



Washington Mill Survey 2012

Series Report #22

Log Exports
Post, Poles, Pilings
Chips

PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 2014



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Acknowledgements

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) appreciates the support of the major forest industry associations, mill owners, mill operators, and log exporters who provided data for this survey.

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Dorian Smith/DNR Photo

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Log Exports; Post, Poles, Pilings; Chips
Edition

Published November 2014



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

Introduction

Past readers of the Washington Mill Survey may be surprised to see this fourth edition covering 2012 statistics for the wood products industry. This is the fourth and final edition of the 2012 Mill Survey. This new publication timetable will enable us to reduce the time to gather and analyze vital data.

For the past 46 years, the Mill Survey has been published as a single volume covering all sectors of the primary wood products industry. The Mill Survey is undergoing modifications to accommodate the needs of the public and forestry professionals when reporting about the forest products markets.

Here is the publishing schedule for this year.

February—Statewide totals and 10 year analyses

May—Lumber mills

October—Plywood, veneer, pulp, and shake-and-shingle mills

November—Log exports and pole and chip mills

The initial 2012 report—covering statewide and 10 year statistics and analyses — was a prologue for the story that the industry is rapidly adapting to increasing demands for logs and lumber. Some economists predict that the U.S. housing construction resurgence could last several years. Export markets are also increasing with the growth of global trade.

Other changes in the Mill Survey are expected. Some sectors are modifying their manufacturing process so much that they are barely recognizable from their original organization. For instance, the original Mill Survey only featured operations that bought logs and produced wood products. Then some plywood mills by-passed log processing and now buy veneer to manufacture plywood. Other mills are introducing new construction products from processed wood.

The only constant in the wood products industry is it continues to be a viable economic resource.

[Link to Mill Surveys and Timber Harvest Reports](#)

Economic areas used in this report



Throughout the Mill Survey these economic areas are used to indicate the locations of mill operations and forests where timber is harvested. An economic area is determined by the similarity of economic activity in the forest products industry. The boundaries of an economic area are not always drawn according to natural geographic features or county lines.

Abbreviations and Conversions

Volume

A log's volume is measured in **Scribner Scale** which accounts for the narrowing width of a tree.

Lumber is measured in **lumber tally**.

A tree's **Scribner Scale volume** is usually less than its actual lumber tally. On average the conversion is 2:1 lumber tally for each board foot of Scribner logs.

Lumber

board foot (bf) = 12 inches x 12 inches x 1 inch
 mbf = 1 thousand board feet
 mmbf = 1 million board feet

Pulp (weight)

ton = 2,000 pound
 bone dry tons (bdt) = 2,200 pounds (10% water)
 1 mbf logs = 5 tons

Shake & Shingle (area)

1 square = 100 square feet
 1 square = 4 bundles
 10 squares = 1 mbf

Plywood and Veneer

msf 3/8-inch basis = 1 thousand square feet 3/8-inch thick
 mmsf 3/8-inch basis = 1 million square feet 3/8-inch thick

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Table 55 Export logs – by diameter in inches

(thousand board feet, Scribner)

Port	Total	Diameter in inches			
		Less than 5	5 to 11	11 to 21	21 or more
Everett	20,499	0	7,995	10,045	2,460
Grays Harbor	50,530	0	30,318	20,212	0
Longview	612,596	0	127,618	434,411	50,567
Olympia	109,000	0	27,110	73,900	7,990
Port Angeles	50,137	0	22,464	25,432	2,241
Seattle	91,234	0	26,600	58,567	6,067
Tacoma	76,925	0	15,175	57,194	4,556
State total	1,010,921	0	257,279	679,760	73,882

Table 55 Shows the volume of logs based on diameter. For instance, no logs were exported that were less than five inches in diameter.

Table 56 Export logs – by species

(thousand board feet, Scribner rule)

Port	All species	Douglas-fir	Hemlock	True firs	Spruce
Everett	20,499	2,050	14,349	2,050	2,050
Grays Harbor	50,530	17,686	27,792	2,527	2,527
Longview	612,596	491,084	88,457	22,721	10,334
Olympia	109,000	99,210	9,190	600	0
Port Angeles	50,137	10,378	32,057	714	6,988
Seattle	91,234	61,030	22,348	5,766	1,648
Tacoma	76,925	37,976	32,026	5,523	1,295
State total	1,010,921	719,413	226,218	39,901	24,841

Table 56 shows the volume of logs by species that were exported through Washington's ports. The major log exporting species was Douglas-fir (719.4 million board feet).

Table 57 Export logs (from Washington) – by port and economic area
(thousand board feet, Scribner)

Logs' Origin	Total	Port of export						
		Longview	Grays Harbor	Everett	Olympia	Port Angeles	Tacoma	Seattle
Washington	667,972	269,647	50,530	20,499	109,000	50,137	76,925	91,234
Oregon	342,949	342,949	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1,010,921	612,596	50,530	20,499	109,000	50,137	76,925	91,234

Table 57 displays the volumes of logs that were exported through Washington ports. The port with the largest volume of logs exported in 2012 was Longview with 612.6 million board feet, followed by Olympia with 109 mmbf and Seattle with 91.2 mmbf. Depending on each port's

Table 58 Export logs – by port and original owners
(thousand board feet, Scribner rule)

Port	Total	Forest industry			
		Own wood supply	Other wood supply	Native American	Farmer and misc. private
Everett	20,499	0	18,449	1,025	1,025
Grays Harbor	50,530	0	27,792	17,686	5,053
Longview	612,596	328,904	189,832	12,690	81,171
Olympia	109,000	73,950	24,150	1,940	8,960
Port Angeles	50,137	6,722	39,493	0	3,922
Seattle	91,234	41,189	49,160	443	443
Tacoma	76,925	66,405	9,468	526	526
Total	1,010,921	517,169	358,343	34,309	101,099

Table 58 displays the volume of logs by ownership category that were exported from Washington ports. In Washington logs harvested from publicly owned lands (state, federal, city, county, etc.) cannot be exported.

Table 59 Post, pole and piling mills – by operating days and capacity

Economic area	Annual capacity (thousand bd ft., Scribner)			Average number of operating days in 2012	
	Number	Peeling	Treatment	Peeling	treatment
Puget Sound	2	90	330	241	306
Olympic Peninsula	4	2,379	250	250	0
State total	6	2,469	580	238	306

Table 59 displays the number of mills and the state total annual capacity for peeling and treatment of primarily telephone poles. It also displays the average number of operating days per mill.

Table 60 Number of post, pole and piling mills – by selected equipment

Economic area	Number of mills	Peeler	Burner
State total	6	5	0

Table 60 displays the number of post, pole and piling mills that include peelers. No mills in this category have burners.

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Table 61 Log consumption by post, pole and piling mills – by diameter in inches
(thousand board feet, Scribner)

	Diameter in inches				
	Total	Less than 5	5 to 11	11 to 21	21 or more
State total	44,582	0	33,929	10,653	0

Table 61 shows the diameter of logs used to produce post, poles, and pilings. All logs were between 5 and 21 inches in diameter.

Table 62 Post, pole and piling mills' production – by treatment
(thousand board feet, Scribner scale)

	Total	Untreated	Treated
State total	49,450	26,218	23,232

Table 62 shows the volume of wood that has been treated by post, pole and piling mills. Treatment includes embedding chemicals for products such as telephone poles that will be submitted to year-round exposure to outdoors.

Table 63 Number of chipping operations – by capacity and operating days

Economic area	Total our capacity ge days		
	Number (bone dry tons) operated		
Puget Sound	2	415	245
Olympic Peninsula	6	2,590	212
Lower Columbia	1	1,800	240
Central Washington	1	200	260
Inland Empire	2	1,150	255
State Total	12	6,155	242

Table 63 shows the number of chipping operations, their daily capacities and number of operating days. For instance, all log chipping mills in the Olympic Peninsula area were collectively

Table 64 Log consumption by log chipping mills – by diameter in inches
(thousand board feet, Scribner)

Economic area	Diameter in inches				
	Total	Less than 5	5 to 11	11 to 21	21 or more
Puget Sound	29,800	8,940	10,031	5,960	4,869
Olympic Peninsula	130,863	39,172	51,619	23,599	16,473
Lower Columbia	116,955	52,630	64,325	0	0
Central Washington	8,858	2,657	2,657	1,772	1,772
Inland Empire	52,666	2,633	10,533	31,600	7,900
State total	339,142	106,033	139,166	62,930	31,013

Table 64 shows the diameter of logs used to produce chips. Logs of all diameter widths were used to made chips.

Table 65 Log consumption by log chipping mills – by original owners
(thousand board feet, Scribner scale)

Economic area of operation	All owners	Forest industry							
		National State	National Forest	Bureau of Land Mgmt.	Other public	Own wood supply	Other wood supply	Native American	Farmer misc. private
Puget Sound	27,533	2,783	2,455	0	0	0	16,755	2,594	5,213
Olympic Peninsula	130,863	12,237	7,417	0	2,840	0	89,445	9,309	9,616
Lower Columbia	116,955	29,239	0	0	0	0	46,782	0	40,934
Central Washington	8,858	266	1,506	0	0	0	6,644	0	443
Inland Empire	52,666	10,533	1,053	0	0	0	39,500	0	1,580
State Total	339,142	55,057	12,432	0	2,840	0	199,125	11,903	57,786

Table 65 shows the volumes of logs that were purchased from various forest owner categories.

Table 66 Log consumption by log chipping mills – by species
(thousand board feet, Scribner)

Economic area	All	Douglas-	TRUE			Pond.	Lodge.	Western	Other	Red	Other
	species	fir	Hemlock	firs	Spruce	pine	pine	redcedar	conifer	alder	hardwood
Puget Sound	29,800	9,779	13,733	0	0	0	0	218	109	4,869	1,091
Olympic Peninsula	130,863	52,398	56,169	0	1,867	0	0	3,200	1,420	12,789	3,020
Lower Columbia	116,955	67,834	24,561	0	0	0	0	0	0	24,561	0
Central Washington	8,858	1,772	886	3,720	0	1,594	886	0	0	0	0
Inland Empire	52,666	2,633	0	44,766	0	2,633	2,633	0	0	0	0
State Total	339,142	134,416	95,349	48,486	1,867	4,228	3,519	3,418	1,529	42,219	4,111

Table 66 shows the proportion of species that were used to produce chips. All commercial tree species were used to make chips in Washington mills.

Table 67 Chipping operations – production
(bone dry tons)

Economic area	Chip production
Central Washington	47,692
Inland Empire	258,000
Lower Columbia	424,546
Olympic Peninsula	610,660
Puget Sound	82,287
State total	1,423,185

Table 67 shows that the state's chip mills produced a total of 1.4 million bone dry tons of chips.