

**FOREST PRODUCTS, NO. 2. THE LUMBER  
CUT OF THE UNITED STATES 1907. ISSUED  
NOVEMBER 18, 1908.  
COMPILED IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: FOREST  
SERVICE, GIFFORD PINCHOT, FORESTER**

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Compiled in cooperation with the department of agriculture: forest service, gifford pinchot,  
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# **VARIOUS**

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U.S. — DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR —  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
S. N. D. NORTH, DIRECTOR

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FOREST PRODUCTS, No. 2

THE LUMBER CUT OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
1907

COMPILED IN COOPERATION  
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GIFFORD PINCHOT, FORESTER

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Previous to 1905, statistics upon the production of lumber and timber products were collected by the Bureau of the Census in connection with the decennial and quinquennial censuses of manufactures. In 1905, to satisfy the urgent demand for more frequent reports upon these important products, the Forest Service collected statistics of the production in that year. In 1906, in order to avoid duplication of work and to insure uniformity of results, the Bureau of the Census, in cooperation with the Forest Service, began the collection of annual statistics of forest products.

The collection and compilation of the statistics of production in 1906 and 1907 have been conducted under the direct supervision of a committee of four, consisting of W. M. Steuart, chief statistician for manufactures, and J. E. Wheelchel, expert chief of division, representing the Bureau of the Census; and R. S. Kellogg, assistant forester, and A. H. Pierson, forest assistant, representing the Forest Service.

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# THE LUMBER CUT OF THE UNITED STATES: 1907.

## INTRODUCTION.

The statistics given in this pamphlet are based upon reports from 28,850 mills and cover every lumber producing region of the United States. For the most part these reports were made by the manufacturers direct to the Bureau of the Census and the Forest Service. The statistics for New York, however, were furnished entirely by the forest, fish, and game commission of that state. The secretaries of several associations of lumber manufacturers were also of much assistance in securing reports from producers who neglected to return the schedules sent them by the Government. Acknowledgment of such assistance is especially due to the following associations: The North Carolina Pine Association, the Yellow Pine Manufacturers' Association, the Hardwood Manufacturers' Association of the United States, the Northern Pine Manufacturers' Association, the Southern Cypress Manufacturers' Association, the Western Pine Manufacturers' Association, the Pacific Coast Lumber Manufacturers' Association, the Oregon and Washington Lumber Manufacturers' Association, and the Redwood Association. A considerable number of delinquent reports were also secured through state foresters, members of the Forest Service who were sent out on short trips in the Eastern states, and through forest supervisors in the Western states. The only states from which no reports were secured, in addition to those obtained through correspondence, were Georgia and Florida. It is probable, therefore, that the cut shown for these states is slightly less than the actual amount produced in 1907. The forest, fish, and game commission of New York secured reports of the cut of 2,185 mills in that state, as shown in Table 2, but did not tabulate separately any report which showed a product of less than 100,000 feet. Consequently there are 803 mills in New York, mostly of the portable and small stationary kind, which do only a little custom sawing for farmers, for which no specific information as to the kind of lumber manufactured is available. For this reason, in some of the tables which give the cut of the leading kinds of lumber in 1907, the number of mills for New York is not shown.

## SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION.

Table 1 gives a summary of the production of lumber, lath, and shingles in the United States in 1900, 1904, 1905, 1906, and 1907, the only years for which consecutive data are available. The figures for 1900, 1906, and 1907 are comparable since they cover both merchant and custom mills. The figures for 1904 were compiled at the quinquennial census of manufactures of 1905, which was limited to merchant mills, while the figures for 1905 were secured by the Forest Service as the first result of an attempt to collect annual statistics of forest products by correspondence. Consequently many of the smaller mills were not included in the figures for these two years. These omissions, therefore, rather than any actual decrease in the lumber production, account for the fact that the cuts shown for 1904 and 1905 are smaller than those for the other three years given.

TABLE 1.—Number of mills reporting and quantity and value of lumber, lath, and shingles produced in the United States: 1900 and 1904 to 1907.

YEAR.	Number of mills reporting.	LUMBER.		LATH.		SHINGLES.	
		Quantity (M feet B. M.).	Value.	Quantity (thousands).	Value.	Quantity (thousands).	Value.
1907 .....	28,860	40,256,154	\$666,641,367	3,663,602	\$10,342,705	11,824,475	\$30,111,337
1906 .....	22,398	37,550,736	621,151,388	3,812,807	11,490,570	11,838,260	24,154,555
1905 .....	11,666	30,502,961	445,243,231	3,111,157	7,777,862	15,340,909	28,380,682
1904 .....	19,127	34,135,139	435,708,084	2,647,847	5,425,968	14,547,477	24,009,610
1900 .....	31,833	35,084,166	390,486,673	2,523,998	4,698,989	12,102,017	18,896,705

The most striking feature of the statistics for 1907 is that they show the largest lumber production ever recorded in the United States—40,256,154,000 feet—having a value of \$666,641,367 at the place of production. In addition there were produced 3,663,602,000 lath, having a value of \$10,342,705, and 11,824,475,000 shingles, having a value of \$30,111,337, which bring the total reported value of the lumber, lath, and shingle production in 1907 up to \$707,095,409. If it were possible to secure absolutely complete statistics of the production of lumber, lath, and shingles, it is probable that the total value of the output in 1907 would have approached \$750,000,000, a much larger figure than that indicated for any previous year.

The year 1907 was an abnormal one in the lumber industry. During the early part of the year many mills in the yellow pine belt cut heavily because at that time conditions seemed to justify such operations. Later, when the financial disturbance came, they

closed down, either partially or wholly; but in many cases this reduction was not sufficient to counterbalance the increased output earlier in the season, so that the total reported cut for the year was greater than that for 1906. On the Pacific coast, particularly in Washington and Oregon, a car shortage early in the year prevented the manufacturers from taking full advantage of the favorable conditions. Then came the panic, and finally the attempt by the trans-continental roads to increase freight rates, so that for the last two months of the year, and until recently, the lumber manufacturing industry of that region was almost paralyzed. A steady decline in the lumber production from year to year is taking place in the Lake states, because of the exhaustion of the white pine supply. These conditions, together with the greater thoroughness which characterized the 1907 canvass, all contributed to affect the totals reported for the various states and the various species, as shown in the succeeding tables of this pamphlet. It is not probable that the actual amount of lumber manufactured in the United States in 1907 was much, if any, greater than that manufactured in 1906.

Previous to 1880, the decennial census collected information only as to the value of the forest products manufactured in census years. The best estimates and figures that can be obtained as to quantity indicate a lumber production of approximately 5 billion feet in 1850, 8 billion feet in 1860, 13 billion feet in 1870, 18 billion feet in 1880, and 23½ billion feet in 1890. The estimated total cut since 1850 exceeds 1,000 billion feet. - Notwithstanding the great increase in the use of substitutes for wood, such as cement, concrete, and steel, the annual *per capita* consumption of lumber in the United States has risen from about 215 board feet in 1850 to over 470 board feet in 1907, the highest point yet attained. Diminishing timber resources, however, make it impossible for this rate of increase to continue much longer.

Table 2 gives a comparative summary of the lumber production in 1906 and 1907, by states, number of mills reporting, the per cent of increase or decrease in 1907 over 1906, and the per cent distribution of the total cut. The number of mills reporting in 1907 was 28.8 per cent greater than the number reporting in 1906, while the total cut reported shows an increase of only 7.2 per cent. This indicates clearly the increasing effectiveness of the statistical work as the smaller mills are being reached. The average cut of the mills reporting for 1905 was 2,615,000 feet; that of the mills reporting for 1906, 1,677,000 feet; and that of the mills reporting for 1907, 1,395,000 feet.