



Georgia's Forests in a Regional, National and Global Context

Georgia's leadership in the production of forest products in the U.S. south, nation and world is possible because of the state's highly productive forests. On average, Georgia's 24.1 million acres of commercial timberlands grow in excess of 20 million tons more wood per year than is harvested, resulting in growth exceeding removals by 46% for all species combined. **Georgia is home to the following forest industry leaders and #1 rankings:**

- **The largest hardwood sawmill in the U.S.** – Beasley Forest Products – Hazlehurst, GA.
- **The largest recycled paper mill in North America** – WestRock – Dublin, GA.
- **The largest wood pellet plant in the World** – Georgia Biomass – Waycross, GA.
- **The largest crude tall oil biorefinery in the World** – Arizona Chemical – Savannah, GA.
- **The largest wood rosin plant in the World** – Pinova – Brunswick, GA.
- **Fort Benning is the 1st DoD base to undertake a forest carbon sequestration project** - 148,539-acres (*Fort Benning*).
- **Georgia leads the nation** in the production of poles (*U.S. Forest Service*).
- **Georgia leads the U.S. south** in softwood post & pole production and total post & pole production (*U.S. Forest Service*).
- **Georgia leads the U.S. south and nation** in the number of plantation acres at 7,727,850 (*U.S. Forest Service, Forest Inventory Analysis*).
- **Georgia leads the nation** in privately-owned timberland at 21,978,794 acres (*U.S. Forest Service, Forest Inventory Analysis*).
- **Georgia ranks #1 in U.S. exports of wood pellets to the world**, valued at \$242 million, 36% of the U.S. total; an increase of 79% over 2014.
 - The top five export destinations for Georgia wood pellets are: United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany (*GTIS, 2015*).
 - Nearly 100% of Georgia's wood pellets are exported to utility companies in Europe, where pellets are burned in electricity generating plants.
 - **Georgia's wood pellet manufacturing portfolio has grown from 0 to 10 wood pellet mills from 2007 to 2017.**
- **Georgia ranks #1 in U.S. exports of wood fuel to the world**, valued at \$286 million; an increase of 73% over 2014. This figure includes wood chips & pellets (*GTIS, 2015*).