

Recovery, Reuse and Recycling by the United States Wood Packaging Industry: 1993 to 2006

PRIMARY AUTHOR:

Robert Bush (rbush@vt.edu)
Wood Science and Forest Products

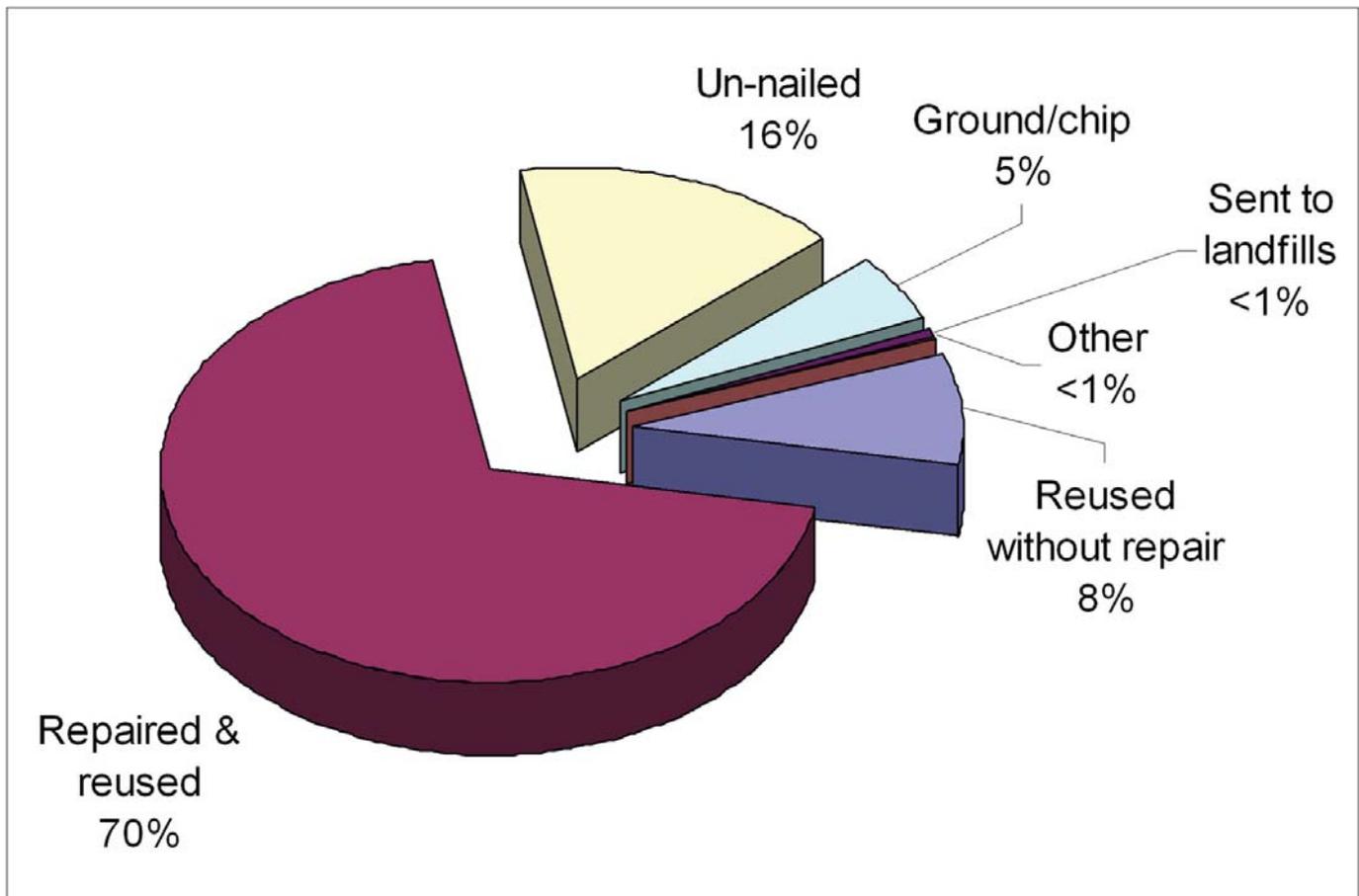
SECONDARY AUTHOR:

Philip Araman (paraman@vt.edu)
USDA Forest Service
E. Brad Hager (ehager@vt.edu)
Wood Science and Forest Products

by-products (both wood and non-wood) are recycled for a variety of uses. The result of these activities is conservation of natural resources and reductions of materials in the waste stream. This presentation provides the results of a series of studies of the industry which began in 1992 and continue today. Among other findings, the studies have determined that the recycling/reuse rates of wood materials used by the industry are equal to or greater than those for many metals and plastics. In 1999, we estimated that 4 out of every 10 pallets purchased for use was a recovered, repaired or rebuilt pallet. This translated into the volume of wood from approximate 30 million 12 inch diameter trees.

ABSTRACT:

The packaging industry is an important market for wood materials, especially low grade hardwoods. Approximately one-third of U.S. hardwood lumber production is utilized in the production of pallets and containers. The industry recovers significant volumes of pallets and containers from the waste stream for re-use, repair, and recycling. Industry



en v i r o n m e n t
i n n o v a t i o n s



Deans' Forum
on the Environment

February 26, 2007
Inn at Virginia Tech &
Skelton Conference
Center, Burruss Hall
Blacksburg, Virginia