109,898	223,891
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				12,646
Total shipments, reported and estimated				236,537
INTERIOR MILLS				
TO: Points in Canada:				
British Columbia	6,922	1,899	-	8,821
Yukon and Northwest Territories	24	-	-	24
Alberta	10	3,742	xxxxxx	3,752
Saskatchewan		3,050	xxxxxx	3,050
Manitoba		1,667	-	1,667
Ontario		1,386	-	1,386
Quebec		517	-	517
New Brunswick		69	-	69
Nova Scotia		-	-	-
Prince Edward Island		-	-	-
Newfoundland		-	-	-
Total for Canada	6,956	12,330	-	19,286
Points in U.S.A.				
Pacific Ports		84	-	84
Atlantic Ports		78	110	188
Other points, by rail		15,902	xxxxxx	15,902
Total for U.S.A.		16,064	110	16,174
United Kingdom	x	102	71	173
Other countries	x	58	-	58
Destination or carrier not specified				-
Total Shipments reported	6,956	28,554	181	35,691
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				22,694
Total shipments, reported and estimated				58,385
* Shipped by rail to Eastern Seaboard Port.				

Table 4. - Stocks of Lumber and Ties at Sawmills

May, 1950

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.
SOLD (but not shipped)						
Douglas Fir	84,400	8,268	92,668	4,240	4,456	8,696
Hemlock	32,148	1,905	34,053	40	388	428
Balsam Fir	37	122	159	8	163	171
Red Cedar	14,604	1,737	16,341	135	258	393
Spruce	3,115	900	4,015	7,012	7,190	14,202
White Pine	3,408	47	3,455	476	327	803
Ponderosa Pine	-	22	22	3,726	762	4,488
Lodgepole Pine	-	1	1	5	486	491
All other softwoods	284	4	288	302	1,783	2,085
Total, softwoods	137,996	13,006	151,002	15,944	15,813	31,757
Red Alder	202	128	330	-	-	-
Maple	100	86	186	-	-	-
Birch	40	38	78	-	4	4
Cottonwood	30	22	52	35	16	51
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods	372	274	646	35	20	55
Total, softwoods and hardwoods	138,368	13,280	151,648	15,979	15,833	31,812
UNSOLD						
Douglas Fir	37,358	4,279	41,637	10,316	9,262	19,578
Hemlock	20,508	986	21,494	558	807	1,365
Balsam Fir	114	63	177	82	339	421
Red Cedar	8,593	899	9,492	1,125	537	1,662
Spruce	997	466	1,463	11,601	14,945	26,546
White Pine	780	25	805	1,165	679	1,844
Ponderosa Pine	-	12	12	6,020	1,584	7,604
Lodgepole Pine	-	1	1	35	1,010	1,045
All other softwoods	3,123	-	3,123	2,187	3,705	5,892
Total, softwoods	71,473	6,731	78,204	33,089	32,868	65,957
Red Alder	29	66	95	-	-	-
Maple	77	44	121	-	-	-
Birch	16	20	36	-	9	9
Cottonwood	15	12	27	4	33	37
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods	137	142	279	4	42	46
Total, softwoods and hardwoods	71,610	6,873	78,483	33,093	32,910	66,003
SOLD AND UNSOLD	209,978	20,153	230,131	49,072	48,743	97,815

Table 5. - Distribution of Orders on Hand at End of May, 1950 and
Lumber Purchased from Other Mills (Coast Mills Only)

	Month ending -			
	May		April	
	1950 M ft.	1949 M ft.	1950 M ft.	1949 M ft.
ORDERS ON HAND				
For shipment to points in British Columbia				
Local	18,989	17,895	17,439	19,885
Coastwise and interior	2,703	5,607	2,794	6,233
Total	21,692	23,502	20,233	26,118
For shipment by rail to:				
Prairie Provinces	15,201	21,418	19,129	21,679
Eastern Provinces	22,085	27,835	23,722	29,421
United States of America	46,610	20,287	49,757	28,946
Total	83,896	69,540	92,608	80,046
For waterborne shipment to:				
California	50	-	1,750	769
U.S. Atlantic Ports	134,541	8,218	131,478	13,445
Eastern Canada	6,516	423	5,092	2,808
Export Markets	135,032	128,214	116,129	164,263
Total	276,139	136,855	254,449	181,285
TOTAL ORDERS ON HAND ..	381,727	229,897	367,290	287,449
LUMBER PURCHASED FROM OTHER MILLS				
.....	8,202	7,112	8,000	11,042

Table 6. - Number of Active Mills Reporting, May, 1950

		May		April	
		1950	1949	1950	1949
Coast	No.	115	130	123	130
Interior	No.	115	111	69	94
Total, British Columbia	No.	230	241	192	224

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

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