



MUNICIPAL
PROPERTY
ASSESSMENT
CORPORATION



MARKET VALUATION REPORT

ASSESSING SPECIAL PURPOSE
PROPERTIES IN ONTARIO: SAWMILLS

2016 Assessment Update

Valuation Date: January 1, 2016



MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CORPORATION

February 28, 2017

In January 2016, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) published Market Valuation Reports for the following special purpose property types:

- aerospace manufacturing
- automotive assembly
- automotive parts
- chemical manufacturing
- food processing
- mining operations
- oil refineries
- pharmaceutical manufacturing
- pulp and paper mills
- sawmills
- steel manufacturing
- value-added wood products

These Market Valuation Reports share sector level market analytics and are intended to provide clarity and transparency as to how the above mentioned property types have been assessed for the 2016 province-wide Assessment Update. MPAC reserves the right to amend the Market Valuation Reports as appropriate. Updates will be posted on www.mpac.ca.

Leading up to the Notice mailing in the fall, MPAC consulted with property owners, their representatives and municipalities in which special purpose properties are located.

During these consultations, additional data was provided that gave MPAC reason to make adjustments to our database and our analytics. This report has been updated to take into account any adjustments that were made following consultations with stakeholders.

If any further changes are made to this report following the return of the 2016 assessment roll, updates will be posted on mpac.ca.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antoni Wisniowski", written over a light grey rectangular background.

Antoni Wisniowski
President and Chief Administrative Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rose McLean", written over a light grey rectangular background.

Rose McLean, M.I.M.A.
Chief Operating Officer

Acknowledgements

As part of the preparation of the Market Valuation Reports, MPAC consulted with affected property taxpayers, municipalities, and representatives. MPAC engaged the International Property Tax Institute as an independent facilitator to undertake industry-specific consultation sessions.

MPAC would like to acknowledge and thank all parties who participated in the consultation process through industry-specific forums.

We would also like to thank property owners who provided information submissions as part of MPAC's formal information request.

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Introduction

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – www.mpac.ca – is responsible for accurately assessing and classifying property in Ontario for the purposes of municipal and education taxation.

In Ontario, property assessments are updated on the basis of a four-year assessment cycle. The most recent province-wide Assessment Update was in 2016 when MPAC updated the assessments of Ontario’s more than five million properties to reflect the legislated valuation date of January 1, 2016. Assessments updated for the 2016 base year are in effect for the 2017–2020 property tax years. Ontario’s assessment phase-in program prescribes that assessment increases are phased in over a four-year period. Any decreases in assessment are applied immediately.

Achieving an accurate valuation of special purpose industrial properties, such as sawmills, for property tax purposes is challenging due to the size and specialized nature of the properties concerned and the fact that very few, if any, of them are bought, sold or leased in the market on a regular basis.

For that reason, it is important to ensure that the valuation methodology applied is capable of providing a realistic estimate of current value at the relevant valuation date and, in turn, enables all stakeholders to understand the valuation process and have confidence in the fairness and consistency of its outcome.

This Market Valuation Report (MVR) has been prepared for the benefit of MPAC assessors, property owners and their representatives, municipalities and their representatives, Assessment Review Board members, provincial officials, and the general public. MPAC reserves the right to amend the Market Valuation Reports as appropriate. Updates will be posted on mpac.ca.

The following definitions of “special purpose properties” may be helpful in reviewing this MVR:

- “A limited market property with a unique physical design, special construction materials, or layout that restricts its utility to the use for which it was built.”¹
- “A property that is rarely if ever sold in the market, except by way of sale of the business or entity of which it is part, due to the uniqueness arising from its specialized nature and design, its configuration, size, location or otherwise.”²

¹ *Dictionary of Real Estate Appraisal, Fifth Edition* (Appraisal Institute, 2010).

² “Glossary,” International Valuation Standards Council, last modified January 1, 2016, <http://www.ivsc.org/standards/glossary>.

Special purpose properties are likely to have the following characteristics:

- They are unique in improvements, design, layout, size, construction materials and/or building services that facilitate one or a limited number of uses.
- Generally contain machines and machine fittings that are designed to facilitate one purpose.
- Adaptation to other uses is typically challenging, requiring significant alterations and rarely finding economically viable uses for all of the improvements.
- There are limited market possibilities, except as a going concern business.
- They typically have specialized building services.
- They tend to serve large market areas that are more regional, national or international in scope.
- The expansive geographic scope of these properties typically requires research of regional, national or international data to support a market value analysis.
- Understanding the “market” for special purpose properties also requires understanding of the industry in which it operates (i.e., the nature, condition and financial health of the potential buyers and sellers).

Special Purpose Business Property Assessment Review

MPAC’s disclosure efforts support one of the key objectives of MPAC’s 2013–2016 Strategic Plan to deliver fair and accurate 2016 assessed values and align with the recommendations made in the [2013 Ministry of Finance’s Special Purpose Business Property Assessment Review \(SPBPAP\)](#).

The SPBPAP highlighted issues regarding the assessment of specialized and unique types of business properties that are not commonly bought and sold and often involve complex assessment methodologies.

As part of the review process, feedback was gathered from municipalities, MPAC, the Assessment Review Board (ARB) and business taxpayer representatives. The recommendations outlined in the SPBPAP promote changes to improve the assessment of special purpose properties and, generally, the property assessment system in Ontario. Included in the recommendation are the three levels of disclosure outlined below.

Three Levels of Disclosure

There are three levels of disclosure.

Level	Title	Description
1	Methodology Guides	Comprehensive guides that explain assessment methodology
2	Market Valuation	Comprehensive guides that explain how methodology was applied to value properties for the 2016 Assessment Update
3	Property Specific Valuation Information	Detailed information that is available through secure access only or upon written request from taxpayers, representatives and municipalities

There are no discrete current values shared at the first two levels of disclosure.

The Property Specific Valuation Information for each of the special purpose sawmills is provided at Level 3, where property taxpayers, municipalities and their respective representatives can review how the current values are calculated.

How to Best Use This Report

This report is best reviewed in association with the Methodology Guide for sawmills.

The Methodology Guide offers a comprehensive overview of the assessment procedures MPAC has carried out to arrive at estimates in current value for sawmills.

This MVR will share and discuss the data parameters and calculations that MPAC has used to determine the assessed values for all sawmills in Ontario.

Description of the Subject Properties

Sawmills

IBISWorld, a recognized data provider, describes the sawmill sector as follows:

“This industry manufactures boards, dimension lumber, beams, poles, ties, siding and wood chips from logs or bolts. The industry also produces pilings and posts treated with preservatives. Industry wood products may be rough or dressed by a planing machine to create uniform sizes, but no further shaping takes place. The industry also includes companies that apply preservatives to wood from other establishments. The industry excludes veneer or engineered lumber (e.g., plywood) manufacturing.”³

The primary activities of this industry are:

- sawing and planing hardwood logs
- sawing and planing softwood logs
- preserving or treating lumber with chemicals and resins.⁴

See Schedule A for a list of special purpose sawmills in Ontario.

³ IBISWorld, “Sawmills & Wood Production in Canada: Market Research Report,” NAICS 32111CA (Nov 2015).

⁴ Ibid

Responsibility of MPAC

Role of the Assessor

MPAC has a statutory responsibility to estimate the current value of the fee simple interest in the land as of January 1, 2016. The assessed values will be relied upon to allocate property taxes for the 2017 to 2020 taxation years.

More simply, MPAC has an obligation to estimate what a property would realize if it were to sell on January 1, 2016.

The definition of current value is commonly accepted to represent the concept of value in exchange.

With this in mind, it is important to determine how the subject properties would be exchanged. There are three scenarios involving the subject properties that would be considered by the participants involved in the exchange:

- continued use of the improvements
- alternate use of the improvements
- raze the improvements and redevelop the land.

This reality is the rationale for determining the highest and best use of the land while undertaking an appraisal of the subject properties.

The processes involved with a sawmill are highly specialized, and the real property is highly integrated with the dedicated manufacturing equipment; in fact, the subject's design, sheer size and configuration to accommodate this special purpose causes it to not be feasible to adapt much of the plant to another purpose.

As stated above, each subject property's design prevents alternate uses from being practical. This leaves two potential scenarios under which a subject property would exchange: continued use or razing all or a portion of the improvements to accommodate redevelopment.

Analysis contained in this report is based upon the assumption that the current use is highest and best; therefore, the value in exchange of the subject contemplates a willing seller and buyer who each make value judgments based upon the utility derived by the subject property to manufacture wood (i.e., lumber, boards, poles, etc.).

Appraisal Theory

Highest and Best Use

The highest and best use of a property may be defined as “the reasonably probable and legal use of vacant land or improved property that is physically possible, appropriately supported, financially feasible, and that results in the highest value.”⁵

This economic concept measures the interaction of four criteria: legal permissibility, physical possibility, financial feasibility and maximum profitability. Estimating the highest and best use of a property is the most critical component of an appraisal as it sets the valuation context for the selection of comparable properties and analysis undertaken in the report.

Physical Possible Uses

This refers to the legal, physically possible uses of the subject that can be accomplished on the site considering the size, shape, topography, soils and environmental conditions.

Legal Permissible Uses

This refers to the possible uses of the subject permitted legally by land use controls, any existing leases, easements, deed restrictions or subdivision controls, covenants and restrictions or any other public or private limitations.

Financially Feasible Uses

This refers to the legal, physically possible uses of the subject that will produce a positive net financial or economic return to the owner of the site.

Maximally Productive Use

This refers to the use that satisfies the three criteria listed above and that produces the highest value.

Summary

The highest and best uses of the subject properties are assumed to be the current uses of each property. Each of the properties was in operation as of the date of the report; therefore, it is assumed that each of the four criteria has been satisfied.

⁵ *The Appraisal of Real Estate, Third Canadian Edition* (Appraisal Institute of Canada, UBC Commerce, Real Estate Division, 2010), 12.1.

Due to the design of the subject properties, there is likely only one use that is financially feasible.

How to Derive Current Value

There are traditionally three approaches to value estimation employed by an assessor: the cost approach, the direct comparison approach and the income approach. There may not always be sufficient data for development of all value methods and varying degrees of reliability may be achieved based on the quality and quantity of data gathered for each approach. The process of value correlation seeks to determine the most representative estimate of value for the subject property based on the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. For complete descriptions of each of the three approaches, please refer to *The Appraisal of Real Estate*.

How to Derive Current Values for the Subject Properties

As previously stated in this report, there may not always be sufficient data for development of all valuation methods. For most property types, there is an active market of sales and leases that are instructive to an assessor estimating current value; however, that is not the case for the subject properties.

A dearth of sales precludes the use of the direct comparison approach, and a lack of lease agreements prevents the use of the income approach; therefore, the assessor is left with only the cost approach to derive current value.

A more detailed explanation for sole reliance upon the cost approach follows.

Why the Direct Comparison Approach Was Not Developed

In the direct comparison approach, properties similar to the subject that have been sold recently or for which listing prices or offers are known are compared to the subject.

Comparable properties “should have the same or similar highest and best use as the improved subject property.”⁶

It is important to note that when special purpose manufacturing plants transact they are often repurposed or razed, resulting in a change in use.

A change-in-use sale involves the sale of a property where the designed and intended use was no longer viable. As a result, production had ceased and the plant sits idle. A large plant is

⁶ *The Appraisal of Real Estate*, 7.11.

expensive to maintain after production has ceased, and it becomes a liability as opposed to a profitable asset; this greatly motivates a vendor to part with its property. The desire to sell such a property is usually met with tepid demand; the large floor area is frequently much greater than the subsequent user requires, and the capital and operating costs associated with such a plant is often prohibitive to a purchaser.

The opposing motivations of most market participants to a change-in-use sale are the source of a volatile market. As a result, if the use of the plant changes after its sale, it can no longer be used for comparison to the properties that are the subject of this report.

Research did not uncover verified sales of similar facilities from which to draw any conclusions based on direct comparison.

Why the Income Approach Was Not Developed

The income approach to value is based, in large part, on the appraisal principle of anticipation, which assumes a definite relationship between a property's value and the income it produces. The process of the income approach discounts the present worth of the future income benefits the property will produce during the remainder of its economic life or during a projected term of ownership.

Properties similar to the subject properties seldom, if ever, trade as an asset that generates a rental income. An investor is unlikely to accept the risk associated with securing and retaining a tenant to occupy a plant designed to accommodate a sole use; special purpose manufacturing plants are invariably owner-occupied.

Research did not uncover any rental information involving properties similar to the subject properties.

Why the Cost Approach Was Developed

Special purpose business properties, such as sawmills, are amongst the most challenging types of properties to derive current values for.

In the fourth quarter of 2014, MPAC engaged with an independent third party, the International Property Tax Institute (IPTI), to carry out recommended iterative discussions with taxpayers, municipalities and key experts to develop the guidelines for assessment methodologies.

Following the discussions, MPAC composed an assessment methodology guide, *Assessing Sawmills in Ontario*.

This guide states that “the valuation approach to be used for the valuation of special purpose manufacturing plants such as sawmills is the cost approach.”

MPAC’s conclusion is consistent with guidance from *The Appraisal of Real Estate*, an authoritative text used by the assessment industry.

Although the valuation approach may be agreed upon, there are key steps within the cost approach that require the assessor to demonstrate careful consideration.

Assessing Sawmills in Ontario was designed to assist the assessor in navigating through the process and producing an accurate estimate of current value of sawmills, utilizing the recognized and approved cost approach methodology.

The purpose of this report is to exhibit the data relied upon and the conclusions reached by the assessor as he/she navigated through the process to produce accurate estimates of current value for sawmills throughout Ontario.

How the Subject Properties Are Assessed

How MPAC Derives the Current Value of the Subject Properties

The guide *Assessing Sawmills in Ontario* recommends a valuation process comprising six steps:

1. Determine the property's functionality and utility (i.e., what it can do).
2. Establish the costs to construct the improvements as new.
3. Identify all forms of depreciation.
4. Quantify the depreciation identified.
5. Add the market value of the land to the depreciated value of the improvements.
6. Validate the result of the above process.

Step 1 – Determine the functionality and utility of the property for comparison to a modern plant

The first step requires the assistance of the owner of the subject property to determine the property's functionality and utility (what it can do and the expected benefits to be derived).

As a result of concluding that the subject property is special purpose and that the current use is highest and best, the first step in the process is very straightforward – the property's function is to produce wood. However, the assessor requires the assistance of the owner of the subject property to evaluate its functionality and utility. Evaluating the functionality and utility of a sawmill requires a broad understanding of the processes occurring within the plant – with few exceptions, this is beyond the scope of an assessor.

The assessor should ask one preliminary question and follow the answer with a series of subsequent questions that begin with "Why." The assessor may ask as many subsequent questions as required in order to understand.

The assessor should encourage the owner to compare the existing plant against an ideal or contemporary plant that could perform the same function when considering his/her answers.

This preliminary discussion with the owner will afford the assessor a thorough understanding of a sawmill's manufacturing process and will help to frame many of the mathematical adjustments that are made later in the valuation process.

Throughout the iterative consultations and during related inspections, the owner of the subject property is encouraged to offer as much insight as possible.

Step 2 – Establish the costs to construct the improvements as new

This step is largely the result of data collection and data entry. Establish the value of the subject property by using MPAC's cost manual Automated Cost System (ACS) to determine reproduction cost as new.

The data required to estimate the reproduction cost new is collected by the assessor during site inspection and is often validated by viewing building plans.

The primary data collected is:

- gross floor area of the building(s)
- height of the building(s)
- type of building materials
- quality of building materials

The data is manually entered into ACS, MPAC's proprietary software. It is a component-based cost system where major building components are valued in place, which includes all costs associated with building and installing a particular component. Components include foundations, floor structure, frame and span, exterior base walls and additives, roof finishes, partitions, interior finishes, built-ins, electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning and fire protection.

Component costs, including labour, material and equipment costs, have been normalized. Material costs are considered on the basis of current market costs (base year). Labour costs are based upon typical union labour rates, including benefits.

The practice listed above is consistent with how an MPAC assessor would derive the reproduction cost new for any type of building. Due to the specialized nature of a sawmill and due to recent litigation before the Assessment Review Board involving the estimation of reproduction cost new of a special purpose manufacturing plant, MPAC had a third party provide additional data to verify the costs estimated by assessors using ACS.

The additional data was provided by Hanscomb Limited, founded in 1957 and one of the largest cost consulting companies in Canada.

The reproduction cost new of the sawmill sector ranges from \$40 to \$105, with a median of \$64.

Step 3 – Identify all forms of depreciation

This is the step in the valuation process where the assessor must demonstrate sound judgment and analysis by Applying a breakdown approach to depreciation whereby each separate element of depreciation is identified and applied as follows. The assessor may find he or she is required to revise the reproduction cost new to reflect the cost to replace the improvements.

There is a key distinction between reproduction cost new and replacement cost new.

Reproduction cost new is the cost to construct an exact replica as of January 1, 2016, whereas replacement cost new is the cost to construct a modern facility that offers the same utility as the original improvements.

This is a key step in the application of the cost approach because the assessor must discern if the existing plant would have been replaced by a similar plant as of January 1, 2016, or if the replacement plant (often referred to as a model) would have been substantially different.

The determination of the reproduction cost new is largely a factual undertaking, whereas the exercise involving the derivation of replacement cost new may involve some professional judgment – although the existing plant is a tangible entity, the replacement plant may be based upon a hypothetical construct.

The differences, if any, between the cost to construct the existing plant and the cost to construct its replacement must be reflected in the cost approach. The difference is referred to as the Functional Obsolescence resulting from Excess Capital Costs.

It is important to note that the existing plant reflects the prevailing market conditions when the plant was constructed. A brief overview of the steps involved in designing and constructing a manufacturing is as follows:

1. Estimate effective market demand for the product to be manufactured.
2. Forecast how much of the market share the company will achieve.
3. Design a manufacturing process that will enable the company to fulfill their share of the market.
4. Design and construct a plant to house the manufacturing process.

The greater the period of time that passes from the date of construction to January 1, 2016, the more likely it is that some of the aforementioned conditions will have changed. Any changes in conditions may result in a replacement plant that differs from the existing plant.

Although it is very possible that every plant owner, with the benefit of hindsight, would replace their plant differently, the most substantial differences would occur when the plants are older – the question is, how much older?

Not surprisingly, there is no definitive answer to this question; however, there have been two significant changes in recent history impacting manufacturing companies located in North America:

- the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- the rise of globalization

NAFTA came into effect in 1994, and globalization can be traced back to the late 1980s and early 1990s.

In addition to the geopolitical influences of NAFTA and globalization, there are other changes that must be considered by the assessor:

- changes in consumer tastes
- changes in manufacturing processes
- changes in building design

There is no definitive answer to the question “how much older?”; however, due to the significant geopolitical events and the potential for additional changes that may have occurred since a plant was constructed, MPAC will give more attention to the plants that are 25 years old or greater.

Following various requests made to plant owners, MPAC engaged in iterative discussions that were focused on the determination of how the replacement plant would differ, if at all, from the existing plant.

The plant owners suggested that sawmills recently constructed in Northwestern Ontario best resembled how they would replace their existing sawmills as of January 1, 2016. The owners also suggested that the assessor have reference to the relationship between the annual production capacity (measured in million board feet or ‘MBF’) and the gross floor area of the sawmill when determining how an older mill would compare to a newer mill.

In addition to this insight, MPAC also had reference to the work files associated with each sawmill to gauge how any excess capital costs were accounted for in prior assessments.

Historically, MPAC would have reflected functional obsolescence resulting from excess capital costs and from excess operating costs as a single adjustment. In most instances, the allotment for excess operating costs would have been five per cent; therefore, if a historical adjustment exceeded five per cent, the remainder could be attributed to excess capital costs (e.g., if total functional obsolescence was 13 per cent the loss resulting from excess capital costs was 8 per cent).

The following data provides an overview of the allotments made to account for excess capital costs realized in the sawmill sector:

Allotment	Instances
0	19
1 to 10	6
11 to 20	3
21 to 30	4
31 to 40	1
41 to 50	1
51 to 60	0
61 to 70	0
71 to 80	0
81 to 90	0
91 to 100	0
Total	34

The average allotment for the sector is 8 per cent.

Step 4 – Quantify the depreciation identified

This step in the valuation process is the result of subtracting total depreciation from the reproduction cost new to arrive at the current value of the buildings and other site improvements. The total depreciation includes physical deterioration, functional obsolescence and external obsolescence.

Step 4a – Apply physical deterioration

This step in the valuation process is to account for normal and abnormal wear and tear. Apply physical deterioration due to age from the typical depreciation tables found in the cost manual and make adjustments as required to age-related depreciation due to the actual state and condition of the property.

Within ACS there are life tables that calculate the loss in value resulting from the normal wear and tear that buildings and structures suffer from over their estimated useful life. It is important to note that there is a difference between an improvement's useful and economic life. The economic life of a structure is the period over which the improvements contribute to property value, and the useful life is the period over which the improvement is expected to function according to its design.

The useful life is used to estimate physical deterioration.

The life tables within ACS do not assign different rates of physical deterioration to long-lived and short-lived items. Instead, the varying useful lifespans of the items are blended and the overall useful life estimation is applied to the entire building or structure.

See Schedule B for an example of the 50-year useful life table.

In addition to the useful life determination, MPAC's estimate of physical deterioration is affected by the effective age of the improvements. It is important to note that there is a difference between actual age and effective age. The actual age refers to the time that has passed since the building was completed. The effective age refers to the building's condition and is based on the assessor's judgment and interpretation of the market.

The effective age of a structure is impacted by the level of maintenance that it has received. If a structure has been well maintained, the effective age may be less than the actual age; conversely, if a structure has been poorly maintained, the effective age may be greater. If a structure has received typical maintenance, its effective and actual age may be the same.

An example of the methodology for physical deterioration follows:

Line	Parameter	Formula	Details
1	Cost New		\$1,350,000
2	Year Built		1993
3	Level of Maintenance		Typical
4	Effective Year of Valuation		2016
5	Actual Age	Line 4 – Line 2	23 years
6	Effective Age		23 years
7	Estimated Useful Life		50 years
8	Remaining Useful Life	Line 7 – Line 6	27 years
9	MPAC Life Table		OR 50
10	Per cent Good Allotment		54%
11	Estimated Physical Deterioration (%)	100% – Line 10	46%
12	Estimated Physical Deterioration (\$)	Line 1 * Line 11	\$621,000

Step 4b – Apply functional obsolescence

This is the step in the valuation process that accounts for any functional obsolescence not already captured by comparing the reproduction cost new to the replacement cost new.

The assessor must estimate the loss in value resulting from inefficiencies or inadequacies that impair the utility and/or cause the owner to incur excess operating costs. The most common example of this is for piecemeal construction that creates a disjointed manufacturing process and results in the owner incurring excess operating costs.

The assessor can account for the loss in value by way of a quantitative or qualitative adjustment.

A quantitative adjustment to account for a loss in value resulting from excess operating costs is derived by summing the annual excess operating costs and selecting the appropriate discount rate and term to determine the present value of the loss in value caused by the deficiency.

The quantitative adjustment proved to be difficult to account for. In order to determine excess costs, the assessor must be aware of normal costs. Normal operating costs are not within an assessor’s area of expertise and would need to be provided by the owner of the building – most owners are either disinclined to provide such information or find it challenging to discern and display normal operating costs. As a result, this method was not broadly applied in the assessments of the subject properties.

The absence of the data required a quantitative adjustment, and the assessor relied on a qualitative adjustment to account for the loss in value. A qualitative adjustment is not inconsistent with what had been completed in previous reassessments (i.e., 2012 Current Value Assessment); however, the adjustments are now greater in many circumstances. The adjustment was formerly applied as an allotment of 5% regardless of the age of the plant. MPAC consulted with property owners who stated that 5% was often too low and the assessor also made reference to recent ARB decisions where the tribunal found that amounts greater than 5% may be appropriate in certain circumstances. Throughout the consultations and after having reference to the decisions, the assessor noted a positive relationship between age and deficiencies – the greater the age, the greater the presence of deficiencies. To account for this reality, the assessor developed a more dynamic approach to account for the loss in value.

The qualitative adjustment made to estimate a loss in value resulting from inefficiencies or inadequacies that impair the utility and/or cause the owner to incur excess operating costs range from 5–15% of the replacement cost new. The following table illustrates the allotments made:

Actual Age of Plant	Allotment for Excess Operating Costs	Actual Age of Plant	Allotment for Excess Operating Costs
1	0%	16	8%
2	1%	17	8%
3	1%	18	9%

4	2%	19	9%
5	2%	20	10%
6	3%	21	10%
7	3%	22	11%
8	4%	23	11%
9	4%	24	12%
10	5%	25	12%
11	5%	26	13%
12	6%	27	13%
13	6%	28	14%
14	7%	29	14%
15	7%	30	15%

The rationale for the sliding scale is that deficiencies become more prominent over the normal passage of time.

Step 4c – Apply external obsolescence

This step in the valuation process takes into consideration the external factors that influence current value by applying external obsolescence as required.

There are two subcategories that fall under the heading of external obsolescence:

- economic obsolescence
- locational obsolescence

“Economic obsolescence is defined as a form of depreciation, or an incurable loss in value, caused by unfavorable conditions external to the property, such as the local economy, economics of the industry, availability of financing, encroachment of objectionable enterprises, loss of material and labor sources, lack of efficient transportation, shifting of business centers, passage of new legislation, and changes in ordinances. EO also may be caused by a reduced demand for the product; overcapacity in the industry; dislocation of raw material supplies; increasing costs of raw materials, labor, utilities, or transportation, while the selling price remains fixed or increases at a much lower rate; foreign competition; legislation; and environmental considerations.”⁷

Locational obsolescence is a loss in value resulting from a location that adversely impacts the utility or profitability of a property.

This step will focus on the estimation of economic obsolescence.

Although the recommended valuation methodology is the cost approach, the assessor must still have regard for the market.

There are two markets to be analyzed when studying industrial real property:

“The real estate market, in which industrial properties trade and space in those properties is leased and occupied.”⁸

“The market for the goods produced in industrial facilities.”⁹

As previously stated, the subject properties are not often traded on the open market – in fact, research did not uncover any real estate market data related to the subject properties to be analyzed.

In the absence of real estate market data, MPAC analyzed the market for the goods produced at the subject properties when estimating their current values. This analysis involved a review of financial ratios associated with publicly traded companies involved in the manufacture of wood (sawmills).

The current financial ratios were contrasted against those realized in recent history to gauge the economic well-being of the companies, with the corollary being the state of the market for the goods produced (i.e., lumber, boards, poles, etc.) at the subject properties.

⁷ Micheal J. Remsha and Kevin S. Reilly, “Economic Obsolescence: Real Life Stories,” *American Appraisal* (2009): <https://www.duffandphelps.com>

⁸ *Appraising Industrial Properties* (Appraisal Institute, 2005), 51.

⁹ *Appraising Industrial Properties*, 52.

A study completed by American Appraisal came to the conclusion that the external obsolescence for sawmills was 19%. Many of the ratios analyzed were indicative of the financial performances of publicly traded companies with operations both within and outside of Ontario. American Appraisal relied on public data due to the unavailability of Ontario-specific data.

These findings were shared with stakeholders at the fall forum hosted in Thunder Bay and at consultations held as part of MPAC's preliminary Market Valuation Reports. Property owners expressed concerns that the proposed allotments for external obsolescence were too low and did not sufficiently account for the adverse external factors impacting the viability of Ontario sawmills.

Sawmill owners suggested that the fate of Ontario sawmills is grimmer than what is realized in other locations. Therefore, the proposed allotments (based upon public data reflecting the broader sector) did not accurately account for the circumstances in Ontario.

The financial statements shared by a property owner detailed the sawmill's performance over the past ten years in an effort to better illustrate the circumstances facing Ontario mills. MPAC reviewed these statements and met with senior personnel from the sawmill to better understand the economic conditions realized by Ontario mills.

The financial statements reflected the performances of the mills over the past ten years, however, they did not take into consideration the expiration of the softwood lumber agreement (SLA) that Canada has with the United States. It expired on October 13, 2015, and discussions with the sawmill company indicate that hypothetical sales of the subject properties would be adversely impacted by the uncertainty surrounding the expiration of the agreement. The sawmill company suggested an additional 5% adjustment would account for the doubt surrounding the expiring SLA. MPAC agrees that the ambiguity related to the expiring SLA adversely impacts current value and has adopted the qualitative adjustment proposed by the sawmill company.

After engaging in iterative discussions and reviewing the financial statements for Ontario mills, MPAC has concluded the proper allotment for Ontario sawmills is 46%; 41% with a 5% adjustment to account for the SLA.

MPAC's conclusions of the review of the financial ratios relied upon as indicators of the state of the market for sawmills are:

- annual lumber shipments
- annual sawmill production
- Canadian housing starts

- gross profit margin
- earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization
- lumber sales price
- sawmill capacity utilization
- U.S. housing starts

Sawmills are allocated an economic obsolescence of 46%; to the extent that the property is used for other purposes, in addition to a sawmill, the economic obsolescence will differ.

See Schedule C for the full economic obsolescence analysis of the sawmill industry.

The same valuation process is applicable to the buildings and to the other site improvements. The other site improvements include such items as asphalt paving, weigh scales, storage tanks and railway sidings.

Step 5 – Determine the value of the land

This step in the valuation process deals with the determination of the land as if vacant by estimating the current value of the land and adding it to the value of the improvements.

The land values are derived via the direct comparison approach. In short, recent arms' length sales of lands principally zoned for industrial uses are analyzed to determine how much vacant land traded for in the open market as of the effective date.

MPAC's land analysis will be published on mpac.ca in early 2017.

Step 6 – Validate the results

This step in the valuation process is introduced to validate the estimate of total depreciation. Verify the estimated current value of the improvements using one of the following approaches:

- a. Compare the total depreciation allowance with other approaches, such as age-life or market extraction.
- b. Verify the current value by reference to market sales of similar properties.

This is a step in the valuation process where the assessor should have reference to sawmills that have reached the end of their economic lives or have been involved in sales transactions.

If there are a sufficient number of sawmill closures, an assessor can derive an estimate of economic life and measure depreciation via the age-life method.

The age-life method relies upon the assessor's estimates of effective age and total economic life for the subject's improvements. The depreciation is calculated as a ratio of the effective age to the total economic life and then applied to the cost new of the improvements.

For example, if there were a sufficient number of plant closures where the ages at closure ranged from 38 to 42 years, the assessor would conclude an economic life of 40 years.

This would indicate an annual depreciation rate of 2.5% ($100\% / 40 = 2.5\%$) on a straight-line basis. To validate the total depreciation derived via the breakdown method, the assessor would compare the results of each method.

The market extraction method relies upon the availability of sales from which depreciation can be extracted. The sold properties must be similar in terms of age and utility to the subject, and preferably the sales are current and from the subject's market area. Reliance upon this method implies that the land value and cost new of the improvements can be accurately estimated.

As noted above, and elsewhere in this report, properties similar to the subject properties do not trade frequently on the real estate market.

The paucity of real estate transactions was anticipated and consistent with recent history for this special purpose manufacturing sector. This reality makes it very difficult for the assessor to validate the values by way of traditional methods. To account for this challenge, the assessor made best efforts to engage in iterative discussions with stakeholders to ensure that the parameters relied upon to derive the values accurately reflect the circumstances facing market participants on January 1, 2016. If the stakeholder engaged with the assessor and provided meaningful insights and/or market data, there is a much greater likelihood that the assessed value reflects the amount the property would have realized had it sold on January 1, 2016.

In the absence of real estate transactions, the assessor relied upon stakeholder participation to validate the results – not surprisingly, the greater the stakeholder participation, the greater the assessor's certainty of the accuracy of the values.

Client and Intended Users

The client and intended users of the report are the valuation personnel of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, the owners and occupants of the properties described herein and the municipal and provincial levels of government.

Intended Use of the Report

The intended use of the report is to describe the analysis and explain the steps taken to derive the 2016 current value assessments for the properties described herein. The report will not address the current values on specific properties; rather, it will provide an overview of the valuation process for sawmills in Ontario.

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to share and discuss the data parameters and calculations that MPAC relied upon to determine the assessed values for all **sawmills in Ontario**.

Real Property Interest Appraised

The legal interest being appraised in this report is the current value of the unencumbered fee simple estate. Fee simple is defined as *“absolute ownership unencumbered by any other interest or estate, subject only to the limitations imposed by the four powers of government: taxation, expropriation, police power, and escheat.”*¹⁰ The owner of a fee simple interest has the right to sell, occupy, lease, or mortgage the property.

Definition of Value

The assessment of land in Ontario is based on its current value. Current value is defined as “the amount of money the fee simple, if unencumbered, would realize if sold at arm’s length by a willing seller to a willing buyer.”¹¹

Effective Date of Value

The effective date of valuation is January 1, 2016.

¹⁰ *The Appraisal of Real Estate*, 6.1.

¹¹ *Ontario Assessment Act*

Date of the Report

The date of the report is November 1, 2016.

Ordinary Assumptions

The values established in this report are based on the following ordinary assumptions:

- Reliability of data sources;
- Compliance with government regulations;
- Marketable title;
- No defects in the improvements;
- Bearing capacity of soil;
- No encroachments;
- No site contamination exists;
- Due diligence by intended users.

Ordinary Limiting Conditions

The values established in this report are based on the following ordinary limiting conditions:

- Denial of liability to non-intended users and for any non-intended use;
- Responsibility denied for legal factors;
- No environmental audit was undertaken;
- Report must not be used partially;
- Possession of report does not permit publication;
- Any cost estimates are not valid for insurance purposes;
- Value conclusion is in Canadian dollars;
- Denial of responsibility for any unauthorized alteration to a report;

- Validity requires original signature.

Extraordinary Assumptions

The current use of the properties complies with applicable zoning by-law regulations, and is considered to be a legal non-conforming use. Subject to rare exceptions, the mass appraisal of the subject properties is based upon the extraordinary assumption that the current uses of the properties are highest and best.

Extraordinary Limiting Conditions

An extraordinary limiting condition has not been invoked in this report.

Hypothetical Conditions

A hypothetical condition has not been invoked in this report.

Jurisdictional Exception

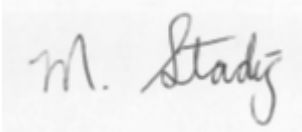
A jurisdictional exception has not been invoked in this report.

Certification

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- The statements of fact contained in this report are true and correct;
- The reported analyses, opinions, and conclusions are limited only by the reported assumptions and limiting conditions and are the personal, impartial, and unbiased professional analyses, opinions and conclusions of MPAC;
- I have no present or prospective interest in the properties that are the subject of this report and no interest with respect to the parties involved;
- I have no bias with respect to the properties that are the subject of this report or to the parties involved with this assignment;
- My engagement in this assignment was not contingent upon developing or reporting predetermined results;
- My engagement in, and completion of this report is based on current value as defined in the assessment act;

- The analysis, opinions, and conclusions were developed, and this report has been prepared, in conformity with the Canadian Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice;
- I have not made personal inspections of all the subject properties that are the subject of this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Stadig". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M' and a stylized 'S'.

Malcolm Stadig, MRICS, CAE, ASA, MIMA

Manager, Advisory Services

Schedule A: Special Purpose Sawmills in Ontario

Roll Number	Address	City
331054101046000	1249-1265 Jackson Side Rd	Norfolk Co
331054102006600	360 Highway 3	Norfolk Co
331054102006610	1250-1260 Jackson Sideroad	Norfolk Co
444202001901300	75 Old North Rd	Huntsville T
473801605525500	2057 Foymount Rd	Bonnechere Valley Tp
476907201511300	206B Black Point Rd	North Algona-Wilberforce Tp
480101000004001	384A Hay Creek Rd	South Algonquin Tp
480103000141200	24749 Highway 60	South Algonquin Tp
485204000224100	175 Goulard Rd	West Nipissing M
523100000028900		Nairn and Hyman Tp
523100000029101	100 Old Nairn Rd	Nairn and Hyman Tp
528957000600950		Chapleau Locality Ed
528957000602200		Chapleau Locality Ed
529200000405712	Planer Rd	Chapleau Tp
529938000400200		Ontario
544200000126200	Fifth St	James Tp
546200000435202	15511 Dump Rd	Larder Lake Tp
546600000232100		Gauthier Tp
562701009101401	1515 Norman St	Timmins C
562705003313200		Timmins C
563901000527501	Seventeenth Ave	Cochrane T
567601000523400	67 Fontaine Dr	Hearst T

Roll Number	Address	City
567601000608169	Fontaine Dr	Hearst T
572400000311900	41 Sherwood Rd	Huron Shores M
576105004308750	45 Third Line W	Sault Ste Marie C
579100000413900	Highway 17	White River Tp
579902100001600		Ontario
587671000113110	101 Blueberry St	Greenstone M
597492000000300		Rainy River Locality Ed
600100000100111		Ignace Tp
601601000118300	Lakeview Dr	Kenora C
603462000124600	120 The Mill Rd	Sioux Lookout M
604200000100100	361 Sawmill Rd	Ear Falls Tp
608885000000200		Toronto C

Schedule B: 50-Year Useful Life Table

50-Year Average Life		
Year Built	Effective Age	ACS % Good
2017		100
2016	1	99
2015	2	98
2014	3	98
2013	4	97
2012	5	96
2011	6	95
2010	7	94
2009	8	94
2008	9	92
2007	10	91
2006	11	89
2005	12	87
2004	13	86
2003	14	84
2002	15	83
2001	16	81
2000	17	80
1999	18	78
1998	19	75
1997	20	73

50-Year Average Life		
Year Built	Effective Age	ACS % Good
1996	21	71
1995	22	69
1994	23	66
1993	24	64
1992	25	62
1991	26	61
1990	27	61
1989	28	60
1988	29	59
1987	30	58
1986	31	58
1985	32	57
1984	33	56
1983	34	55
1982	35	54
1981	36	52
1980	37	51
1979	38	49
1978	39	48
1977	40	47
1976	41	45
1975	42	44

50-Year Average Life		
Year Built	Effective Age	ACS % Good
1974	43	42
1973	44	40
1972	45	38
1971	46	36
1970	47	33
1969	48	31
1968	48	29
1967	50	27
1966	51	27
1965	52	26
1964	53	25
1963	54	25
1962	55	24
1961	56	24
1960	57	23
1959	58	23
1958	59	21
1957	60	20
1956	61	20