

B.3. Softwood plywood

Exports of softwood plywood show a steep growth rate during recent years. This is attributable in part to increased shipments to Japan from a zero level. However, the aggregate volume of exports is relatively low (less than 1 percent) compared with domestic output.

Promotional efforts have been programmed in the interest of expanding exports. The market in Japan is expected to be an important factor in the growth pattern.

(Table 6)

C. SOFTWOOD LUMBER

C.1. Lumber exports gain

Exports of softwood lumber from the U.S. have increased steadily during the past seven years. It is likely they will reach 920 million board feet in 1967 on a gain of nearly 8 percent over exports in 1966. The volume of 1967 exports is 54 percent larger than the 596 million feet exported during 1961.

The current level of softwood lumber exports represents approximately 3 percent of total U.S. softwood lumber output, which is estimated at 28,700 million board feet.

As in the case of logs, although to a lesser degree, lumber exports from the Pacific states are a major factor in the U.S. trade pattern. Western exports expanded 95 percent between 1961 and 1967--from 325 million to 634 million board feet. This gain in large part accounts for the overall expansion in U.S. softwood lumber exports during that seven-year period, and it raised western exports to 69 percent of the total 1967 export shipments from all regions.

(Table 7)

C.2. Japan a ranking lumber market

The U.S. ships softwood lumber to more than 90 foreign countries, and over a million board feet to each of about 30 of those countries. For many years shipments to Japan have held second rank, after Canada. However, in 1967 Japan is expected to be on top with an estimated 245 million board feet, against about 205 million for Canada, on an approximate increase of 40 percent over 1966 exports of 172 million board feet. The shipments to Japan represent 27 percent of the total volume to all countries in 1967.

(Table 8)

C.3. Japan's main lumber source in Pacific states

The Pacific region, as it is for logs, is the primary source of U.S. softwood lumber to Japan. Of the estimated 245 million board feet exported to Japan during 1967 from all areas of the U.S., about 86 percent (210 million feet) originated in the Pacific states. Within this region Alaska is the leading supplier by far. Alaskan exports to Japan, after building up for several years, reached 158 million board feet during 1967, accounting for 75 percent of the Pacific region's lumber exports to Japan.