U. S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service Resource Bulletin SO-47

Midsouth Veneer Industries, 1972

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Southern Forest Experiment Station
Forest Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
1974

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In 1972 the Midsouth States harvested 2.3 billion board feet (International ¼-inch rule) of veneer logs. Softwood output, mainly pine, rose to 2.1 billion feet, and hardwood dropped to 162 million board feet. The 101 veneer plants (fig. 1) in the region processed a total of 2.2 billion board feet.

Veneer manufacturing, once important to the South as a hardwood industry, has now become an important softwood industry. Through 1963 the Midsouth produced only hardwood veneer. Today the region processes mostly pine. This change resulted from the introduction and expansion of southern pine plywood plants. The first such mill became operational in December 1963. Since then plywood production has grown into one of the major industries in the Midsouth, and the hardwood veneer industry has declined in both volume processed and number of plants.

This report is based on a 100-percent canvass of veneer mills in operation in 1972. The names and locations of these plants are given in tables

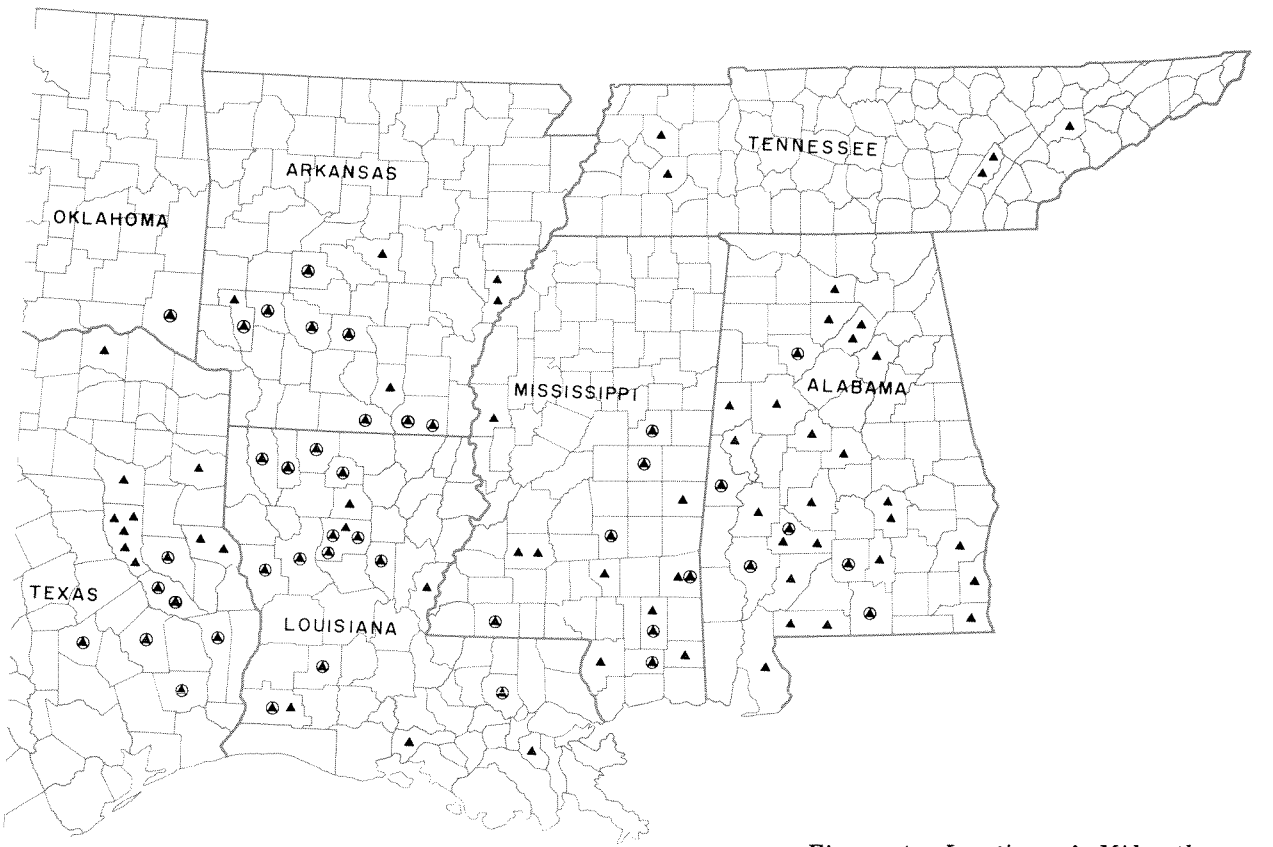

Figure 1.—*Location of Midsouth veneer plants, 1972. Triangles indicate hardwood veneer plants; circled triangles indicate southern pine veneer plants.*

6 through 12. To assess trends in the veneer industry, log production and receipts were compared with data from studies in 1963[1] and 1969[2].

Hardwood Veneer

Midsouth forests supplied 162 million board feet of hardwood veneer logs in 1972, some 25 percent less than in 1969. During the same period the number of hardwood veneer plants decreased by 27 percent; only 59 remain in operation.

Hardwood veneer plants are classified as container or standard plants. The 35 container plants, which manufacture veneer for boxes, baskets, and hampers, processed 50 percent of hardwood logs peeled in the Midsouth. These plants can use logs of smaller diameter and poorer quality than those processed by standard veneer plants. The number of container mills was reduced by nine in the last 3 years. Standard plants, once the major consumer of hardwood veneer logs, manufacture veneer for furniture, doors, and woodenware. The number of standard mills has dropped from 37 to 24 since 1969.

The species distribution of hardwood veneer logs harvested in the Midsouth changed markedly in the last decade (fig. 2). In 1963, soft-textured species such as sweetgum, tupelo, cottonwood, and yellow-poplar, made up 85 percent of the hardwood output. In 1972, they accounted for only 63 percent. The decline is due to shortages of timber in the size desired rather than a change in the species preference of manufacturers. Oak accounted for more than half the volume from firm-textured species; pecan was second in volume. In the past few years these woods have had a wider acceptance by the furniture industry.

Alabama leads the Midsouth in the production of hardwood veneer logs (fig. 3) and in mill receipts. Mississippi is a distant second in both categories; Texas is third. Oklahoma, which has no hardwood veneer plant, increased its log output by 18 percent since 1969. In all other Midsouth States, hardwood veneer log harvests declined. Texas had the largest percentage reduction at 39 percent; Alabama fell the most in volume.

1 Christopher, J. F., and Sternitzke, H. S. **Midsouth veneer industry.** USDA For. Serv. Resour. Bull. SO-5, 12 p. South. For. Exp. Stn., New Orleans, La. 1964.

2 Sternitzke, H. S. **Midsouth veneer log production.** USDA For. Serv. Resour. Bull. SO-25, 9 p. South. For. Exp. Stn., New Orleans, La. 1971.

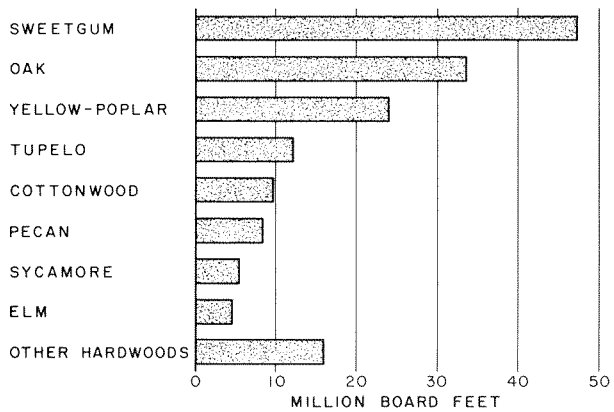

Figure 2.—*Hardwood veneer log output by species, 1972.*

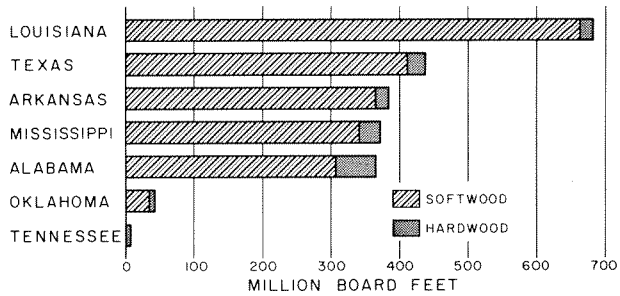

Figure 3.—*Veneer log output by State, 1972.*

In the past the Midsouth has been a net importer of hardwood logs for veneer manufacturing. But in 1972 the region exported over 12 million board feet to plants in nine States in the North and East and imported 6.5 million board feet from five States, Africa, and South America. These figures represent a slight increase in exports and a 73 percent decrease in imports since 1969. The largest decrease in imports was in foreign logs.

Softwood Veneer

In 1963 only 2 percent of the Midsouth's veneer log output was pine. By 1969 more than 80 percent was pine, and in 1972 pine accounted for 93 percent of the region's veneer harvest.

Some 2.1 billion board feet of pine veneer logs was produced in 1972. Production has increased 89 percent since 1969, and it is 525 times greater than the 1963 harvest of 4 million board feet. The Midsouth supplied virtually all the softwood veneer logs processed in the region; less than 0.5 million board feet was imported from Florida.

The Midsouth States also exported almost 38 million board feet to Georgia and Florida.

Over 99 percent of the pine veneer logs produced in the Midsouth was made into certified softwood plywood meeting designated nationwide commercial standards. The rest was processed at hardwood veneer plants, mostly container mills, or used as inlays at standard mills.

The Nation's softwood plywood industry produced a record 18.3 billion square feet (3/8-inch basis) of plywood in 1972. It is estimated that the Midsouth contributed more than one-fifth of the national output. Five of the top eight softwood plywood producing States were located in the Midsouth, and Louisiana passed California to become the third largest producer of plywood in the United States.

The 42 pine plywood plants in the Midsouth processed an average of 49 million board feet each. The number of plants ranged from 13 in Louisiana to one in Oklahoma. Tennessee, which is dominated by hardwood forests, is the only Midsouth State without a pine plywood plant.

Veneer Residues

The veneer plants in the Midsouth generated 171 million cubic feet of wood residues in 1972. Coarse residues such as cores and cull pieces suitable for conversion into pulp chips accounted for 96 percent of the volume. Almost 81 percent was actually chipped and used by pulpmills, 3 percent was burned as industrial and domestic fuel, and 12 percent was used in miscellaneous products such as posts, studs, animal bedding, and soil mulch. The remaining 4 percent was waste.

Table 1. *Veneer log production by State and species, 1972*

Species	All States	Alabama	Arkansas	Louisiana	Mississippi	Oklahoma	Tennessee	Texas
				Thousand board feet[1]				
Softwood:								
Southern pine	2,120,850	303,704	365,274	662,802	340,049	37,877	...	411,144
Cypress	4,350	2,908	...	...	1,442	...	...	...
Total	2,125,200	306,612	365,274	662,802	341,491	37,877	...	411,144
Hardwood:								
Sweetgum	47,349	20,241	4,618	5,344	8,013	...	1,586	7,547
Yellow-poplar	23,994	14,187	396	33	6,610	...	2,768	...
Red oak	23,143	8,354	4,588	4,555	982	...	373	4,291
Tupelo and blackgum	12,157	5,942	286	2,092	2,558	...	43	1,236
White oak	10,564	2,601	3,046	2,113	492	...	310	2,002
Cottonwood	9,937	539	1,933	860	3,599	1,108	1,251	647
Pecan	8,484	139	744	1,038	2,188	2,906	457	1,012
Sycamore	5,567	1,428	1,429	208	1,825	...	404	273
Elm	4,765	787	715	312	1,410	125	410	1,006
Hackberry	2,195	636	78	209	670	63	...	539
Hickory	2,138	532	185	680	110	...	355	276
Sweetbay	2,074	1,404	1	106	546	...	...	17
Magnolia	1,991	1,693	1	73	148	...	...	76
Maple	1,859	1,198	93	44	204	...	269	51
Willow	1,858	...	932	139	745	...	...	42
Beech	1,808	589	46	398	234	...	...	541
Ash	1,162	151	...	195	682	...	...	134
Walnut	451	...	5	1	...	76	364	5
Basswood	203	107	3	1	70	...	...	22
Boxelder	148	28	63	1	51	...	...	5
River birch	143	115	10	1	...	...	...	17
Locust	38	...	...	1	32	...	...	5
Persimmon	20	...	...	...	20	...	...	...
Cherry	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	5
Total	162,054	60,671	19,172	18,405	31,189	4,278	8,590	19,749
All species	2,287,254	367,283	384,446	681,207	372,680	42,155	8,590	430,893

1 International 1/4-inch rule.

Table 2. *Veneer log receipts by State and species, 1972*

Species	All States	Alabama	Arkansas and Oklahoma	Louisiana	Mississippi	Tennessee	Texas
			Thousand board feet[1]				
Softwood:							
Southern pine	2,087,876	282,884	461,007	595,183	365,414	...	383,388
Cypress	45	...	45	...	...	...	...
Total	2,087,921	282,884	461,052	595,183	365,414	...	383,388
Hardwood:							
Sweetgum	48,143	20,571	4,582	5,093	7,939	2,050	7,908
Red oak	23,537	8,922	4,081	3,311	908	51	6,264
Yellow-poplar	22,464	14,410	...	26	7,050	978	...
Tupelo and blackgum	12,955	6,620	268	1,981	2,855	...	1,231
White oak	10,395	2,593	2,803	1,744	637	...	2,618
Cottonwood	9,368	521	3,088	2,001	1,320	543	1,895
Sycamore	5,630	1,536	760	23	2,652	361	298
Elm	4,823	834	568	153	1,622	410	1,236
Sweetbay	2,197	1,505	...	91	582	...	19
Hackberry	2,195	568	507	126	335	...	659
Magnolia	2,099	1,800	...	60	150	...	89
Hickory	1,883	552	153	284	121	70	703
Beech	1,875	632	...	346	258	...	639
Willow	1,858	...	592	74	1,148	...	44
Maple	1,769	1,245	124	40	156	140	64
Pecan	1,688	...	599	672	156	255	6
Ash	1,236	195	268	38	575	...	160
Cherry	390	...	...	...	...	384	6
Basswood	218	122	...	...	70	...	26
Boxelder	148	28	114	...	...	...	6
River birch	134	115	...	...	...	...	19
Locust	38	...	32	...	...	...	6
Persimmon	20	...	20	...	...	...	...
Walnut	6	...	...	...	...	...	6
Mahogany	1,028	...	...	...	...	1,028	...
Total	156,097	62,769	18,559	16,063	28,534	6,270	23,902
All species	2,244,018	345,653	479,611	611,246	393,948	6,270	407,290

[1] International 1/4-inch rule.

Table 3. *Veneer log movement by State, 1972*

State	Logged and used in State	Outgoing shipments	Incoming receipts	Total log receipts
	Thousand board feet[1]			
Alabama	322,281	45,002	23,372	345,653
Arkansas[2]	410,878	15,723	68,733	479,611
Louisiana	548,849	132,358	62,397	611,246
Mississippi	345,039	27,641	48,909	393,948
Tennessee	4,015	4,575	2,255	6,270
Texas	368,256	62,637	39,034	407,290
Total	1,999,318	287,936	244,700	2,244,018

[1] International 1/4-inch rule.
[2] Arkansas and Oklahoma combined.

Table 4. *Veneer log movement by species, 1972*

Species	Logged in Midsouth			Midsouth imports	Net used in Midsouth
	Total	Retained	Exported		
	Thousand board feet[1]				
Softwood	2,125,200	2,087,446	37,754	475	2,087,921
Sweetgum	47,349	47,080	269	1,063	48,143
Oak	33,707	33,024	683	908	33,932
Yellow-poplar	23,994	21,222	2,772	1,242	22,464
Tupelo and blackgum	12,157	11,972	185	983	12,955
Cottonwood	9,937	9,119	818	249	9,368
Other hardwoods	34,910	27,180	7,730	1,027	28,207
Mahogany	...	...	...	1,028	1,028
All species	2,287,254	2,237,043	50,211	6,975	2,244,018

[1] International 1/4-inch rule.

Table 5. *Veneer plant residues not used, 1972*

State	All types	Coarse[1]	Fine
	Thousand cubic feet		
Alabama	4,874	4,443	431
Arkansas[2]	364	314	50
Louisiana	699	204	495
Mississippi	154	29	125
Tennessee	26	25	1
Texas	444	392	52
Total	6,561	5,407	1,154

[1] Coarse residues include cores and other material generally suitable for chipping.
[2] Arkansas and Oklahoma combined.

Table 6. *Alabama veneer plants*

County	Type[1]	Firm	Location
Baldwin	O	Bacon-McMillan Manufacturing Co.	Stockton
Barbour	C	Alabama Georgia Veneer Co.	Eufaula
Bibb	O	Fox Lumber Co., Inc.	Centreville
Blount	C	Marsh & Standridge Basket Factory	Nectar
	C	Oneonta Basket Factory	Oneonta
Butler	P	Union Camp Corp.	Chapman
Chilton	C	Jemison Basket Co.	Jemison
Clarke	P	Scotch Plywood Co.	Fulton
Covington	P	Dixon Plywood	Andalusia
Crenshaw	C	H.E. Browder Veneer Co.	Bradleyton
Cullman	C	E. Malchow & Sons	Cullman
Dallas	O	Howell Veneer Co.	Selma
Escambia	O	Harold Bros. Veneer Co., Inc.	East Brewton
	C	T.R. Miller Mill Co., Inc.	Brewton
Greene	C	Sumter Veneer Co.	Eutaw
Henry	O	Dixie Veneer Co.	Abbeville
Houston	O	Howell Plywood Corp.	Dothan
Marengo	C	A.R. Taylor Veneer Co., Inc.	Demopolis
Monroe	C	Alabama Veneer & Panel Co.	Mexia
Montgomery	C	Browder Veneer Works, Inc.	Montgomery
	C	Capital Veneer Works, Inc.	Montgomery
Morgan	C	Decatur Box & Basket Co., Inc.	Decatur
Pickens	C	Aliceville Veneer, Inc.	Aliceville
St. Clair	C	Fairmont Basket Works, Inc.	Springville
Sumter	P	Sumter Plywood Corp.	Livingston
Tuscaloosa	O	Thompson & Swaim Veneer, Inc.	Tuscaloosa
Walker	P	Birmingham Forest Products, Inc.	Cordova
Wilcox	C	Browder Veneer Co., Inc.	Camden
	P	MacMillan Bloedel Products, Inc.	Pine Hill
	O	Millers Bend Lumber Co.	Pine Hill

[1] C indicates plants producing chiefly container veneer.
O indicates plants producing chiefly commercial and other veneer.
P indicates plants producing chiefly southern pine plywood.

Table 7. *Arkansas veneer plants*

County	Type[1]	Firm	Location
Ashley	P	Georgia Pacific Corp. #1	Crossett
	P	Georgia Pacific Corp., #2	Crossett
Bradley	O	Sykes & Wilson Flooring Co., Inc.	Warren
Clark	P	Arkla Chemical Corp.	Gurdon
Dallas	P	Georgia Pacific Corp.	Fordyce
Garland	P	Weyerhaeuser Co., Mt. Pine	Mt. Pine
Howard	C	Nashville Crate Co.	Nashville
	P	Weyerhaeuser Co., Dierks City	Dierks
Phillips	O	Beisel Veneer Hoop Co.	West Helena
	O	McKnight Plywood Inc.	West Helena
Pike	P	Umpire Timber Products, Inc.[2]	Glenwood
Pulaski	C	Little Rock Crate & Basket Co.	Little Rock
Union	P	Olinkraft, Inc. (Plywood Plant)	Huttig

[1] C indicates plants producing chiefly container veneer.
O indicates plants producing chiefly commercial and other veneer.
P indicates plants producing chiefly southern pine plywood.

[2] Produces green pine veneer for plywood production.

Table 8. *Louisiana veneer plants*

Parish	Type[1]	Firm	Location
Allen	P	Vancouver Plywood Co., Inc.	Oakdale
Bossier	P	Anthony Forest Products Co.	Plain Dealing
Calcasieu	P	Boise Southern Co.	DeQuincy
	C	General Box Co.	Lunita
Claiborne	P	Santiam Southern Co.[2]	Haynesville
Concordia	C	American Box Co.	Clayton
Iberia	O	Freeman Veneer Co., Inc.	Jeanerette
Jackson	O	Louisiana Veneer Co.	Chatham
LaSalle	P	Louisiana Pacific Corp.	Urania
Lincoln	P	Santiam Southern Co.	Ruston
Livingston	P	U.S. Plywood	Holden
Natchitoches	P	Wilmar Plywood, Inc.	Natchitoches
Sabine	P	Vancouver Plywood Co., Inc.	Florien
St. Charles	O	Trans/Match, Inc.	Kenner
Webster	P	Woodard-Walker-Willamette, Inc.	Minden
Winn	P	Louisiana Plywood Corp.	Dodson
	P	Olinkraft, Inc.	Winnfield
	P	Tremont Lumber Co.	Joyce
	O	Winnfield Veneer Co.	Winnfield

[1] C indicates plants producing chiefly container veneer.
O indicates plants producing chiefly commercial and other veneer.
P indicates plants producing chiefly southern pine plywood.

[2] Produces green pine veneer for plywood production.

Table 9. *Mississippi veneer plants*

County	Type[1]	Firm	Location
Amite	P	Georgia Pacific Corp.	Gloster
Copiah	C	Central Box Co.	Crystal Springs
	C	Hazlehurst Box Co.	Hazlehurst
Covington	O	Rhymes Veneer, Inc.	Collins
George	O	Lucedale Veneer Co.	Lucedale
Lauderdale	O	Meridian Plywood, Inc.	Meridian
Neshoba	P	Weyerhaeuser Co.	Philadelphia
Pearl River	C	St. Regis Paper Co., Wirebound Box Division	Picayune
Perry	P	Delta Pine Plywood	Beaumont
	O	Perry County Plywood Corp.	Beaumont
Smith	P	Georgia Pacific Corp.	Taylorsville
Stone	P	International Paper Co.-Wiggins Complex	Wiggins
Washington	C	Chicago Mill & Lumber Co.	Greenville
Wayne	O	The Day Co.	Waynesboro
	P	Scotch Plywood of Mississippi	Waynesboro
Winston	P	Georgia Pacific Corp.	Louisville

[1] C indicates plants producing chiefly container veneer.
O indicates plants producing chiefly commercial and other veneer.
P indicates plants producing chiefly southern pine plywood.

Table 10. *Oklahoma veneer plants*

County	Type[1]	Firm	Location
McCurtain	P	Weyerhaeuser Co.	Wright City

[1] P indicates plants producing chiefly southern pine plywood.

Table 11. *Tennessee veneer plants*

County	Type[1]	Firm	Location
Gibson	C	Dyer Fruit Box Mfg. Co.	Dyer
Knox	O	Foreign & Domestic Veneers, Inc.	Knoxville
Madison	O	Ashby Veneer & Lumber Co.	Jackson
Rhea	C	Gholdston Basket Factory	Dayton
	C	Shipley Basket Mfg. Co.	Dayton

[1]C indicates plants producing chiefly container veneer.
O indicates plants producing chiefly commercial and other veneer.

Table 12. *Texas veneer plants*

County	Type[1]	Firm	Location
Angelina	P	Owens-Illinois, Inc.	Lufkin
	P	Temple Industries, Inc.	Diboll
Cherokee	C	Aber Box & Basket Factory	Jacksonville
	C	Newton-Shank Mfg., Inc.	Jacksonville
	C	Peacock Crate Factory, Inc.	Jacksonville
	C	F. A. Shinalt & Sons	Turney
	C	Slover Crate & Lumber, Inc.	Rusk
Hardin	P	Kirby Lumber Corp.	Silsbee
Harrison	C	Key Bros. Mfg. Co.	Marshall
Jasper	P	Owens-Illinois, Inc.	Jasper
Lamar	C	American Box Co.	Paris
Nacogdoches	P	International Paper Co.	Nacogdoches
Polk	P	Louisiana Pacific Corp.	Corrigan
Shelby	O	E. L. Bruce Co. of Texas	Center
	O	Center Plywood Co.	Center
Smith	C	B. C. Slover Crate Factory	Tyler
Walker	P	Louisiana Pacific Corp.	New Waverly

[1] C indicates plants producing chiefly container veneer.
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1974. Midsouth veneer industries, 1972. South. For. Exp. Stn., New Orleans, La. 11 p. (USDA For. Serv. Resour. Bull. SO-47)

The Midsouth harvested 2.3 billion board feet of veneer logs in 1972. Pine logs accounted for 93 percent of the total. Of the 101 active veneer plants in the region, 42 manufactured southern pine plywood.

Additional keywords: Plywood, log harvest, log receipts.