



Louisiana'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 Louisiana, 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 Louisiana 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 Louisiana timberland was incorporated into Louisiana 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 nonresponse, 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 1948, 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 Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture 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.



Graphic Packaging.
(photo by Janet Tompkins)





All Products

- Industrial timber product output from roundwood increased 62.5 million cubic feet, or 10 percent, to 663.0 million cubic feet.
- Output of industrial softwood roundwood products was up 12 percent, to 575.8 million cubic feet, while output of industrial hardwood roundwood products increased <1 percent to 87.2 million cubic feet (fig. 1).

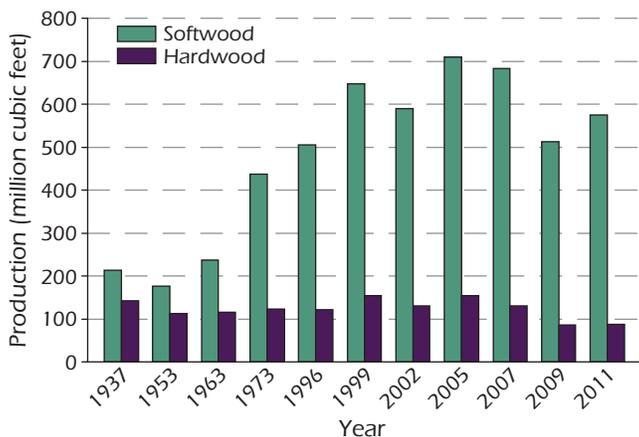


Figure 1—Roundwood production for all products by species group and year, Louisiana.

- Pulpwood and saw logs were the principal roundwood products in 2011. Combined output of these two products totaled 506.6 million cubic feet and accounted for 76 percent of the State’s total industrial roundwood output (fig. 2).
- Total receipts at Louisiana mills, which included roundwood harvested and retained in the State and roundwood imported from other States, was up 7 percent from 631.4 million cubic feet to 675.6 million cubic feet.

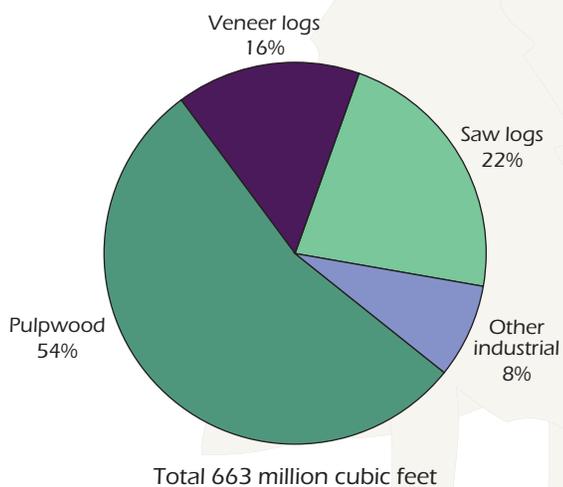


Figure 2—Roundwood production by type of product, Louisiana, 2011.

- At the same time, the number of primary roundwood-using plants in Louisiana declined from 41 in 2009 to 40 in 2011 (fig. 3). The number of sawmills remained stable, while pulpmills and veneer mills each lost a mill, and other miscellaneous mills gained a mill.
- Across all products, 83 percent of roundwood harvested was retained for processing at Louisiana mills. Exports of roundwood to other States amounted to 113.2 million cubic feet, while imports of roundwood amounted to 125.7 million cubic feet, making the State a net importer of roundwood.

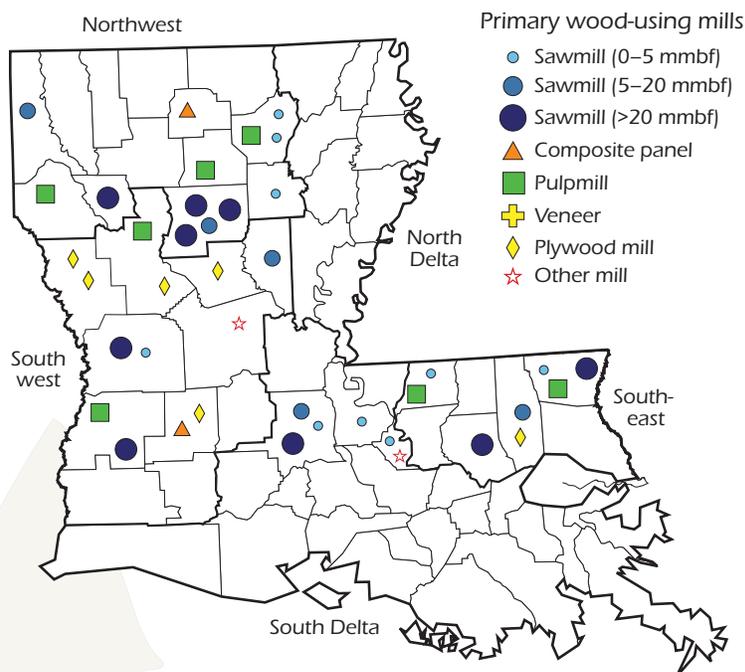


Figure 3—Primary wood-using mills by region, Louisiana, 2011.

Pulpwood

- Total pulpwood production increased 11 percent to 358.6 million cubic feet but accounted for 54 percent of the State’s total roundwood TPO, the same as in 2009. Softwood output was up to 291.2 million cubic feet; hardwood output increased as well to 67.3 million cubic feet (fig. 4). These were increases from 2009 numbers of 14 percent and 1 percent, respectively.
- Seven pulpmill facilities were operating and receiving roundwood in Louisiana in 2011, a loss of one since 2009. Total pulpwood receipts for these mills increased to 400.0 million cubic feet, accounting for 59 percent of total receipts for all mills.

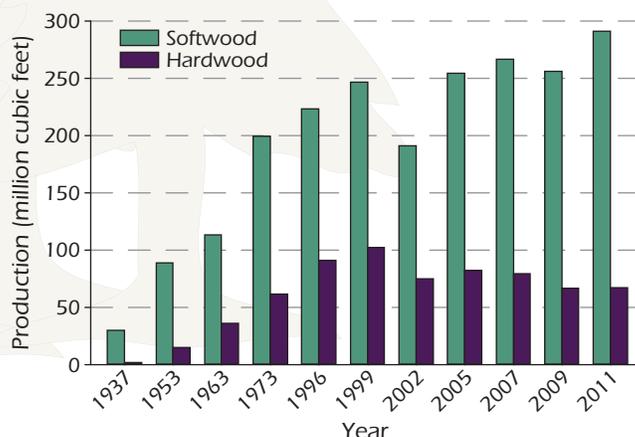


Figure 4—Roundwood pulpwood production by species group and year, Louisiana.



- Eighty-four percent of roundwood cut for pulpwood was retained for processing at Louisiana pulpmills. Roundwood pulpwood accounted for 52 percent of total known exports and 79 percent of total imports.

Saw Logs

- Saw logs accounted for 22 percent of the State’s total roundwood products. Output of softwood saw logs decreased 4 percent to 128.9 million cubic feet, while that of hardwood saw logs dropped 4 percent to 19.1 million cubic feet (fig. 5).

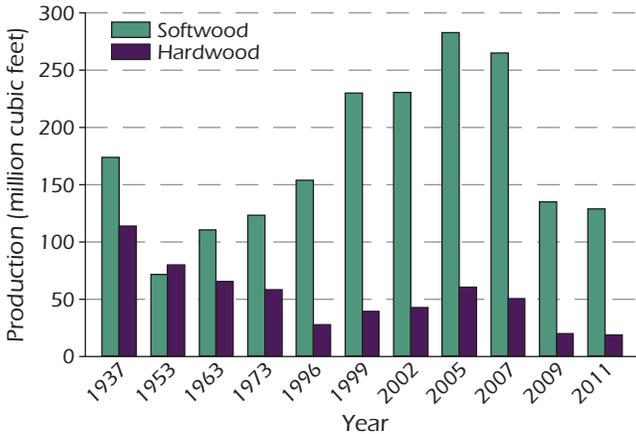


Figure 5—Roundwood saw-log production by species group and year, Louisiana.

- In 2011, Louisiana had 23 sawmills, the same as in 2009. Total saw-log receipts declined 8.8 million cubic feet to 128.9 million cubic feet. Softwood saw-log receipts decreased 5 percent to 114.2 million cubic feet, while those of hardwoods dropped 15 percent to 14.6 million cubic feet.
- Louisiana retained 74 percent of its saw-log production for within-State manufacture, with saw-log exports exceeding imports by 19.2 million cubic feet in 2011.

Veneer Logs

- Output of veneer logs in 2011 totaled 103.6 million cubic feet, a 29-percent increase since 2009, and accounted for 16 percent of the State’s total roundwood TPO volume (fig. 6). Softwood made up 99 percent of the veneer log product volume.

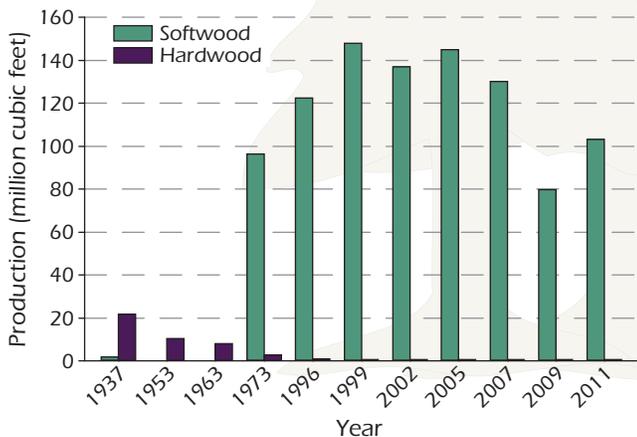


Figure 6—Roundwood veneer-log production by species group and year, Louisiana.

- The number of veneer mills operating in Louisiana declined by one going from seven in 2009 to six in 2011. Receipts of veneer logs increased 24 percent to 94.3 million cubic feet.

Other Industrial Products

- Roundwood harvested for other industrial uses such as poles, posts, mulch, residential firewood, industrial fuel, logs for log homes, composite panels, and all other industrial products totaled 52.9 million cubic feet. Softwood made up nearly 100 percent of the other industrial products volume.
- The number of plants producing other industrial products totaled four in 2011. Combined receipts of other industrial products from softwood and hardwood totaled 52.4 million cubic feet. Industrial fuel accounted for 7.8 million cubic feet, or 15 percent, of receipt volume for this category.

Plant Byproducts

- In 2011, processing of primary products in Louisiana mills generated 190.7 million cubic feet of wood and bark residues. Coarse residues from all primary products amounted to 68.9 million cubic feet, while bark volume totaled 65.7 million cubic feet. Collectively, sawdust and shavings made up 30 percent of total residues, or 56.1 million cubic feet (fig. 7).

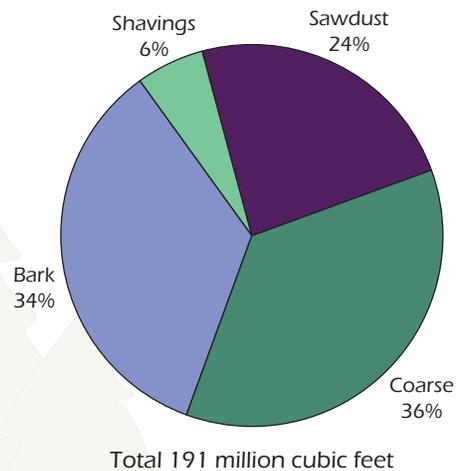


Figure 7—Primary mill residue by residue type, Louisiana, 2011.

- The processing of saw logs generated 83.6 million cubic feet of mill residues, accounting for 44 percent of the total residues produced (fig. 8).

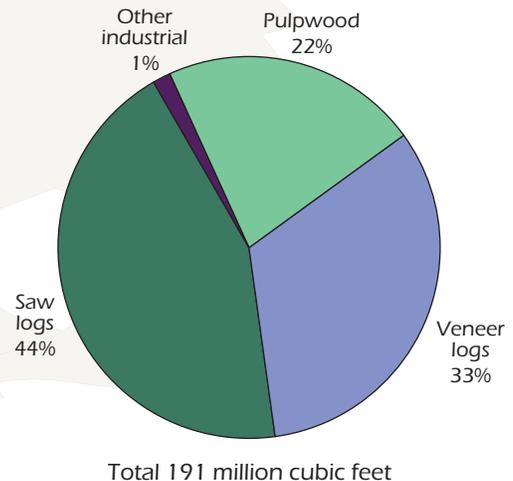
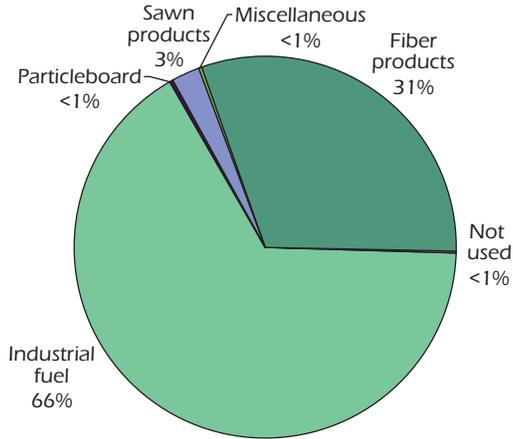


Figure 8—Primary mill residue produced by roundwood type, Louisiana, 2011.



- Nearly 100 percent, or 190.7 million cubic feet, of the wood and bark residues were used for a product. While <1 percent of the residues were not used for a product, 66 percent of the residues were used for industrial fuel and 31 percent were used for fiber products (fig. 9). Eighty-five percent, or 58.7 million cubic feet, of the coarse residues were used for fiber products. Ninety-nine percent of the bark, sawdust, and shavings were used for industrial fuel.



Total 191 million cubic feet

Figure 9—Disposal of residue by product, Louisiana, 2011.

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

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