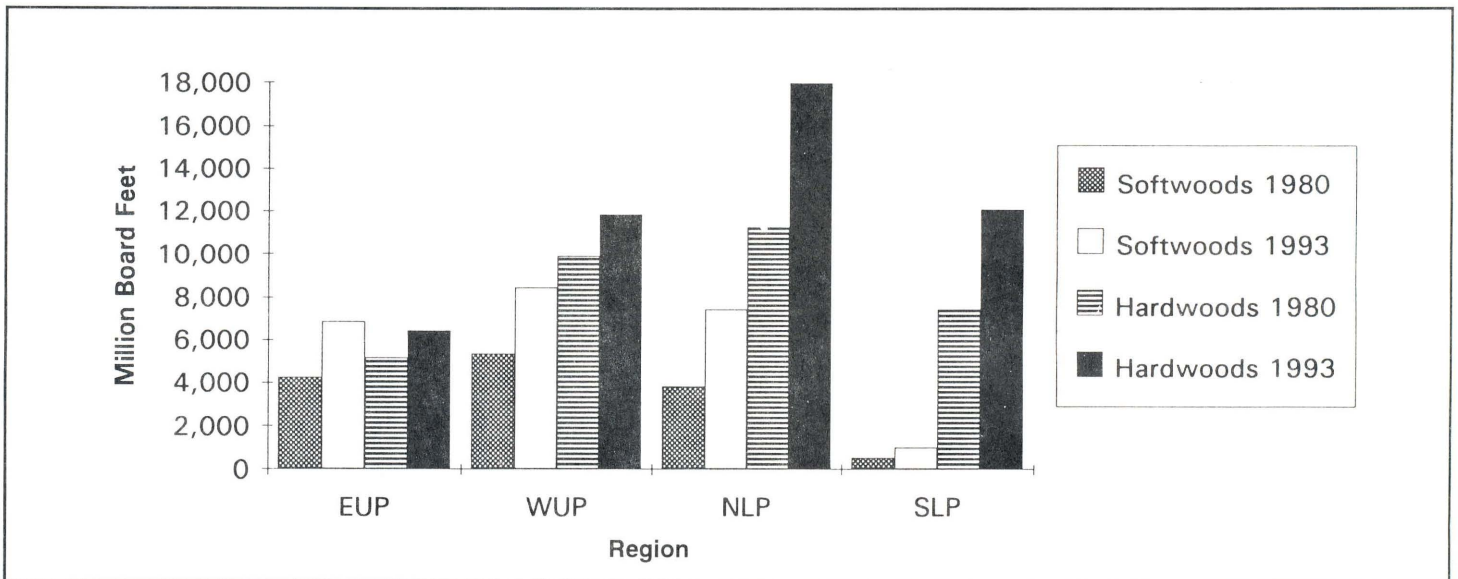


**Table 8. Net volume of sawtimber by region and species group, 1993, in million board feet.<sup>1</sup>**

	<u>UP</u>	<u>NLP</u>	<u>SLP</u>	<u>State</u>
Softwood	15,311	7,406	994	23,711
Hardwood	18,241	17,936	12,052	48,229
Total	33,552	25,342	13,046	71,941

<sup>1</sup> Data for 1993 are **preliminary** data from the 1993 Forest Inventory, USDA Forest Service and are subject to change.



**Figure 7. Net volume of sawtimber on timberland by region and species group, 1980 and 1993, in million board feet.**

### Growth

Current (1993) growth of timber is 830 million cubic feet per year and growth averaged 763 million cubic feet per year from 1980 to 1993. Seventy percent of the growth since the last inventory was in hardwoods (Table 9). Growth rates for pine, soft hardwoods and hard hardwoods increased since the last inventory, but declined for other softwoods. Growth rates differed regionally as well (Table 10). In both parts of the Upper Peninsula, hardwood growth rates declined, as did the softwood growth rate for the western Upper Peninsula.

The opportunity to intensify timber management and increase growth and growing stock volumes within Michigan is significant. Relatively flat terrain, productive soil structure and a good transportation network provide access to the majority of these timberlands. The potential to increase growth is possible through increased stocking of timberland. Thirty-two percent of Michigan's timberland is fully stocked. The annual growth can be enhanced further through stand improvements, tree

species conversion and use of genetically improved species. Red pine, a native species, has the potential to produce as much wood volume per acre as doe slash and loblolly pine in the south (Lundgren, 1982). Use of genetically improved tree varieties could result in productivity gains of 10 to 15 percent (MICHCOTIP, personal communication). Michigan's Forest Development Fund expects to fund investments in these types of intensified management through tax-exempt revenue bonds. Mead Corporation in Escanaba has aggressively planted red pine over the past 16 years to take advantage of improved timber yields.

### Timberland Summary

Several key characteristics exert a strong influence over the management of Michigan's forests and the availability of alternative forest products. The maple-birch forest type continues to dominate Michigan and most of the state's timber volume is hardwoods. Growing stock volumes increased from 1980 as did