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Veneer-Log Production and Receipts in the Southeast, 1988

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ABSTRACT

In 1988, almost 1.4 billion board feet of veneer logs were harvested in the Southeast, and the region's veneer mills processed approximately 1.5 billion board feet of logs. Almost 78 percent of veneer-log production and 76 percent of veneer-log receipts were softwood. There were 79 veneer mills operating in 1988. Softwood plywood was the major product. Almost all of the residues produced by veneer mills were used.

Keywords: Veneer logs, production, receipts, products, residues.

Introduction

Prior to 1960, the veneer industry in the Southeastern United States was made up primarily of small mills that produced hardwood materials mainly for furniture and containers. In the early 1960's, however, technology was developed to convert relatively small second-growth logs of southern pines into plywood for home construction. Using this technology, many large forest-products manufacturing firms established softwood plywood plants in the South. By 1970, all Southeastern States were producing more softwood than hardwood veneer, and most of the softwood veneer was being used for plywood. These changes were documented in earlier reports prepared by the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Unit at the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station.

This Bulletin describes the Southeast's veneer industry as it was in 1988, and it outlines some of the changes that occurred over the previous 20 years. Data were obtained from a special canvass of the 79 veneer mills that were operating in the Southeast in 1988. Seventy-one of these mills agreed to participate in the special study by supplying information on veneer-log receipts, by tree species, products manufactured, and disposition of mill residues. Information for mills that chose not to participate was estimated from data obtained from other sources. The volume of veneer logs harvested in the Southeast and sent to other regions was estimated by exchanging information with FIA Units at other Forest Service Experiment Stations.

Veneer Mill Profile

Since the sharp upturn in the softwood plywood industry during the midsixties, the number of veneer mills has remained fairly constant. The lack of change in the number of mills, however, masks a continuing shift from small hardwood mills to larger softwood plywood plants. The result is a major increase in the processing capacity of the veneer industry.

Florida is the only State where a major decline has occurred in the number of mills--from 17 in 1967 to 5 in 1988. North Carolina has the most mills. It had 30 of the 79 mills that were operating in the Southeast in 1988.

The future of the veneer industry is difficult to predict from the available information. Demand for high-quality hardwood veneers for use in furniture and decorative paneling is likely to remain high. The size of that portion of the industry is likely to depend primarily on availability of suitable hardwood logs. In contrast, the future of the softwood plywood industry in the Southeast is likely to depend primarily on the demand for the product. Chipboard-flakeboard is replacing softwood plywood in many construction applications. If this trend continues, expansion of the southern pine plywood industry will be slow if expansion occurs at all.

Veneer-Log Production and Receipts by Species and Product

In this Bulletin, veneer-log production means the harvest of these logs from a State's forests for the purpose of veneer manufacture. During 1988, veneer-log production in the Southeast totaled approximately 1.4 billion board feet (table 1). In that year, veneer-log receipts at mills in the Southeast totaled 1.5 billion board feet (table 2). The difference between the two totals is explained by an excess of imports from over exports to States outside the Southeast. Softwood- and hardwood-log receipts exceeded production by 4 and 12 percent, respectively (figs. 1 and 2). Most softwood veneer-log imports were from Alabama, while hardwood imports were from many Eastern States.

Twenty-one major species were used by the region's mills in 1988. Southern yellow pine was the predominant species group with 78 percent of the total; yellow-poplar had 12 percent, and sweetgum had 5 percent. All other species accounted for 2 percent or less (fig. 3, table 3). Veneer-log receipts were approximately the same as log production, varying by only 1 or 2 percent per species (fig. 4, table 4). In 1988, 78 percent of the region's veneer logs were used in softwood plywood, 15 percent in hardwood plywood, 4 percent in container products, and 3 percent in face veneer. Veneer-log receipts by product are almost the same as log production by product, except for 1 percent specialty product (figs. 5 and 6).

Veneer-Log Production by State, Species, and Product

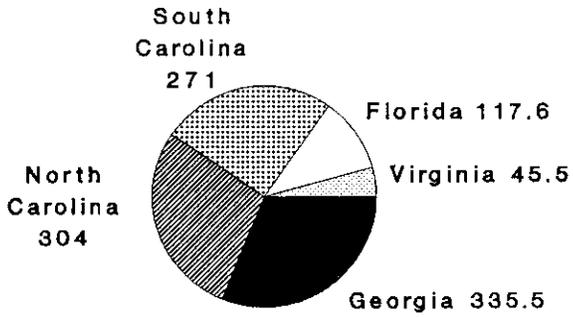
During the past 20 years, production of softwood veneer logs has increased in all Southeastern States except Virginia, where production declined by 25 percent. Hardwood veneer-log production also increased in most Southeastern States with the exception of Florida, where a 90-percent decrease was recorded. Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina

had increases of 300 percent or more and North Carolina 200 percent in softwood log production. Production and receipts of veneer logs were almost equal in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina during 1988. In comparison, Florida imported 19 percent more veneer logs than it produced. All logs imported were southern yellow pine. Virginia had the largest percentage of imported logs, at 37 percent; most of these logs were southern yellow pine (tables 5-14).

Use of Veneer Mill Residues

Almost all of the residues generated by veneer mills were used in 1988 (table 15). There were no unused softwood residues—bark, coarse or fine material. In contrast, 13 percent of the hardwood bark, 2 percent of the hardwood coarse, and 1 percent of the hardwood fine material remained unused. For both softwood and hardwood bark, industrial fuel was the most common use. Softwood and hardwood coarse residues, such as cores, were used for pulp chips and lumber. Some hardwood was used for industrial fuel and other miscellaneous uses. Both softwood and hardwood fine residues were used almost exclusively for industrial fuel (figs. 7-9).

Softwood



Hardwood

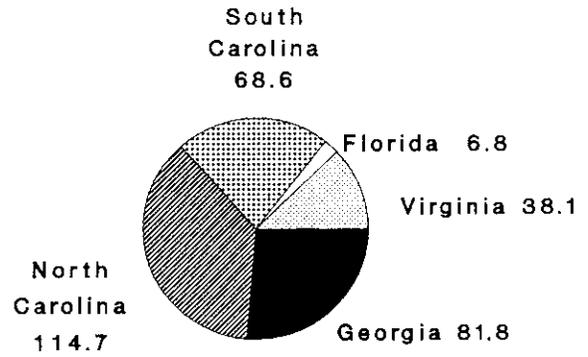
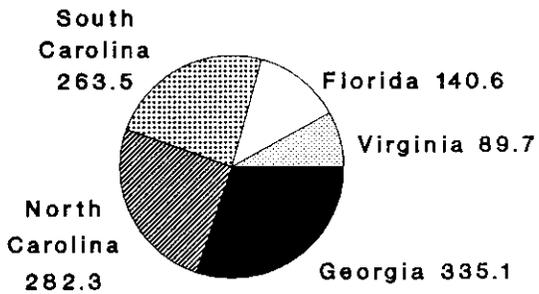


Figure 1--Veneer-log production in Southeastern States, in million board feet, 1988.

Softwood



Hardwood

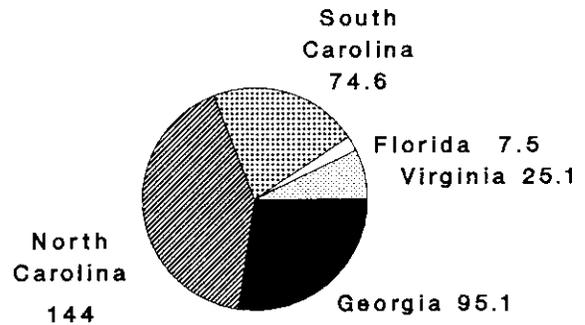


Figure 2--Veneer-log receipts in Southeastern States, in million board feet, 1988.

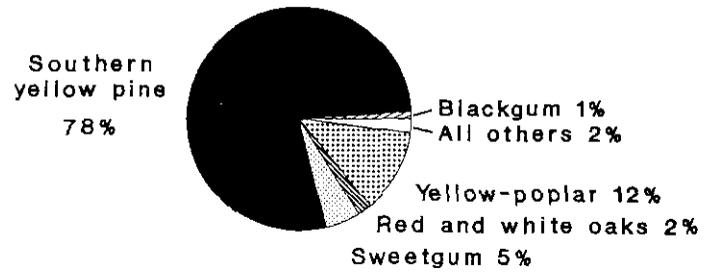


Figure 3--Veneer-log production by species, 1988.

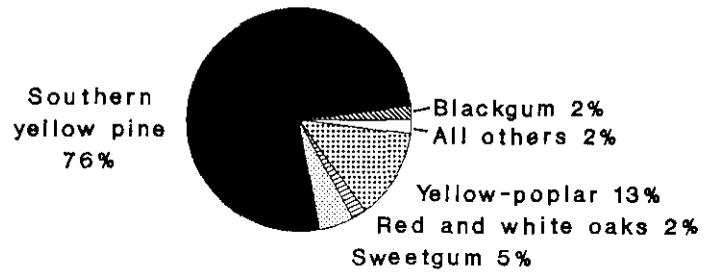


Figure 4--Veneer-log receipts by species, 1988.

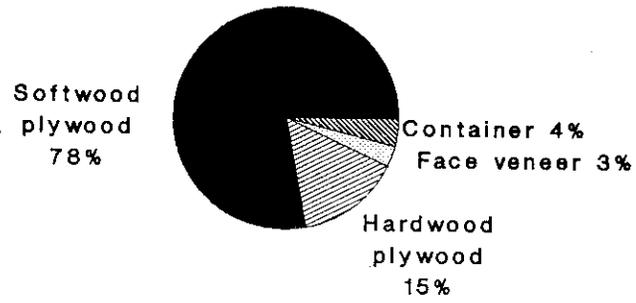


Figure 5--Veneer-log production by product, 1988.

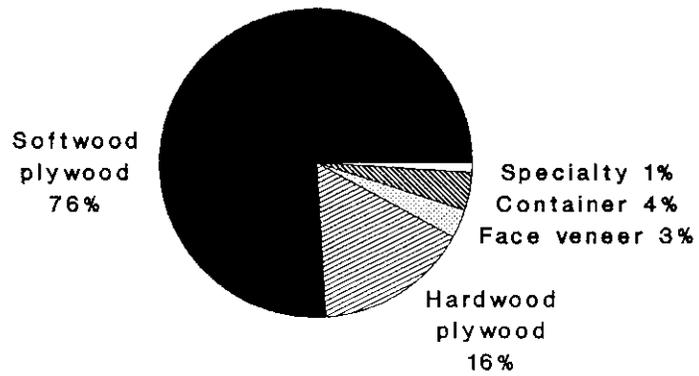
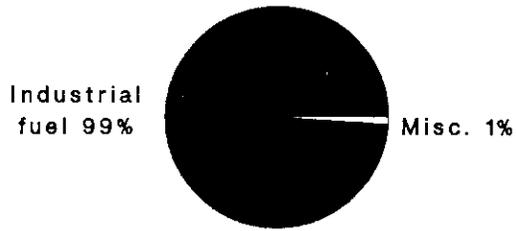


Figure 6--Veneer-log receipts by product, 1988.

Softwood



Hardwood

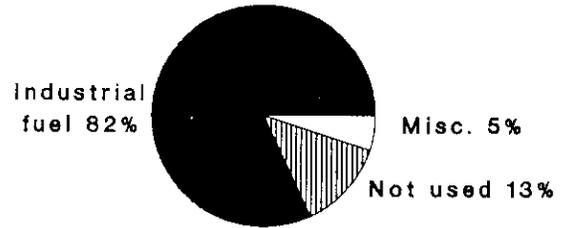
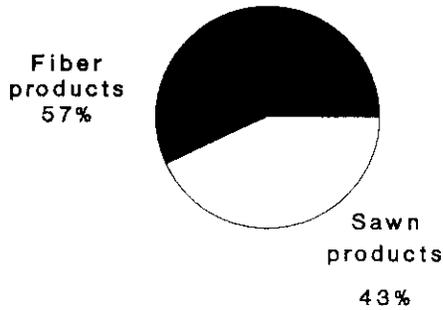


Figure 7--Use of bark residues generated by the veneer industry in the Southeast, 1988.

Softwood



Hardwood

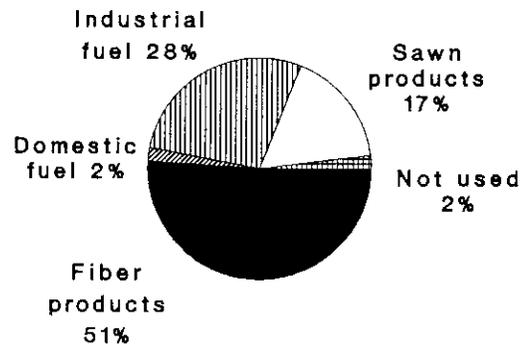
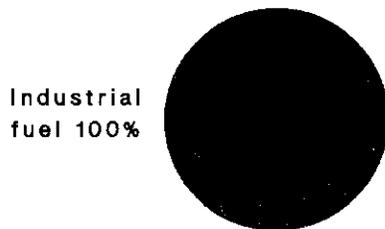


Figure 8--Use of coarse residues generated by the veneer industry in the Southeast, 1988.

Softwood



Hardwood

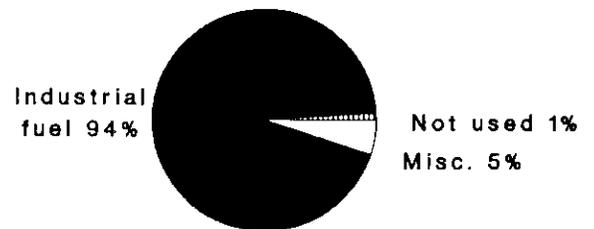


Figure 9--Use of fine residues generated by the veneer industry in the Southeast, 1988.

Table 1--Veneer-log production in the Southeast, by State and species group, 1988

State	Softwood	Hardwood	All species
<u>Thousand board feet^a</u>			
Florida	117,579	6,790	124,369
Georgia	335,334	81,786	417,120
North Carolina	304,015	114,728	418,743
South Carolina	270,998	68,566	339,564
Virginia	45,450	38,111	83,561
All States	1,073,376	309,981	1,383,357

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

Table 2--Veneer-log receipts in the Southeast, by State and species group, 1988

State	Softwood	Hardwood	All species
<u>Thousand board feet^a</u>			
Florida	140,607	7,500	148,107
Georgia	335,107	95,118	430,225
North Carolina	282,268	143,965	426,233
South Carolina	263,452	74,612	338,064
Virginia	89,729	25,090	114,819
All States	1,111,163	346,285	1,457,448

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

Table 3--Veneer-log production in the Southeast, by species and product, 1988

Species	Softwood plywood	Hardwood plywood	Face veneer	Container veneer	Specialty veneer	All products
Thousand board feet ^a						
Southern yellow pine	1,073,361	--	--	1,148	--	1,074,509
Other softwoods	15	--	--	632	--	647
Ash	--	83	696	1,968	--	2,747
Basswood	--	1,393	--	--	--	1,393
Beech	--	1,026	--	1,081	--	2,107
Black cherry	--	--	488	98	--	586
Blackgum	--	11,026	2,003	6,700	--	19,729
Black walnut	--	--	445	--	--	445
Cottonwood	--	1,026	--	--	--	1,026
Elm	--	1,026	162	582	--	1,770
Hickory	--	66	670	98	--	834
Red oaks	--	8,222	9,208	2,151	--	19,581
Soft maple	--	1,298	--	1,210	--	2,508
Hard maple	--	140	670	--	--	810
Sweetgum	--	38,489	7,932	22,157	--	68,578
Sycamore	--	3,426	54	543	--	4,023
White oaks	--	6,246	3,122	804	--	10,172
Yellow birch	--	549	14	--	--	563
Yellow-poplar	--	133,198	11,758	19,103	--	164,059
Other hardwoods	--	--	7,270	--	--	7,270
Foreign	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total species	1,073,376	207,214	44,492	58,275	--	1,383,357

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

Table 4--Veneer-log receipts in the Southeast, by species and product, 1988

Species	Softwood plywood	Hardwood plywood	Face veneer	Container veneer	Specialty veneer	All products
Thousand board feet ^a						
Southern yellow pine	1,111,147	--	--	1,148	--	1,112,295
Other softwoods	16	--	--	632	--	648
Ash	--	53	1,315	1,969	--	3,337
Basswood	--	1,659	--	--	--	1,659
Beech	--	1,021	--	1,081	--	2,102
Black cherry	--	--	1,734	98	--	1,832
Blackgum	--	11,640	2,003	8,441	--	22,084
Black walnut	--	--	956	--	--	956
Cottonwood	--	1,021	--	--	--	1,021
Elm	--	1,021	191	587	--	1,799
Hickory	--	--	1,258	97	--	1,355
Red oaks	--	7,709	12,107	2,151	--	21,967
Soft maple	--	1,298	--	1,213	--	2,511
Hard maple	--	292	1,289	--	122	1,703
Sweetgum	--	40,417	7,932	22,669	--	71,018
Sycamore	--	3,412	54	543	--	4,009
White oaks	--	6,126	5,168	1,630	--	12,924
Yellow birch	--	610	17	--	--	627
Yellow-poplar	--	154,173	12,901	18,866	122	186,062
Other hardwoods	--	--	7,303	--	105	7,408
Foreign	--	--	131	--	--	131
Total species	1,111,163	230,452	54,359	61,125	349	1,457,448

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

Table 5--Veneer-log production in Florida, by species and product, 1988

Species	Softwood plywood	Hardwood plywood	Face veneer	Container veneer	Specialty veneer	All products
Thousand board feet ^a						
Southern yellow pine	117,579	--	--	--	--	117,579
Other softwoods	--	--	--	632	--	632
Ash	--	--	--	1,215	--	1,215
Basswood	--	--	--	--	--	--
Beech	--	--	--	--	--	--
Black cherry	--	--	--	10	--	10
Blackgum	--	172	--	1,362	--	1,534
Black walnut	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cottonwood	--	--	--	--	--	--
Elm	--	--	--	10	--	10
Hickory	--	--	--	20	--	20
Red oaks	--	--	--	59	--	59
Soft maple	--	--	--	612	--	612
Hard maple	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetgum	--	366	--	1,313	--	1,679
Sycamore	--	--	--	10	--	10
White oaks	--	--	--	10	--	10
Yellow birch	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellow-poplar	--	412	--	587	--	999
Other hardwoods	--	--	--	--	--	--
Foreign	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total species	117,579	950	--	5,840	--	124,369

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

Table 6--Veneer-log receipts in Florida, by species and product, 1988

Species	Softwood plywood	Hardwood plywood	Face veneer	Container veneer	Specialty veneer	All products
Thousand board feet ^a						
Southern yellow pine	140,607	--	--	--	--	140,607
Other softwoods	--	--	--	632	--	632
Ash	--	--	--	1,215	--	1,215
Basswood	--	--	--	--	--	--
Beech	--	--	--	--	--	--
Black cherry	--	--	--	--	--	--
Blackgum	--	344	--	1,215	--	1,559
Black walnut	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cottonwood	--	--	--	--	--	--
Elm	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hickory	--	--	--	--	--	--
Red oaks	--	--	--	--	--	--
Soft maple	--	--	--	583	--	583
Hard maple	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetgum	--	917	--	1,215	--	2,132
Sycamore	--	--	--	--	--	--
White oaks	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellow birch	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellow-poplar	--	1,379	--	--	--	1,379
Other hardwoods	--	--	--	--	--	--
Foreign	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total species	140,607	2,640	--	4,860	--	148,107

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

Table 7--Veneer-log production in Georgia, by species and product, 1988

Species	Softwood plywood	Hardwood plywood	Face veneer	Container veneer	Specialty veneer	All products
<u>Thousand board feet^a</u>						
Southern yellow pine	335,334	--	--	--	--	335,334
Other softwoods	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ash	--	--	122	679	--	801
Basswood	--	--	--	--	--	--
Beech	--	--	--	1,081	--	1,081
Black cherry	--	--	--	88	--	88
Blackgum	--	695	1,723	3,473	--	5,891
Black walnut	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cottonwood	--	--	--	--	--	--
Elm	--	--	122	34	--	156
Hickory	--	--	122	78	--	200
Red oaks	--	--	3,305	1,315	--	4,620
Soft maple	--	--	--	116	--	116
Hard maple	--	--	136	--	--	136
Sweetgum	--	1,154	5,734	9,315	--	16,203
Sycamore	--	--	14	87	--	101
White oaks	--	--	433	639	--	1,072
Yellow birch	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellow-poplar	--	33,790	5,198	11,694	--	50,682
Other hardwoods	--	--	639	--	--	639
Foreign	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total species	335,334	35,639	17,548	28,599	--	417,120

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

Table 8--Veneer-log receipts in Georgia, by species and product, 1988

Species	Softwood plywood	Hardwood plywood	Face veneer	Container veneer	Specialty veneer	All products
<u>Thousand board feet^a</u>						
Southern yellow pine	335,107	--	--	--	--	335,107
Other softwoods	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ash	--	--	108	662	--	770
Basswood	--	--	--	--	--	--
Beech	--	--	--	1,081	--	1,081
Black cherry	--	--	--	98	--	98
Blackgum	--	108	1,625	5,930	--	7,663
Black walnut	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cottonwood	--	--	--	--	--	--
Elm	--	--	108	49	--	157
Hickory	--	--	108	97	--	205
Red oaks	--	--	1,300	1,373	--	2,673
Soft maple	--	--	--	145	--	145
Hard maple	--	--	108	--	--	108
Sweetgum	--	--	4,962	10,852	--	15,814
Sycamore	--	--	--	97	--	97
White oaks	--	--	433	1,475	--	1,908
Yellow birch	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellow-poplar	--	42,930	8,404	13,065	--	64,399
Other hardwoods	--	--	--	--	--	--
Foreign	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total species	335,107	43,038	17,156	34,924	--	430,225

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

Table 9--Veneer-log production in North Carolina, by species and product, 1988

Species	Softwood plywood	Hardwood plywood	Face veneer	Container veneer	Specialty veneer	All products
<u>Thousand board feet^a</u>						
Southern yellow pine	304,015	--	--	--	--	304,015
Other softwoods	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ash	--	53	198	--	--	251
Basswood	--	465	--	--	--	465
Beech	--	477	--	--	--	477
Black cherry	--	--	273	--	--	273
Blackgum	--	8,934	--	535	--	9,469
Black walnut	--	--	273	--	--	273
Cottonwood	--	477	--	--	--	477
Elm	--	477	--	446	--	923
Hickory	--	66	277	--	--	343
Red oaks	--	6,173	817	112	--	7,102
Soft maple	--	1,298	--	482	--	1,780
Hard maple	--	140	275	--	--	415
Sweetgum	--	18,241	--	863	--	19,104
Sycamore	--	1,463	--	446	--	1,909
White oaks	--	6,005	915	63	--	6,983
Yellow birch	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellow-poplar	--	61,922	1	2,561	--	64,484
Other hardwoods	--	--	--	--	--	--
Foreign	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total species	304,015	106,191	3,029	5,508	--	418,743

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

Table 10--Veneer-log receipts in North Carolina, by species and product, 1988

Species	Softwood plywood	Hardwood plywood	Face veneer	Container veneer	Specialty veneer	All products
<u>Thousand board feet^a</u>						
Southern yellow pine	282,268	--	--	--	--	282,268
Other softwoods	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ash	--	53	635	--	--	688
Basswood	--	1,659	--	--	--	1,659
Beech	--	411	--	--	--	411
Black cherry	--	--	910	--	--	910
Blackgum	--	9,555	--	446	--	10,001
Black walnut	--	--	910	--	--	910
Cottonwood	--	411	--	--	--	411
Elm	--	411	--	446	--	857
Hickory	--	--	910	--	--	910
Red oaks	--	5,660	2,347	94	--	8,101
Soft maple	--	1,298	--	446	--	1,744
Hard maple	--	292	944	--	--	1,236
Sweetgum	--	18,066	--	446	--	18,512
Sycamore	--	1,266	--	446	--	1,712
White oaks	--	6,005	2,280	63	--	8,348
Yellow birch	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellow-poplar	--	85,323	--	2,232	--	87,555
Other hardwoods	--	--	--	--	--	--
Foreign	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total species	282,268	130,410	8,936	4,619	--	426,233

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

Table 11--Veneer-log production in South Carolina, by species and product, 1988

Species	Softwood plywood	Hardwood plywood	Face veneer	Container veneer	Specialty veneer	All products
Thousand board feet ^a						
Southern yellow pine	270,998	--	--	1,148	--	272,146
Other softwoods	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ash	--	--	40	74	--	114
Basswood	--	--	--	--	--	--
Beech	--	549	--	--	--	549
Black cherry	--	--	--	--	--	--
Blackgum	--	1,225	280	717	--	2,222
Black walnut	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cottonwood	--	549	--	--	--	549
Elm	--	549	40	92	--	681
Hickory	--	--	40	--	--	40
Red oaks	--	2,049	3,419	665	--	6,133
Soft maple	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hard maple	--	--	80	--	--	80
Sweetgum	--	17,286	2,198	8,962	--	28,446
Sycamore	--	1,963	40	--	--	2,003
White oaks	--	121	--	92	--	213
Yellow birch	--	549	--	--	--	549
Yellow-poplar	--	10,891	6,559	1,768	--	19,218
Other hardwoods	--	--	6,621	--	--	6,621
Foreign	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total species	270,998	35,731	19,317	13,518	--	339,564

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

Table 12--Veneer-log receipts in South Carolina, by species and product, 1988

Species	Softwood plywood	Hardwood plywood	Face veneer	Container veneer	Specialty veneer	All products
Thousand board feet ^a						
Southern yellow pine	263,452	--	--	1,148	--	264,600
Other softwoods	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ash	--	--	54	92	--	146
Basswood	--	--	--	--	--	--
Beech	--	610	--	--	--	610
Black cherry	--	--	--	--	--	--
Blackgum	--	1,633	378	850	--	2,861
Black walnut	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cottonwood	--	610	--	--	--	610
Elm	--	610	54	92	--	756
Hickory	--	--	54	--	--	54
Red oaks	--	2,049	5,937	684	--	8,670
Soft maple	--	--	--	39	--	39
Hard maple	--	--	108	--	--	108
Sweetgum	--	18,550	2,970	10,156	--	31,676
Sycamore	--	2,146	54	--	--	2,200
White oaks	--	121	--	92	--	213
Yellow birch	--	610	--	--	--	610
Yellow-poplar	--	11,035	4,497	2,093	--	17,625
Other hardwoods	--	--	7,286	--	--	7,286
Foreign	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total species	263,452	37,974	21,392	15,246	--	338,064

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

Table 13--Veneer-log production in Virginia, by species and product, 1988

Species	Softwood plywood	Hardwood plywood	Face veneer	Container veneer	Specialty veneer	All products
<u>Thousand board feet^a</u>						
Southern yellow pine	45,435	--	--	--	--	45,435
Other softwoods	15	--	--	--	--	15
Ash	--	30	336	--	--	366
Basswood	--	928	--	--	--	928
Beech	--	--	--	--	--	--
Black cherry	--	--	215	--	--	215
Blackgum	--	--	--	613	--	613
Black walnut	--	--	172	--	--	172
Cottonwood	--	--	--	--	--	--
Elm	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hickory	--	--	231	--	--	231
Red oaks	--	--	1,667	--	--	1,667
Soft maple	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hard maple	--	--	179	--	--	179
Sweetgum	--	1,442	--	1,704	--	3,146
Sycamore	--	--	--	--	--	--
White oaks	--	120	1,774	--	--	1,894
Yellow birch	--	--	14	--	--	14
Yellow-poplar	--	26,183	--	2,493	--	28,676
Other hardwoods	--	--	10	--	--	10
Foreign	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total species	45,450	28,703	4,598	4,810	--	83,561

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

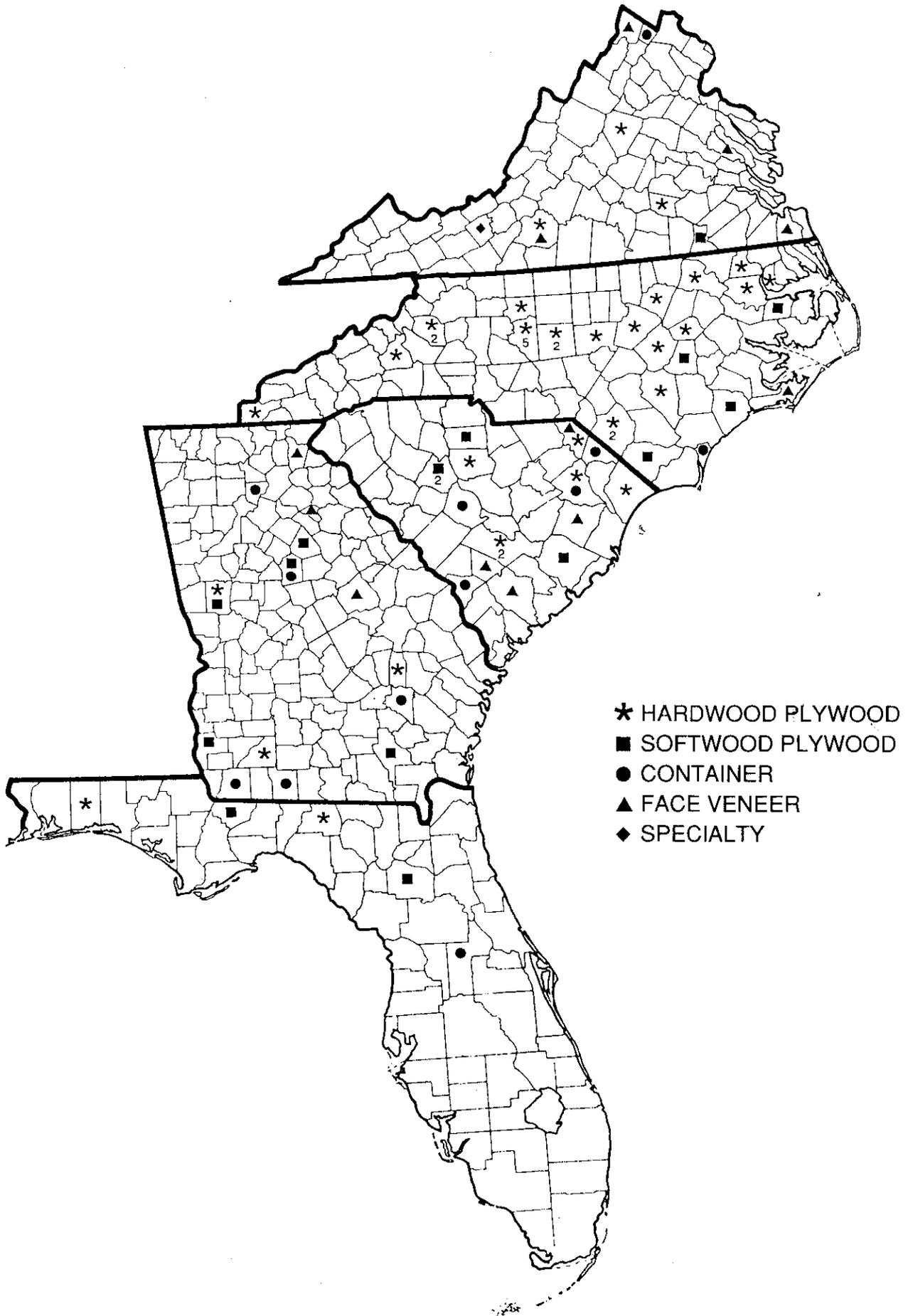
Table 14--Veneer-log receipts in Virginia, by species and product, 1988

Species	Softwood plywood	Hardwood plywood	Face veneer	Container veneer	Specialty veneer	All products
<u>Thousand board feet^a</u>						
Southern yellow pine	89,713	--	--	--	--	89,713
Other softwoods	16	--	--	--	--	16
Ash	--	--	518	--	--	518
Basswood	--	--	--	--	--	--
Beech	--	--	--	--	--	--
Black cherry	--	--	824	--	--	824
Blackgum	--	--	--	--	--	--
Black walnut	--	--	46	--	--	46
Cottonwood	--	--	--	--	--	--
Elm	--	--	29	--	--	29
Hickory	--	--	186	--	--	186
Red oaks	--	--	2,523	--	--	2,523
Soft maple	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hard maple	--	--	129	--	122	251
Sweetgum	--	2,884	--	--	--	2,884
Sycamore	--	--	--	--	--	--
White oaks	--	--	2,455	--	--	2,455
Yellow birch	--	--	17	--	--	17
Yellow-poplar	--	13,506	--	1,476	122	15,104
Other hardwoods	--	--	17	--	105	122
Foreign	--	--	131	--	--	131
Total species	89,729	16,390	6,875	1,476	349	114,819

^aInternational 1/4-inch rule.

Table 15--Use of residues generated by the veneer industry in the Southeast

Residues	Bark		Coarse		Fine	
	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood
<u>Percent</u>						
Fiber products	--	--	57	51	--	--
Particleboard	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sawn products	--	--	43	17	--	--
Industrial fuel	99	82	--	28	100	94
Domestic fuel	--	--	--	1	--	--
Miscellaneous	1	5	--	1	--	5
Not used	--	13	--	2	--	1



The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is dedicated to the principle of multiple use management of the Nation's forest resources for sustained yields of wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation. Through forestry research, cooperation with the States and private forest owners, and management of the National Forests and National Grasslands, it strives – as directed by Congress – to provide increasingly greater service to a growing Nation.

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Hutchins, Cecil C., Jr., 1990. Veneer log production and receipts in the Southeast, 1988. Resour. Bull. SE-112. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southeastern Forest Experiment Station. 15 pp.

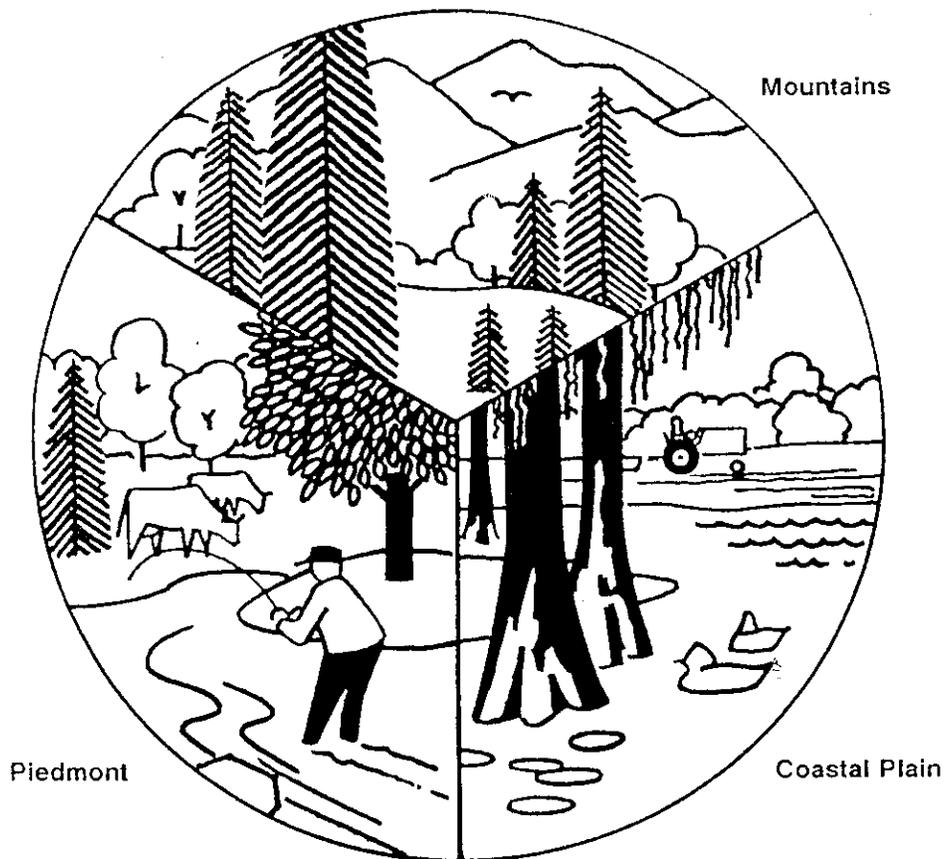
In 1988, almost 1.4 billion board feet of veneer logs were harvested in the Southeast, while 1.5 billion board feet were processed. Softwood accounted for almost 78 percent of production and for 76 percent of receipts. There were 79 veneer mills operating in 1988. Softwood plywood was a major product. Nearly all the residues were used.

Keywords: Veneer logs, production, receipts, products, residues.

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Southeastern Forest Experiment Station

Established 1921

The Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, headquartered in Asheville, North Carolina, is one of the eight regional Experiment Stations, and the Forest Products Laboratory, that make up the Forest Service research organization.

RESEARCH MISSION:

To acquire the knowledge, develop the technology, and disseminate the research findings required to manage the Southeast's forest resources in ways that satisfy demands of goods and services while maintaining a quality environment.

RESEARCH LOCATIONS:

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 Holt Walton, Vienna, GA
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 Bent Creek, Asheville, NC
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 Scull Shoals, Athens, GA
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 Olustee, Olustee, FL