

2012 Louisiana Forestry Facts*

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How much forestland does Louisiana have?

Forests cover 14 million acres, about 50% of Louisiana's land area, making it the state's greatest single land use. Fifty-nine of the state's 64 parishes contain land capable of producing sufficient timber to support forest-industry activities as well as provide habitat for wildlife, recreational opportunity, scenic beauty, and all the other environmental benefits timberlands provide.

Who owns Louisiana's forestland?

There are 148,000 owners of Louisiana forestland. Private non-industrial landowners own 81% of the state's forestland, forest products industries own 10% and the public owns 9%.

Trees are Louisiana's No. 1 crop.

In 2010, forestry accounted for 43% of the total value of all plant commodities grown in Louisiana, including cotton, feed grain crops, fruit, soybeans, sugarcane, and others. When you look at total value of Louisiana plant and animal commodities—beef, milk, poultry plus farm wildlife and fisheries—forestry contributes 28% of the value of Louisiana's agricultural commodities. Timber is manufactured by local mills throughout Louisiana into building materials, a variety of paper products and numerous other products used in daily life.

Do we put the trees back?

Louisiana landowners (industrial and non-industrial) reforest the land each year with over 128 million seedlings, an average of 410,000 trees per day (six-day week), and at least 29 trees for each Louisiana citizen (official 2000 census shows a state population of 4,468,876).

What is the economic value of forestry to Louisiana?

The impact of forestry and forest-products industries on our economy in 2011 was \$3 billion, slightly down from the \$3.1 billion in 2010. It was \$2.5 billion in 2009 and less than \$3.3 billion in 2008. Other recent figures were \$4.22 billion in 2007, \$5.3 billion in 2004, \$3.7 billion in 2003 and \$3.8 billion in 2002. In 1998 it hit a high of \$5.4 billion and in 1997 it was \$5.3 billion.

How much timber does Louisiana harvest?

In 2011, 828.6 million board feet of sawtimber and 5.8 million cords of wood were harvested compared to 811.9 million board feet of sawtimber and 6.3 million cords of wood were harvested in 2010. It was 710 million board feet of sawtimber and 6.1 million cords of wood in 2009. Other recent figures were 908 million board feet of sawtimber and 6.6 million cords of wood in 2008, 1.2 billion board feet of sawtimber and 6.5 million cords of wood in 2007, 1.4 billion board feet of sawtimber and 7 million cords of wood in 2006 and 1.2 billion board feet of sawtimber and 6.5 million cords of wood harvested in 2005. Other recent data includes:

2004	1.2 billion bf of sawtimber	6.3 million cords of wood	2002	1.2 billion bf of sawtimber	6.3 million cords
2003	1.3 billion bf of sawtimber	6.8 million cords	2001	1.2 billion bf of sawtimber	5.8 million cords

What is landowner income from forestry?

Louisiana forest landowners received \$379.9 million in 2011 compared to 396.8 million in 2010. It was \$338.9 million in 2009. It was \$471.2 million in 2008, \$558 million in 2007 and \$669 million in 2006, \$582 million in 2005, \$593 million in 2004 and \$605 million in 2003. Other totals in recent years were:

2002	\$573 million	2001	\$519 million
2000	\$655 million	1999	\$680 million
1998	\$744 million	1997	\$610.3 million

How much do woods workers earn from timber?

Louisiana timber contractors and their employees earned \$420.5 million in 2011 compared to \$426.6 million in 2010. It was \$381.4 million in 2009 and \$487.9 million in 2008. This was down from \$534 million in 2007. They were paid \$592 million in 2006. In 2005, they made \$519 million. Other figures include:

2004	\$441.7 million	2001	\$373 million
2003	\$349 million	2000	\$404 million
2002	\$423 million.	1999	\$397 million

It is estimated that each loaded log truck pays the equivalent of \$835 in local, state and federal taxes.

How many Louisiana industries depend directly on forests?

Louisiana's forests support some 180 primary wood-using industries (such as sawmills and paper mills) located throughout the state and 750 secondary wood-using industries (including furniture manufacturers, cabinet makers, millwork plants and others that use the products produced by primary wood-using industries).

How many people do Louisiana's forest industries employ?

Forest industries are the second largest manufacturing employer in Louisiana, providing about 12,942 jobs (1st Qu 11) compared to 12,694 in 2010. But the total was 15,924 in 2008. This overall employment figure has declined from 25,802 in 2000 due to the closure of several mills. In addition, an estimated 8,000 people are employed in the harvesting and transportation of timber and related industries.

How much do Louisiana citizens earn from forest-products manufacturing jobs?

Workers employed in forest products manufacturing earned \$731.2 million in 2011 compared to \$670.8 million in 2010. It was \$680 million in 2009 and \$774.8 million in 2008. This compares to \$864 million in 2007 and \$900 million in 2006. Other recent totals were: \$894.4 million in 2005; \$854 million in wages in 2004; \$800 million in 2003; \$833 million in 2002; \$840 million in 2001. The highest year in recent records was \$927 million in 1998.

State and local governments benefit directly from timber revenues.

Severance taxes from timber sales totaled \$12.1 million in 2011 down from \$13.6 million in 2010. Severance taxes paid in 2009 were \$12.6 million and \$14.6 million in 2008. In 2007 the severance tax was \$16 million, \$19.6 million in 2006, \$15.9 million in 2005, \$15.1 million in 2004 and \$17.5 million in 2003. The 2003 figure was up from \$16.4 million in 2002. In 2001, severance tax was \$18.6 million and in 2000 severance taxes amounted to \$18.6 million. Severance taxes were \$20.8 million in 1999, an increase from \$18.5 million in 1998, \$16.8 million in 1997 and \$16.6 million received in 1996. Parishes where the timber was grown received 75% of the monies; the state's general fund received the remaining 25% with a portion of the funds allotted to landowner cost share help for replanting.

Louisiana's forest industries are here for the long term.

Forest-products industries invested almost \$1 billion in new equipment and plants in Louisiana during the last 20 years, reinforcing the long-term strength of forestry in our economy.

*Sources: Louisiana Forestry Association, Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, LSU AgCenter and the Louisiana Department of Employment and Training.

For more information, call the Louisiana Forestry Association at (318) 443-2558. Published March, 2011.