

# Georgia's Timber Industry— Timber Product Output and Use, 2011

FOREST INVENTORY & ANALYSIS FACTSHEET

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## Introduction

This science update contains the findings of a 2011 canvass of all primary wood-using plants in Georgia, and presents changes in product output and residue use since 2009. It complements the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) annual inventory of volume and removals from the State's timberland. The canvass was conducted to determine the amount and source of wood receipts and annual timber product drain, by county, in 2011 and to determine interstate and cross-regional movement of industrial roundwood. Only primary wood-using mills were canvassed. Primary mills are those that process roundwood in log or bolt form or as chipped roundwood. Examples of industrial roundwood products are saw logs, pulpwood, veneer logs, poles, and logs used for composite board products. Mills producing products from residues generated at primary and secondary processors were not canvassed. Trees chipped in the woods were included in the estimate of timber drain only if they were delivered to a primary domestic manufacturer.

A 100-percent canvass of all wood processors in Georgia was conducted in 2012 to obtain information for 2011. In addition, roundwood from out-of-State mills known to be using logs or bolts harvested from Georgia timberland was incorporated into Georgia production estimates. Each mill was canvassed by mail or through personal contact at plant locations. Telephone contacts followed mailed questionnaire responses when additional information or

clarification of a response was necessary. In the event of a non-response, data collected in previous surveys were updated using current data collected for mills of similar size, product type, and location. Surveys for all timber products other than pulpwood began in 1961, and are currently conducted every 2 years.

Pulpwood production data were taken from an annual canvass of all southern pulpmills. Medium density fiberboard, insulating board, and hardboard plants were included in this survey.

The FIA Research Work Unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service developed the Timber Product Output (TPO) Database Retrieval System to help customers answer questions about timber harvesting and use in the Southern region. This system acts as an interface to a standard set of consistently coded TPO data for each State and county in the region and Nation. The database is well documented and easy to use. The retrieval system allows the user to select the TPO variables of interest and generate a standard set of timber products, removals, and mill residue tables for the specified resource area, State, or region. The system is available through the FIA Web site: <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/>. The Excel® core tables and figures that complement this science update are available on the TPO database.

The SRS gratefully acknowledges the tremendous cooperation and assistance provided by the Georgia Forestry Commission in collecting mill data. Appreciation is also extended to forest industry and mill managers for providing timber products information.



Langdale Forest Products, Valdosta, GA. (photo by Risher Willard)





## All Products

- Industrial timber product output from roundwood increased 167.5 million cubic feet, or 16 percent, to 1.22 billion cubic feet.
- Output of industrial softwood roundwood products was up 14 percent, to 1.04 billion cubic feet, while output of industrial hardwood roundwood products increased 26 percent to 182.01 million cubic feet (fig. 1).

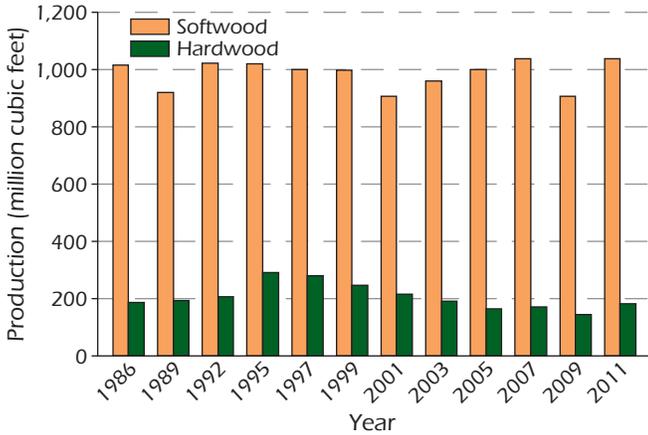


Figure 1—Roundwood production for all products by species group and year, Georgia.

- Pulpwood and saw logs were the principal roundwood products in 2011. Combined output of these two products totaled 1.04 billion cubic feet and accounted for 85 percent of the State’s total industrial roundwood output (fig. 2).
- Total receipts at Georgia mills, which included roundwood harvested and retained in the State and roundwood imported from other States, was up 18 percent from 1.05 billion cubic feet to 1.23 billion cubic feet.

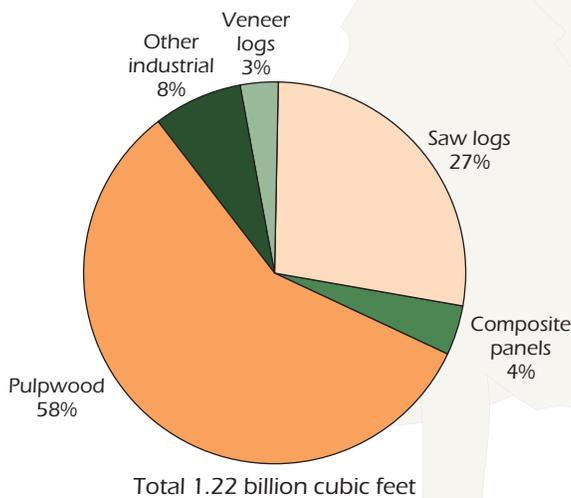


Figure 2—Roundwood production by type of product, Georgia, 2011.

- At the same time, the number of primary roundwood-using plants in Georgia declined from 152 in 2009 to 151 in 2011 (fig. 3). The number of sawmills increased by two, pulp mills, veneer, and composite panel mills remain stable, and other miscellaneous mills declined by three.

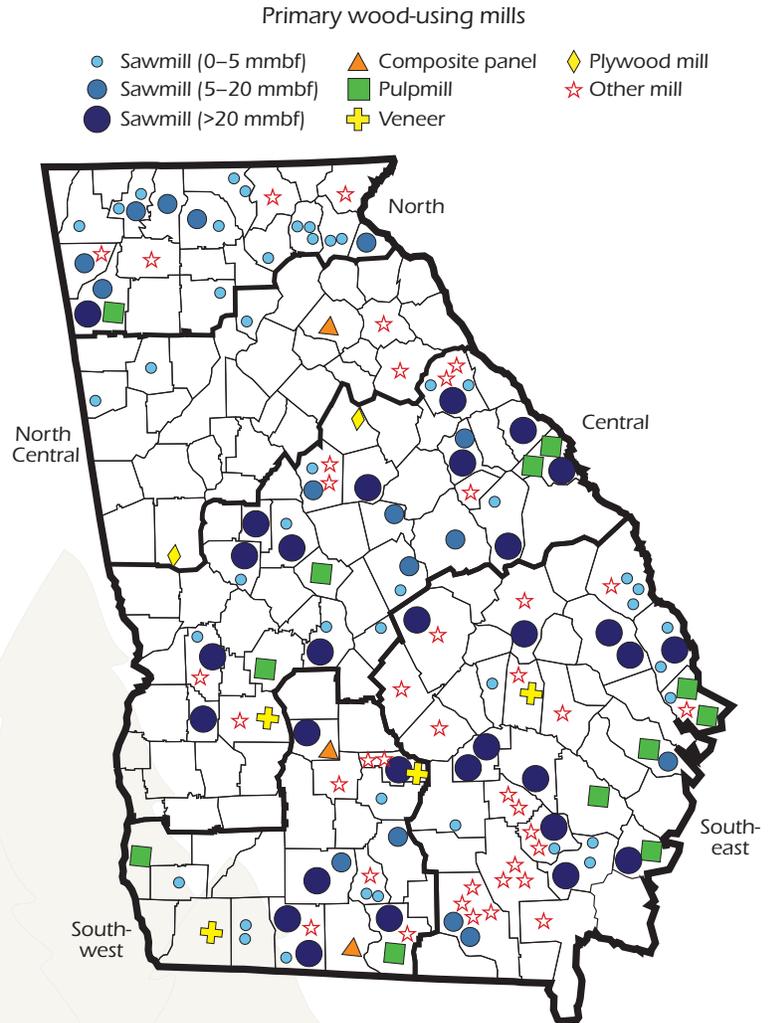


Figure 3—Primary wood-using mills by region, Georgia, 2011.

- Across all products, 86 percent of roundwood harvested was retained for processing at Georgia mills. Exports of roundwood to other States amounted to 172.8 million cubic feet, while imports of roundwood amounted to 181.4 million cubic feet making the State a net importer of roundwood.

## Pulpwood

- Total pulpwood production increased 18 percent to 702.4 million cubic feet but accounted for 58 percent of the State’s total roundwood TPO compared to 57 percent of total TPO in 2009. Softwood output was up to 587.3 million cubic feet; hardwood output increased as well to 115.1 million cubic feet (fig. 4). These were increases from 2009 numbers of 17 percent and 20 percent, respectively.
- Twelve pulp mill facilities were operating and receiving roundwood in Georgia in 2011, the same since 2003. Total pulpwood receipts for these mills increased to 702.6 million cubic feet, accounting for 57 percent of total receipts for all mills.
- Eighty-one percent of roundwood cut for pulpwood was retained for processing at Georgia pulp mills. Roundwood pulpwood accounted for 76 percent of total known exports and 73 percent of total imports.

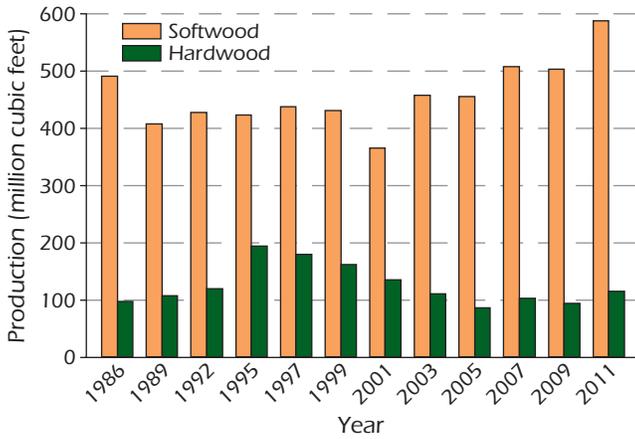


Figure 4—Roundwood pulpwood production by species group and year, Georgia.

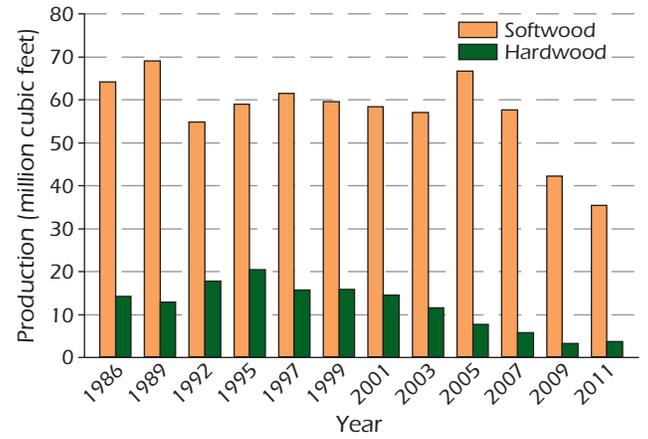


Figure 6—Roundwood veneer-log production by species group and year, Georgia.

### Saw Logs

- Saw logs accounted for 27 percent of the State’s total roundwood products. Output of softwood saw logs increased 5 percent to 278.3 million cubic feet, while that of hardwood saw logs was up 32 percent to 57.0 million cubic feet (fig. 5).
- In 2011, Georgia had 90 sawmills, 2 more mills than in 2009. Total saw-log receipts were up 37.0 million cubic feet to 347.5 million cubic feet. Softwood saw-log receipts increased 9 percent to 286.6 million cubic feet, while those of hardwoods were up 31 percent to 61.0 million cubic feet.
- Georgia retained 93 percent of its saw-log production for within State manufacture, with saw-log imports exceeding exports by 12.3 million cubic feet in 2011.

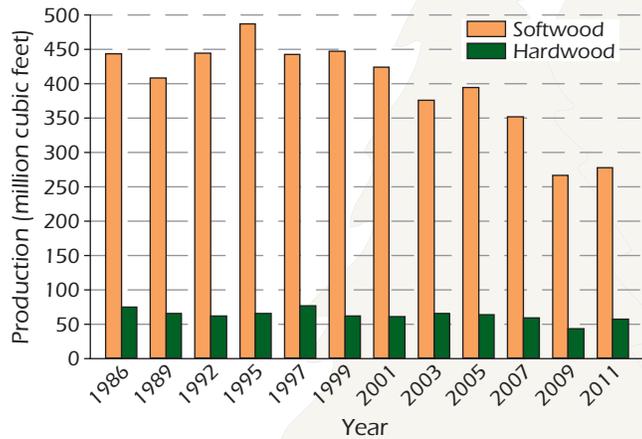


Figure 5—Roundwood saw-log production by species group and year, Georgia.

### Veneer Logs

- Output of veneer logs in 2011 totaled 39.1 million cubic feet, 14 percent decline since 2009, and accounted for 3 percent of the State’s total roundwood TPO volume (fig. 6).
- The number of veneer mills operating in Georgia remained stable at six for 2011. Receipts of veneer logs dropped 9 percent to 40.7 million cubic feet.

### Composite Panels

- Roundwood harvested from Georgia’s forests for composite panels fell 11 percent and totaled 51.4 million cubic feet. Softwood output was down 12 percent to 50.4 million cubic feet; hardwood production more than doubled to 962,000 cubic feet (fig. 7).
- Three composite panel, or oriented strand board, mills were operating in Georgia in 2011, same as in 2009. Total receipts for these mills declined 10 percent to 51.6 million cubic feet, and accounted for 4 percent of the State’s total receipts.

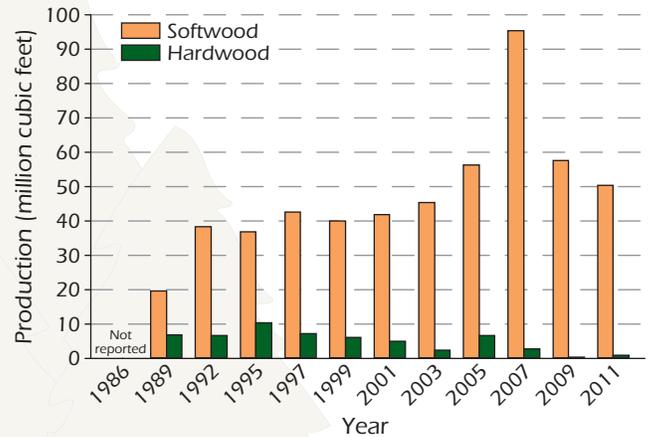


Figure 7—Roundwood production for composite panels by species group and year, Georgia.

### Other Industrial Products

- Roundwood harvested for other industrial uses such as poles, posts, mulch, residential firewood, industrial fuel, logs for log homes, and all other industrial products totaled 92.0 million cubic feet. Softwood made up 94 percent of the other industrial products volume.
- The number of plants producing other industrial products totaled 40 in 2011. Combined receipts of other industrial products from softwood and hardwood more than doubled to 86.5 million cubic feet. Industrial fuel accounted for 18.9 million cubic feet, or 22 percent, of receipt volume for this category.



## Plant Byproducts

- In 2011, processing of primary products in Georgia mills generated 346.0 million cubic feet of wood and bark residues. Coarse residues from all primary products amounted to 129.1 million cubic feet, while bark volume totaled 119.7 million cubic feet. Collectively, sawdust and shavings made-up 28 percent of total residues, or 97.2 million cubic feet (fig. 8).
- The processing of saw logs generated 234.5 million cubic feet of mill residues, accounting for 68 percent of the total residues produced (fig. 9).

- Nearly 346.0 million cubic feet, or 100 percent, of the wood and bark residues were used for a product. While <1 percent of the residues were not used for a product, 45 percent of the residues were used for industrial fuel and 36 percent were used for fiber products (fig. 10). More than 120.6 million cubic feet, or 93 percent, of the coarse residues were used for fiber products. Eighty percent of the bark was used for industrial fuel, while 56 percent of the sawdust and shavings were used for industrial fuel.

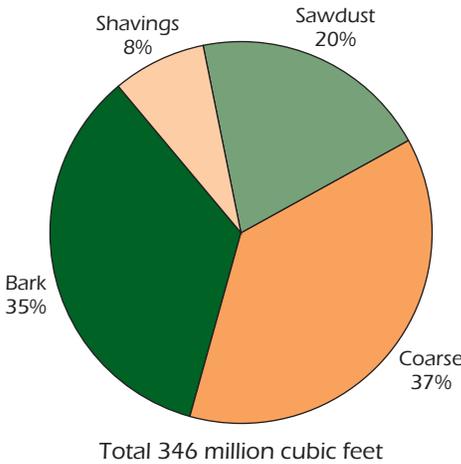


Figure 8—Primary mill residue by residue type, Georgia, 2011.

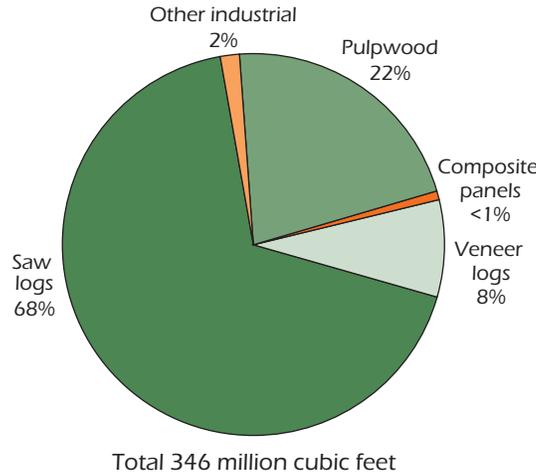


Figure 9—Primary mill residue produced by roundwood type, Georgia, 2011.

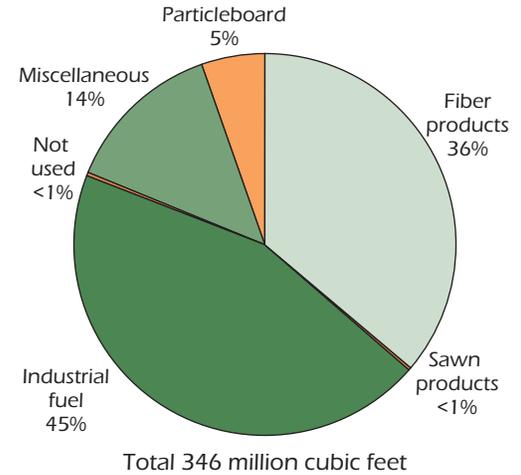


Figure 10—Disposal of residue by product, Georgia, 2011.



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Load of pulp logs headed to pulpmill.  
(photo by James Bentley)

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