

IV.—TOTAL STAND OF MERCHANTABLE SOFTWOOD TIMBER, 1949

(Accessible and inaccessible in millions of cubic feet)

Province or Territory	Sawlog Material	Smaller Material	Total Volume
Prince Edward Island.....	13	48	61
Nova Scotia.....	970	1,969	2,939
New Brunswick.....	1,000	5,100	6,100
Quebec.....	10,205	72,787	82,992
Ontario.....	8,595	22,994	31,589
Manitoba.....	187	923	1,110
Saskatchewan.....	132	531	663
Alberta.....	2,546	12,134	14,680
British Columbia Coast.....	27,147	2,079	29,226
British Columbia Interior.....	17,390	43,091	60,481
Northwest Territories and Yukon.....	1,220	1,045	2,265
TOTALS,¹	69,405	162,701	232,106

¹ Exclusive of Newfoundland data for which are not available.

From Statement IV it can be clearly seen that the provinces have a greater volume of softwood timber in the smaller size classes (four to nine inches diameter at breast height) than in the sawlog-size class (ten inches and over in diameter at breast height) except in the coast areas of British Columbia where sawlog material exceeds the smaller material.

It is in British Columbia's coast forests that lumbering has reached its peak in Canada and it is in the boreal forests of Ontario and Quebec that the pulp and paper industry is mainly established. This latter industry is capable of utilizing softwood species of the smaller size classes and particularly the species dominant in the boreal forests. In the Maritimes, with their large conifer stands of spruce and balsam, the pulp and paper industry outweighs the lumber industry in importance. In Alberta and Saskatchewan, lumbering is still the most important forest industry, mainly because of the lack of pulpwood markets, although there are large resources of timber of all sizes located in these provinces.

In 1948 the production of primary forest products in Canada totalled 3,198,000,000 cu. ft. The volume of logs and bolts cut amounted to 6,561,000,000 bd. ft.; pulpwood, 12,498,000 cords; and fuelwood, 9,530,000 cords. Posts, hewn ties, mining timbers, poles and piling, and like products made up the remaining output.

Forest Depletion.—The average annual depletion of Canada's forests for the ten years 1939-48 amounted to 3,416,000,000 cu. ft. of usable wood. Analysis of this figure is given in Table 2, p. 444, of this chapter and shows that 2,688,000,000 cu. ft. were utilized, 228,000,000 cu. ft. were burned, and 500,000,000 cu. ft. were destroyed by insect and disease attack. Applied to the total accessible productive forest, the annual rate of depletion would average only 11 cu. ft. per acre. However, as logging operations are concentrated on the most easily reached areas and not on this total area, the annual depletion on many areas being logged might easily be at an excessive rate.

In Section 6, pp. 454-463, a full account is given of the utilization by industry of products from the forests. Forest-fire losses in 1948 and 1949 are given in Table 4, p. 450.