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

March, 1952

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia totalled 284,488 M ft. in March, 1952 as compared with 272,429 M ft. in March, 1951 an increase of 4.4 p.c. over the previous year and an increase of 8.6 p.c. over the previous month. Production of Coast mills, which account for 70.5 p.c. of the total, showed a decrease of 1.4 p.c. from the same month of the previous year, but the Interior mills, which produced the remaining 29.5 p.c. showed an increase of 21.7 p.c. Shipments in March, 1952 totalled 297,929 M ft., as compared with 286,604 M ft. the previous year, an increase of 4.0 p.c. with Coast mills registering a decrease of 5.7 p.c. but Interior mills an increase of 38.5 p.c. Total shipments for March increased by 16.1 p.c. over the February figure of 256,565 M ft. Stocks on hand at the end of March, 1952 amounted to 457,272 M ft., as compared with 402,705 M ft. at the end of March the previous year and 445,489 M ft. at the end of February of this year. Coast mills reported stocks totalling 269,563 M ft., while Interior mills showed 187,709 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 February and March, 1951 and 1952. Details by species are given for production and stocks while shipments are shown by destination. Total production increased from 272,401 M ft. in February, 1951 to 272,429 M ft. in March, 1951. and from 261,934 M ft. in February, 1952 to 284,488 M ft. in March, 1952. Shipments totalled 256,565 M ft. in February 1952 and 297,929 M ft. in March, 1952 as compared with 266,579 M ft. in February and 286,604 M ft. in March of 1951. Stocks on hand at sawmills decreased from 417,490 M ft. in February, 1951 to 402,705 M ft. in March but increased from 445,489 M ft. in February, 1952 to 457,272 M ft. in March 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 197,095 M ft. in March, 1952 as compared with 80,202 M ft. reported by Interior mills. Sawn tie production of Coast mills was 3,449 M ft. in March as compared with 3,742 M ft. for Interior mills. Coast mills accounted for 70.5 p.c. of the total production of sawn lumber and ties in March, 1952 as compared with 74.7 p.c. the previous year. The percentages of Coast mills during February, 1952 and 1951 respectively, were 70.7 and 74.7 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 211,365 M ft. in March of 1952 and 175,432 M ft. in February, 1952 as compared with 224,125 M ft. in March, 1951 and 203,826 M ft. in the previous month, while the Interior mills shipped 86,564 M ft. and 62,479 M ft. in March, 1952 and 1951 and 81,133 M ft. and 62,753 M ft. in February, 1952 and 1951. Of all shipments actually reported for March, 32.5 p.c. went to points in Canada, 31.1 p.c. to points in United States, 32.2 p.c. to the United Kingdom and 4.2 p.c. to other countries. Waterborne shipments accounted for 36.9 p.c. of the total, while 44.8 p.c. went by rail, and 18.3 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 February and March 1952 amounted to 268,698 M ft. and 269,563 M ft. as compared with 276,447 M ft. and 258,962 M ft. in February and March of 1951. Interior mills stocks increased from 141,043 M ft. in February to 143,743 M ft. in March 1951 and increased from 176,791 M ft. in February to 187,709 M ft. in March, 1952. Unsold stocks accounted for approximately 30.9 p.c. of the total in March, 1952 as compared with 27.1 p.c. in March, 1951 for Coast mills, while for the Interior mills the percentages were, respectively, 84.4 and 73.7.

Orders on Hand

Table 5 shows the distribution of orders on hand at the end of the months of February and March, 1951 and 1952 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 March, 1952 amounted to 464,051 M ft. as compared with 485,803 M ft. in March, 1951. Orders on hand at the end of February, 1952 and 1951 amounted to 532,999 M ft. and 558,397 M ft., respectively. Purchases of lumber from other mills amounted to 4,250 M ft. in March, 1952 and 6,332 M ft. in March, 1951 as compared with 3,142 M ft. in February, 1952 and 5,836 M ft. in February, 1951.

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 March accounted for 84.5 p.c. of the total production on the basis of the annual returns from 1949 compared with 83.2 p.c. for the previous year. The percentages for February, 1951 and 1952 were 84.4 and 84.7 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, March, 1952.

	March		February		3 Months	
	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951
PRODUCTION						
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.
Douglas Fir	√130,780	130,704	118,401	131,261	368,544	400,578
Hemlock	√61,472	62,668	60,101	60,084	173,413	189,892
Balsam Fir	769	531	758	1,528	2,053	3,477
Red Cedar	√29,002	24,309	27,341	25,330	83,976	X 75,577
Spruce	√43,983	44,468	41,467	44,380	121,121	129,875
White Pine	6,380	2,346	3,944	2,756	15,342	11,094
Ponderosa Pine	2,889	2,099	1,756	1,805	6,107	5,825
Lodgepole Pine	2,603	1,233	2,410	1,204	6,567	3,716
All other softwoods ...	5,637	3,355	4,922	3,218	15,090	11,503
Total softwoods	283,515	271,713	261,100	271,566	792,213	X 831,537
Red Alder	309	322	326	403	998	936
Maple	315	208	249	239	833	689
Birch	125	67	73	65	244	176
Cottonwood	224	119	186	128	508	336
All other hardwoods ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total hardwoods	973	716	834	835	2,583	2,137
Total Production	284,488	272,429	261,934	272,401	794,796	X 833,674
SHIPMENTS						
To: Points in Canada ..	85,406	76,515	82,128	80,234	229,258	233,931
Points in U.S.A. ...	81,893	77,228	69,961	71,352	216,471	243,935
United Kingdom	84,579	68,172	61,201	57,967	211,728	172,340
Other countries ...	11,080	32,417	10,926	26,497	39,499	78,496
Shipments reported ...	262,958	254,332	224,216	236,050	696,956	728,702
Estimated shipments of reporting mills	34,971	32,272	32,349	30,529	92,459	94,022
Total shipments	297,929	286,604	256,565	266,579	789,415	822,724
	1952	March 1951	1952	February 1951		
	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.	M ft.		
STOCKS ON HAND						
Douglas Fir	187,868	178,233	188,161	194,032		
Hemlock	86,935	80,816	83,064	81,070		
Balsam Fir	1,302	787	4,162	1,171		
Red Cedar	42,480	32,013	43,188	31,749		
Spruce	87,989	76,608	82,887	79,915		
White Pine	20,195	14,251	16,726	10,317		
Ponderosa Pine	12,091	8,339	10,824	9,606		
Lodgepole Pine	3,869	2,048	2,999	1,665		
All other softwoods ...	12,847	8,438	12,100	5,778		
Total softwoods	455,576	401,533	444,111	415,303		
Red Alder	552	534	483	489		
Maple	584	289	507	304		
Birch	277	182	148	98		
Cottonwood	283	167	240	175		
All other hardwoods ...	-	-	-	1,121		
Total hardwoods ...	1,696	1,172	1,378	2,187		
Total Stocks	457,272	402,705	445,489	417,490		

X Revised

Table 2. - Lumber and Ties Sawn

March, 1952

Species	COAST MILLS			INTERIOR MILLS		
	Reported	Estimated	Total	Reported	Estimated	Total
	M ft. b.m.	Mft. b. m.	Mft. b. m.	Mft. b.m.	M ft. b. m.	Mft. b. m.
LUMBER						
Douglas Fir.....	96,399	6,010	102,409	13,183	9,841	23,024
Hemlock.....	57,074	1,173	58,247	1,416	839	2,255
Balsam Fir.....	3	68	71	393	300	693
Red Cedar.....	26,216	1,583	27,799	506	696	1,202
Spruce.....	5,032	295	5,327	24,918	13,605	38,523
White Pine.....	2,011	9	2,020	3,296	1,057	4,353
Ponderosa Pine....	70	2	72	2,079	717	2,796
Lodgepole Pine....	-	-	-	1,166	1,216	2,382
All other softwoods	288	1	289	1,350	3,523	4,873
Total, softwoods..	187,093	9,141	196,234	48,307	31,794	80,101
Red Alder.....	103	199	302	-	7	7
Maple.....	75	229	304	-	-	-
Birch.....	12	39	51	-	74	74
Cottonwood.....	78	126	204	11	9	20
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods..	268	593	861	11	90	101
Total, softwoods & hardwoods	187,361	9,734	197,095	48,318	31,884	80,202
TIES						
Douglas Fir.....	2,205	329	2,534	1,228	1,585	2,813
Hemlock.....	862	42	904	-	66	66
Balsam Fir.....	-	-	-	-	5	5
Red Cedar.....	-	-	-	-	1	1
Spruce.....	-	-	-	29	104	133
White Pine.....	-	-	-	-	7	7
Ponderosa Pine....	-	-	-	4	17	21
Lodgepole Pine....	-	-	-	-	221	221
All other softwoods	-	-	-	332	143	475
Total, softwoods..	3,067	371	3,438	1,593	2,149	3,742
Red Alder.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maple.....	-	11	11	-	-	-
Birch.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cottonwood.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods..	-	11	11	-	-	-
Total, softwoods & hardwoods	3,067	382	3,449	1,593	2,149	3,742
LUMBER AND TIES.....	190,428	10,116	200,544	49,911	34,033	83,944

Table 3, - Shipments of Sawn Lumber and Ties, March, 1952.

	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: Points in Canada:				
British Columbia	33,598	2,335	679	36,612
Yukon and Northwest Territories		63	-	63
Alberta		1,498	xxxxxx	1,498
Saskatchewan		1,751	xxxxxx	1,751
Manitoba		3,298	xxxxxx	3,298
Ontario		7,549	-	7,549
Quebec		2,678	-	2,678
New Brunswick		429	-	429
Nova Scotia		350	-	350
Prince Edward Island		-	-	-
Newfoundland		22	-	22
Total for Canada	33,598	19,973	679	54,250
Points in U.S.A.:				
Pacific Ports		800	2,136	2,936
Atlantic Ports		1,300	-	1,300
Other points, by rail		53,064	xxxxxx	53,064
Total for U.S.A.		55,164	2,136	57,300
United Kingdom	x	277	80,700	80,977
Other countries	x	156	10,815	10,971
Destination or carrier not specified				-
Total shipments reported	33,598	75,570	94,330	203,498
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				7,867
Total shipments, reported and estimated				211,365
<u>INTERIOR MILLS</u>				
TO: Points in Canada:				
British Columbia	14,078	2,499	-	16,577
Yukon and Northwest Territories		43	-	43
Alberta	415	2,626	xxxxxx	3,041
Saskatchewan		3,225	xxxxxx	3,225
Manitoba		3,310	xxxxxx	3,310
Ontario		4,003	-	4,003
Quebec		744	-	744
New Brunswick		80	-	80
Nova Scotia		72	-	72
Prince Edward Island		-	-	-
Newfoundland		61	-	61
Total for Canada	14,493	16,663	-	31,156
Points in U.S.A.:				
Pacific Ports		196	-	196
Atlantic Ports		209	-	209
Other points, by rail		24,188	xxxxxx	24,188
Total for U.S.A.		24,593	-	24,593
United Kingdom	x	1,001	2,601	3,602
Other countries	x	50	59	109
Destination or carrier not specified				-
Total shipments reported	14,493	42,307	2,660	59,460
Estimated shipments of non-reporting mills				27,104
Total shipments, reported and estimated				86,564
x Shipped by rail to Eastern Seaboard Port.				

Table 4. - Stocks of Lumber and Ties at Sawmills

March, 1952

Species	COAST MILLS			INTERIOR MILLS		
	Reported	Estimated	Total	Reported	Estimated	Total
<u>SOLD (but not shipped)</u>	Mft. b.m.	Mft. b.m.	Mft. b.m.	Mft. b.m.	Mft. b.m.	Mft. b.m.
Douglas Fir.....	87,264	5,886	93,150	8,780	3,975	12,755
Hemlock.....	60,448	1,128	61,576	232	315	547
Balsam Fir.....	-	63	63	-	106	106
Red Cedar.....	20,884	1,471	22,355	98	242	340
Spruce.....	4,138	274	4,412	4,537	4,769	9,306
White Pine.....	3,114	8	3,122	339	370	709
Ponderosa Pine	20	2	22	3,007	255	3,262
Lodgepole Pine.....	-	-	-	259	500	759
All other softwoods.	495	1	496	110	1,276	1,386
Total, softwoods..	176,363	8,833	185,196	17,362	11,808	29,170
Red Alder.....	186	185	371	-	2	2
Maple.....	214	223	437	-	-	-
Birch.....	40	36	76	-	25	25
Cottonwood.....	54	117	171	-	4	4
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods.	494	561	1,055	-	31	31
Total, softwoods & hardwoods.	176,857	9,394	186,251	17,362	11,839	29,201
<u>UNSOLD</u>						
Douglas Fir.....	37,701	2,633	40,334	20,054	21,575	41,629
Hemlock.....	21,095	504	21,599	1,504	1,709	3,213
Balsam Fir.....	339	28	367	190	576	766
Red Cedar.....	16,578	658	17,236	1,233	1,316	2,549
Spruce.....	1,884	123	2,007	46,378	25,886	72,264
White Pine.....	920	4	924	13,431	2,009	15,440
Ponderosa Pine	12	1	13	7,408	1,386	8,794
Lodgepole Pine.....	-	-	-	396	2,714	3,110
All other softwoods.	421	-	421	3,621	6,923	10,544
Total, softwoods..	78,950	3,951	82,901	94,215	64,094	158,309
Red Alder.....	83	83	166	-	13	13
Maple.....	47	100	147	-	-	-
Birch.....	20	16	36	-	140	140
Cottonwood.....	10	52	62	29	17	46
All other hardwoods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, hardwoods	160	251	411	29	170	199
Total, softwoods & hardwoods	79,110	4,202	83,312	94,244	64,264	158,508
SOLD & UNSOLD	255,967	13,596	269,563	111,606	76,103	187,709

Table 5. - Distribution of Orders on Hand at End of March, 1952 and
Lumber Purchased from Other Mills (Coast Mills Only).

	March		February	
	1952	1951	1952	1951
	Mft.	Mft.	Mft.	Mft.
<u>ORDERS ON HAND</u>				
For shipment to points in British Columbia				
Local.....	14,742	16,518	16,094	14,398
Coastwise and interior.....	6,058	4,037	6,018	6,486
Total	20,800	20,555	22,112	20,884
For shipment by rail to:				
Prairie Provinces.....	11,986	15,686	10,021	17,231
Eastern Provinces	26,344	37,583	30,737	39,045
United States of America.....	50,053	54,216	46,692	47,868
Total.....	88,383	107,485	87,450	104,144
For waterborne shipment to:				
California.....	550	-	925	550
U.S. Atlantic Ports.....	2,910	5,365	617	14,032
Eastern Canada	-	3,910	-	2,460
Export Markets.....	351,408	348,488	421,895	416,327
Total.....	354,868	357,763	423,437	433,369
TOTAL ORDERS ON HAND.....	464,051	485,803	532,999	558,397
LUMBER PURCHASED FROM OTHER MILLS				
	4,250	6,332	3,142	5,836

Table 6. - Number of Active Mills Reporting,
March, 1952

		March		February	
		1952	1951	1952	1951
Coast.....	No.	101	113	97	124
Interior.....	No.	170	132	156	135
Total, British Columbia	No.	271	245	253	259

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

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