

Service bulletin

Sawmills



March 2009

Highlights

- In March, monthly lumber production by sawmills increased 3.6% to 3,620.2 thousand cubic meters. Compared with the same month last year, lumber production declined 20.9%
- In March, sawmills shipped 3,784.1 thousand cubic meters of lumber, an increase of 6.4% from February.

Statistical tables

Table 1

Production, shipments and stocks of lumber, 2009

	March			Year-to-date	
	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production	Shipments
thousands of cubic meters					
Canada	3,620.2	3,784.1	7,409.7	11,160.3	11,139.9
British Columbia	1,693.4	1,750.2	2,911.4	5,236.5	5,295.9
Coast	178.6	217.6	241.0	539.8	590.3
Interior	1,514.8	1,532.6	2,670.4	4,696.7	4,705.5
Northern interior	857.3	783.8	1,289.7	2,421.2	2,343.5
Central interior	184.9	268.8	553.9	895.8	1,021.8
Southern interior	472.6	480.0	826.8	1,379.7	1,340.2
Alberta	551.8	510.8	1,048.5	1,670.4	1,575.0
Saskatchewan	x	x	x	x	x
Manitoba	x	x	x	x	x
Ontario	294.1	352.2	419.8	1,059.9	1,158.5
Quebec	834.1	885.8	2,540.7	2,505.8	2,366.4
New Brunswick	167.7	185.0	253.1	477.4	487.4
Nova Scotia	50.0	70.4	113.2	144.0	184.5
percentage change 2008 to 2009					
Canada	-20.9	-19.9	-12.4	-24.8	-21.9
British Columbia	-23.9	-27.4	-15.5	-30.4	-28.3
Coast	-37.0	-23.7	-38.3	-45.1	-37.6
Interior	-22.0	-27.9	-12.6	-28.2	-26.9
Northern interior	-10.9	-22.7	-13.6	-20.3	-19.0
Central interior	-59.8	-46.1	-19.3	-45.5	-35.9
Southern interior	-9.2	-21.5	-5.6	-25.8	-31.3
Alberta	-6.2	-9.6	17.8	-6.3	-5.3
Saskatchewan	x	x	x	x	x
Manitoba	x	x	x	x	x
Ontario	-30.3	-19.7	-34.3	-23.4	-13.6
Quebec	-20.8	-16.2	-13.7	-23.6	-22.5
New Brunswick	2.4	14.1	28.4	-5.4	-0.6
Nova Scotia	-17.9	25.1	-39.6	-35.6	-12.3

Note(s): Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 2
Production and stocks of lumber, British Columbia, by species, 2009

	Standard classification of goods	March Production	Year-to-date production	March Stocks
	code	thousands of cubic meters		
British Columbia				
Douglas Fir & Western Larch	4407.10.32	62.1	140.7	75.7
Western Red Cedar	4407.10.71	80.8	194.7	211.8
Yellow Cedar	4407.10.72	11.0	41.9	0.0
Western Hemlock & Amabilis Fir	4407.10.33	61.1	243.1	74.6
Sitka Spruce	4407.10.42	x	x	x
Spruce, Pine and Fir	4407.10.31	1,477.8	4,605.1	2,549.2
Other softwoods	4407.10.99	x	x	x
Total softwoods	...	1,693.4	5,236.5	2,911.4
Hardwood	4407.90	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total (softwood and hardwood)	...	1,693.4	5,236.5	2,911.4
British Columbia coast				
Douglas Fir & Western Larch	4407.10.32	41.5	90.5	33.4
Western red cedar	4407.10.71	x	x	x
Yellow cedar	4407.10.72	11.0	41.9	0.0
Western Hemlock & Amabilis Fir	4407.10.33	49.1	202.9	55.1
SITKA spruce	4407.10.42	x	x	x
Spruce, pine and fir	4407.10.31	11.3	33.6	16.4
Other softwoods	4407.10.99	x	x	x
Total softwoods	...	178.6	539.8	241.0
Hardwood	4407.90	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total (softwood and hardwood)	...	178.6	539.8	241.0
British Columbia interior				
Douglas Fir & Western Larch	4407.10.32	20.5	50.2	42.3
Western red cedar	4407.10.71	x	x	x
Yellow cedar	4407.10.72	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Hemlock & Amabilis Fir	4407.10.33	12.0	40.2	19.5
SITKA spruce	4407.10.42	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spruce, pine and fir	4407.10.31	1,466.5	4,571.5	2,532.8
Other softwoods	4407.10.99	x	x	x
Total softwoods	...	1,514.8	4,696.7	2,670.4
Hardwood	4407.90	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total (softwood and hardwood)	...	1,514.8	4,696.7	2,670.4
British Columbia northern interior				
Douglas Fir & Western Larch	4407.10.32	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western red cedar	4407.10.71	0.0	0.0	1.5
Yellow cedar	4407.10.72	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Hemlock & Amabilis Fir	4407.10.33	0.0	0.0	0.1
SITKA spruce	4407.10.42	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spruce, pine and fir	4407.10.31	857.3	2,421.2	1,288.1
Other softwoods	4407.10.99	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total softwoods	...	857.3	2,421.2	1,289.7
Hardwood	4407.90	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total (softwood and hardwood)	...	857.3	2,421.2	1,289.7
British Columbia central interior				
Douglas Fir & Western Larch	4407.10.32	10.4	10.4	7.3
Western red cedar	4407.10.71	0.0	0.0	0.0
Yellow cedar	4407.10.72	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Hemlock & Amabilis Fir	4407.10.33	0.0	0.0	0.0
SITKA spruce	4407.10.42	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spruce, pine and fir	4407.10.31	174.6	885.4	546.6
Other softwoods	4407.10.99	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total softwoods	...	184.9	895.8	553.9
Hardwood	4407.90	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total (softwood and hardwood)	...	184.9	895.8	553.9
British Columbia southern interior				
Douglas Fir & Western Larch	4407.10.32	10.1	39.8	35.0
Western red cedar	4407.10.71	x	x	x
Yellow cedar	4407.10.72	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Hemlock & Amabilis Fir	4407.10.33	12.0	40.2	19.4
SITKA spruce	4407.10.42	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spruce, pine and fir	4407.10.31	434.7	1,264.9	698.1
Other softwoods	4407.10.99	x	x	x
Total softwoods	...	472.6	1,379.7	826.8
Hardwood	4407.90	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total (softwood and hardwood)	...	472.6	1,379.7	826.8

Note(s): Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 3
Production and stocks of lumber by province and species, 2009

	Spruce, pine and fir (SCG code 4407.10.31) ¹	Total softwood (SCG code 4407.10) ¹	Total hardwood (SCG code 4407.90) ¹	Total
thousands of cubic meters				
March production				
Canada	3,223.9	3,549.6	70.6	3,620.2
British Columbia	1,477.8	1,693.4	0.0	1,693.4
Alberta	550.7	550.7	1.0	551.8
Saskatchewan	x	x	0.0	x
Manitoba	x	x	0.0	x
Ontario	270.6	276.9	17.2	294.1
Quebec	694.3	788.9	45.2	834.1
New Brunswick	156.6	160.6	7.1	167.7
Nova Scotia	44.9	49.9	0.1	50.0
Year-to-date production				
Canada	10,001.6	10,939.0	221.2	11,160.3
British Columbia	4,605.1	5,236.5	0.0	5,236.5
Alberta	1,667.3	1,667.3	3.1	1,670.4
Saskatchewan	x	x	0.0	x
Manitoba	x	x	0.0	x
Ontario	981.5	998.1	61.8	1,059.9
Quebec	2,097.7	2,370.1	135.8	2,505.8
New Brunswick	446.4	457.2	20.2	477.4
Nova Scotia	137.4	143.7	0.3	144.0
March stocks				
Canada	6,568.7	7,365.2	44.5	7,409.7
British Columbia	2,549.2	2,911.4	0.0	2,911.4
Alberta	1,048.2	1,048.2	0.3	1,048.5
Saskatchewan	x	x	0.0	x
Manitoba	x	x	0.0	x
Ontario	390.6	410.7	9.1	419.8
Quebec	2,119.1	2,511.2	29.5	2,540.7
New Brunswick	239.2	247.5	5.7	253.1
Nova Scotia	99.5	113.2	0.0	113.2

1. Standard Classification of Goods (SCG) code.

Note(s): Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 4
Revised data for production, shipments and stocks of lumber, 2008

	March			Year-to-date		
	Softwood (SCG code 4407.10) ¹	Hardwood (SCG code 4407.90) ¹	Total	Softwood (SCG code 4407.10) ¹	Hardwood (SCG code 4407.90) ¹	Total
thousands of cubic meters						
Total production	2,260.1	89.8	2,349.9	7,039.3	283.5	7,322.8
Alberta	586.8	1.1	587.9	1,779.3	3.3	1,782.6
Saskatchewan	x	0.0	x	x	0.0	x
Manitoba	x	0.0	x	x	0.0	x
Ontario	397.1	24.6	421.7	1,302.2	80.7	1,382.9
Quebec	995.7	57.0	1,052.7	3,101.4	177.7	3,279.1
New Brunswick	156.9	6.9	163.8	483.3	21.4	504.7
Nova Scotia	60.8	0.1	60.9	223.3	0.4	223.7
Total shipments	.	.	2,316.2	.	.	6,870.1
Alberta	.	.	565.0	.	.	1,663.5
Saskatchewan	.	.	x	.	.	x
Manitoba	.	.	x	.	.	x
Ontario	.	.	438.4	.	.	1,340.5
Quebec	.	.	1,056.6	.	.	3,053.6
New Brunswick	.	.	162.1	.	.	490.6
Nova Scotia	.	.	56.3	.	.	210.3
Total stocks	4,974.5	36.0	5,010.5	..	..	..
Alberta	889.5	0.4	889.9	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	x	0.0	x	..	..	..
Manitoba	x	0.0	x	..	..	..
Ontario	625.0	14.4	639.4	..	..	..
Quebec	2,926.1	18.9	2,945.0	..	..	..
New Brunswick	194.9	2.3	197.1	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	187.5	0.0	187.5	..	..	..

1. Standard Classification of Goods (SCG) code.

Note(s): Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 5
Canadian lumber exports, 2009¹

Province of origin	March				Year-to-date			
	Rail	Truck	Water	Total	Rail	Truck	Water	Total
thousands of cubic meters								
Canada	361.8	1,417.7	516.5	2,295.9	971.8	3,730.0	1,206.5	5,908.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.3	0.7	2.4	0.0	3.0
Prince Edward Island	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nova Scotia	7.6	18.4	0.4	26.4	22.8	47.4	1.2	71.4
New Brunswick	40.1	77.5	0.3	117.9	104.7	186.0	1.6	292.3
Quebec	107.6	266.1	25.8	399.6	268.4	524.3	59.3	852.0
Ontario	43.4	59.2	1.6	104.2	106.5	152.0	4.9	263.5
Manitoba	2.8	6.6	0.0	9.4	8.1	12.3	0.1	20.5
Saskatchewan	4.8	4.8	0.0	9.6	13.4	13.4	0.0	26.7
Alberta	41.5	158.9	11.8	212.2	126.9	401.1	33.4	561.4
British Columbia	113.9	824.9	476.5	1,415.4	320.1	2,391.1	1,106.0	3,817.2
Yukon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Nunavut	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1

1. Canadian lumber exports by province of origin as reported by the International Division of Statistics Canada. Totals may not add due to small transactions with unclear mode of transportation which appear only in the totals.

Table 6
Production, shipments and stocks of pulp chips, 2009

	March			Year-to-date	
	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production	Shipments
	thousands of oven-dry metric tonnes				
Canada	1,189.5	1,143.1	203.9	3,600.8	3,553.8
British Columbia	376.3	369.4	29.5	1,181.0	1,172.8
Coast	34.7	34.0	2.5	110.9	109.7
Interior	341.6	335.4	27.0	1,070.1	1,063.1
Northern interior	186.9	186.2	2.8	530.3	529.3
Central interior	44.5	44.5	0.8	216.9	216.4
Southern interior	110.1	104.7	23.4	322.9	317.4
Other provinces	813.2	773.7	174.4	2,419.9	2,381.0

Note(s): Totals may not add due to rounding.

Concepts, methodology and data quality

This publication presents the results of the Sawmills survey. This survey measures, on a monthly basis, quantities of lumber produced and shipped by sawmills in Canada classified by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to 321111. The target population for this survey includes all sawmills in Canada excluding Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island as identified by the Annual Survey of Manufactures and Logging (ASML).

General methodology

This is a sample survey with a cross-sectional design.

The sample includes approximately 275 of the largest sawmills in Canada.

Data are collected each month from survey respondents using a mail-out / mail-back process. Data capture and preliminary editing are performed simultaneously to ensure validity of the data. Businesses from whom no response has been received or whose data may contain errors are followed-up by telephone or fax.

Missing data for the current month are imputed automatically by applying to the previous month's data, for the unit in question, the month-to-month change observed for the same period in the previous year. The only exceptions are the opening and closing stock values. Opening stocks are set equal to the value of the closing stocks from the previous month. Closing stocks are calculated by adding production quantities to opening stocks and then subtracting shipments and waste values. The option exists for the subject matter analyst to manually override these imputations with a better estimate based on pertinent knowledge about the industry or the business.

Final estimates of production, inventories and shipments by province are obtained by applying factors to the data collected in the monthly Sawmills survey. This process is called benchmarking. The benchmark factors are ratios of the total quantity of lumber produced by sawmills as measured by the ASML, to the total quantity of lumber produced by sawmills in the monthly Sawmills survey. These factors are calculated for each province, based on the latest ASML commodity data available.

Various confidentiality rules are applied to all data before they are released to prevent the publication or disclosure of any information deemed confidential. If necessary, data are suppressed to prevent direct or residual disclosure of identifiable data.

Direct disclosure could occur when the value in a tabulation cell is composed of a few respondents or when the cell is dominated by a few companies. Residual disclosure could occur when confidential information can be derived indirectly by piecing together information from different sources or data series.

Under normal circumstances, data are collected, captured, edited, tabulated and published within 6 to 8 weeks after the reference month.

Revisions

Once every year (normally in July), the monthly Sawmills series are revised. These revisions incorporate any data that may have been received after the close of the collection cycle during the previous reference year. In addition, the series are benchmarked to the most recent data from the ASML to correct for any under-coverage of sawmills activity in the monthly Sawmills survey.

Data Accuracy

Since monthly data for sawmills are benchmarked to the ASML data (census), the estimates are not subject to sampling errors. However, the results are still subject to the non-sampling errors associated with non-response, inaccurate reporting, and processing. Errors relating to non-response can be measured. All attempts are made to control inaccurate reporting and processing errors.

Moreover, survey results are analyzed to ensure comparability with patterns observed in the historical data series and the economic condition of the industry. Information available from other sources such as media, other government organizations and industry associations are also used in the validation process.

Non-response error

Some respondents may be unable to provide data for numerous reasons (i.e. fire, theft, strike, economic hardship, etc.), while others may be late in responding. To minimize non-response, delinquent respondents are followed up rigorously by phone or fax. Data for non-responding units are imputed using industry trend and other related information. Data are revised, usually once a year, at the same time as the new benchmark factors are produced to take into account questionnaires that have been received after the end of the monthly collection cycles since the previous revision.

Non-response error is calculated using the number of non-responses in the year divided by the number of total expected responses in the year for the units in the sample. The average non-response error for the Sawmills survey was estimated at 8% for 2005 (the last completed cycle).

This, however, is an imperfect indication of the extent of imputation since some portion of the data that goes into the calculation of the benchmark factors is also imputed.

Inaccurate response

Inaccuracy may result from poor questionnaire design or an inability on the part of respondents to provide the requested information or from misinterpretation of the survey questions. To reduce such errors the format and wording in the questionnaire are reviewed from time to time and modified based on feedback from survey respondents and data users. Respondents are also reminded of the importance of their contribution and of the accuracy of reported information.

Processing errors

These errors may occur at various stages in the processing of survey data such as data entry, verification, editing and tabulation. Data are examined for such errors using automated edits along with an analytical review by subject matter experts. Several checks are performed on the collected data to verify internal consistency and comparability over time.

Definitions

Production

Production refers to the quantity of products manufactured in Canada during a reference period including intermediate products. These products may be shipped or retained in inventory.

Shipments

Shipments refer to the quantity of manufactured goods that are shipped, during the reference period from the plant to customers, in domestic or export markets.

Exports

Shipments of goods destined for customers outside of Canada.

More detailed data are available from the Annual Survey of Manufactures and Logging, CANSIM Table 301-0006; and also from custom product 31C0023 (National and Provincial Principal Statistics from the Annual Survey of Manufactures and Logging). In addition, a service on Products Shipped by Canadian Manufacturers (31C0020) is available from the Dissemination and Frame Services section at 613-951-9497 (manufact@statcan.gc.ca).

Specific enquiries should be directed to: The Dissemination and Frame Services section, Manufacturing and Energy Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6 (Telephone: 1-866-873-8789 or 613-951-9497; Fax line: 613-951-3877; Internet: manufact@statcan.gc.ca).

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Symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0 ^s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
P	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the <i>Statistics Act</i>
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

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