



# Louisiana'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 Louisiana, 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 Louisiana 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 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://www.fs.usda.gov/srsfia/>.

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, 2013 and 2015**

Product and species group	Year			
	2013	2015	Change	Change
	--- thousand cubic feet ---			percent
<b>Saw logs</b>				
Softwood	119,474	125,894	6,420	5.4
Hardwood	18,410	17,226	-1,184	-6.4
Total	137,884	143,120	5,236	3.8
<b>Veneer logs</b>				
Softwood	116,776	99,771	-17,005	-14.6
Hardwood	329	0	-329	-100.0
Total	117,105	99,771	-17,334	-14.8
<b>Pulpwood</b>				
Softwood	308,528	273,006	-35,522	-11.5
Hardwood	48,003	45,334	-2,669	-5.6
Total	356,531	318,340	-38,191	-10.7
<b>Bioenergy</b>				
Softwood	8,206	34,768	26,562	323.7
Hardwood	2,673	5,247	2,574	96.0
Total	10,879	40,015	29,136	268.0
<b>Other industrial</b>				
Softwood	45,024	53,102	8,078	17.9
Hardwood	117	117	0	-
Total	45,141	53,219	8,078	17.9
<b>All industrial</b>				
Softwood	598,009	586,541	-11,468	-1.9
Hardwood	69,532	67,924	-1,608	-2.3
Total	667,541	654,465	-13,076	-2.0

## All Products

Industrial timber product output from roundwood decreased 13.1 million cubic feet, or 2 percent, to 654.5 million cubic feet.

Output of industrial softwood roundwood products was down 2 percent, to 586.5 million cubic feet, while output of industrial hardwood roundwood products decreased 2 percent to 67.9 million cubic feet (fig. 1).

Pulpwood and saw logs were the principal roundwood products in 2015. Combined output of these two products totaled 461.5 million cubic feet and accounted for 71 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 714.3 million cubic feet to 762.6 million cubic feet.

At the same time, the number of primary roundwood-using plants in Louisiana increased from 43 in 2013 to 45 in 2015 (fig. 3, see next page). The number of pulpmills, composite panel mills and miscellaneous mills remained stable. Saw mills declined by three, veneer mills declined by one, and post, poles and piling mills gained one mill, and bioenergy facilities increased by 5.

Across all products, 87 percent of roundwood harvested was retained for processing at Louisiana mills. Exports of roundwood to other States amounted to 84.1 million cubic feet, while imports of roundwood amounted to 192.2 million cubic feet making the State a net importer of roundwood.

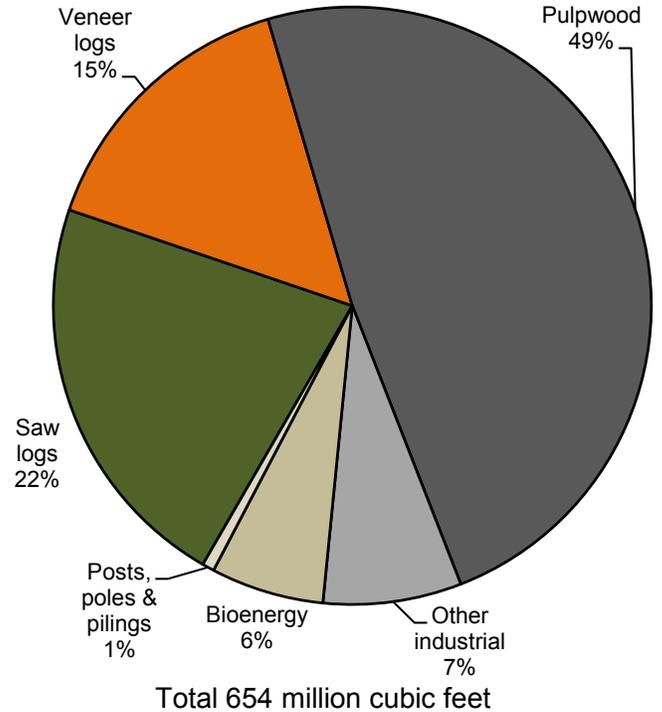


Figure 2—Roundwood production by type of product, Louisiana, 2015.

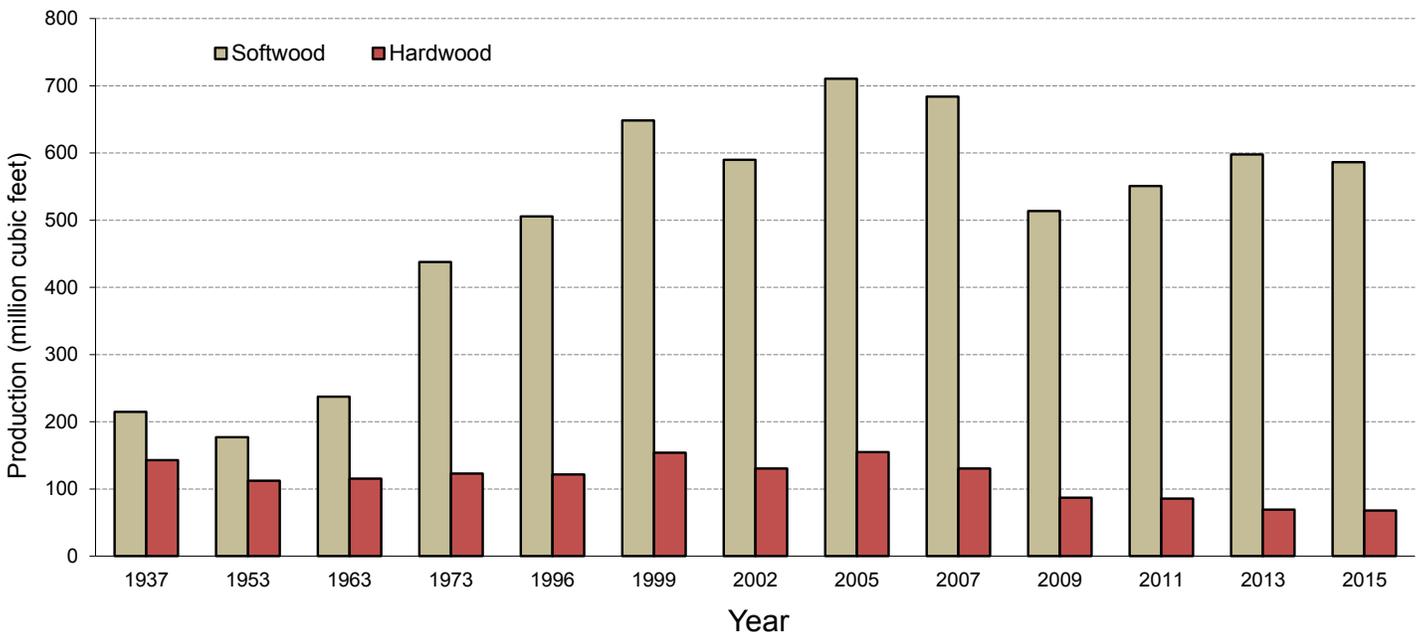


Figure 1— Roundwood production for all products by species group and year, Louisiana.

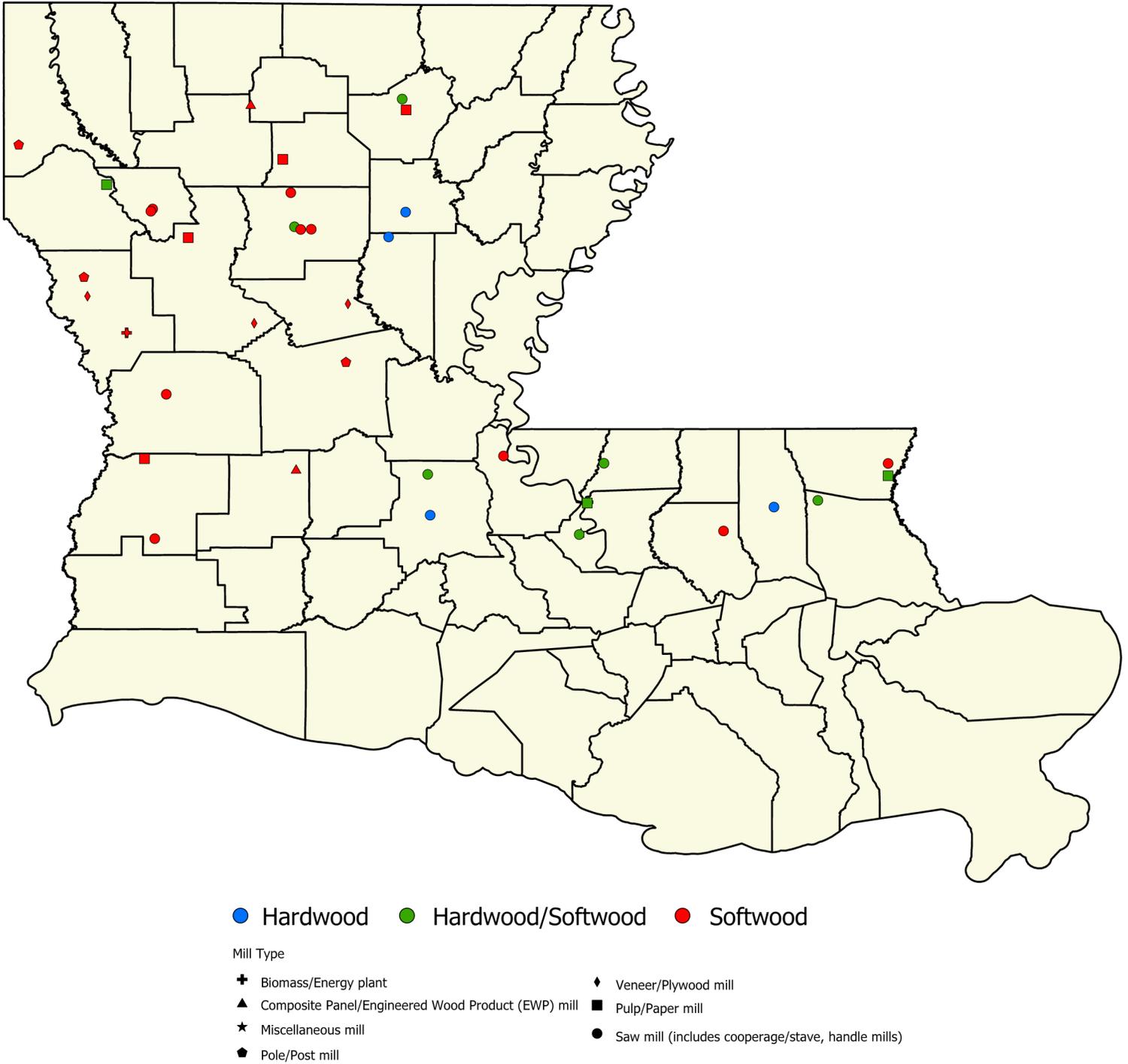


Figure 3– Primary wood-using mills, Louisiana, 2015.

## Pulpwood

Total pulpwood production decreased 11 percent to 318.3 million cubic feet and accounted for 49 percent of the State’s total roundwood TPO, 4 percent less than 2013. Softwood output was down to 273 million cubic feet; hardwood output decreased to 45.3 million cubic feet (fig. 4).

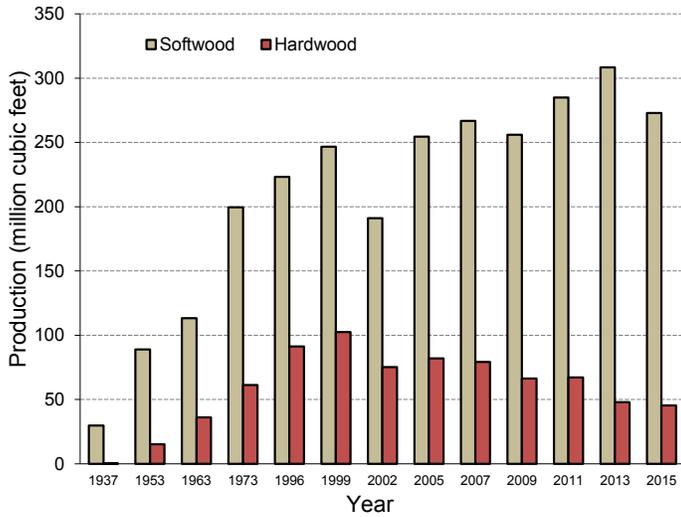


Figure 4—Roundwood pulpwood production by species group and year, Louisiana, 2015.

Seven pulpmill facilities were operating and receiving roundwood in Louisiana in 2015, the same as in 2013. Total pulpwood receipts for these mills decreased to 397.1 million cubic feet, accounting for 52 percent of total receipts for all mills.

Eighty-four percent of roundwood cut for pulpwood was retained for processing at Louisiana pulpmills. Roundwood pulpwood accounted for 61 percent of total known exports and 68 percent of total imports.

## Saw Logs

Saw logs accounted for 22 percent of the State’s total roundwood products. Output of softwood saw logs increased 5 percent to 125.9 million cubic feet, while that of hardwood saw logs decreased 6 percent to 17.2 million cubic feet (fig. 5).

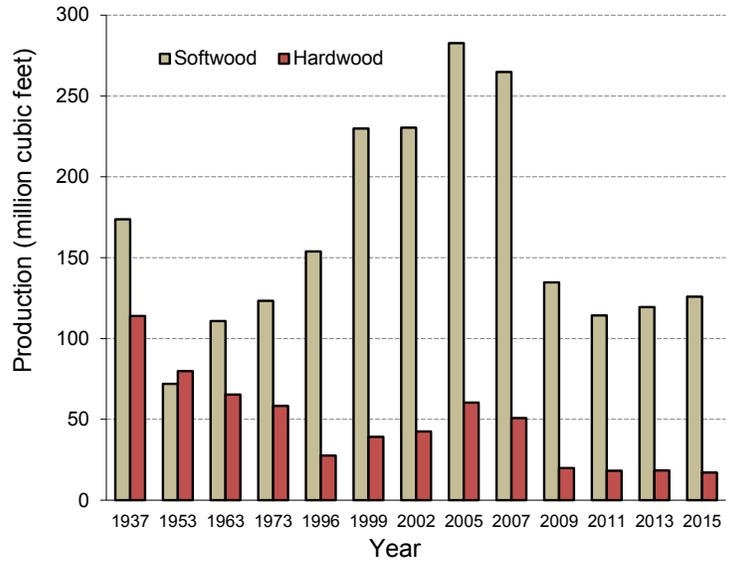


Figure 5—Roundwood saw-log production by species group and year, Louisiana, 2015.

In 2015, Louisiana had 20 sawmills, down three from 2013. Total saw-log receipts were up 12.5 million cubic feet to 149.7 million cubic feet. Softwood saw-log receipts increased 10 percent to 135.4 million cubic feet, while those of hardwoods had no change at 14.3 million cubic feet.

Louisiana retained 87 percent of its saw-log production for within State manufacture, with saw-log exports exceeding imports by 2.9 million cubic feet in 2015.

## Veneer Logs

Output of veneer logs in 2015 totaled 99.8 million cubic feet, a 15 percent decrease since 2013, and accounted for 15 percent of the State’s total roundwood TPO volume (fig. 6). Softwood made up 100 percent of the veneer log product volume.

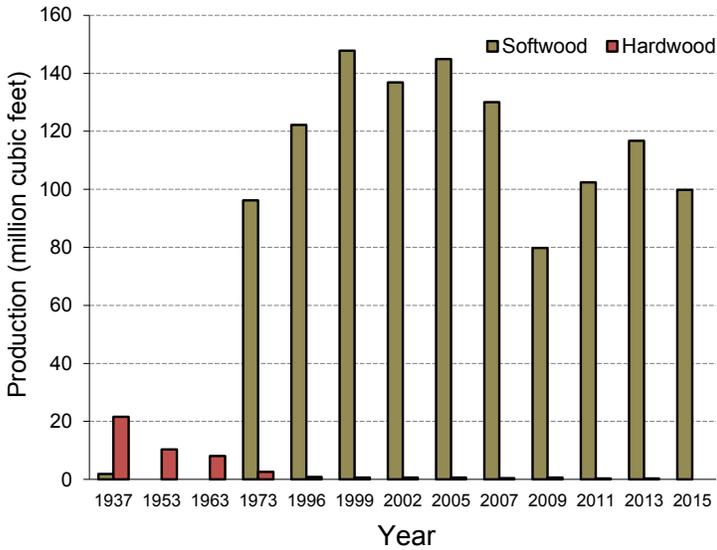


Figure 6—Roundwood veneer-log production by species group and year, Louisiana, 2015.

The number of veneer mills operating in Louisiana declined one, to four in 2015. Receipts of veneer logs experienced no change at 91.3 million cubic feet.

## Bioenergy

Output of bioenergy in 2015 totaled 40 million cubic feet, a 268 percent increase since 2013, and accounted for 6 percent of the State’s total roundwood TPO volume (fig. 7). Softwood bioenergy increased 324 percent to 34.8 million cubic feet, while hardwood bioenergy increased 96 percent to 5.2 million cubic feet.

Eight bioenergy facilities were operating and receiving roundwood in Louisiana in 2015, up from three in 2013. Total bioenergy receipts for these mills was 66.6 million cubic feet, accounting for 9 percent of total receipts for all mills.

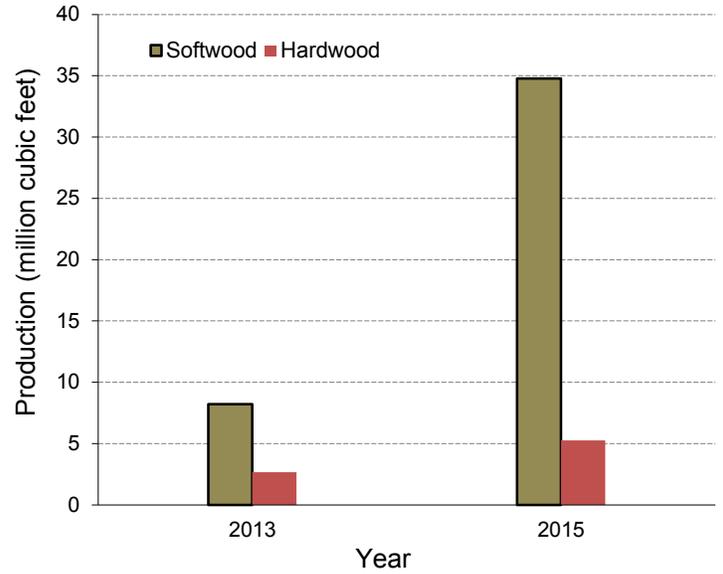


Figure 7—Roundwood bioenergy log production by species group and year, Louisiana, 2015

## 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 53.2 million cubic feet. Softwood made up 99 percent of the other industrial products volume.

The number of plants producing other industrial products totaled 6 in 2015. Combined receipts of other industrial products from softwood and hardwood totaled 57.8 million cubic feet.

## Plant Byproducts

In 2015, processing of primary products in Louisiana mills generated 172.4 million cubic feet of wood and bark residues. Coarse residues from all primary products amounted to 75.9 million cubic feet, while bark volume totaled 36.4 million cubic feet. Collectively, sawdust and shavings made up 35 percent of total residues, or 60.2 million cubic feet (fig. 8).

The processing of saw logs generated 98.1 million cubic feet of mill residues, accounting for 59 percent of the total residues produced (fig. 9).

Nearly 100 percent, or 172.4 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. Fifty-eight percent of the residues were used for industrial fuel, 78 percent of residues used for industrial fuel were used onsite and 22 percent were used offsite. Forty percent were used for fiber products, 2 percent were used for mulch/soil additive and < 1 percent were used for animal bedding and small dimension sawn products (fig. 10). Eighty-six percent, or 64.9 million cubic feet, of the coarse residues were used for fiber products.

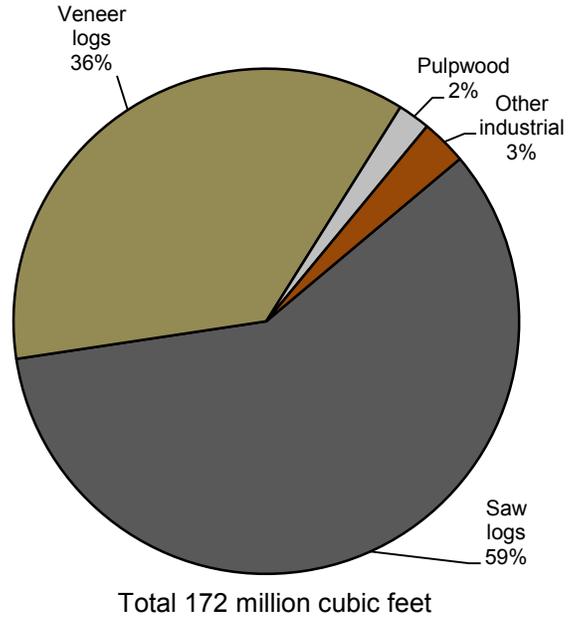


Figure 9—Primary mill residue produced by roundwood type, Louisiana, 2015.

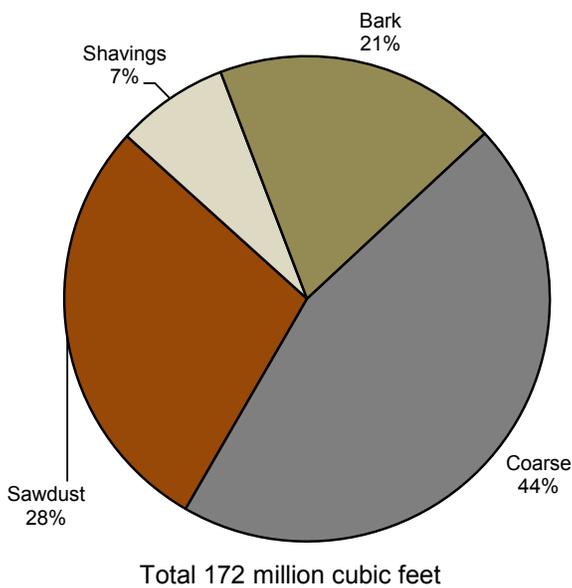


Figure 8—Primary mill residue by residue type, Louisiana, 2015.

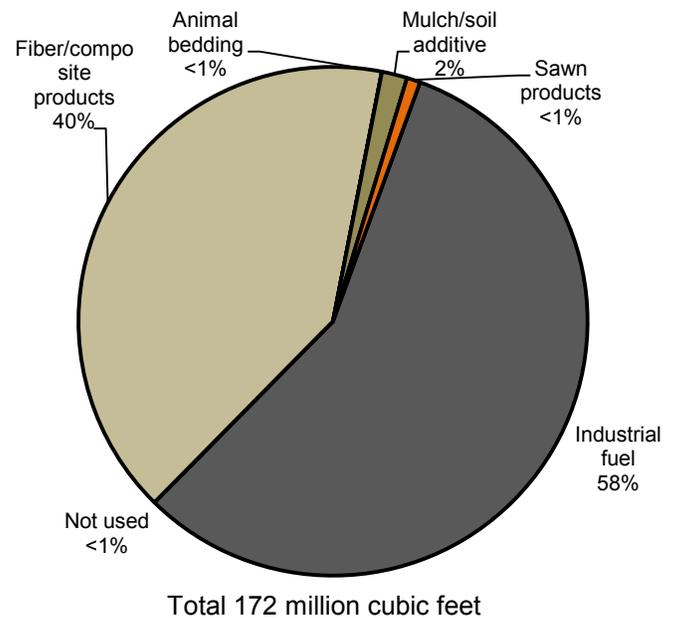


Figure 10—Disposal of residue by product, Louisiana, 2015.

### How to Cite This Publication

Wall, David J.; Bentley, James W.; Cooper, Jason A.; Gray, James A.; Blazier, Michael; Tanger, Shawn M. 2017. Louisiana's timber industry—timber product output and use, 2015. e-Science Update—SRS—136. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 6 p.

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