



Louisiana's Timber Industry—Timber Product Output and Use, 2013

Introduction

This science update contains the findings of a 2013 canvass of all primary wood-using plants in Louisiana, and presents changes in product output and residue use since 2011. 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 2013 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 2014 to obtain information for 2013. 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 used to update the current survey. 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 Excel® core tables and figures that complement this science update are available on the TPO database. The system is available through the FIA Web site: <https://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/>.

Appreciation is extended by the SRS to forest industry and mill managers for providing timber products information.

Table 1—Output of industrial products by product and species group, Louisiana, 2011 and 2013

| Product and species group | Year | | Change | Change |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| | 2011 | 2013 | | |
| | ---- thousand cubic feet ---- | | percent | |
| Saw logs | | | | |
| Softwood | 114,233 | 119,474 | 5,241 | 4.6 |
| Hardwood | 18,293 | 18,410 | 117 | 0.6 |
| Total | 132,526 | 137,884 | 5,358 | 4.0 |
| Veneer logs | | | | |
| Softwood | 102,432 | 116,776 | 14,344 | 14.0 |
| Hardwood | 329 | 329 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total | 102,761 | 117,105 | 14,344 | 14.0 |
| Pulpwood | | | | |
| Softwood | 284,981 | 308,528 | 23,547 | 8.3 |
| Hardwood | 67,208 | 48,003 | -19,205 | -28.6 |
| Total | 352,189 | 356,531 | 4,342 | 1.2 |
| Other industrial | | | | |
| Softwood | 49,098 | 53,231 | 4,133 | 8.4 |
| Hardwood | 109 | 2,791 | 2,682 | 2,461 |
| Total | 49,207 | 56,022 | 6,815 | 13.8 |
| All industrial | | | | |
| Softwood | 550,744 | 598,009 | 47,265 | 8.6 |
| Hardwood | 85,939 | 69,533 | -16,406 | -19.1 |
| Total | 636,683 | 667,542 | 30,859 | 4.8 |

All Products

Industrial timber product output from roundwood increased 30.9 million cubic feet, or 5 percent, to 667.5 million cubic feet.

Output of industrial softwood roundwood products was up 9 percent, to 598 million cubic feet, while output of industrial hardwood roundwood products decreased 19 percent to 69.5 million cubic feet (fig. 1).

Pulpwood and saw logs were the principal roundwood products in 2013. Combined output of these two products totaled 494.4 million cubic feet and accounted for 74 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, were up 7 percent from 668.8 million cubic feet to 714.3 million cubic feet.

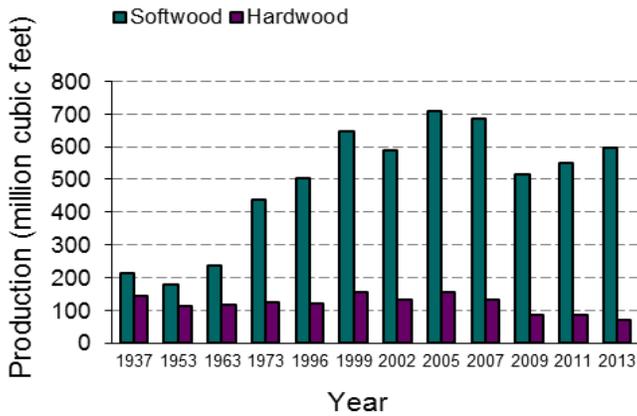


Figure 1— Roundwood production for all products by species group and year, Louisiana.

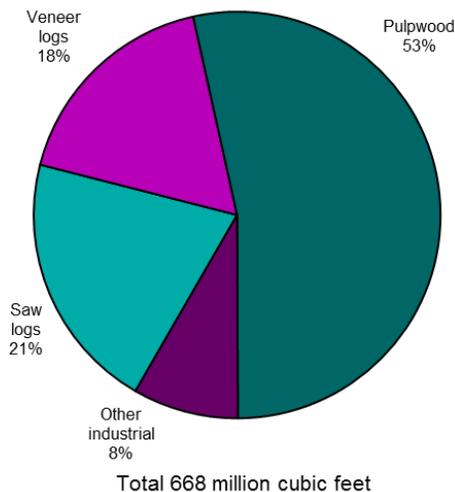


Figure 2—Roundwood production by type of product, Louisiana, 2013.

At the same time, the number of primary roundwood-using plants in Louisiana increased from 40 in 2011 to 43 in 2013 (fig. 3). The number of sawmills, pulp mills, composite panel mills and miscellaneous mills remained stable. Veneer mills declined by one, and post, poles and piling mills gained one mill.

Across all products, 85 percent of roundwood harvested was retained for processing at Louisiana mills. Exports of roundwood to other States amounted to 97.5 million cubic feet, while imports of roundwood amounted to 144.2 million cubic feet making the State a net importer of roundwood.

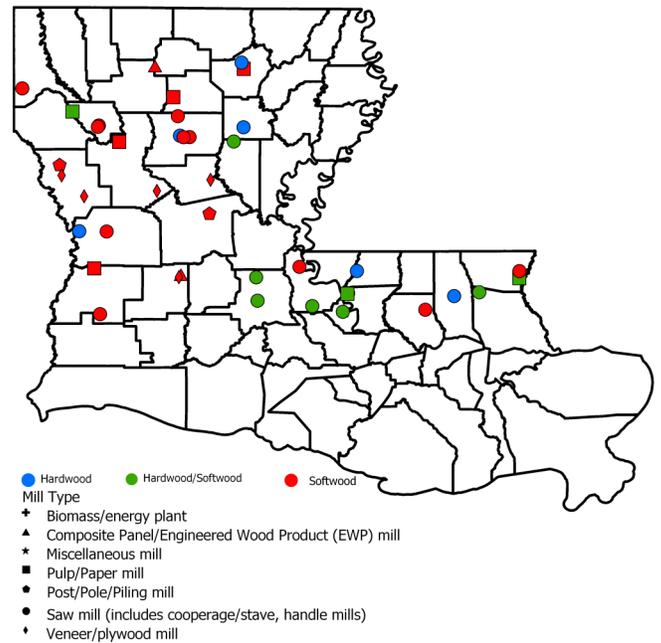


Figure 3— Primary wood-using mills, Louisiana, 2013.

Pulpwood

Total pulpwood production increased 1 percent to 356.5 million cubic feet and accounted for 53 percent of the State’s total roundwood TPO, 1 percent less than 2011. Softwood output was up to 308.5 million cubic feet; hardwood output decreased to 48.0 million cubic feet (fig. 4). Softwood volume increased 8 percent and hardwood volume decreased 29 percent from 2011.

Seven pulp mill facilities were operating and receiving roundwood in Louisiana in 2013, the same as in 2011. Total pulpwood receipts for these mills increased to 411.5 million cubic feet, accounting for 58 percent of total receipts for all mills.

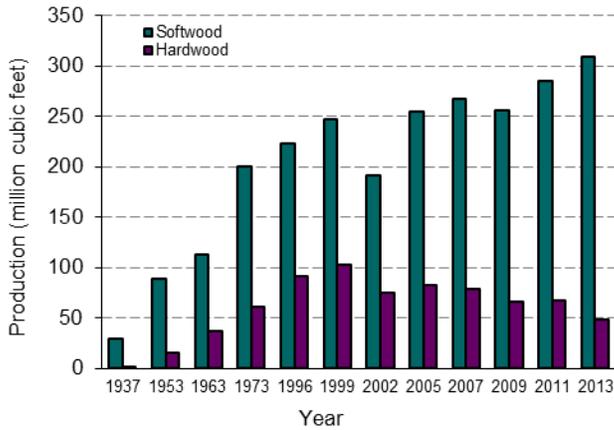


Figure 4—Roundwood pulpwood production by species group and year, Louisiana.

Eighty-four percent of roundwood cut for pulpwood was retained for processing at Louisiana pulpmills. Roundwood pulpwood accounted for 60 percent of total known exports and 79 percent of total imports.

Saw Logs

Saw logs accounted for 21 percent of the State’s total roundwood products. Output of softwood saw logs increased 5 percent to 119.5 million cubic feet, while that of hardwood saw logs increased < 1 percent to 18.4 million cubic feet (fig. 5).

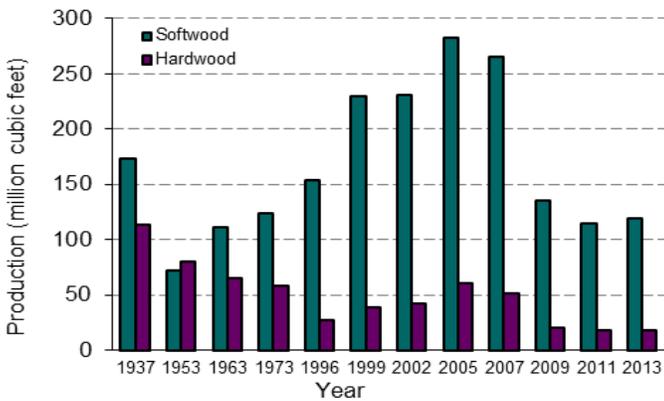


Figure 5—Roundwood saw-log production by species group and year, Louisiana.

In 2013, Louisiana had 23 sawmills, the same as in 2011. Total saw-log receipts were up 8.3 million cubic feet to 137.2 million cubic feet. Softwood saw-log receipts increased 8 percent to 122.9 million cubic feet, while those of hardwoods dropped 3 percent to 14.3 million cubic feet.

Louisiana retained 84 percent of its saw-log production for within State manufacture, with saw-log exports exceeding imports by 643 thousand cubic feet in 2013.

Veneer Logs

Output of veneer logs in 2013 totaled 117.1 million cubic feet, a 14 percent increase since 2011, and accounted for 18 percent of the State’s total roundwood TPO volume (fig. 6). Softwood made up 99 percent of the veneer log product volume.

The number of veneer mills operating in Louisiana declined one, going from six in 2011 to five in 2013. Receipts of veneer logs increased 14 percent to 107.4 million cubic feet.

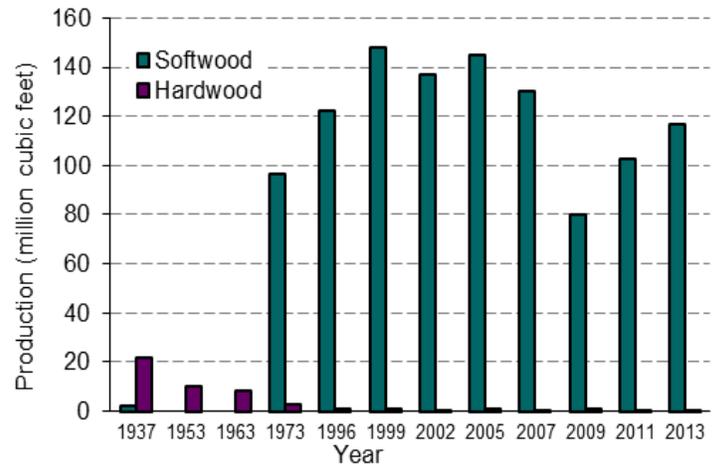


Figure 6—Roundwood veneer-log production by species group and year, Louisiana.

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 56.0 million cubic feet. Softwood made up 95 percent of the other industrial products volume.

The number of plants producing other industrial products totaled 8 in 2013. Combined receipts of other industrial products from softwood and hardwood totaled 58.1 million cubic feet. Industrial fuel accounted for 9.2 million cubic feet, or 16 percent of receipt volume for this category.

Plant Byproducts

In 2013, processing of primary products in Louisiana mills generated 206.7 million cubic feet of wood and bark residues. Coarse residues from all primary products amounted to 76.9 million cubic feet, while bark volume totaled 68.3 million cubic feet. Collectively, sawdust and shavings made up 30 percent of total residues, or 61.4 million cubic feet (fig. 7).

The processing of saw logs generated 90.1 million cubic feet of mill residues, accounting for 44 percent of the total residues produced (fig. 8).

Nearly 100 percent, or 206.7 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. Sixty-six percent of the residues were used for industrial fuel, 87 percent of residues used for industrial fuel were used onsite and 13 percent were used offsite. Thirty-three percent were used for fiber products, 1 percent were used for sawn products and < 1 percent were used for animal bedding and mulch/soil additive (fig 9). Eighty-five percent, or 65.5 million cubic feet, of the coarse residues were used for fiber products. Ninety-seven percent of the bark, sawdust and shavings were used for industrial fuel.

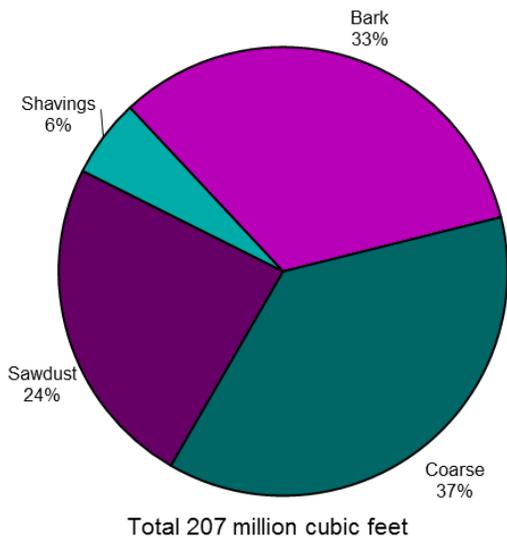


Figure 7—Primary mill residue by residue type, Louisiana, 2013.

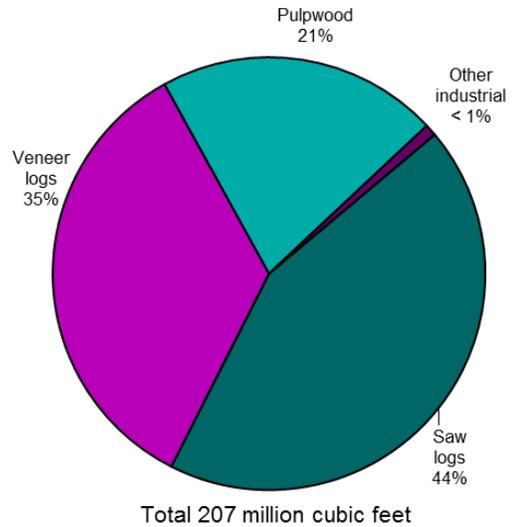


Figure 8—Primary mill residue produced by roundwood type, Louisiana, 2013.

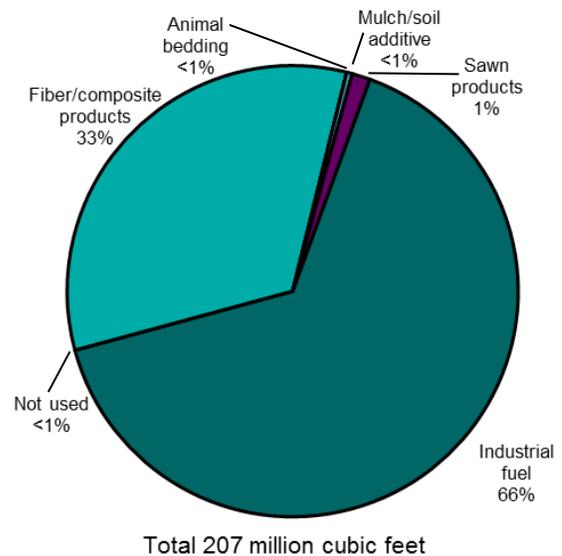


Figure 9—Disposal of residue by product, Louisiana, 2013.

How to Cite This Publication

Gray, James A.; Bentley, James W.; Cooper, Jason A.; Wall, David J. 2017. Louisiana's timber industry—timber product output and use, 2013. e-Science Update—SRS—115. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p.

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