

Labor and Wages—Number of Men Employed—Amount of Wages Paid and Spent.

The labor-estimates of this Saginaw Valley Report in 1870 will serve well for an average of the matter at this time over the whole country. They gave over eleven thousand men as employed in making 550,000,000 feet of lumber, lath, etc., and working and paid as follows:—

In saw mills.....	2,909 men @ \$2.00 per day...	\$5,818
In shingle mills	527 men @ \$1.75 per day.....	923
In forests, lumbering.....	7,685 men @ \$1.75 per day.....	13,451
11,121 men cost per day		\$20,192

This force was employed 250 days, at a total cost of \$5,048,000.

For the labor in mills and forests to produce the 12,755,543,000 feet in the whole country (calling the proportion of shingles the same), would require 267,000 men for 250 days in the year, at aggregate wages of \$121,000,000. To make our estimate safe and low, we will call the whole army of lumbermen 220,000 strong on duty five-sixths of the time, equal to the constant and active array and employ of 185,000 men, at total annual wages of \$100,000,000. We can fairly count on 1,200,000 persons as gaining their living from our lumber-industry, not including the large support given to farmers, mechanics and artisans.

Lumbermen of large experience reckon three-fourths of the cost of manufacture as wages, in which case \$150,000,000 would not cover the amount. But we can make our statement strong, and yet keep below the facts.

The large employment for sailors, railroad men, etc., is not at all included in this.

If 5,000,000,000 feet of lumber is transported by water from mills to markets on the lakes and the ocean, giving each vessel a cargo of 250,000 feet, and allowing ten trips in the year, and we have 2,000 vessels with 20,000 sailors,