



# Oklahoma'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 Oklahoma, 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 Oklahoma 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 Oklahoma timberland was incorporated into Oklahoma 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 1955, 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 extends appreciation to forest industry and mill managers for providing timber products information.

**Table 1—Output of industrial products by product and species**

Product and species	Year		Change	Change
	2013	2015		
---- thousand cubic feet ----      percent				
<b>Saw logs</b>				
Softwood	26,564	35,912	9,348	35.2
Hardwood	2,349	2,094	-255	-10.9
Total	28,913	38,006	9,093	31.4
<b>Other industrial</b>				
Softwood	44,127	41,911	-2,216	-5.0
Hardwood	15,142	12,466	-2,676	-17.7
Total	59,269	54,377	-4,892	-8.3
<b>All industrial</b>				
Softwood	70,691	77,823	7,132	10.1
Hardwood	17,491	14,560	-2,931	-16.8
Total	88,182	92,383	4,201	4.8

## All Products

Industrial timber product output from roundwood increased 4.2 million cubic feet, or 5 percent, to 92.4 million cubic feet.

Output of industrial softwood roundwood products was up 10 percent, to 77.8 million cubic feet, while output of industrial hardwood roundwood products decreased 17 percent to 14.6 million cubic feet (fig. 1).

Saw logs were the principal roundwood product in 2015. Output from saw log products totaled 38.0 million cubic feet and accounted for 41 percent of the State’s total industrial roundwood output (fig. 2).

Total receipts at Oklahoma mills, which included roundwood harvested and retained in the State and roundwood imported from other States, were up 22 percent from 104.3 million cubic feet to 127.3 million cubic feet.

In 2015, the number of primary roundwood-using plants in Oklahoma was 12, one less than in 2013 (fig. 3, see next page). The number of sawmills decreased by one, while pulpmills, composite panel mills and other miscellaneous mills remained stable.

Across all products, 85 percent of roundwood harvested was retained for processing at Oklahoma mills. Exports of roundwood to other States amounted to 14.0 million cubic feet, while imports of roundwood amounted to 48.9 million cubic feet making the State a net importer of roundwood.

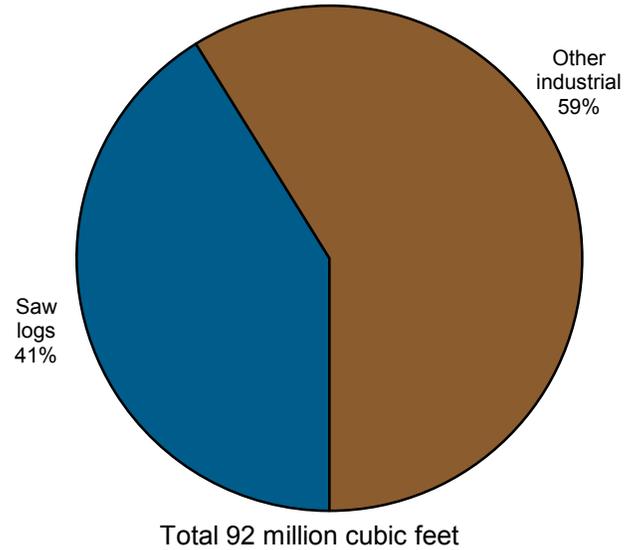


Figure 2—Roundwood production by type of product, Oklahoma, 2015.

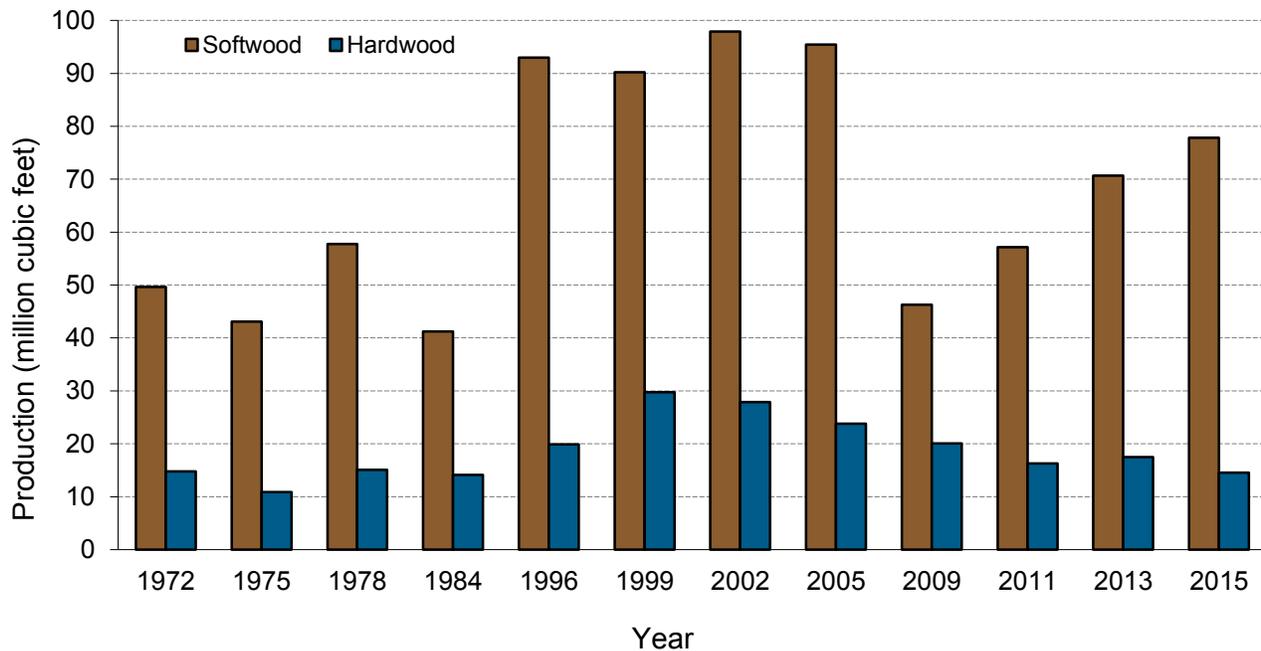


Figure 1—Roundwood production for all products by species group and year, Oklahoma.

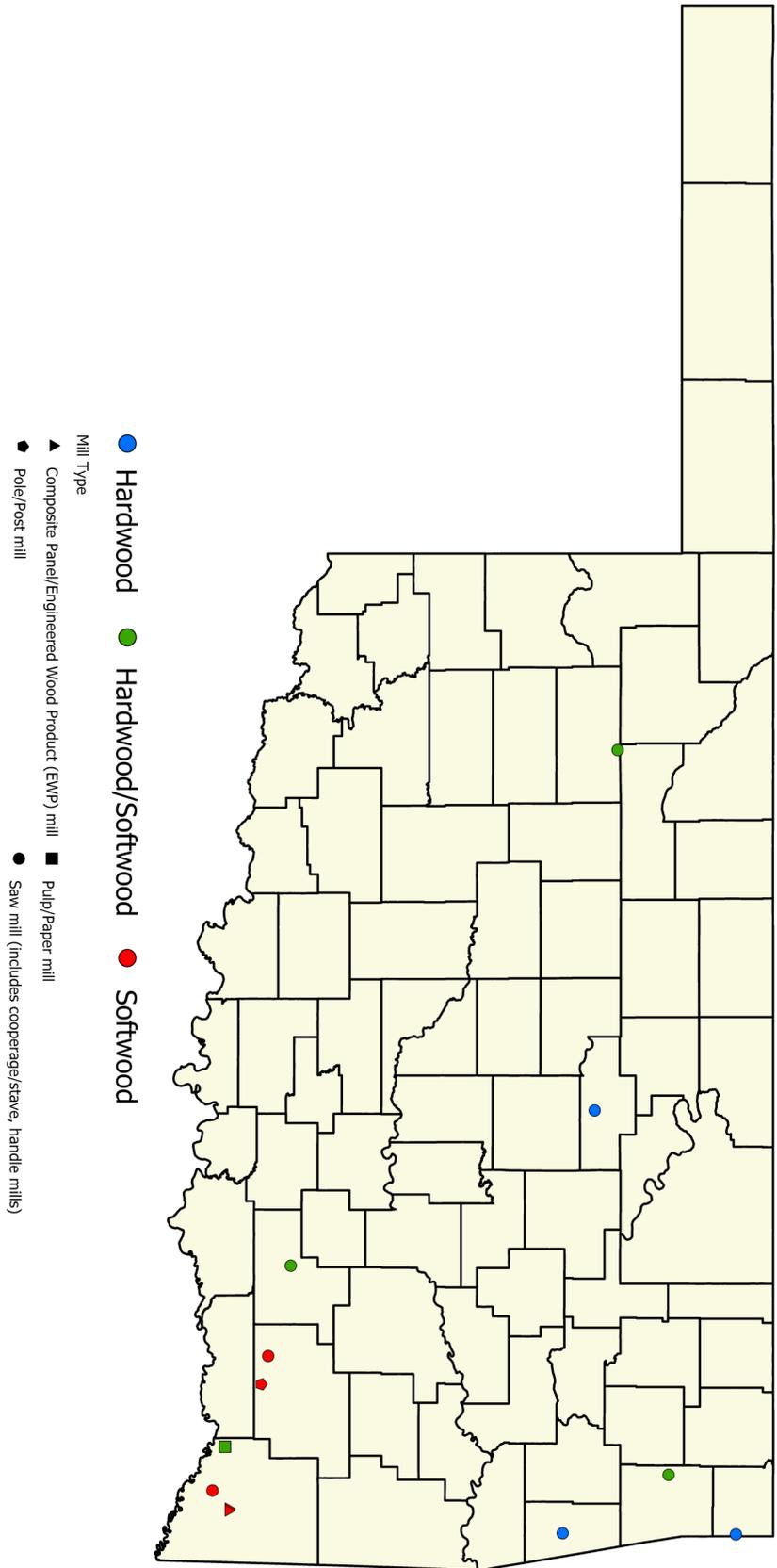


Figure 3—Primary wood-using mills, Oklahoma, 2015.

## Saw Logs

Saw logs accounted for 41 percent of the State's total roundwood products. Output of softwood saw logs increased 35 percent to 35.9 million cubic feet, while that of hardwood saw logs was down 11 percent to 2.1 million cubic feet (fig. 4).

In 2015, Oklahoma had 7 sawmills, 1 fewer mill than in 2013. Total saw-log receipts were up 9.3 million cubic feet to 31.0 million cubic feet. Softwood saw-log receipts increased 49 percent to 28.5 million cubic feet, while those of hardwoods were 2.6 million cubic feet, the same as in 2013.

Oklahoma retained 77 percent of its saw-log production for within State manufacture, with saw-log exports exceeding imports by 7.0 million cubic feet in 2015.

## Other Industrial Products

Roundwood harvested for other industrial uses such as pulpwood, poles, posts, mulch, residential firewood, industrial fuel, logs for log homes, veneer and all other industrial products totaled 54.4 million cubic feet. Softwood made up 77 percent of the other industrial products volume.

The number of plants producing other industrial products totaled 5 in 2015. Combined receipts of other industrial products from softwood and hardwood totaled 96.3 million cubic feet an increase of 17 percent since 2013.

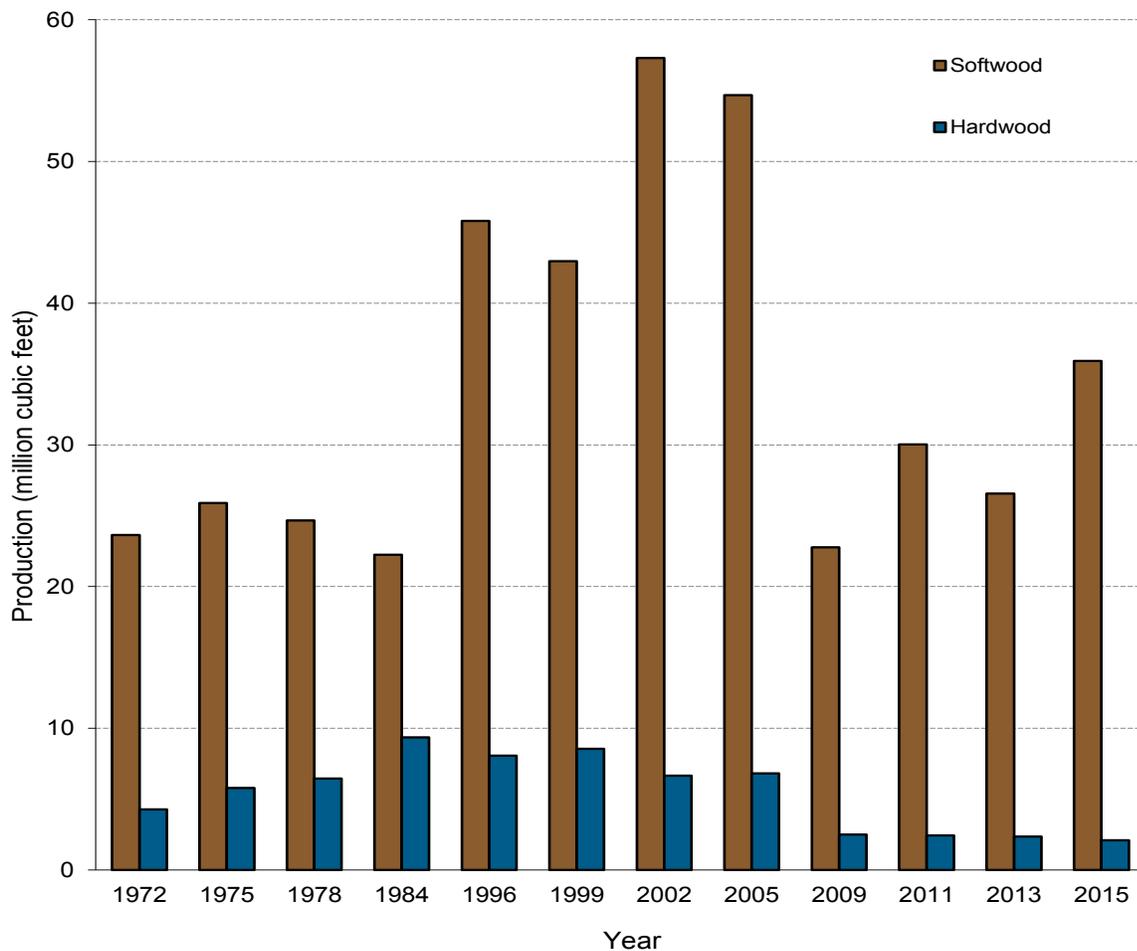


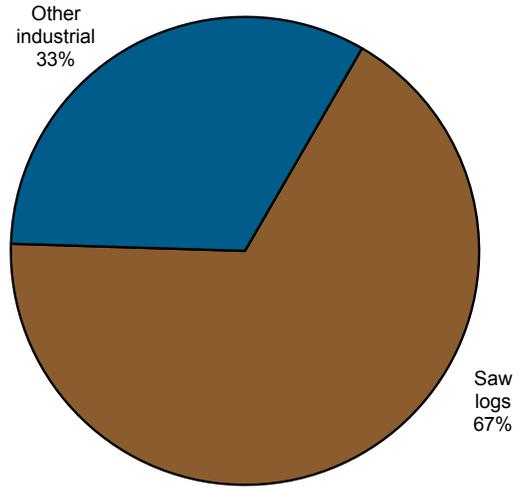
Figure 4—Roundwood saw log production by species group and year, Oklahoma.

## Plant Byproducts

In 2015, processing of primary products in Oklahoma mills generated 30.3 million cubic feet of wood and bark residues. Coarse residues from all primary products amounted to 9.6 million cubic feet, while bark volume totaled 12.1 million cubic feet. Collectively, sawdust and shavings made up 28 percent of total residues, or 8.6 million cubic feet (fig. 5).

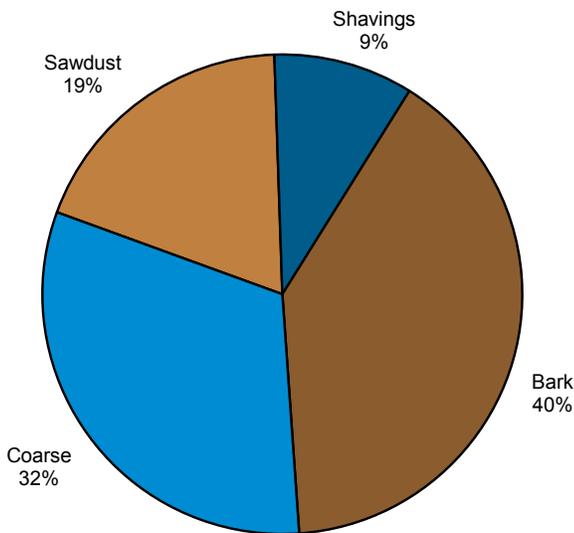
The processing of saw logs generated 20.3 million cubic feet of mill residues, accounting for 67 percent of the total residues produced (fig. 6).

Ninety-two percent, or 27.8 million cubic feet, of the wood and bark residues were used for a product. While 8 percent of the residues were not used for a product, 60 percent of the residues were used for industrial fuel and 20 percent were used for fiber products (fig. 7). Ninety-three percent of industrial fuel was used on site, while 7 percent were sold to other plants. Sixty-three percent, or 6.1 million cubic feet, of the coarse residues were used for fiber products. Seventy-six percent of the bark was used for industrial fuel, while 99 percent of the sawdust and shavings were used for industrial fuel.



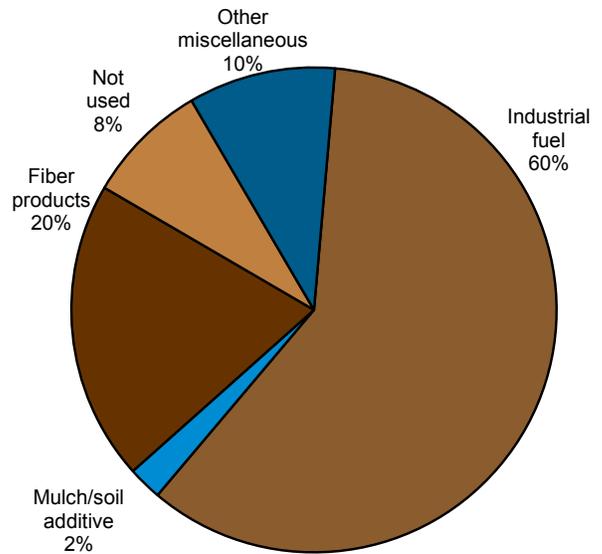
Total 30 million cubic feet

Figure 6—Primary mill residue produced by roundwood type, Oklahoma, 2015.



Total 30 million cubic feet

Figure 5—Primary mill residue by residue type, Oklahoma, 2015.



Total 30 million cubic feet

Figure 7—Disposal of residue by product, Oklahoma, 2015.

### How to Cite This Publication

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### Contact Information

James A. Gray, Forester  
 Forest Inventory and Analysis  
 Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service  
 4700 Old Kingston Pike  
 Knoxville, Tennessee 37919  
 Phone: 865-862-2008 / Fax: 865-862-0248  
 Email: [jagray@fs.fed.us](mailto:jagray@fs.fed.us)  
 Southern FIA: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/srsfia/>  
 National FIA: <https://fia.fs.fed.us>

James 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](mailto:jamesbentley@fs.fed.us)  
 Southern FIA: <https://srsfia2.fs.fed.us>  
 National FIA: <https://fia.fs.fed.us>

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