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FOREST PRODUCTS BRANCH

PRELIMINARY REPORT

on the

LUMBER INDUSTRY

in

CANADA

1926

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Published by authority of the Hon. James Malcolm, M. P.,

Minister of Trade and Commerce

+ + +

OTTAWA

1928

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
CENSUS OF INDUSTRY - FOREST PRODUCT STATISTICS
OTTAWA CANADA

Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S. (Hon), F.R.S.C.
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THE LUMBER INDUSTRY, 1926

February 6th, 1928.—A preliminary report on the lumber industry in Canada during the calendar year 1926 has just been issued by the Forest Products Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This report shows increases in the quantity production of lumber, lath and shingles, the chief products of the industry, as well as box shocks, pickets, mill waste used for fuel, prepared pulpwood and poles. There were decreases in quantity of sawn ties, veneer spoolwood, staves and heading. Although the production of sawn lumber increased the average value per thousand feet was less than in 1925 and the total value increased. Other decreases for total value were reported for shingles, pickets, staves, veneer spoolwood, sawn ties and heading manufactured, while increases were reported for lath, box shocks and poles. The total value of all the products of the industry increased from \$134,413,845 in 1925 to \$135,182,592 in 1926, an increase of 0.6 per cent.

As far as the gross value of production is concerned the saw-milling industry ranks fourth among the important industries of Canada. Its gross production is now exceeded by that of the pulp and paper industry, flour and grist mills and slaughtering and meat packing establishments. With regard to the net value of production or the value added by manufacture obtained by subtracting the cost of raw materials from the gross value of products; the saw-milling industry comes second only to the pulp and paper industry with a net total in 1926 of \$56,261,176. The saw-milling industry comes first among Canadian industries with regard to total number of employees, second with regard to wage distribution and third with regard to capital investment.

The production of sawn lumber in Canada reached its maximum in 1911 with a reported cut of 4,918,202 M.ft.b.m. A second peak was reached in 1920 with a cut of 4,298,804 M.ft.b.m. followed by a considerable decrease in 1921. Increases in quantity production have taken place annually since 1921 with a production of 4,185,140 M.ft.b.m. in 1926, valued at \$101,071,260 as compared to 3,888,920 M.ft. in 1925 valued at \$99,725,519. The 1926 production represents an increase of 7.6 per cent in quantity and an increase of 1.3 per cent in total value. The average value of all kinds of lumber decreased from \$25.64 per M.ft. in 1925 to \$24.15 in 1926, a decrease of 6.2 per cent.

The production of shingles increased in quantity but decreased in value from 3,156,261 M. in 1925 valued at \$11,154,773 to 3,299,397 M. in 1926 valued at \$10,521,723.

The preparation of pulpwood, including cutting-up and barking or rossing is carried on as a side-line in many Canadian saw-mills and is therefore included as part of the saw-milling industry. Prepared pulpwood comes third in importance with 824,319 cords valued at \$10,208,630 in 1926 as compared to 706,700 cords valued at \$9,160,976 in 1925.

In the case of lath the quantity production increased from 1,292,963 M. in 1925 to 1,378,366 in 1926 and the total value increased from \$6,415,927 in 1925 to \$6,527,060 in 1926.

There were more mills in operation in 1926 than in 1925 and the average production per mill was higher. The 2,471 mills reporting in 1925 had an average annual output of 1,574 M.ft.b.m. while the 2,515 mills reporting in 1926 produced an average of 1,664 M.ft. The total number of employees on salaries and wages decreased from 35,457 to 35,078 and the total payroll increased from \$34,097,006 to \$34,925,391. The average earnings per employee during the year increased from \$962. to \$996. The cost of fuel used in the industry decreased from \$546,025 in

in 1925 to \$499,085 in 1926 but the total quantity of power employed increased from 295,246 h.p. to 299,075 h.p. Raw materials in this industry which are in the form of logs, bolts and rough cordwood were valued at \$78,921,416 in 1926 as compared to \$78,219,728 in 1925. The value added by manufacture was \$56,261,176 and the total cost of raw materials formed 58.4 per cent of the total value of the finished products in 1926 as compared to 58.5 per cent in 1925.

The ratio of the cost of raw materials to value of products has increased considerably, on the whole, during the last few years in the lumber industry because of increases in stumpage values and increases in the cost of logging due to the longer distances logs must be transported as the more accessible supplies of timber are exhausted. This ratio for the last ten years is as follows:-

1917.....	35.1	1922.....	53.2
1918.....	31.3	1923.....	52.4
1919.....	44.7	1924.....	58.6
1920.....	49.8	1925.....	58.5
1921.....	49.0	1926.....	58.4

The capital invested in the industry decreased from \$204,134,003 in 1925 to \$175,186,704 in 1926.

British Columbia heads the list in the production of sawn lumber and shingles. New Brunswick comes first in lath production and Quebec in the preparation of pulpwood. The production of lumber increased in the provinces of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Quebec and decreased in Ontario, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

The figures on which this preliminary report are based are subject to revision on further examination of the individual reports. The complete, revised statistics of the lumber industry for the calendar year 1926 will be included in the regular annual printed report which will be available for distribution in a short time. Copies may be secured on application to the Dominion Statistician, Dominion Bureau of Statistics or to the King's Printer, Ottawa, Canada.

The following tables include a summary of the principal statistics of the industry, by provinces; a summary of the primary and secondary products of sawmills in 1925 and 1926; comparisons of the production of lumber in 1925 and 1926 by provinces and by kinds of wood and separate tables showing the production of lumber, lath and shingles in each of the nine provinces of the Dominion, by kinds of wood for 1926.

Table 1.- Principal Statistics of the Lumber Industry, 1926.

Provinces	Mills in opera- tion	Capital invested	Emp- loy- ees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials	Gross Value of Products
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
Canada.....	2,730	175,186,704	35,078	34,925,391	78,921,416	135,182,592
British Columbia.....	315	62,847,247	14,722	17,847,708	32,124,188	58,725,997
Ontario.....	676	50,578,550	7,640	7,504,855	18,280,542	30,875,908
Quebec.....	1,087	31,911,286	6,153	4,633,286	16,739,054	25,194,257
New Brunswick.....	257	20,773,165	4,100	3,170,645	8,169,341	13,392,477
Nova Scotia.....	328	4,600,317	1,288	699,461	1,687,613	2,993,615
Manitoba.....	16	2,205,412	381	425,086	887,944	1,883,247
Alberta.....	52	1,597,539	558	467,404	770,871	1,577,432
Saskatchewan.....	9	533,133	212	165,026	206,986	447,157
Prince Edward Island.....	40	140,055	24	11,920	54,877	92,502

Table 2.- Summary of Products of the Lumber Industry, 1925 and 1926.

Products	Quantity		Value	
	1925	1926	1925	1926
		\$	\$	
Total, all products.... value only	-	-	134,413,845	135,182,592
Lumber..... M.ft.b.m.	3,888,920	4,185,140	99,725,519	101,071,260
Shingles..... M.	3,156,261	3,299,397	11,154,773	10,521,723
Pulpwood..... cords	706,700	824,319	9,160,976	10,208,630
Lath..... M.	1,292,963	1,378,366	6,415,927	6,527,060
Sawn ties..... No.	5,041,256	3,762,517	3,474,944	2,434,348
Box shooks..... M.	20,181	21,941	1,055,658	1,146,317
Veneer..... M.surf.ft.	21,570	16,912	845,179	753,212
Mill waste sold..... Cords	286,426	320,832	746,382	821,388
Pickets..... M.	36,654	36,925	592,667	489,182
Staves..... M.	34,403	26,248	339,118	286,421
Spoolwood..... M.ft.b.m.	4,105	2,427	167,095	105,727
Poles..... No.	39,413	57,657	78,674	105,633
Heading..... M.prs.	1,880	1,852	170,166	155,045
All other products..... value only	-	-	486,767	556,646

Table 3.- Lumber production in Canada, 1925 and 1926.

Provinces	Quantity		Value	
	1925 M.ft.b.m.	1926 M.ft.b.m.	1925 \$	1926 \$
Canada.....	3,888,920	4,185,140	99,725,519	101,071,260
British Columbia.....	1,724,832	2,103,295	39,035,841	44,240,051
Ontario.....	957,577	864,591	30,074,363	26,364,282
Quebec.....	554,464	581,150	14,655,577	15,268,467
New Brunswick.....	405,203	381,673	10,513,568	9,656,279
Nova Scotia.....	94,826	94,390	1,907,127	1,837,310
Manitoba.....	89,403	71,480	2,178,051	1,724,307
Alberta.....	41,766	66,571	931,574	1,464,487
Saskatchewan.....	16,477	19,063	323,184	432,443
Prince Edward Island.....	4,372	2,927	106,234	73,634

Table 4.- Lumber production in Canada, 1925 and 1926, by kinds of wood.

Kinds of wood	Quantity		Value	
	1925 M.ft.b.m.	1926 M.ft.b.m.	1925 \$	1926 \$
Canada.....	3,888,920	4,185,140	99,725,519	101,071,260
Douglas Fir.....	1,102,658	1,293,783	24,006,211	27,062,520
Spruce.....	1,167,306	1,225,960	28,765,126	28,983,995
White Pine.....	557,700	483,602	18,517,843	15,565,348
Hemlock.....	324,768	379,091	6,784,505	6,998,251
Cedar.....	132,358	149,437	4,917,616	4,752,630
Red pine.....	101,703	125,038	2,982,026	3,628,563
Jack pine.....	134,954	118,834	3,082,731	2,585,342
Balsam fir.....	58,223	92,211	1,335,082	2,041,994
Birch yellow.....	78,486	84,784	2,671,439	2,873,560
Western yellow pine.....	44,259	49,922	958,693	1,092,641
Tamarack.....	59,623	49,502	1,293,365	1,000,906
Maple.....	49,824	49,199	1,870,387	1,789,449
Basswood.....	23,811	22,934	781,986	734,678
Elm.....	15,683	17,816	575,005	624,004
Birch, white.....	10,982	11,791	374,975	398,932
Poplar.....	9,759	9,950	195,214	190,888
Beech.....	6,670	8,347	199,989	239,200
Ash.....	5,367	6,618	196,064	215,350
Oak.....	2,975	4,399	151,715	224,422
Chestnut.....	544	583	23,454	23,610
Butternut.....	225	176	7,740	5,766
Cherry.....	191	171	7,754	7,283
Hickory.....	70	147	3,126	6,994
Yellow Cypress.....	150	117	8,930	6,000
Walnut.....	45	63	2,266	4,929
Sycamore.....	1	3	40	131
Tulip.....	3	3	240	200
Willow.....	2	-	36	-
Ironwood.....	-	-	-	-
Black gum or pepperidge.....	1	-	15	-
Unspecified.....	549	659	11,946	13,674

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LUMBER, LATH AND SHINGLE PRODUCTION, 1926.

Table 5.- Canada, 1926.

Kinds of wood	Number		Lath		Shingles	
	Quantity M. ft. b.m.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$
Total.....	4,185,140	101,071,260	1,378,366	6,527,060	3,299,397	10,521,723
Douglas Fir.....	1,293,733	27,062,520	106,759	372,582	-	-
Spruce.....	1,225,960	28,935,995	834,283	3,967,372	18,868	55,217
White pine.....	433,602	15,565,348	177,953	1,011,694	3,038	10,314
Hemlock.....	379,091	6,998,251	45,157	210,625	1,854	6,051
Cedar.....	149,437	4,752,630	48,933	227,767	3,268,500	10,428,280
Red pine.....	125,038	3,628,563	38,582	202,895	87	229
Jack pine.....	118,834	2,585,342	92,188	375,327	1,763	5,928
Balsam fir.....	92,211	2,041,994	29,679	138,583	5,027	15,021
Birch, yellow.....	84,784	2,873,560	2	12	-	-
Western yellow pine....	49,922	1,092,641	1,647	7,541	-	-
Tamarack.....	49,502	1,000,906	2,281	9,178	-	-
Maple.....	49,199	1,789,449	-	-	-	-
Basswood.....	22,934	734,678	711	2,827	-	-
Elm.....	17,816	624,004	-	-	-	-
Birch, white.....	11,791	398,932	30	75	-	-
Poplar.....	9,950	190,888	40	280	250	648
Beech.....	8,347	239,200	-	-	-	-
Ash.....	6,618	215,350	-	-	-	-
Oak.....	4,399	224,422	-	-	-	-
Chestnut.....	583	23,610	-	-	-	-
Butternut.....	176	5,766	-	-	-	-
Cherry.....	171	7,223	-	-	-	-
Hickory.....	147	6,994	-	-	-	-
Yellow cypress.....	117	6,000	-	-	-	-
Walnut.....	63	4,923	-	-	-	-
Sycamore.....	3	131	-	-	-	-
Tulip.....	3	200	-	-	-	-
Unspecified.....	659	13,674	121	302	10	35

Table 6.- British Columbia, 1926.

Kinds of wood	Number		Lath		Shingles	
	Quantity M. ft. b.m.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$
Total.....	2,103,295	44,250,051	160,192	593,054	2,846,696	9,159,813
Douglas Fir.....	1,293,648	27,059,820	106,759	372,582	-	-
Spruce.....	263,520	5,542,056	22,790	89,990	-	-
Hemlock.....	256,381	4,187,465	12,959	50,865	-	-
Cedar.....	130,512	4,204,391	10,574	48,505	2,846,581	9,159,353
Western yellow pine....	49,922	1,092,611	1,647	7,541	-	-
Tamarack.....	47,343	941,573	2,107	8,154	-	-
Balsam fir.....	30,563	501,388	441	2,023	-	-
White pine.....	16,226	405,986	1,119	5,291	-	-
Jack pine.....	14,593	298,628	1,796	8,103	115	460
Maple.....	232	5,185	-	-	-	-
Poplar.....	195	3,538	-	-	-	-
Yellow cypress.....	117	6,000	-	-	-	-
Birch white.....	40	380	-	-	-	-

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LUMBER, LATH AND SHINGLE PRODUCTION, 1926.

Table 7.- Ontario.

Kinds of wood	Lumber		Lath		Shingles	
	Quantity M. ft. b.m.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$
Total.....	864,591	26,364,282	306,923	1,597,745	27,598	101,377
White pine.....	412,337	13,578,285	137,249	805,436	732	3,278
Red pine.....	121,009	3,519,296	32,922	177,031	23	86
Jack pine.....	82,160	1,812,101	76,776	313,296	130	580
Hemlock.....	72,517	1,727,418	16,880	83,876	165	644
Spruce.....	55,988	1,470,284	39,984	201,177	-	-
Maple.....	34,171	1,307,184	-	-	-	-
Birch, yellow.....	26,063	950,474	-	-	-	-
Elm.....	14,923	523,238	-	-	-	-
Basswood.....	14,768	489,491	198	594	-	-
Cedar.....	7,404	233,393	2,642	14,522	26,488	96,564
Beech.....	4,546	132,996	-	-	-	-
Ash.....	4,342	146,128	-	-	-	-
Poplar.....	3,742	80,102	40	280	-	-
Oak.....	3,639	178,485	-	-	-	-
Balsam fir.....	3,286	84,087	147	1,029	60	225
Birch, white.....	1,488	53,072	-	-	-	-
Tamarack.....	1,064	31,804	85	504	-	-
Chestnut.....	581	23,540	-	-	-	-
Hickory.....	132	6,374	-	-	-	-
Cherry.....	99	4,856	-	-	-	-
Butternut.....	42	1,704	-	-	-	-
Walnut.....	38	2,477	-	-	-	-
Tulip.....	3	200	-	-	-	-
Sycamore.....	3	131	-	-	-	-
Unspecified.....	246	7,162	-	-	-	-

Table 8.- Quebec, 1926.

Kinds of wood	Lumber		Lath		Shingles	
	Quantity M. ft. b.m.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$
Total.....	581,150	15,268,467	300,029	1,387,489	257,882	769,235
Spruce.....	379,332	9,353,281	236,099	1,092,467	2,578	7,585
Birch, yellow.....	44,638	1,533,147	-	-	-	-
White pine.....	34,867	1,070,872	6,636	38,004	1,205	3,681
Balsam fir.....	29,431	775,744	8,687	38,338	87	247
Hemlock.....	25,777	582,737	3,242	18,320	270	810
Jack pine.....	16,058	367,093	11,838	47,705	1,488	4,806
Maple.....	11,607	384,836	-	-	-	-
Cedar.....	11,048	305,931	32,221	147,284	252,044	751,593
Basswood.....	7,660	228,286	513	2,233	-	-
Firch, white.....	7,144	252,064	30	75	-	-
Poplar.....	3,227	68,235	-	-	200	478
Elm.....	2,891	100,706	-	-	-	-
Red pine.....	2,274	67,809	553	2,241	-	-
Ash.....	2,156	66,484	-	-	-	-
Beech.....	1,085	32,228	-	-	-	-
Tamarack.....	752	21,434	89	520	-	-
Oak.....	668	43,437	-	-	-	-
Butternut.....	133	4,033	-	-	-	-
Cherry.....	72	2,427	-	-	-	-
Walnut.....	25	2,452	-	-	-	-
Hickory.....	1	620	-	-	-	-
Chesnut.....	2	70	-	-	-	-
Unspecified.....	288	4,541	121	302	10	35

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LUMBER, LATH AND SHINGLE PRODUCTION, 1926.

Table 9.- New Brunswick, 1926.

Kinds of wood	Lumber		Lath		Shingles	
	Quantity M.f.t.b.m.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$
Total.....	381,673	9,656,279	484,196	2,362,491	150,776	443,206
Spruce.....	312,654	7,836,073	421,275	2,055,473	7,214	21,811
Balsam fir.....	26,322	628,194	19,338	92,308	75	225
White pine.....	14,510	392,097	24,721	123,848	100	400
Hemlock.....	12,905	305,470	10,659	51,783	-	-
Birch, yellow.....	7,643	255,033	-	-	-	-
Maple.....	1,937	66,540	-	-	-	-
Birch, white.....	1,897	65,855	-	-	-	-
Red pine.....	1,400	34,936	4,707	21,623	-	-
Beech.....	1,119	40,511	-	-	-	-
Cedar.....	473	8,915	3,496	17,456	143,387	420,770
Basswood.....	456	15,901	-	-	-	-
Jack pine.....	208	4,186	-	-	-	-
Poplar.....	144	2,424	-	-	-	-
Ash.....	4	115	-	-	-	-
Butternut.....	1	29	-	-	-	-

Table 10.- Nova Scotia, 1926.

Kinds of wood	Lumber		Lath		Shingles	
	Quantity M.f.t.b.m.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$
Total.....	94,390	1,837,310	88,391	398,567	11,992	35,462
Spruce.....	64,642	1,266,683	77,378	347,204	7,332	21,166
Hemlock.....	11,492	194,671	1,377	5,621	1,369	4,397
Birch, yellow.....	6,304	130,670	2	12	-	-
White pine.....	5,546	115,163	8,188	38,955	988	2,915
Balsam fir.....	1,699	32,966	1,046	4,775	2,199	6,721
Beech.....	1,520	31,490	-	-	-	-
Maple.....	1,208	24,269	-	-	-	-
Birch, white.....	1,168	25,382	-	-	-	-
Red pine.....	355	6,522	400	2,000	64	143
Ash.....	116	2,623	-	-	-	-
Oak.....	92	2,500	-	-	-	-
Poplar.....	71	1,340	-	-	40	120
Basswood.....	50	1,000	-	-	-	-
Elm.....	2	60	-	-	-	-
Unspecified.....	125	1,971	-	-	-	-

Table 11.- Manitoba, 1926.

Kinds of wood	Lumber		Lath		Shingles	
	Quantity M.f.t.b.m.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$	Quantity M.	Value \$
Total.....	71,480	1,724,307	24,115	124,735	10	50
Spruce.....	69,534	1,690,555	24,115	124,735	-	-
Jack pine.....	1,280	22,448	-	-	-	-
Tamarack.....	340	6,060	-	-	-	-
Balsam fir.....	262	4,192	-	-	-	-
White pine.....	35	525	-	-	-	-
Poplar.....	29	527	-	-	10	50

LUMBER, LATH AND SHINGLE PRODUCTION, 1926.

Table 12.- Alberta, 1926.

Kinds of wood	Lumber		Lath		Shingles	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	M.ft.b.m.	\$	M.	\$	M.	\$
Total.....	66,571	1,464,487	10,562	49,419	81	337
Spruce.....	59,441	1,347,601	8,784	43,196	51	255
Jack pine.....	4,535	80,236	1,778	6,223	30	82
Poplar.....	2,457	33,265	-	-	-	-
Douglas fir.....	135	2,700	-	-	-	-
Tamarack.....	3	35	-	-	-	-

Table 13.- Saskatchewan, 1926.

Kinds of wood	Lumber		Lath		Shingles	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	M.ft.b.m.	\$	M.	\$	M.	\$
Total.....	19,063	432,443	3,257	10,300	-	-
Spruce.....	18,983	431,043	3,257	10,300	-	-
Poplar.....	80	1,400	-	-	-	-

Table 14.- Prince Edward Island, 1926.

Kinds of wood	Lumber		Lath		Shingles	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	M.ft.b.m.	\$	M.	\$	M.	\$
Total.....	2,927	73,634	701	3,260	4,362	12,243
Spruce.....	1,866	46,419	601	2,830	1,693	4,400
Balsam fir.....	648	14,923	20	110	2,606	7,603
Birch, yellow.....	136	4,236	-	-	-	-
White pine.....	81	2,420	40	160	13	40
Beech.....	77	1,975	-	-	-	-
Birch, white.....	54	1,679	-	-	-	-
Maple.....	44	1,435	-	-	-	-
Hemlock.....	19	490	40	160	50	200
Poplar.....	2	57	-	-	-	-

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