

Forest Fire Statistics.—During 1957 the number of forest fires within the provincial boundaries of Canada was 5,950 compared with 5,486 in 1956 and an annual average of 5,227 for the period 1947-56. Though there were more fires in the later year, the total area burned was much smaller than in the previous year or in the average ten-year period, and more than half the loss was in small timber. As a result, the value of the loss in 1957 was only about one-tenth of the loss in 1956. About 32 p.c. of the forest fires in 1957 were caused by camp fires and smokers, 15 p.c. by railways and 14 p.c. by lightning. Fires in the federally administered Yukon and Northwest Territories were more numerous in 1957 than in the previous year but caused much less forest damage.

4.—Forest Fire Losses, 1956 and 1957 compared with Ten-Year Average 1947-56

Item	Provinces ¹			Yukon and Northwest Territories	
	Av. 1947-56 ²	1956	1957	1956	1957
Totals, Fires No.	5,227	5,486	5,950	99	130
Fires under 10 acres.....	4,053	4,601	4,909	63	72
Fires 10 acres or over.....	1,174	885	1,041	36	58
Area Burned acres	1,536,000	2,014,000	452,000	92,000	451,000
Merchantable timber.....	327,000	646,000	71,000	2,000	14,000
Young growth.....	408,000	522,000	66,000	15,000	14,000
Cut-over lands.....	201,000	168,000	118,000	—	1,000
Non-forested lands.....	600,000	678,000	197,000	75,000	422,000
Average Size of Fire acres	300	370	80	900	3,470
Merchantable Timber Burned —					
Large material (10" or over D.B.H.)..... M cu. ft.	76,684	112,791	35,125	—	17
Small material (4" to 9"D.B.H.).....	160,392	33,702	37,587	6,112	2,227
Estimated Values Destroyed ³ \$	5,397,000	14,386,000	1,465,000	126,000	133,000
Merchantable timber.....	3,021,000	11,623,000	769,000	72,000	19,000
Young growth.....	1,209,000	2,261,000	222,000	31,000	29,000
Cut-over lands.....	191,000	212,000	116,000	—	1,000
Other property burned.....	976,000	290,000	358,000	23,000	84,000
Actual Cost of Fire Fighting \$	2,843,000	2,974,000	2,060,000	35,000	55,000
Totals, Damage and Fire Fighting Costs \$	8,240,000	17,360,000	3,525,000	161,000	188,000
Area under protection..... sq. miles	994,000	1,117,000	1,208,000	125,000	125,000

¹ Includes federal lands within provincial boundaries. ² Newfoundland excluded; no records available prior to 1949. ³ Figures do not include such values as damage to soil, stream-flow, wildlife, recreation and tourist facilities.

5.—Forest Fire Losses, by Province, 1956 and 1957 compared with Ten-Year Average 1947-56

Item	Annual Average 1947-56	1956	1957
Newfoundland—			
Forest fires..... No.	...	106	265
Area burned..... acres	...	2,900	29,000
Fire fighting cost and damage..... \$...	3,000	255,000
Nova Scotia—			
Forest fires..... No.	268	188	554
Area burned..... acres	10,000	900	11,800
Fire fighting cost and damage..... \$	133,000	93,000	110,000