

2009 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 2008, forestry accounted for 53% 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 35% 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?

In the 2007 planting season, Louisiana landowners (industrial and non-industrial) reforested the land 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 2008 was \$3.3 billion, down from \$4.22 billion in 2007. The figure was \$5.3 billion in 2004. In 2003 the figure was \$3.7 billion. In 2002 it was \$3.8 billion and in 2001 it was \$3.3 billion. In 1999 the impact was \$4.4 billion. 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 2008, 908 million board feet of sawtimber and 6.6 million cords of wood were harvested compared to 1.2 billion board feet of sawtimber and 6.5 million cords of wood in 2007. In 2006 it was 1.4 billion board feet of sawtimber and 7 million cords of wood. This compares to 1.2 billion board feet of sawtimber and 6.5 million cords of wood harvested in 2005. Other recent data includes these harvests:

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 \$471.2 million in 2008 as compared to \$558 million in 2007. It was \$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 \$487.9 million in 2008 compared to \$534 million in 2007. They were paid \$592 million in 2006, a decrease of \$58 million. In 2005, it was from \$519 million paid for harvesting trees and hauling the wood to the mills. 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 15,924 jobs (2nd Qu 08) compared to 17,082 in 2007. This overall employment figure has declined from 25,802 in 2000 due to the closure of several mills. Several mills have closed in the last year due to the slump in home sales. In addition, an estimated 8,000 people are employed in the harvesting and transportation of timber.

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

Workers employed in forest products manufacturing earned \$774.8 million in 2008 down from \$864 million in 2007. This compares to \$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 \$14.6 million in 2008, a drop from \$16 million in 2007. In 2006 the severance tax was \$19.6 million, \$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 decade, reinforcing the long-term strength of forestry in our economy. The new Roy O. Martin Lumber Company Oriented Strand Board mill in Allen Parish which opened in April 2007 is the largest such mill in North America.