



Georgia's Timber Industry—Timber Product Output and Use, 2015

Introduction

This science update contains the findings of a 2015 canvass of all primary wood-using plants in Georgia, and presents changes in product output and residue use since 2013. It complements the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) annual inventory of volume and removals from the State's timberland. The canvass was conducted to determine the amount and source of wood receipts and annual timber product drain, by county, in 2015 and to determine interstate and cross-regional movement of industrial roundwood. Only primary wood-using mills were canvassed. Primary mills are those that process roundwood in log or bolt form or as chipped roundwood. Examples of industrial roundwood products are saw logs, pulpwood, veneer logs, poles, and logs used for composite board products. Mills producing products from residues generated at primary and secondary processors were not canvassed. Trees chipped in the woods were included in the estimate of timber drain only if they were delivered to a primary domestic manufacturer.

A 100-percent canvass of all wood processors in Georgia was conducted in 2016 to obtain information for 2015. In addition, roundwood from out-of-State mills known to be using logs or bolts harvested from Georgia timberland was incorporated into Georgia production estimates. Each mill was canvassed by mail or through personal contact at plant locations. Telephone contacts followed mailed questionnaire responses when additional information or clarification of a response was necessary. In the event of a nonresponse, data collected in previous surveys were updated using current data collected for mills of similar size, product type, and location. Surveys for all timber products other than pulpwood began in 1961, and are currently conducted every 2 years.

Pulpwood production data were taken from an annual canvass of all southern pulpmills. Medium density fiberboard, insulating board, and hardboard plants were included in this survey.

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Research Work Unit of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture developed the Timber Product Output (TPO) Database Retrieval System to help customers answer questions about timber harvesting and use in the Southern region. This system acts as an interface to a standard set of consistently coded TPO data for each State and county in the region and Nation. The database is well documented and easy to use. The retrieval system allows the user to select the TPO variables of interest and generate a standard set of timber products, removals, and mill residue tables for the specified resource area, State, or

region. The Excel® core tables and figures that complement this science update are available on the TPO database. The system is available through the FIA Web site: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/srsfia/>.

Table 1—Output of industrial products by product and species group, Georgia, 2013 and 2015

Product and species group	Year		Change	Change
	2013	2015		
	--- thousand cubic feet ---		--- percent ---	
Saw logs				
Softwood	310,022	360,565	50,543	16.3
Hardwood	53,997	61,454	7,457	13.8
Total	364,019	422,019	58,000	15.9
Veneer logs				
Softwood	40,494	41,936	1,442	3.6
Hardwood	2,761	2,767	6	0.2
Total	43,255	44,703	1,448	3.3
Pulpwood				
Softwood	508,127	524,401	16,274	3.2
Hardwood	99,809	93,907	-5,902	-5.9
Total	607,936	618,308	10,372	1.7
Composite panels				
Softwood	74,166	85,665	11,499	15.5
Hardwood	4	170	166	4150.0
Total	74,170	85,835	11,665	15.7
Bioenergy				
Softwood	76,170	98,359	22,189	29.0
Hardwood	5,306	26,013	20,707	390.3
Total	81,476	124,371	44,896	52.6
Other industrial				
Softwood	88,108	14,597	-73,511	-83.4
Hardwood	6,726	1,638	-5,088	-75.6
Total	94,834	16,235	-78,599	-82.9
Poles, Posts, and Pilings				
Softwood	23,018	27,738	4,720	20.5
Hardwood	0	0	0	0.0
Total	23,018	27,738	4,720	20.5
All industrial				
Softwood	1,120,105	1,153,260	33,155	3.0
Hardwood	168,603	185,948	17,345	10.3
Total	1,288,708	1,339,208	50,500	3.9

The SRS gratefully acknowledges the tremendous cooperation and assistance provided by the Georgia Forestry Commission in collecting mill data. Appreciation is also extended to forest industry and mill managers for providing timber products information.

All Products

Industrial timber product output from roundwood increased 50.5 million cubic feet, or 4 percent, to 1.34 billion cubic feet.

Output of industrial softwood roundwood products increased 3 percent to 1.15 billion cubic feet, while output of industrial hardwood roundwood products increased 10 percent to 186 million cubic feet (fig. 1).

Pulpwood and saw logs were the principal roundwood products in 2015. Combined output of these two products totaled 1.04 billion cubic feet and accounted for 78 percent of the State's total industrial roundwood output (fig. 2).

Total receipts at Georgia mills, which included roundwood harvested and retained in the State and roundwood imported from other States, increased 11 percent to 1.34 billion cubic feet.

At the same time, the number of primary roundwood-using plants in Georgia increased from 164 in 2013 to 190 in 2015 (fig. 3, see next page). The number of sawmills increased by 4, pulpmills, veneer, and composite panel mills remained stable, bio-energy facilities increased by 13 and other miscellaneous mills increased by 8, poles/post/piling mills increased by 1.

Across all products, 86 percent of roundwood harvested was retained for processing at Georgia mills. Exports of roundwood to other States amounted to 183.5 million cubic feet, while imports of roundwood amounted to 197.5 million cubic feet making the State a net importer of roundwood.

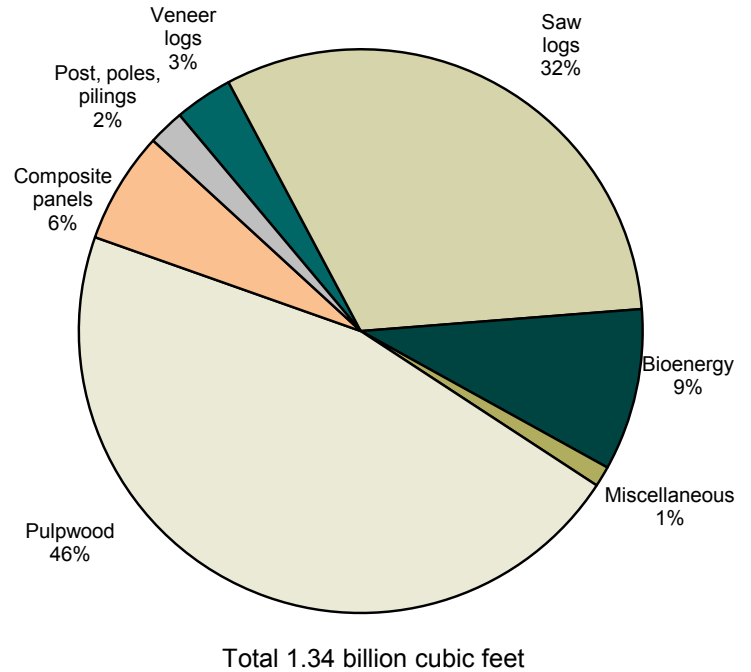


Figure 2— Roundwood production by type of product, Georgia, 2015.

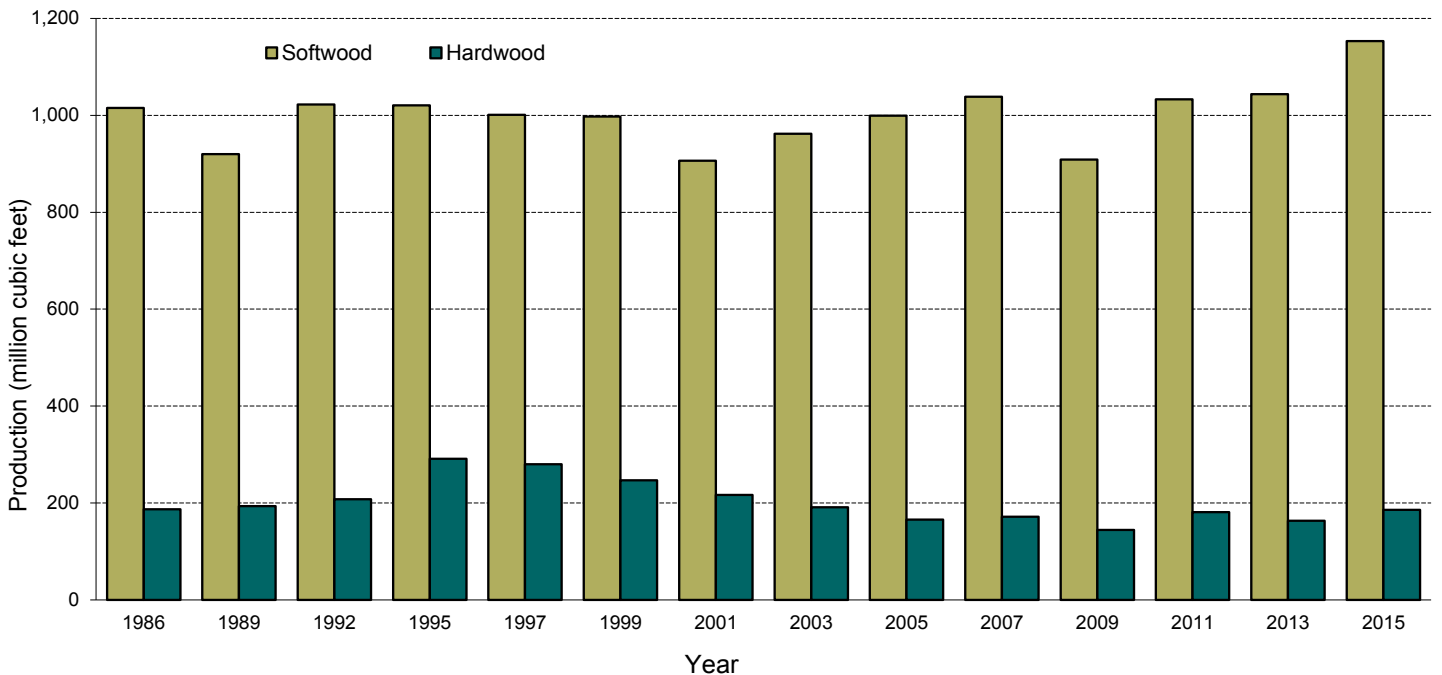


Figure 1— Roundwood production for all products by species group and year, Georgia, 2015.

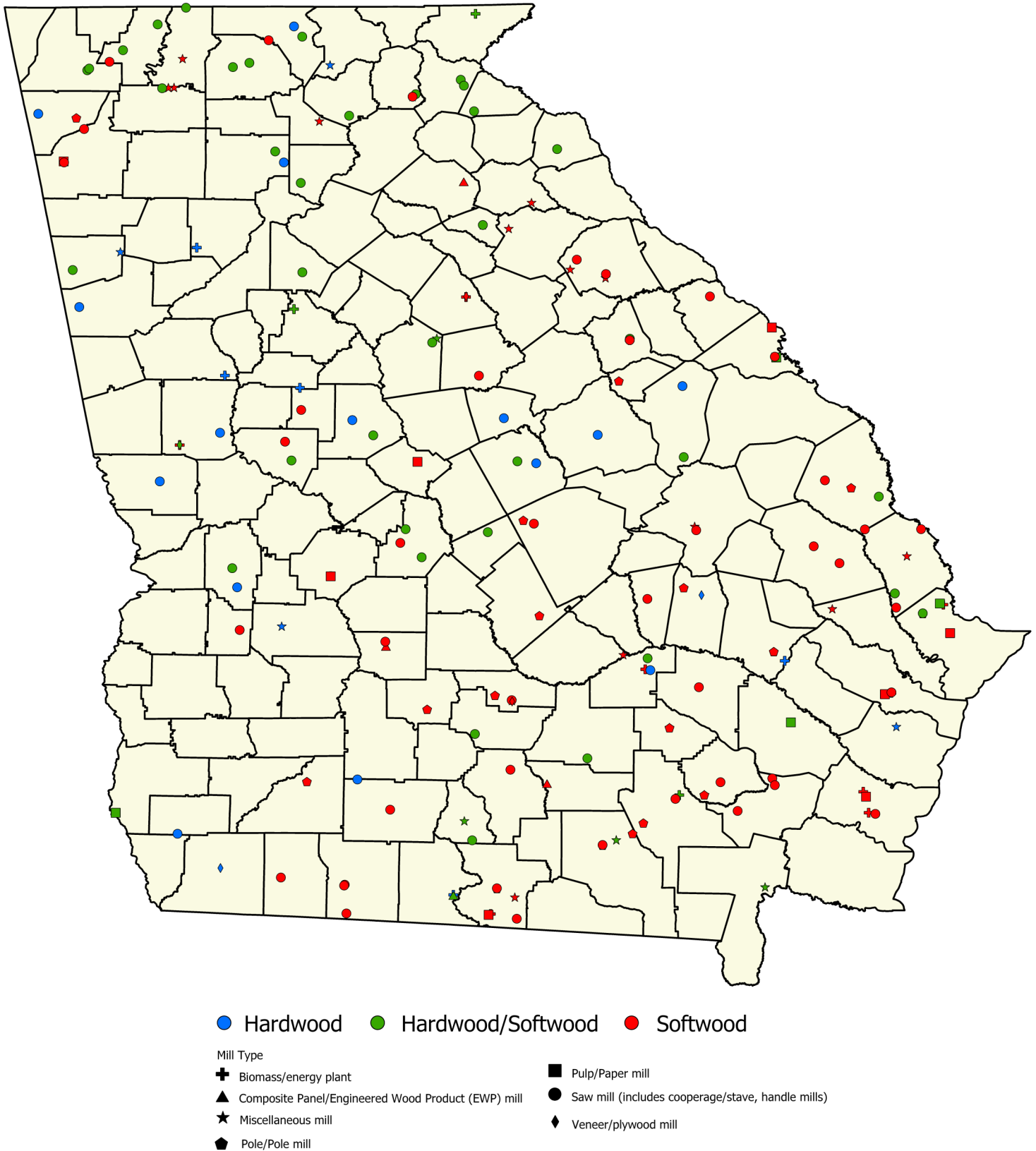


Figure 3—Primary wood-using mills, Georgia, 2015.

Pulpwood

Total pulpwood production increased 2 percent to 618.3 million cubic feet, and accounted for 46 percent of the State's total roundwood production compared to 47 percent of total production in 2013. Softwood output increased to 524.4 million cubic feet; hardwood output decreased to 93.9 million cubic feet (fig. 4). These were an increase and decrease from 2013 numbers of 3 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

Twelve pulpmill facilities were operating and receiving roundwood in Georgia in 2015, the same since 2003. Total pulpwood receipts for these mills decreased to 632.8 million cubic feet, accounting for 47 percent of total receipts for all mills.

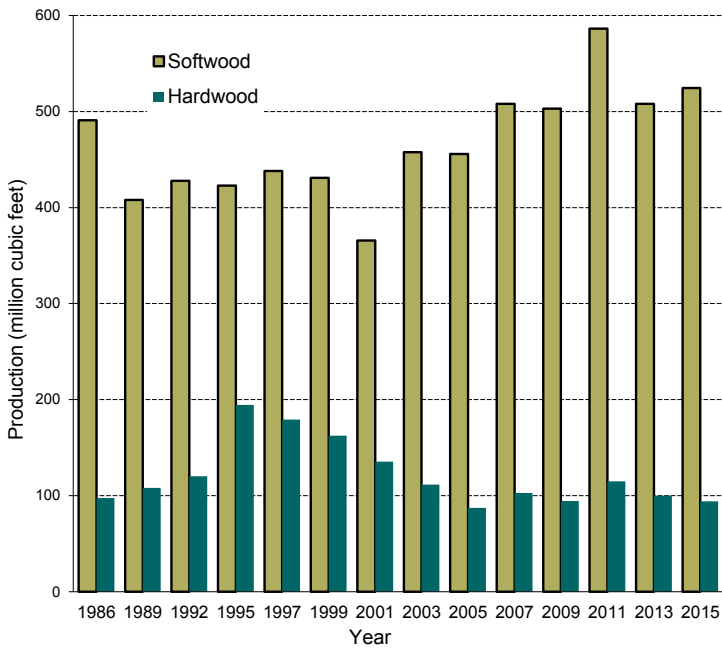


Figure 4—Roundwood pulpwood production by species group and year, Georgia, 2015.

Eighty percent of roundwood cut for pulpwood was retained for processing at Georgia pulp mills. Roundwood pulpwood accounted for 67 percent of total known exports and 69 percent of total imports.

Saw Logs

Saw logs accounted for 32 percent of the State's total roundwood products. Output of softwood saw logs increased 16 percent to 360.6 million cubic feet, while that of hardwood saw logs increased 14 percent to 61.5 million cubic feet (fig. 5).

In 2015, Georgia had 98 sawmills, 4 more mills than in 2013. Total saw-log receipts were up 58.3 million cubic feet to 430.9 million cubic feet. Softwood saw-log receipts increased 16 percent to 365.2 million cubic feet, while those of hardwoods increased 13 percent to 65.7 million cubic

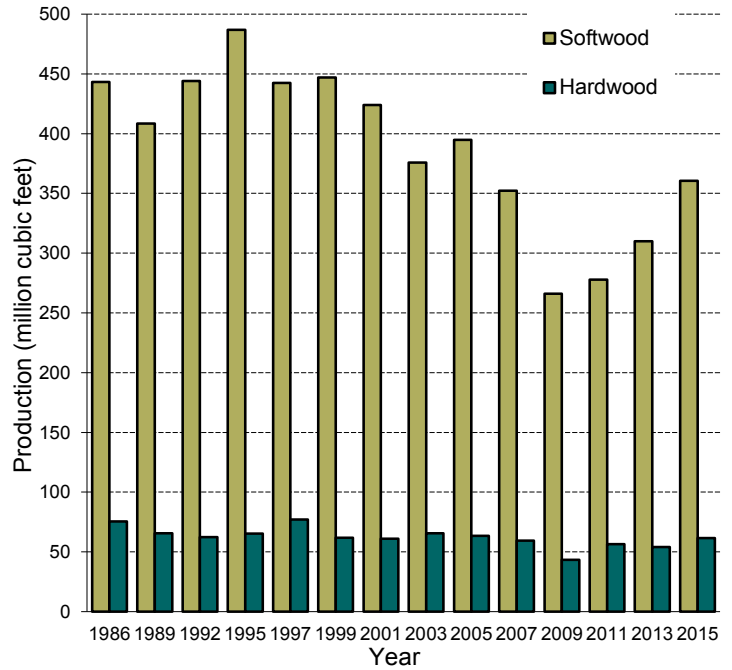


Figure 5— Roundwood saw-log production by species group and year, Georgia, 2015.

Georgia retained 93 percent of its saw-log production for within State manufacture, with saw-log imports exceeding exports by 8.9 million cubic feet in 2015.

Veneer Logs

Output of veneer logs in 2015 totaled 44.7 million cubic feet, a 3 percent increase since 2013, and accounted for 3 percent of the State's total roundwood production (fig. 6).

The number of veneer mills operating in Georgia remained stable at 5 for 2015. Receipts of veneer logs increased 9 percent to 45.4 million cubic feet.

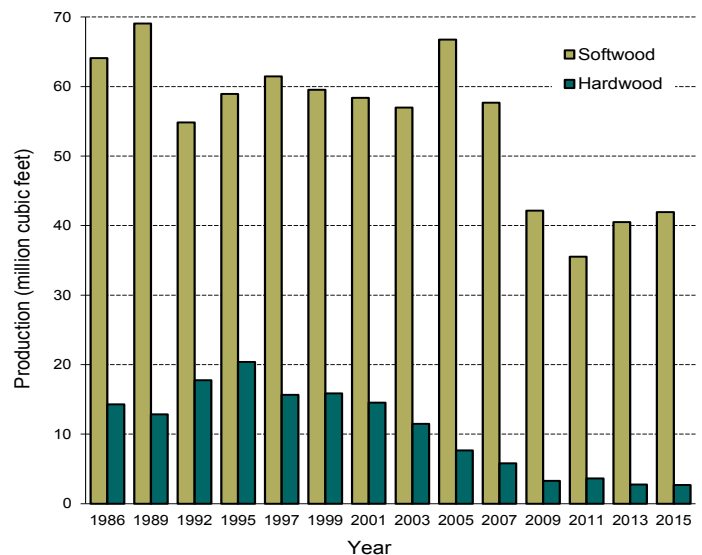


Figure 6— Roundwood veneer-log production by species group and year, Georgia, 2015.

Composite Panels

Roundwood harvested from Georgia’s forests for composite panels increased 16 percent and totaled 85.8 million cubic feet. Softwood output was up 16 percent to 85.7 million cubic feet. (fig. 7).

Four composite panel, or oriented strand board, mills were operating in Georgia in 2015, same as 2013. Total receipts for these mills increased 12 percent to 89.6 million cubic feet, and accounted for 7 percent of the State’s total receipts.

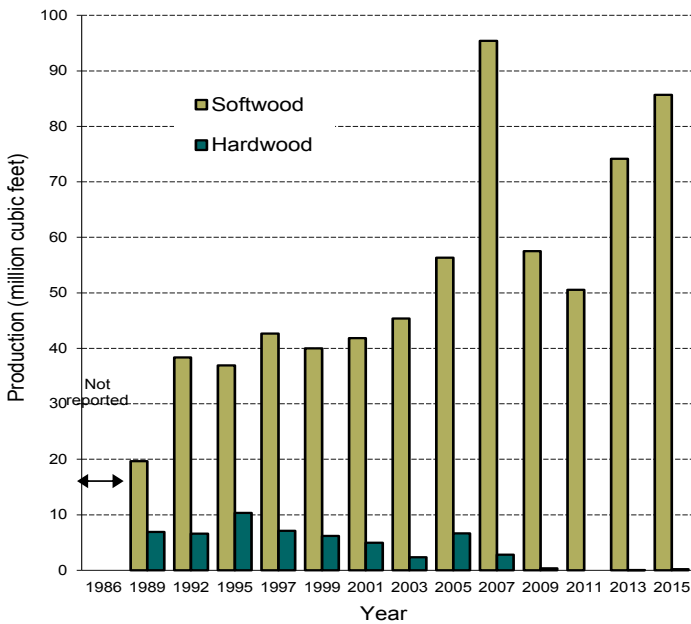


Figure 7— Roundwood composite panel production by species group and year, Georgia, 2015.

Bioenergy

Roundwood harvested from Georgia’s forests for bioenergy increased 53 percent and totaled 124.4 million cubic feet. Softwood output increased 29 percent to 98.4 million cubic feet, while that of hardwood increased 390 percent to 26 million cubic feet. (fig. 8).

Twenty-four bioenergy facilities were operating in Georgia in 2015, up from 11 in 2013. Total receipts for these mills totaled 109.7 million cubic feet, and accounted for 8 percent of the State’s total receipts.

Georgia retained 81 percent of its bioenergy log production for within State manufacture, with bioenergy exports exceeding imports by 14.7 million cubic feet in 2015.

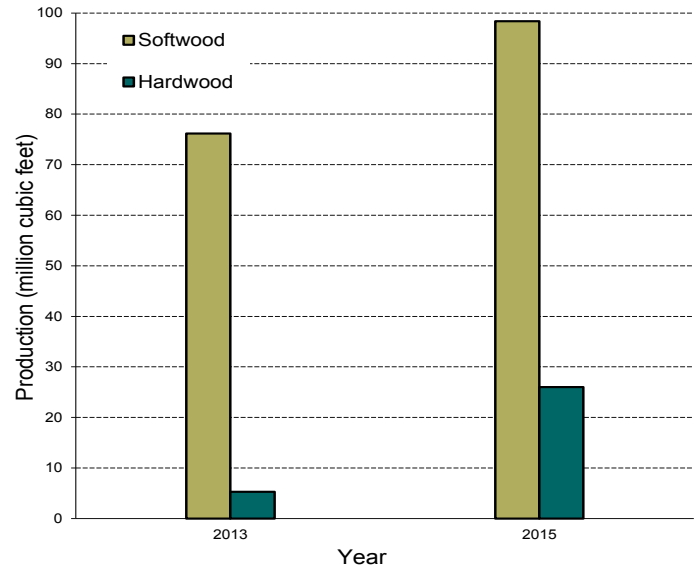


Figure 8— Roundwood bioenergy production by species group and year, Georgia, 2015.

Poles, Posts, and Pilings

Roundwood harvested from Georgia’s forests for poles, posts, and pilings increased 21 percent and totaled 27.7 million cubic feet. Softwood was the only species group used for product.

Eighteen pole, posts, and piling facilities were operating in Georgia in 2015, up from 17 in 2013. Total receipts for these mills totaled 28.9 million cubic feet, and accounted for 2 percent of the state’s total receipts.

Georgia retained 97 percent of its pole, posts, and piling production for within State manufacture, with pole, posts, and piling imports exceeding exports by 1.1 million cubic feet in 2015.

Other Industrial Products

Roundwood harvested for other industrial uses such as poles, posts, mulch, residential firewood, industrial fuel, logs for log homes, and all other industrial products totaled 44 million cubic feet. Softwood made up 96 percent of the other industrial products volume.

The number of plants producing other industrial products totaled 37 in 2015. Combined receipts of other industrial products from softwood and hardwood totaled 44.4 million cubic feet.

Plant Byproducts

In 2015, processing of primary products in Georgia mills generated 441.1 million cubic feet of wood and bark residues. Coarse residues from all primary products amounted to 157 million cubic feet, while bark volume totaled 184.7 million cubic feet. Collectively, sawdust and shavings made up 23 percent of total residues, or 99.3 million cubic feet (fig. 9).

The processing of saw logs generated 282.3 million cubic feet of mill residues, accounting for 64 percent of the total residues produced (fig. 10).

Nearly 441.1 million cubic feet, or 100 percent, of the wood and bark residues were used for a product. While <1 percent of the residues were not used for a product, 48 percent of the residues were used for industrial fuel and 31 percent were used for fiber products (fig. 11). Of course residue, 121.9 million cubic feet, or 78 percent, were used for fiber products. Eighty-four percent of the bark was used for industrial fuel, while 42 percent of the sawdust and shavings were used for industrial fuel.

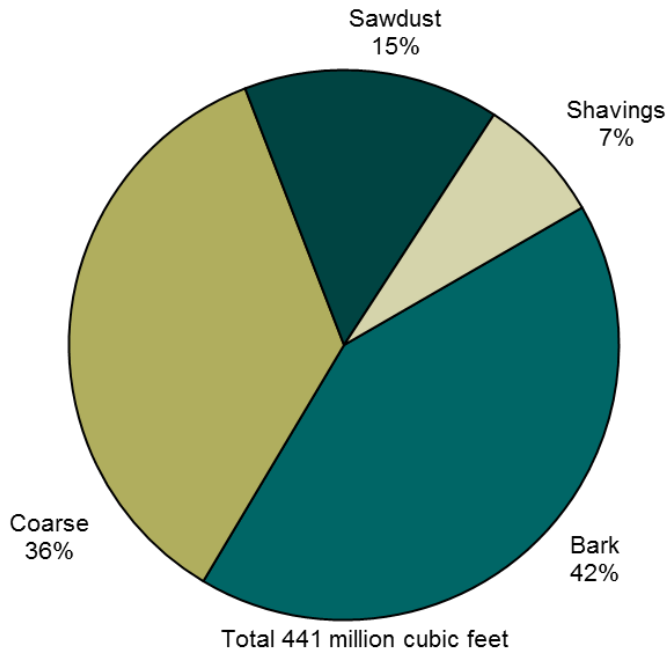


Figure 9— Primary mill residue by type, Georgia, 2015.

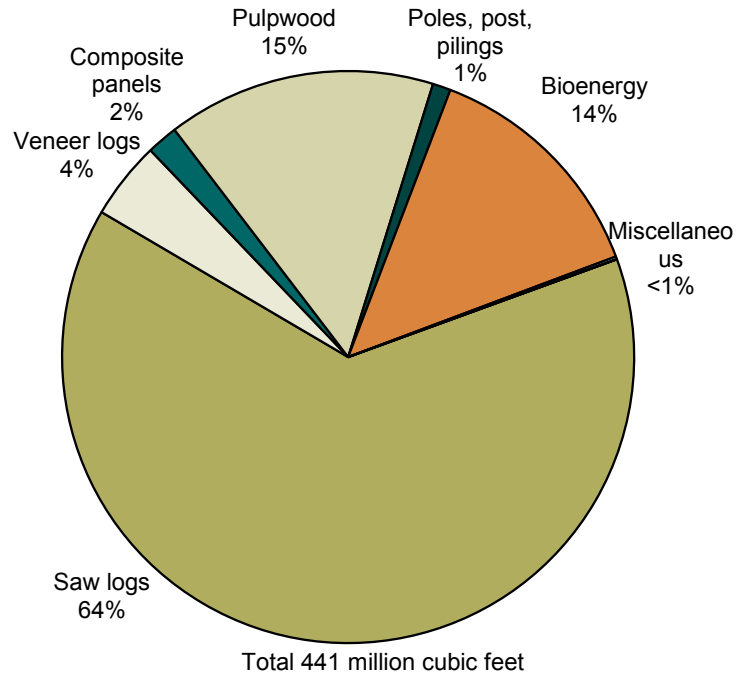


Figure 10— Primary mill residue produced by mill roundwood type, Georgia, 2015.

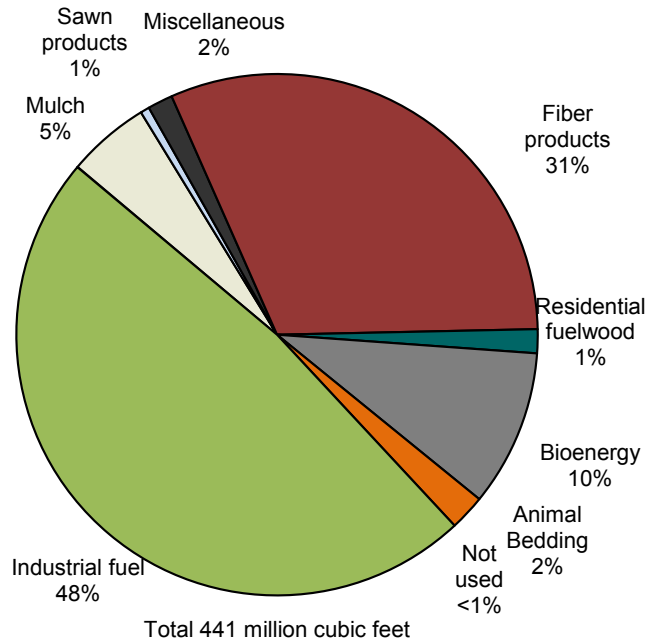


Figure 11— Disposal of residue by product, Georgia, 2015.

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