



Alabama'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 Alabama, 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 Alabama 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 Alabama timberland was incorporated into Alabama 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 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 Forest Inventory and Analysis (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, re-

for the specified resource area, State, or region. The system is available through the FIA Web site: <https://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 Alabama Forestry Commission in collecting mill data. Appreciation is also extended to forest industry and mill managers for providing timber products information.

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

Product and species group	Year		Change	Change
	2011	2013		
	---- thousand cubic feet ----		---- percent ----	
Saw logs				
Softwood	224,198	252,231	28,033	12.5
Hardwood	45,009	46,180	1,171	2.6
Total	269,207	298,411	29,204	10.8
Veneer logs				
Softwood	34,233	30,949	-3,284	-9.6
Hardwood	8,374	9,317	943	11.3
Total	42,607	40,266	-2,341	-5.5
Pulpwood				
Softwood	437,131	455,182	18,051	4.1
Hardwood	161,933	159,704	-2,229	-1.4
Total	599,064	614,886	15,822	2.6
Composite panels				
Softwood	0	34,481	34,481	100.0
Hardwood	0	6,608	6,608	100.0
Total	0	41,089	41,089	100.0
Other industrial				
Softwood	45,741	39,038	-6,703	-14.7
Hardwood	8,552	3,885	-4,667	-54.6
Total	54,293	42,923	-11,370	-20.9
All industrial				
Softwood	741,303	811,882	70,579	9.5
Hardwood	223,868	225,694	1,826	0.8
Total	965,171	1,037,576	72,405	7.5

All Products

Industrial timber product output from roundwood increased 72.4 million cubic feet, or 8 percent, to 1,037.6 million cubic feet.

Output of industrial softwood roundwood products was up 10 percent, to 811.9 million cubic feet, while output of industrial hardwood roundwood products increased <1 percent to 225.7 million cubic feet (fig. 1).

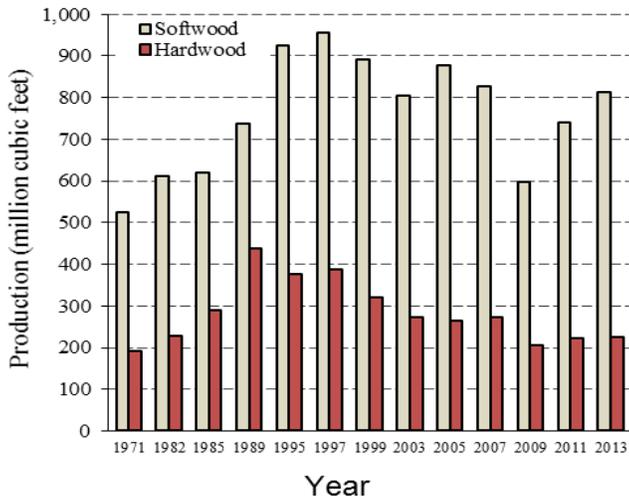


Figure 1—Roundwood production for all products by species group and year, Alabama.

Pulpwood and saw logs were the principal roundwood products in 2013. Combined output of these two products totaled 913 million cubic feet and accounted for 88 percent of the State's total industrial roundwood output (fig. 2).

Total receipts at Alabama mills, which included roundwood harvested and retained in the State and roundwood imported from other States, was up 12 percent from 972.7 million cubic feet to 1,101.7 million cubic feet

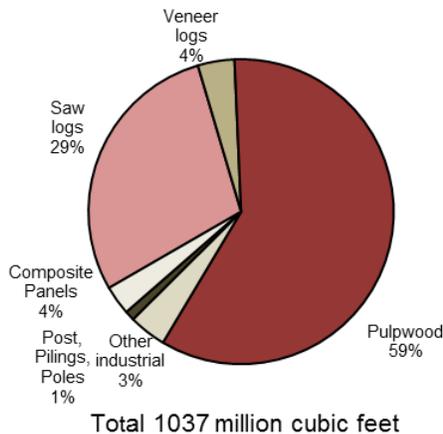


Figure 2—Roundwood production by type of product, Alabama, 2013.

At the same time, the number of primary roundwood-using plants in Alabama declined from 115 in 2011 to 112 in 2013 (fig. 3). The number of sawmills decreased by 6, while the number of pulpmills, veneer, composite panel, and other miscellaneous mills remained stable.

Across all products, 85 percent of roundwood harvested was retained for processing at Alabama mills. Exports of roundwood to other States amounted to 154.9 million cubic feet, while imports of roundwood amounted to 219.1 million cubic feet making the State a net importer of roundwood.

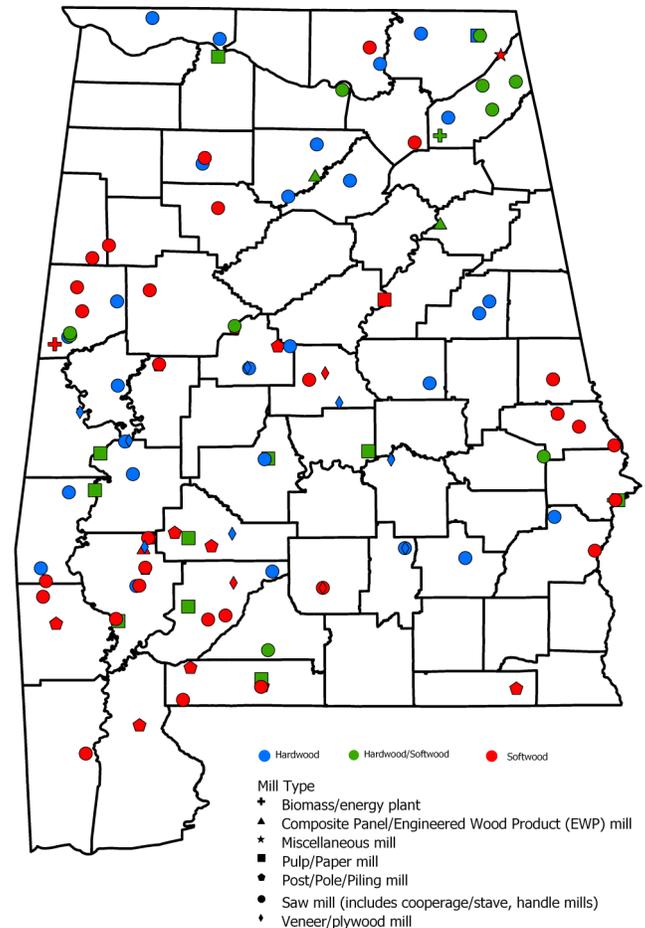


Figure 3—Primary wood-using mills, Alabama, 2013.

Pulpwood

Total pulpwood production increased 3 percent to 614.9 million cubic feet but accounted for 59 percent of the State's total roundwood TPO compared to 63 percent of total TPO in 2011. Softwood output was up to 455.2 million cubic feet; however hardwood output decreased to 159.7 million cubic feet (fig. 4). These were an increase from 2011 numbers of 4 percent and a decrease of 1 percent, respectively.

Eleven pulpmill facilities were operating and receiving roundwood in Alabama in 2013, one less than 2011. Total pulpwood receipts for these mills increased to 654.8 million cubic feet, accounting for 59 percent of total receipts for all mills.

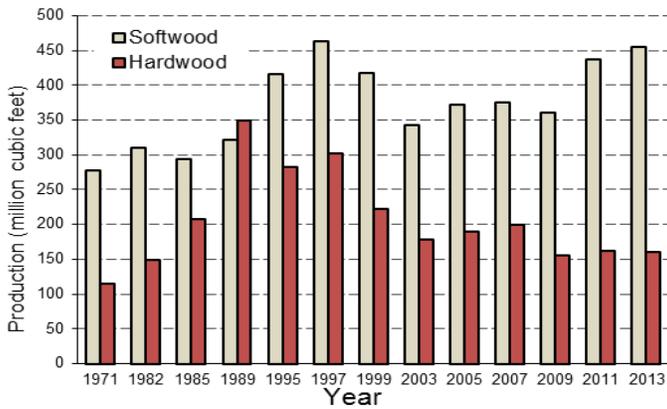


Figure 4—Roundwood pulpwood production by species group and year, Alabama, 2013.

Eighty-five percent of roundwood cut for pulpwood was retained for processing at Alabama pulp mills. Roundwood pulpwood accounted for 74 percent of total known exports and 71 percent of total imports.

Saw Logs

Saw logs accounted for 29 percent of the State's total roundwood products. Output of softwood saw logs increased 13 percent to 252.2 million cubic feet, while that of hardwood saw logs was up 2 percent to 46.2 million cubic feet (fig. 5).

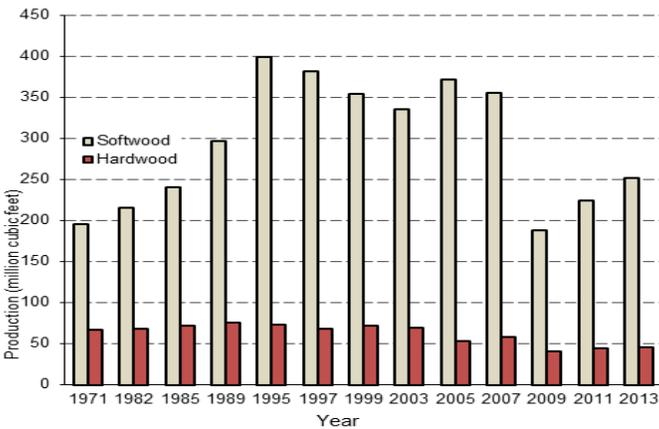


Figure 5 —Roundwood saw-log production by species group and year, Alabama, 2013.

In 2013, Alabama had 67 sawmills, 6 fewer mills than in 2011. Total saw-log receipts were up 40.6 million cubic feet to 311.1 million cubic feet. Softwood saw-log receipts increased 17 percent to 266.3 million cubic feet, while those of hardwoods were up 44 percent to 44.8 million cubic feet.

Alabama retained 91 percent of its saw-log production for within State manufacture, with saw-log imports exceeding exports by 12.7 million cubic feet in 2013.

Veneer logs

Output of veneer logs in 2013 totaled 40.3 million cubic feet, a 5.5 percent decrease since 2011, and accounted for 4 percent of the State's total roundwood TPO volume. Output of softwood veneer logs decreased 10 percent to 30.9 million cubic feet, while that of hardwood veneer logs increased 11 percent to 9.3 million cubic feet (fig. 6).

In 2013, Alabama had 11 veneer mills, 1 fewer than 2011. Receipts of veneer logs increased 5 percent to 35.1 million cubic feet. Softwood veneer log receipts decreased 2 percent to 23.9 million cubic feet, while those of hardwoods were up 21 percent to 11.2 million cubic feet.

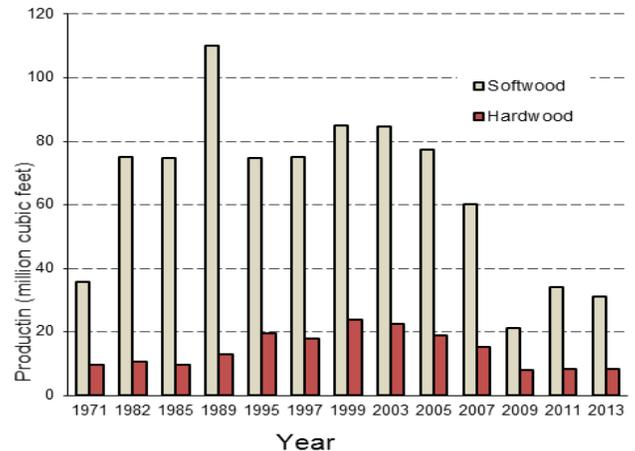


Figure 6—Roundwood veneer-log production by species group and year, Alabama, 2013.

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 84 million cubic feet. Softwood made up 88 percent of the other industrial products volume.

The number of plants producing other industrial products totaled 22 in 2013. Combined receipts of other industrial products from softwood and hardwood totaled 100.7 million cubic feet. Industrial fuel accounted for 43.3 million cubic feet, or 43 percent, of receipt volume for this category.

Plant Byproducts

In 2013, processing of primary products in Alabama mills generated 170.1 million cubic feet of wood and bark residues. Coarse residues from all primary products amounted to 62.3 million cubic feet, while bark volume totaled 82.4 million cubic feet. Collectively, sawdust and shavings made up 15 percent of total residues, or 25.4 million cubic feet (fig. 7).

The processing of saw logs generated 77.4 million cubic feet of mill residues, accounting for 46 percent of the total residues produced (fig. 8).

Nearly 170 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, 65 percent of the residues were used for industrial fuel, of which 80 percent was used on site and 20 percent at other plants. Thirty-two percent were used for fiber products (fig. 9). Eighty-three percent or 51.7 million cubic feet, of the coarse residues were used for fiber products. Ninety-seven percent of the bark was used for industrial fuel, while 80 percent of the sawdust and shavings were used for industrial fuel.

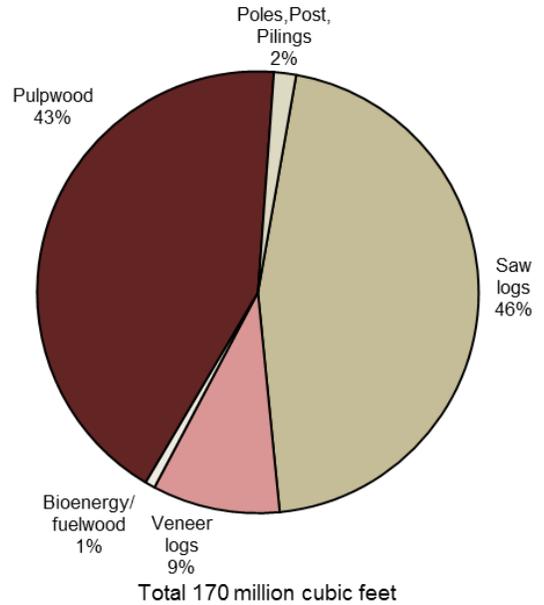


Figure 8—Primary mill residue produced by roundwood type, Alabama, 2013.

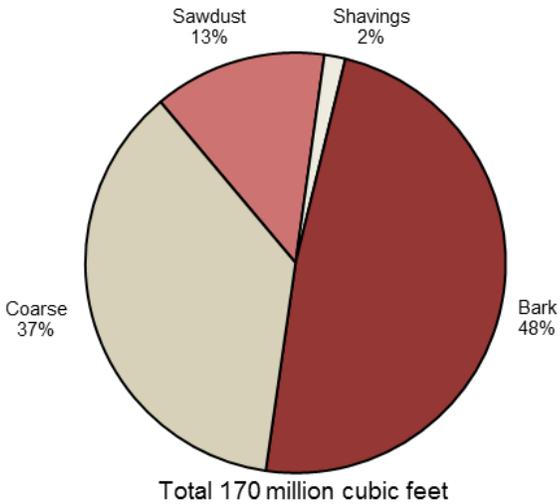


Figure 7—Primary mill residue by residue type, Alabama 2013.

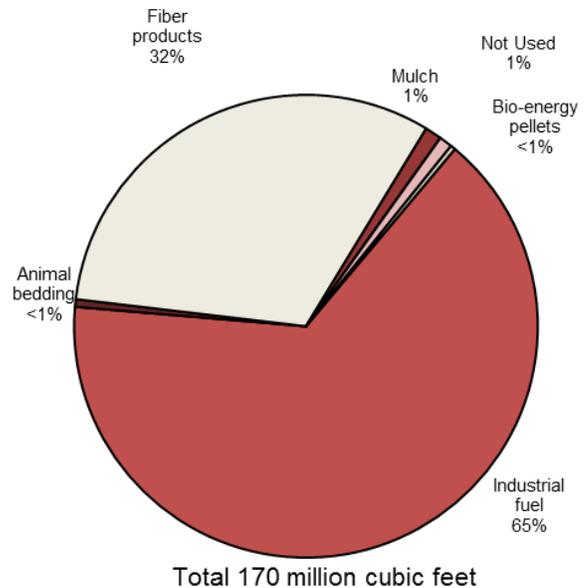


Figure 9—Disposal of residue by product, Alabama, 2013.

How to Cite This Publication

Wall, David J.; Bentley, James; Cooper, Jason A.; Gray, James A. W. 2017. Alabama's timber industry—timber product output and use, 2013. e-Science Update SRS-120. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p.

Contact Information

David J Wall, Forester
 Forest Inventory and Analysis
 Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service
 4700 Old Kingston Pike
 Knoxville, Tennessee 37919
 Phone: 601-384-5876x160/ Fax: 865-862-0248
 Email: djwall@fs.fed.us
 Southern FIA: <https://srsfia2.fs.fed.us>
 National FIA: <https://fia.fs.fed.us>

James W. Bentley, Forester
 Forest Inventory and Analysis
 Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service
 4700 Old Kingston Pike
 Knoxville, Tennessee 37919
 Phone: 865-862-2056 / Fax: 865-862-0248
 Email: jamesbentley@fs.fed.us
 Southern FIA: <https://srsfia2.fs.fed.us>
 National FIA: <https://fia.fs.fed.us>

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

The published report is available online at <https://treearch.fs.fed.us>