



# Mississippi's Timber Industry—Timber Product Output and Use, 2015

## Introduction

This science update contains the findings of a 2015 canvass of all primary wood-using plants in Mississippi, and presents changes in product output and residue use since 2013. 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 2015 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 Mississippi was conducted in 2016 to obtain information for 2015. In addition, roundwood from out-of-State mills known to be using logs or bolts harvested from Mississippi timberland was incorporated into Mississippi 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://www.fs.usda.gov/srsfia/>.

The SRS gratefully acknowledges the tremendous cooperation and assistance provided by the Mississippi 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, Mississippi, 2013 and 2015**

Product and species group	Year		Change	Change
	2013	2015		
	<i>--- thousand cubic feet ---</i>			<i>percent</i>
<b>Saw logs</b>				
Softwood	184,044	221,587	37,543	20.4
Hardwood	51,851	45,377	-6,474	-12.5
Total	235,895	266,964	31,069	13.2
<b>Veneer logs</b>				
Softwood	49,791	45,868	-3,923	-7.9
Hardwood	4,294	2,751	-1,543	-35.9
Total	54,085	48,619	-5,466	-10.1
<b>Pulpwood</b>				
Softwood	355,587	360,048	4,461	1.3
Hardwood	118,131	114,035	-4,096	-3.5
Total	473,718	474,083	365	0.1
<b>Bioenergy</b>				
Softwood	15,668	29,562	13,894	88.7
Hardwood	6,767	4,953	-1,814	-26.8
Total	22,435	34,515	12,080	53.8
<b>Other industrial</b>				
Softwood	21,502	14,442	-7,060	-32.8
Hardwood	0	0	0	0.0
Total	21,502	14,442	-7,060	-32.8
<b>All industrial</b>				
Softwood	626,592	671,507	44,915	7.2
Hardwood	181,043	167,116	-13,927	-7.7
Total	807,635	838,623	30,988	3.8

## All Products

Industrial timber product output from roundwood increased 31 million cubic feet, or 4 percent, to 838.6 million cubic feet.

Output of industrial softwood roundwood products was up 7 percent, to 671.5 million cubic feet, while output of industrial hardwood roundwood products decreased 8 percent to 167.1 million cubic feet (fig. 1).

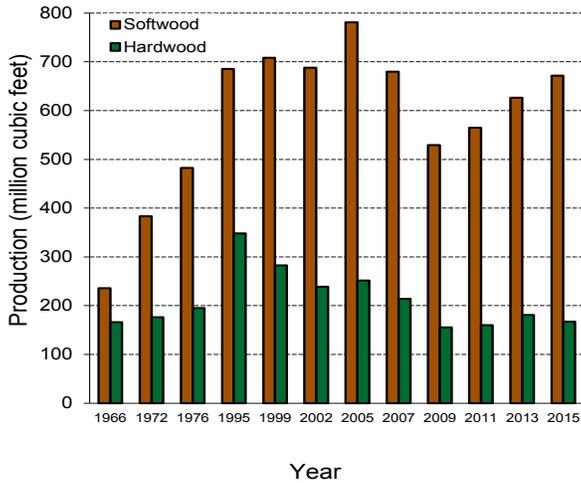


Figure 1—Roundwood production for all products by species group and year, Mississippi.

Pulpwood and saw logs were the principal roundwood products in 2015. Combined output of these two products totaled 741 million cubic feet and accounted for 89 percent of the State’s total industrial roundwood output (fig. 2).

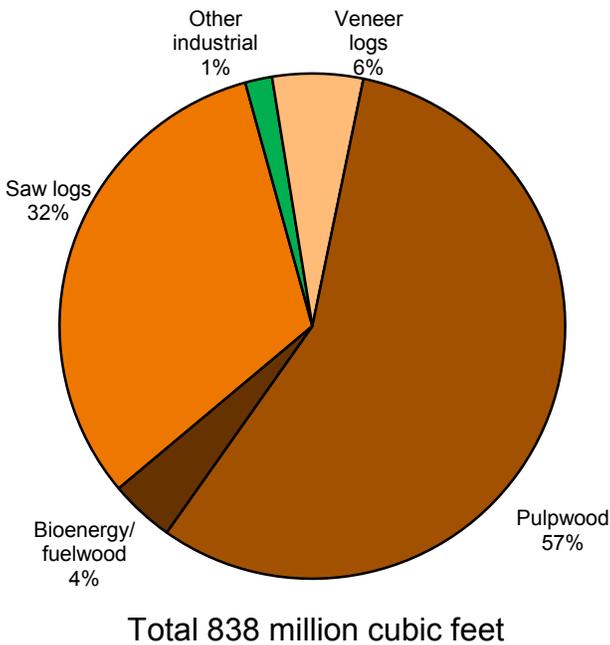


Figure 2—Roundwood production by type of product, Mississippi, 2015.

Total receipts at Mississippi mills, which included roundwood harvested and retained in the State and roundwood imported from other States, were down 1 percent from 566.3 million cubic feet to 558.3 million cubic feet.

At the same time, the number of primary roundwood-using plants in Mississippi decreased from 64 in 2013 to 60 in 2015 (fig. 3, see next page).

Across all products, 63 percent of roundwood harvested was retained for processing at Mississippi mills. Exports of roundwood to other States amounted to 314.3 million cubic feet, while imports of roundwood amounted to 33.9 million cubic feet making the State a net exporter of roundwood.

## Pulpwood

Total pulpwood production increased < 1 percent to 474.1 million cubic feet and accounted for 57 percent of the State’s total roundwood TPO compared to 59 percent of total TPO in 2013. Softwood output was up 1 percent to 360 million cubic feet; hardwood output decreased 3 percent to 114 million cubic feet (fig. 4).

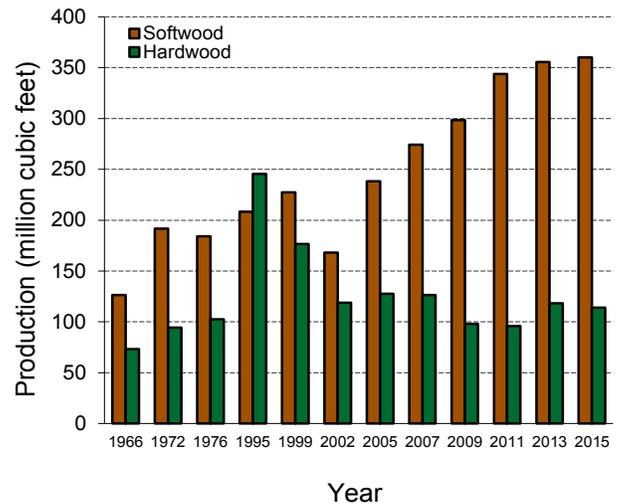


Figure 4—Roundwood pulpwood production by species group and year, Mississippi.

Five pulp mill facilities were operating and receiving roundwood in Mississippi in 2015, the same since 2005. Total pulpwood receipts for these mills decreased to 254.9 million cubic feet, accounting for 46 percent of total receipts for all mills.

Fifty-one percent of roundwood cut for pulpwood was retained for processing at Mississippi pulpmills. Roundwood pulpwood accounted for 74 percent of total known exports and 39 percent of total imports.

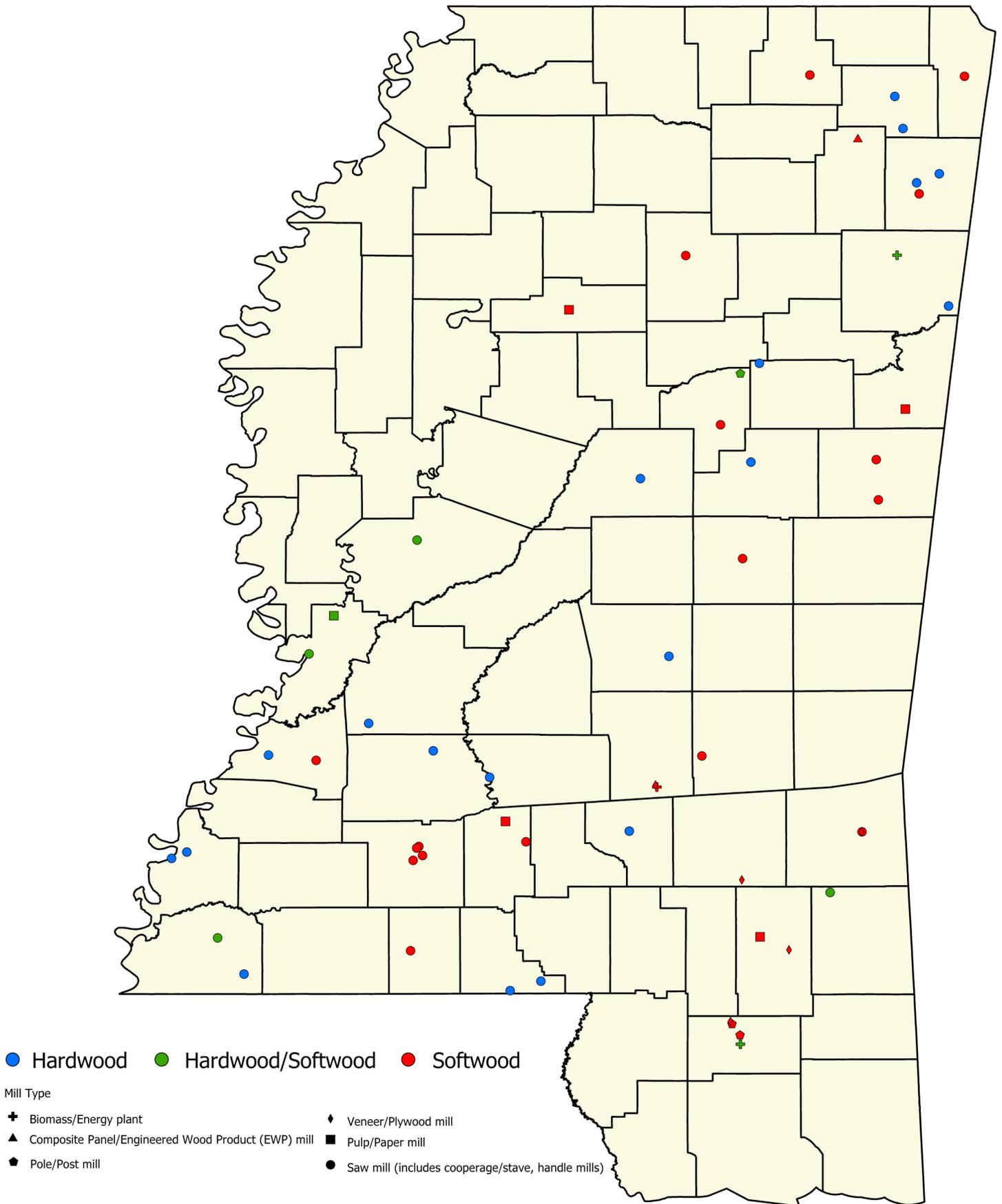


Figure 3—Primary wood-using mills, Mississippi, 2015.

## Saw Logs

Saw logs accounted for 32 percent of the State’s total roundwood products. Output of softwood saw logs increased 20 percent to 221.6 million cubic feet, while that of hardwood saw logs was down 12 percent to 45.4 million cubic feet (fig. 5).

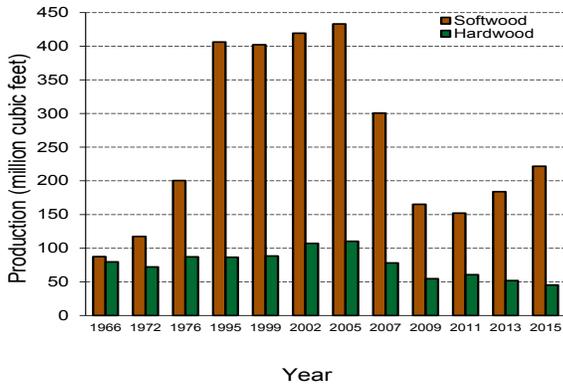


Figure 5—Roundwood saw-log production by species group and year, Mississippi.

In 2015, Mississippi had 41 sawmills, 6 less than in 2013. Total saw-log receipts were up 9.8 million cubic feet to 231.5 million cubic feet. Softwood saw-log receipts increased 12 percent to 191.4 million cubic feet, while those of hardwoods were down 21 percent to 40.1 million cubic feet.

Mississippi retained 81 percent of its saw-log production for within State manufacture, with saw-log exports exceeding imports by 35.5 million cubic feet in 2015.

## Veneer Logs

Output of veneer logs in 2015 totaled 48.6 million cubic feet, a 10 percent decrease since 2013, and accounted for 6 percent of the State’s total roundwood TPO volume (fig. 6).

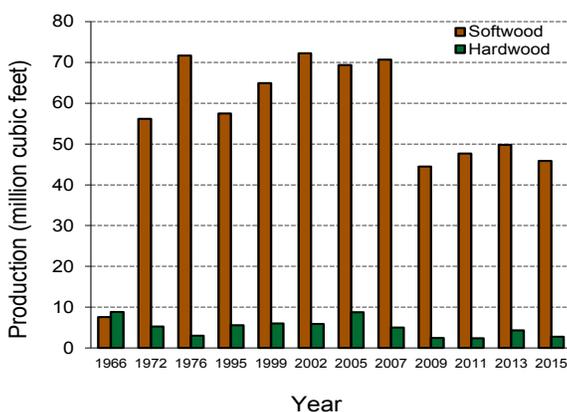


Figure 6—Roundwood veneer-log production by species group and year, Mississippi.

The number of veneer mills operating in Mississippi in 2015 was 4, a decrease of 2 since 2013. Receipts of veneer logs decreased 12 percent to 49.9 million cubic feet.

## Bioenergy

Roundwood harvested for bioenergy totaled 34.5 million cubic feet, a 54 percent increase since 2013, and accounted for 4 percent of the State’s total roundwood TPO volume (fig. 7).

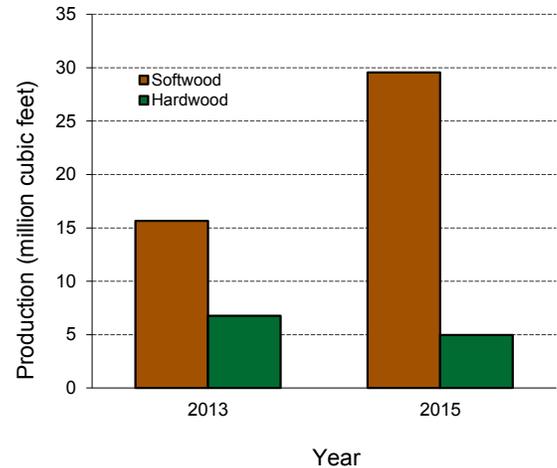


Figure 7—Roundwood bioenergy production by species group and year, Mississippi.

The number of bioenergy mills operating in Mississippi in 2015 was 5, one more than in 2013. Receipts for bioenergy increased 12 percent to 16.1 million cubic feet in 2015.

Mississippi retained 44 percent of its bioenergy production for in State use, with bioenergy exports exceeding imports by 18.4 million cubic feet in 2015.

Bioenergy includes products such as industrial and residential pellets and boiler/hog fuel used in creating heat, steam or for generating electricity.

## Other Industrial Products

Roundwood harvested for other industrial uses such as poles, posts, mulch, residential firewood, logs for log homes, composite panels and all other industrial products totaled 14.4 million cubic feet. Softwood made up 100 percent of the other industrial products volume.

The number of plants producing other industrial products totaled 4 in 2015. Combined receipts of other industrial products totaled 5.9 million cubic feet.

## Plant Byproducts

In 2015, processing of primary products in Mississippi mills generated 203.1 million cubic feet of wood and bark residues. Coarse residues from all primary products amounted to 77.3 million cubic feet, while bark volume totaled 64.3 million cubic feet. Collectively, sawdust and shavings made up 30 percent of total residues, or 61.6 million cubic feet (fig. 8).

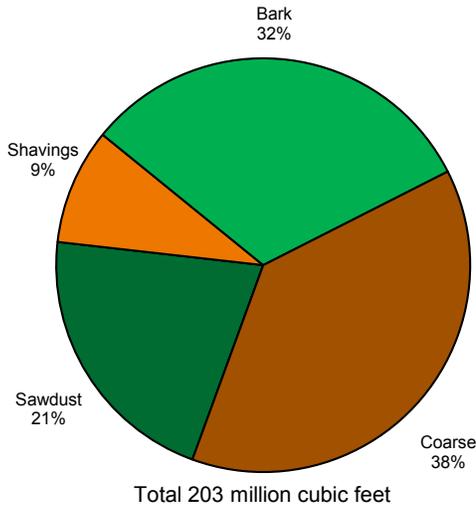


Figure 8—Primary mill residue by residue type, Mississippi, 2015.

The processing of saw logs generated 146 million cubic feet of mill residues, accounting for 72 percent of the total residues produced (fig. 9).

Ninety-seven percent, or 198.1 million cubic feet, of the wood and bark residues were used for a product. While 3 percent of the residues were not used for a product, 54 percent of the residues were used for industrial fuel and 38 percent were used for fiber products (fig. 10). Seventy-nine percent, or 86.7 million cubic feet, of residues used for industrial fuel were used on site, while 21 percent were used at other plants. More than 66.5 million cubic feet, or 86 percent, of the coarse residues were used for fiber products. Ninety-two percent of the bark was used for industrial fuel, while 72 percent of the sawdust and shavings were used for industrial fuel.

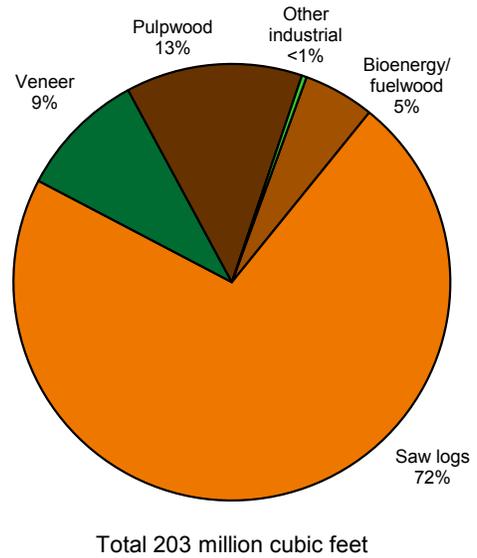


Figure 9—Primary mill residue produced by roundwood type, Mississippi, 2015.

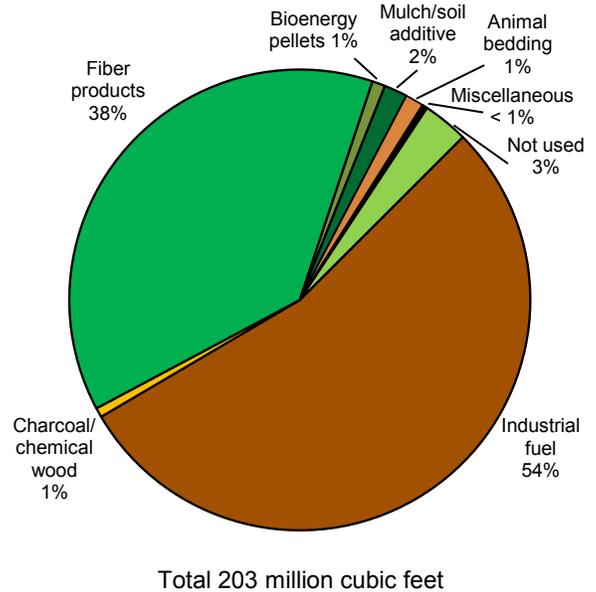


Figure 10—Disposal of residue by product, Mississippi, 2015.

### How to Cite This Publication

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