

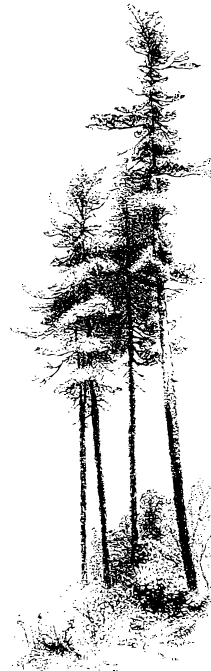
# Eastern Washington Sawmill Statistics for 2003

College of Agricultural, Human,  
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2003 Report

Produced by

The Inland Northwest Forest Products Research Consortium,  
a research cooperative centered at the Forest Products  
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Wood Materials and Engineering Laboratory  
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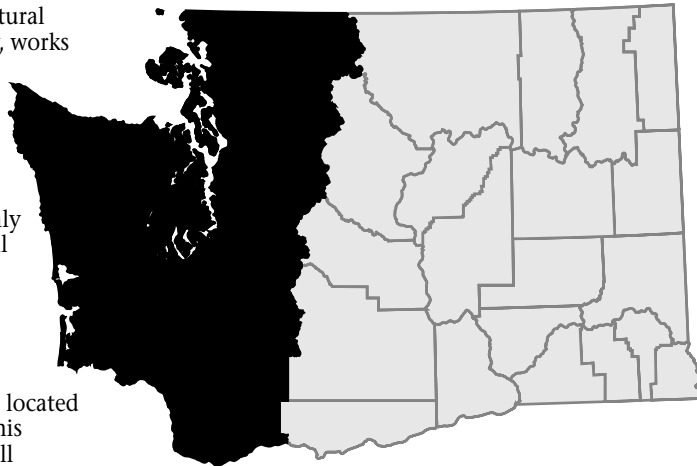
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# Eastern Washington Sawmill Statistics for 2003

The Inland Northwest Wood Products Research Consortium, in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University, works closely with the forest product industry of the state of Washington to collect economic and production information related to the Eastern Washington Forest Products Industry. Started in 1999, this effort has received strong support from the wood products industry of the region. The annual report provides a summary of monthly production, shipments, employment, and payroll data for the year 2003. Visit our website at <http://www.its.uidaho.edu/forp/consortium.htm> to learn more about the consortium and other ongoing projects.

Data presented are based on a census of sawmills located in eastern Washington (Fig. 1). For purposes of this report, the eastern Washington region includes all of the sawmills located east of the Cascade Mountains within the state of Washington. This report amends previous data presented for the first six months of 2003, published in MISC0528.



*Figure 1.  
Eastern Washington counties included  
in mill survey*

## Results

During the year 2003, the sawmills of eastern Washington produced 987.7 million board feet of lumber (lumber tally) (Fig. 2), up 7.7% from 2002. Lumber shipments exceeded production by 4.9 million board feet during 2003. Average monthly production of all mills combined was approximately 82.3 million board feet, lumber tally, ranging from 69.3 million board feet (May) to 95.2 million board feet (October).

Shipments by these mills during the year totaled 992.6 million board feet of lumber, lumber tally (Fig. 2), an increase of 9.2% from 2002. Average monthly lumber shipments for all mills equaled approximately 82.7 million board feet. Lumber shipments exceeded production in April, May, June, September, and November, with the greatest difference in June when shipments exceeded production by 11.7 million board feet. The smallest difference occurred in September when shipments exceeded production by 795 MBF. When evaluated for the entire year, lumber shipments exceeded production by 0.5%.

Eastern Washington sawmills shipped approximately \$298 million of processed wood products during the year. The value of shipments equals that of shipments in 2002, which was \$297.8 million.

Monthly employment during the year was fairly constant at 1,393 employees, down 2.4% from 2002. Monthly employment ranged from 1,368 (July) to 1,450 (January) during this period (Fig.3).

This estimate includes only employees involved directly in lumber production such as sawyers, millwrights, and associated personnel. Total monthly payroll for these positions averaged \$3.5 million (down 5% from 2002) and ranged from \$3.1 million (January) to \$4.2 million (October) monthly (Fig. 3). Total payroll for lumber

production employees was approximately \$41.5 million during 2003 in eastern Washington, down 7.4% from 2002. This drop in total payroll reflects the drop in employment.

The number of hours worked by each production employee was steady throughout the year, averaging 40.7 hours each week in 2003, down 2.9% from 2002. December represented the highest average number of hours worked per week at 43.5 hours, while March was the lowest at 37.3 hours. Employee productivity, measured in thousands of board feet produced per employee, averaged 2.84 MBF per worker day during 2003, which is up 16.2% from the 2002 average of 2.38 MBF per worker per day. Worker productivity for the region reached its peak in October at 3.25 MBF per worker day and fell to its lowest level during May at 2.42 MBF per worker day (Fig. 4).

Wages paid to production employees averaged \$13.93 per hour (down 1.3% from 2002) during 2003 based on the total number of hours worked in each month and monthly production employee payroll. The lowest average cost per hour was observed in January, at \$12.77, while February had the highest at \$15.03 per hour.

Acquisition of logs in the region was approximately 649.2 million board feet during the year for all mills combined. On a volume basis, 25.8% were from nonindustrial private forestlands, 22.3% were acquired from industrial forestlands, 34% were purchased from tribal lands, 6.5% were from U.S. Forest Service lands in Washington State, and 6.6% were from stated owned and managed forestlands. Other sources totaled less than 1% each on average. The end of year sawlog inventory totaled 107.9 million board feet or 10.9% of total production.

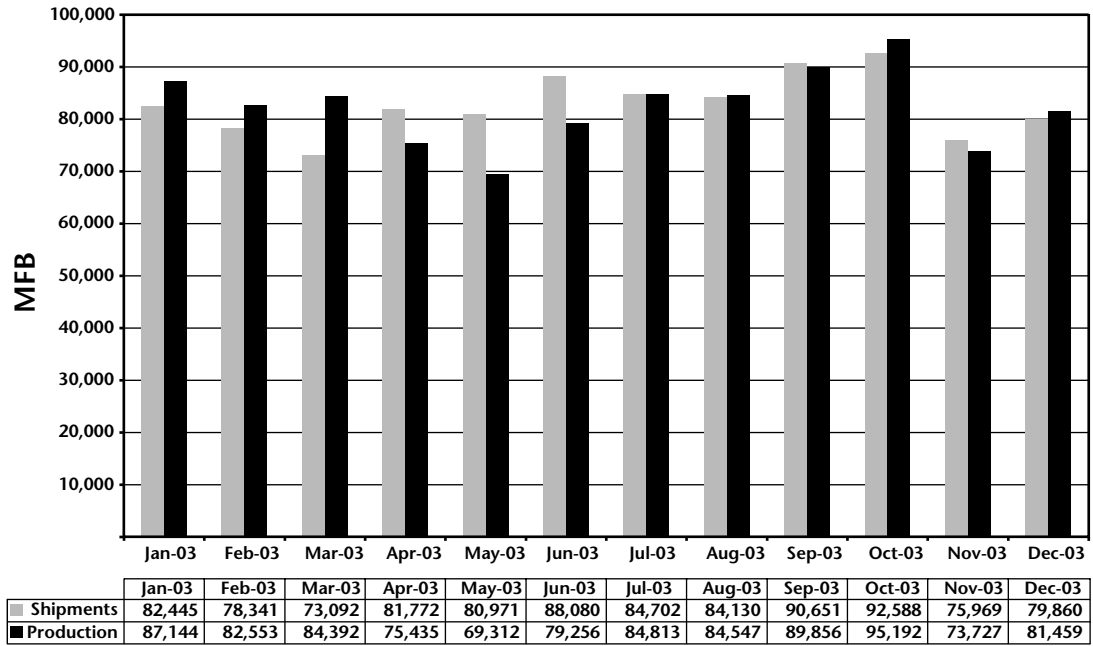


Figure 2.  
Mill production vs. mill shipments

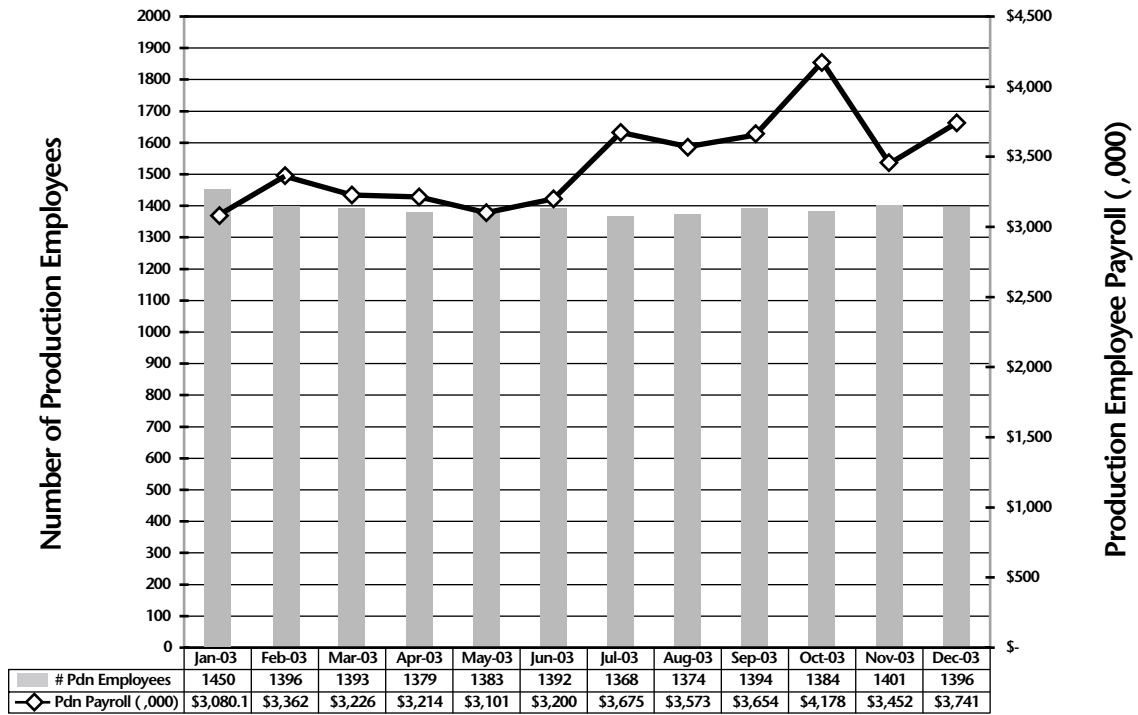
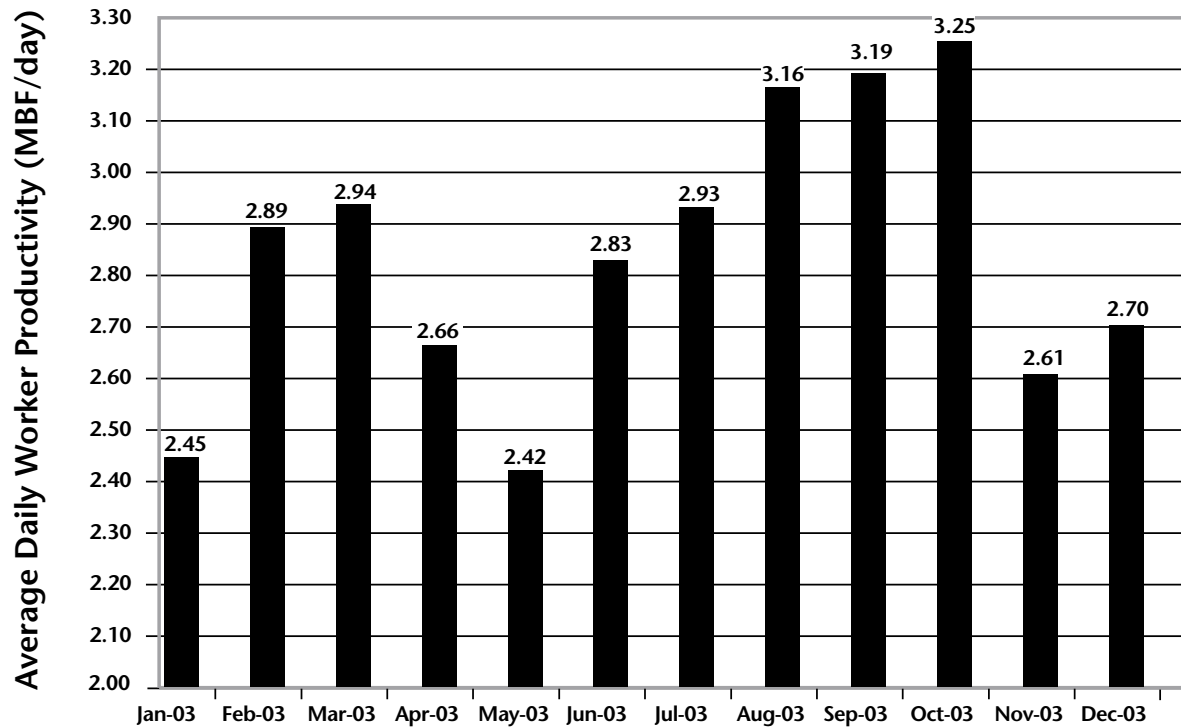


Figure 3.  
Monthly employment and payroll



*Figure 4.*  
*Average daily worker productivity*

## End Note

Washington State University and the consortium members wish to extend our gratitude and thanks to the members of the forest products industry of eastern Washington for their support of this work and their

assistance by providing the base data used in this analysis. As the database grows over the next few years, it will be possible to provide more detailed analyses.

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## College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences

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