

2015 Louisiana Forest Facts at a Glance

Land Area: 14 million acres or 50% of the state's land area.

Owners of Forestland: 81% - private non-industrial landowners; 10% - forest product companies; 9% - public (government land).

Economic Impact: \$11 billion. Forestry accounted for 39% of the total value of all plant commodities grown in the state. When you add plant and animal commodities forestry still contributes 25% of the value of Louisiana's ag commodities.

Planting the trees back: Landowners planted over 73 million seedlings or about 16 trees for every Louisiana citizen. Other trees are also naturally regenerated.

2014 harvests: 924 million board feet of sawtimber and 6.3 million cords of wood. This is a 7% decrease in sawtimber with the cordwood products remaining steady.

Landowner Income: Forest landowners received \$386 million in 2014 compared to \$425 million in 2013.

Logger contractors and their employees: Earned \$456.6 million in 2013 which was up from \$386.6 million in 2012.

Jobs in Forestry: Total jobs from forestry were 45,611, according to the LSU AgCenter. There were 12,917 manufacturing employees in 2013 in the wood and paper industries. They received \$750.4 million in 2013 compared to \$742.8 million in 2012.

Severance taxes: Severance taxes from timber sales totaled \$12.13 million in 2014, a decrease from \$12.7 million in 2013. Parishes where the timber is grown received 75% of the money; the state's general fund received the remaining 25% with a portion of the funds allotted to landowner cost-share for replanting.

New and expanding industry: The new biofuels and wood pellet industries have announced plans to come to the state. There are 2 biofuels businesses (Cool Planet and Sundrop) and three pellet industries (Drax, German Pellets and Biomass Secure Power) expected to open soon. Also Packaging Corp of America (formerly Boise) and RoyOMartin expanded their plants and Idaho Timber reopened a sawmill in Coushatta.

**Sources: Louisiana Forestry Association, Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, LSU AgCenter and the La. Dept. of Labor.