

TABLE 1. Summary of deposits which lie above the evaporite coverings of the reefs of oil fields in northwestern Alberta. The thicknesses given are averages for several wells in the area. Each section shown in the table is actually an elaborate series of layers or beds of varying thickness--usually from a few inches to a few feet--and differing somewhat in composition from each other. (Based on J. Law, "Geology of Northwestern Alberta and Adjacent Areas," American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin, v. 39, 1955, p. 1927-1965.)

Geologic Period	Thickness in feet	Description of strata (beginning with the uppermost, ground-level deposit)
Pleistocene (an epoch)	100 ft.	Varied layers of glacial till, gravel, sand, silt, and clay
Cretaceous	700	Thin layers of shale; and small to considerable amounts of layered sandstone, layered limestone, and ironstone
Mississippian	300	Limestone, shale, and siltstone, with some chert nodules (many alternating layers)
Upper Devonian	700	Limestone (several different types and grades)
	600	Silty limestone (Some layers alternate with thin deposits of calcareous shale)
	1600	Shale, with intermittent layers of siltstone and limestone
Middle Devonian	300	Limestone (often laminated), with some interstratified dolostone, shale and sandstone
	700	Evaporite coverings (Muskeg Formation)