



Mississippi, 2010

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FOREST INVENTORY & ANALYSIS FACTSHEET



This science update provides an overview of forest resources in Mississippi based on an inventory conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program at the Southern Research Station in cooperation with the Mississippi Forestry Commission. This update compares data from the periodic 2006 survey (field dates 2005 to 2007) with 2010 annualized data. The 2010 annualized data is comprised of 70 percent of the 2006 data and 30 percent new data (collected from 2009 to 2010) to form a "moving average." Growth, removals, and mortality estimates are based only on data collected in 2009 and 2010, or 30 percent of the potential sample plots across the State.

Overview

Mississippi is home to about 19.6 million acres of forest land. Forested area has changed little since 2006, decreasing < 1 percent (table 1). The number of live trees on Mississippi's forest land remains steady at 13.8 billion trees, while net volume and aboveground biomass has increased since 2006. Average annual net growth and average annual mortality of live trees on timberland increased, while average annual removals decreased, though those results should be seen as "preliminary" because of the small sample on which the growth, removals, and mortality numbers are based.



Southern magnolia (*magnolia grandiflora*). (photo by Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org)

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Table 1—Mississippi forest statistics, change between 2006 and 2010^a

Forest statistics	2010 estimate	Sampling error percent	2006 estimate	Sampling error percent	Change since 2006
Forest land					
Area (thousand acres)	19,572.4	0.63	19,622.4	0.61	-0.3
Number of live trees ≥ 1 inch diameter (million trees)	13,838.8	1.46	13,814.0	1.47	0.2
Net volume in live trees ≥ 5 inch diameter (million ft ³)	30,338.5	1.44	29,664.4	1.44	2.3
Net volume of growing stock trees (million ft ³)	26,635.6	1.53	25,887.3	1.54	2.9
All live tree and sapling aboveground biomass (thousand oven-dry tons)	772,557.9	1.31	757,284.0	1.30	2.0
Annual net growth of live trees ≥ 5 inch (million ft ³ /year)	1,811.3	4.94	—	—	—
Annual removals of live trees ≥ 5 inch (million ft ³ /year)	991.7	11.50	—	—	—
Annual mortality of live trees ≥ 5 inch (million ft ³ /year)	403.6	9.12	—	—	—
Timberland					
Area (thousand acres)	19,519.5	0.63	19,557.0	0.62	-0.2
Number of live trees ≥ 1 inch diameter (million trees)	13,822.6	1.47	13,797.6	1.47	0.2
Net volume in live trees ≥ 5 inch diameter (million ft ³)	30,246.8	1.45	29,568.0	1.44	2.2
Net volume of growing stock trees (million ft ³)	26,552.6	1.54	25,800.5	1.54	2.8
All live tree and sapling aboveground biomass (thousand oven-dry tons)	770,380.4	1.31	754,999.0	1.31	2.0
Annual net growth of live trees ≥ 5 inch (million ft ³ /year)	1,819.4	4.92	1,380.9	2.18	24.1
Annual removals of live trees ≥ 5 inch (million ft ³ /year)	991.7	11.50	1,076.4	3.17	-8.5
Annual mortality of live trees ≥ 5 inch (million ft ³ /year)	401.7	9.15	342.7	3.49	14.7

^a Estimates for 2010 are comprised of 70 percent 2006 data and 2 panels, or 30 percent 2010 data. Growth, removals, and mortality estimates for 2010 are comprised of only 2 panels of 2010 data, or 30 percent of a full sample.

— = Growth, removals, and mortality data were not collected on forest land in 2006.



MISSISSIPPI, 2010

Forested Area

Mississippi is divided into five survey units (fig. 1). The total of forested land in all of the survey units is about 19.6 million acres, and accounts for 65 percent of the land area in the State. Timberland area hovered between 16 and 17 million acres from the mid-1930s to the late 1980s. From 1987 through 2006 timberland area increased from 18.6 to 19.6 million acres. Timberland area decreased < 1 percent from 2006 to 2010 (fig. 2). Timberland area remained stable from 2006 to 2010 within the survey units, as well (fig. 3).

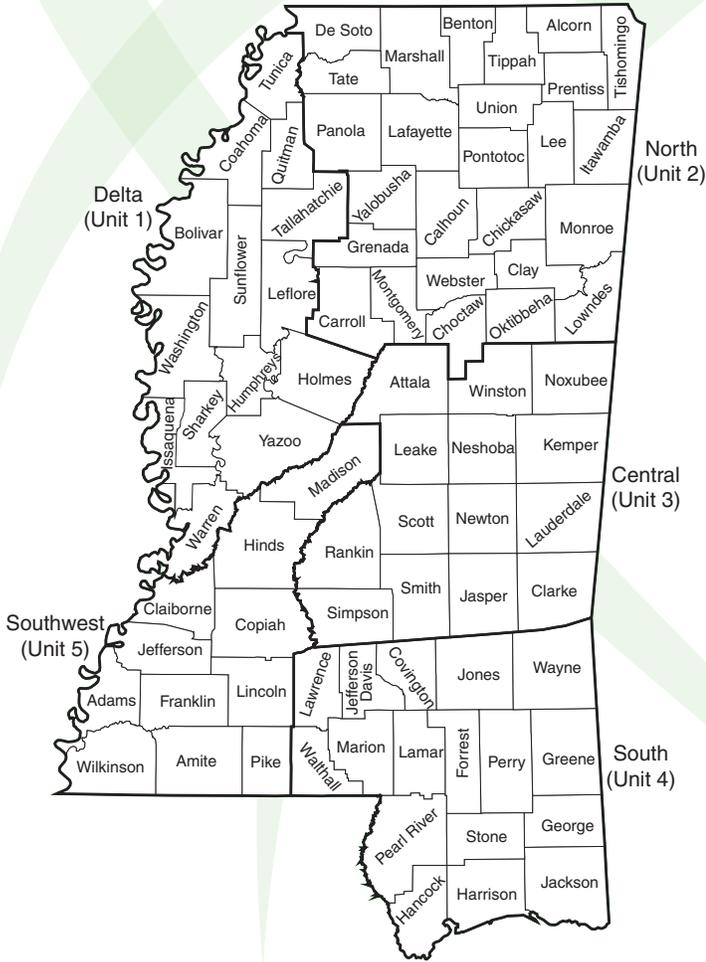


Figure 1—Mississippi counties and FIA survey units.

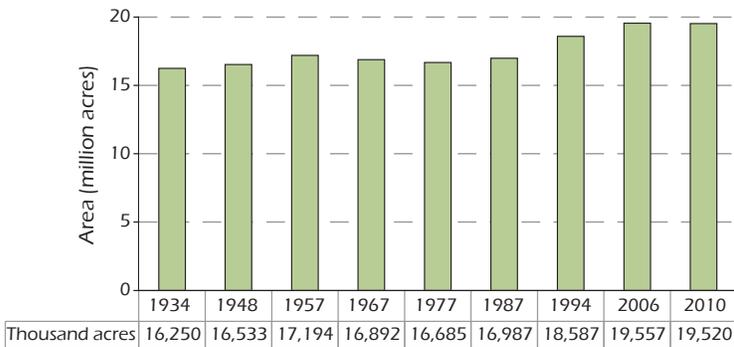


Figure 2—Change in timberland over time in Mississippi.

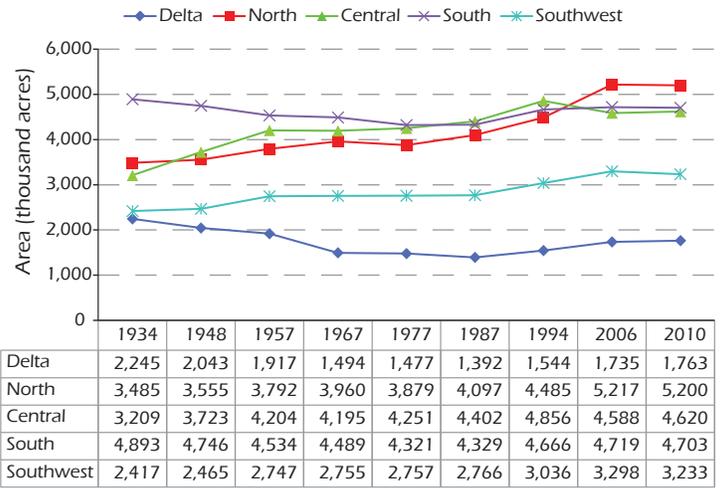


Figure 3—Timberland area change by FIA survey unit and year.

Forest Land Ownership

Privately owned forests constitute 79 percent of Mississippi's forest land. Forest industry and the U.S. Forest Service account for the next largest ownership categories (9 and 7 percent, respectively), and other Federal, State, and local ownerships only comprise a total of 5 percent of Mississippi's forest land (fig. 4). The area of forest land owned by forest industry decreased by nearly 15 percent between 2006 and 2010, a trend that is becoming common across the South as forest industries divest their land holdings.

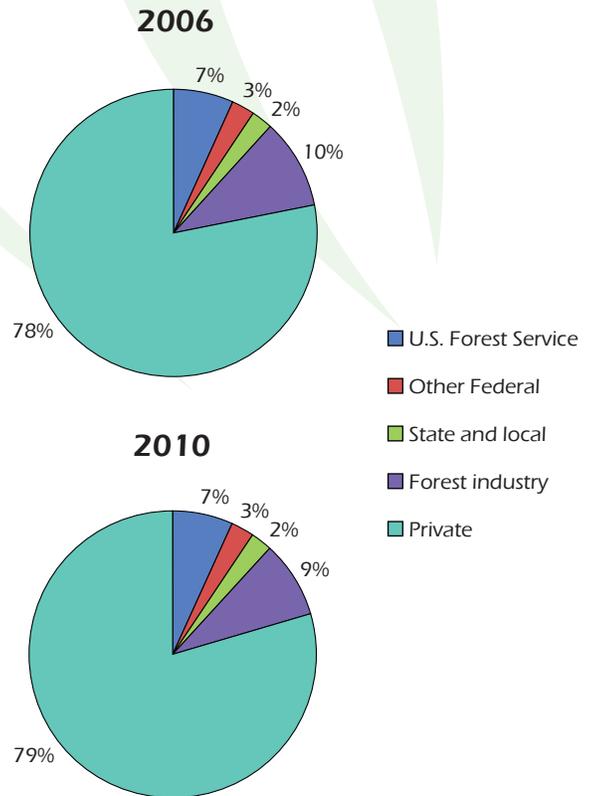


Figure 4—Percentage of forest land by ownership group, Mississippi, 2006 and 2010.



Longleaf pine (*pinus palustris*). (photo by William D. Boyer, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org)

Large-diameter stands comprise > 9 million acres of forest land in Mississippi, while medium- and small-diameter stands comprise about 5 million acres each (fig. 7). No significant change has occurred in the distribution of stand-size classes since 2006.

Forest-Type Composition

The loblolly-shortleaf pine forest-type group occupies the largest proportion of forest land in Mississippi at 7.2 million acres. The next most common forest-type groups are oak-hickory at 5.3 million acres, oak-gum-cypress at 2.6 million acres, and oak-pine at 2.2 million acres (fig. 5). Since 2006, the area of forest land occupied by any given forest-type group has not changed significantly (fig. 6).

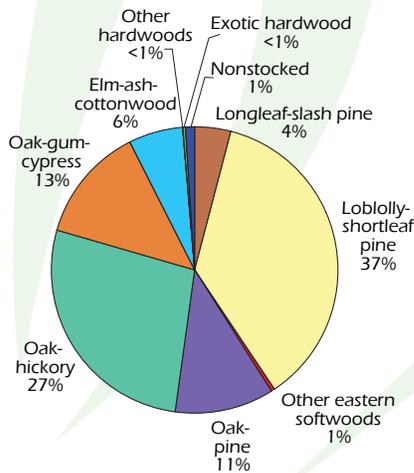


Figure 5—Proportion of forest land by forest-type group, Mississippi, 2010.

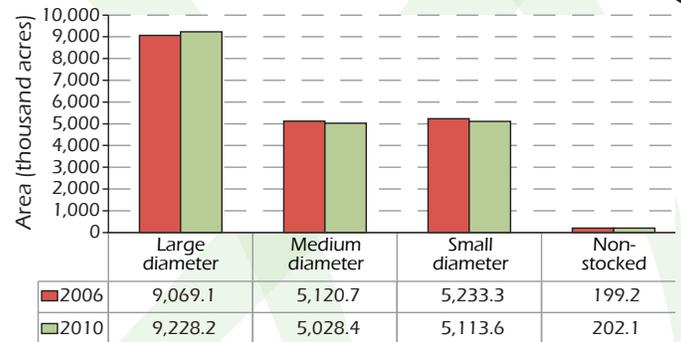


Figure 7—Area of forest land by stand-size class, Mississippi, 2006 and 2010.

Forest Products Industry

Pulpwood and saw logs were the primary roundwood products in 2009 in Mississippi. The combined output of these two products totaled 616 million cubic feet and accounted for 90 percent of the State's total industrial roundwood output. From 2007 to 2009, timber product output from roundwood in Mississippi decreased 209.1 million cubic feet, or 23 percent (table 2). Softwood roundwood product output decreased 22 percent, while hardwood roundwood products decreased 27 percent (fig. 8). The number of mills decreased by 10 percent to 73, continuing a downward trend (fig. 9).

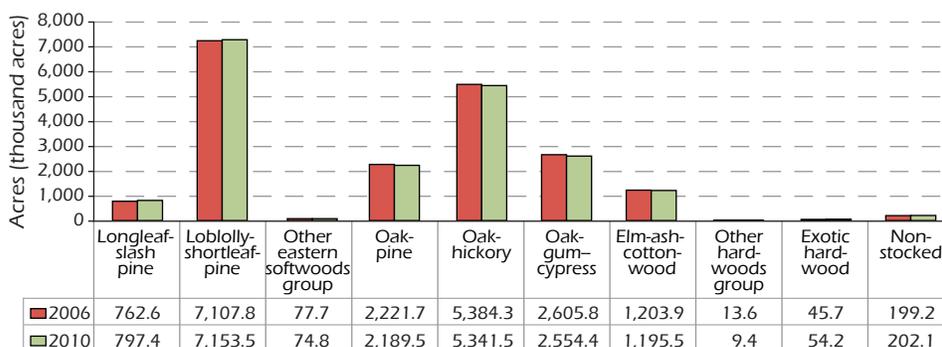


Figure 6—Area of forest land by forest-type group, Mississippi, 2006 and 2010.

Table 2—Output of industrial products by product and species group, Mississippi, 2007 and 2009

Product and species group	Year		Change ---- thousand cubic feet ----	Change percent
	2007	2009		
Saw logs				
Softwood	300,541	165,049	-135,492	-45.1
Hardwood	78,241	54,541	-23,700	-30.3
Total	378,782	219,590	-159,192	-42.0
Veneer logs				
Softwood	70,675	44,484	-26,191	-37.1
Hardwood	4,967	2,420	-2,547	-51.3
Total	75,642	46,904	-28,738	-38.0
Pulpwood^a				
Softwood	274,250	298,486	24,236	8.8
Hardwood	126,305	97,936	-28,369	-22.5
Total	400,555	396,422	-4,133	-1.0
Composite panels				
Softwood	32,980	17,969	-15,011	-45.5
Hardwood	4,606	526	-4,080	-88.6
Total	37,586	18,495	-19,091	-50.8
Other industrial				
Softwood	1,534	3,433	1,899	123.8
Hardwood	0	195	195	—
Total	1,534	3,628	2,094	136.5
All industrial				
Softwood	679,980	529,421	-150,559	-22.1
Hardwood	214,119	155,618	-58,501	-27.3
Total	894,099	685,039	-209,060	-23.4

— = negligible.

^a Includes roundwood delivered to nonpulp mills, then chipped and sold to pulpmills (2,968,000 cubic feet in 2007 and 4,974,000 cubic feet in 2009).

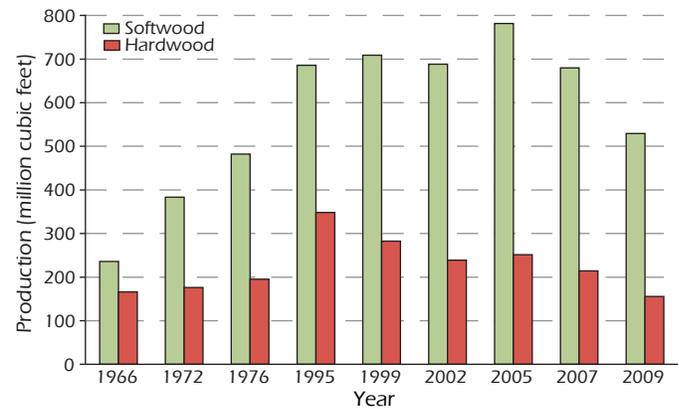


Figure 8—Timber product output from roundwood, softwood, and hardwood, by year, Mississippi.

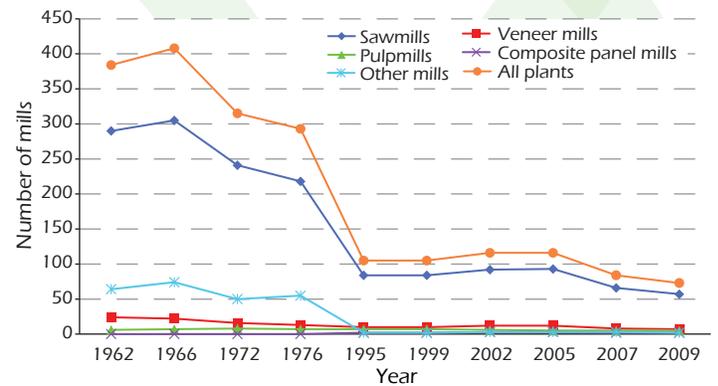


Figure 9—Number of primary wood-using plants by type of mill and year, Mississippi.

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Shortleaf pine (*pinus echinata*). (photo by Franklin Bonner, USFS (ret.), Bugwood.org)

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