

Forest Fire Statistics.—During 1955 there were 6,360 forest fires in Canada (exclusive of 156 within the Yukon and Northwest Territories) compared with 3,022 in 1954 and an annual average of 5,141 for the period 1945-54. In 1954 only about 266,000 acres were damaged compared with over 1,379,000 in 1955. However, the 1955 area burned was almost identical to the average for the previous decade while the size of the average fire was lower. Costs of fire fighting are more indicative of the difference in severity of the two fire seasons—a little less than \$1,000,000 in 1954 and more than \$6,500,000 in 1955. The average of similar costs for the period 1945-54 was about \$2,000,000. About 30 p.c. of all forest fires in 1955 were caused by lightning.

4.—Forest Fire Losses 1954 and 1955 compared with Ten-Year Average 1945-54

Item	Provinces ¹			Yukon and Northwest Territories
	Av. 1945-54 ²	1954 ³	1955 ³	1955
Totals, Fires No.	5,141	3,022	6,360	156
Fires under 10 acres.....	3,902	2,573	5,213	81
Fires 10 acres or over.....	1,239	449	1,147	75
Area Burned acres	1,373,596	265,626	1,379,567	234,375
Merchantable timber.....	255,278	72,136	344,556	4,659
Young growth.....	366,804	50,677	241,513	55,021
Cut-over lands.....	153,996	38,981	563,868	2,009
Non-forested lands.....	597,518	103,832	229,630	172,686
Average size of fire acres	267	88	217	1,502
Merchantable Timber Burned—				
Saw timber..... M ft. b.m.	382,041	46,474	238,141	25,549
Smaller material..... cords	1,054,139	834,055	2,321,077	8,713
Estimated Values Destroyed⁴ \$	3,655,718	1,667,685	7,140,960	306,888
Merchantable timber.....	1,575,591	1,246,176	4,491,543	159,376
Young growth.....	985,308	158,232	763,497	110,043
Cut-over lands.....	130,498	45,895	565,718	2,009
Other property burned.....	964,321	217,382	1,320,202	35,460
Actual Cost of Fire Fighting \$	2,059,827	931,231	6,570,944	110,244
Totals, Damage and Fire Fighting Costs .. \$	5,715,545	2,598,916	13,711,904	417,132
Area under protection..... sq. miles	..	1,106,694	1,052,590	118,500

¹ Includes federal lands within provincial boundaries. ² Newfoundland excluded; no records available prior to 1949. ³ Newfoundland included. ⁴ Figures do not include such values as damage to soil, stream-flow, wildlife, recreation and tourist facilities, or the enhanced values resulting from silviculture and management practices.

5.—Forest Fire Losses by Province 1954 and 1955 compared with Ten-Year Average 1945-54

Item	Annual Average 1945-54	1954	1955
Newfoundland—			
Forest fires..... No.	..	108	137
Area burned..... acres	..	1,839	4,687
Fire fighting cost and damage..... \$	6,329
Nova Scotia—			
Forest fires..... No.	271	359	261
Area burned..... acres	10,302	4,194	20,466
Fire fighting cost and damage..... \$	130,044	51,458	78,542
New Brunswick—			
Forest fires..... No.	249	187	164
Area burned..... acres	16,836	2,002	12,788
Fire fighting cost and damage..... \$	212,488	19,775	156,090