



## Forestry in Virginia:

- ▲ **15.8 million acres** of forestland
- ▲ **12.2 million acres** are privately owned
- ▲ **373,000** individual forest landowners
- ▲ Landowners receive **\$275 Million** per year for harvested timber
- ▲ **103,000** Virginians are employed in forestry-related industry jobs
- ▲ **2.5 percent** of all Virginia workers are employed in forestry-related industry jobs
- ▲ Forestry generates **\$17 Billion** annually in total industry output
- ▲ Societal and ecological benefits of forestry contribute another **\$4.1 Billion** annually

### For More Information

For more information about VDOF services or programs, please contact your local Virginia Department of Forestry office or visit:

**[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)**

**Western Region Office, Salem:**

Phone: (540) 387-5461

**Central Region Office, Charlottesville:**

Phone: (434) 977-5193

**Eastern Region Office, Providence Forge:**

Phone: (804) 966-5092



**Virginia Department of Forestry**

900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903  
Phone: (434) 977-6555

**[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)**

VDOF P00100; 06/2015

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# THE VALUE OF VIRGINIA'S FORESTS

*Weldon Cooper Center Study  
Finds Virginia Forests Provide  
More Than  
\$21.1 Billion Annually  
in Benefits to the  
Commonwealth*



Virginia Department of Forestry

# The Economics of Forestry

Forestry and the wood products industry is a tremendous economic engine in the Commonwealth that generates more than \$17 Billion in total industrial output annually and provides employment for more than 103,000 Virginians, according to a 2011 study by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia.

The study also examined the impact of farming and related agricultural activities, which generated more than \$52.2 Billion in total industrial output and 309,580 jobs. Thus, forestry and agriculture in the Commonwealth have a combined total annual impact of \$60 Billion and 413,427 people employed (one out of every 10 workers), making it one of the largest and most important sectors of Virginia's economy.

"For more than 400 years, forestry has been a vital component of the Commonwealth's economy," said Bettina Ring, state forester of Virginia. "Timber was the very first product shipped to England by the colonists at Jamestown, and more than four centuries later it remains a strong industry."

The Cooper Center study found that forestry production employs 7,000 workers and generates almost \$2 Billion in total industrial output. Value-added industries that are timber dependent employ an additional 53,000 people and generate nearly \$12 Billion in total



Photo courtesy of Virginia Loggers Association

industrial output. Through purchasing decisions of forestry-related industry and their rippling effects in the economy, another 84,000 jobs and more than \$10 Billion in total industrial output are generated. The 103,000 people employed by forestry and related

sectors represent 2.5 percent of total employment in Virginia.

The study noted that more than 15 million acres (62 percent) of the Commonwealth's total land area is forest-use land, the bulk of which is owned by private citizens. In 2008, these Virginians received nearly \$275 Million for timber harvested on their lands. This timber was milled into 1.6 billion-board-feet of lumber that was used to build homes and manufacture furniture. Additionally, portions of the harvested timber were used to create consumer products, such as chewing gum and toothpaste.

The Commonwealth's forests are dominated by hardwood stands, which constitute 78 percent of the state's trees, and Virginia is the third largest producer of hardwood lumber in the nation. Oak-hickory is the most prevalent forest type. While hardwood removal is predominate statewide, in two areas (southeastern and coastal Virginia) softwoods are the number one source of forest products.

The Cooper Center study did not capture the important societal and ecological benefits, such as water quality, carbon sequestration, soil stabilization, flood mitigation, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, scenic amenities and recreational opportunities, provided by our forests. The Virginia Department of Forestry has valued these benefits at \$4.1 Billion annually. Thus, Virginia forests provide more than \$21.1 Billion annually in benefits to the Commonwealth.

## For More Information

For more information on how the Virginia Department of Forestry can help you, call your local VDOF office or visit the agency Web site at [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov).

### Economic Impact of Agriculture and Forestry in Virginia

Economic Impact	Industry	Employment	Value Added (million \$)	Output (million \$)
<b>Production</b>	Agriculture	74,834	\$2,714.53	\$5,886.74
	Forestry	11,788	\$878.67	\$150.63
	Total	86,622	\$3,593.20	\$6,037.37
<b>Value-Added Industries</b>	Agriculture	65,705	\$5,484.81	\$14,513.26
	Forestry	48,755	\$4,371.70	\$903.56
	Total	114,460	\$9,856.51	\$15,416.82
<b>Indirect + Induced Effects</b>	Agriculture	169,041	\$17,602.45	\$31,826.75
	Forestry	43,304	\$3,497.66	\$6,674.66
	Total	212,345	\$21,100.11	\$38,501.41
<b>Total</b>	Agriculture	309,580	\$25,801.79	\$52,226.75
	Forestry	103,847	\$8,748.03	\$7,728.85
	Total	413,427	\$34,549.82	\$59,955.60