



2024 ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE FOREST INDUSTRY IN GEORGIA

2024 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Economic activity is measured by output, employment, and compensation generated directly by Georgia's forest industry.

For 2024, direct output, employment and compensation were \$31.8 billion, 57,453 jobs and \$4.9 billion, respectively (Table 1). Output, employment, and compensation increased from 2023 by 4.6%, 0.2% (128 jobs added), and 3%. Compared to other manufacturing industries in Georgia, the forest products industry ranked second in compensation and third in employment (to food processing).

Output	\$31.8 billion
Employment	57,453 jobs
Compensation	\$4.9 billion

Pulp and Paper: Georgia's pulp and paper industry, included 11 pulp mills as of 2024, representing 54% of direct revenue output (Figure 1), 38% of employment, and 49% of compensation (Figure 2). In 2024, pulp and paper employment and wages/salaries increased 3.8% and 7.1%, respectively.

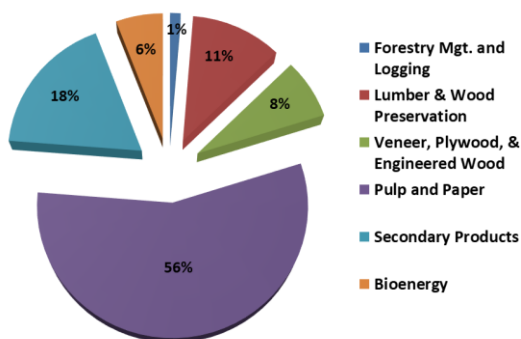


Figure 1. Revenue sharing by forest industry sector in 2024 real dollars.

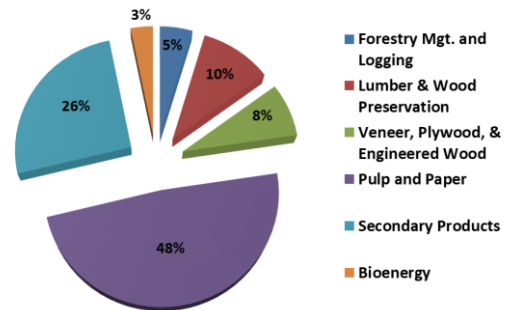


Figure 2. Compensation paid to forest industry workers in 2024 real dollars.

2024 TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Total economic impact of the forest industry includes dollars brought into the state, which recirculate through all major industry sectors (multiplier effect). Total 2024 economic impacts were \$59.4 billion in output, 177,389 jobs, and \$12.2 billion in compensation (Table 2).

Output	\$59.4 billion
Employment	177,389 jobs
Compensation	\$12.2 billion

FISCAL IMPACTS

The forest industry provided the state with \$880 million in tax revenue for 2024. Net state revenue generated by the forest industry was \$306 million.

URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY IMPACTS

Urban and community forestry impacts are excluded from other economic impacts in this report. For 2024 direct impacts, the output, employment, and compensation were \$4.6 billion, 35,727 jobs, and \$2.0 billion, respectively. The total impacts were \$8.1 billion in output, 53,613 jobs, and \$3.1 billion in compensation.

ECONOMIC IMPACT BY REGION

Local economies are impacted by the forest industry by supporting employment, bringing in additional dollars, and recirculating the dollars across local businesses.

In regions where forestry is a large proportion of the local industry, all economic support is generally dependent. *Figure 5* shows Georgia's 12 regional commissions.

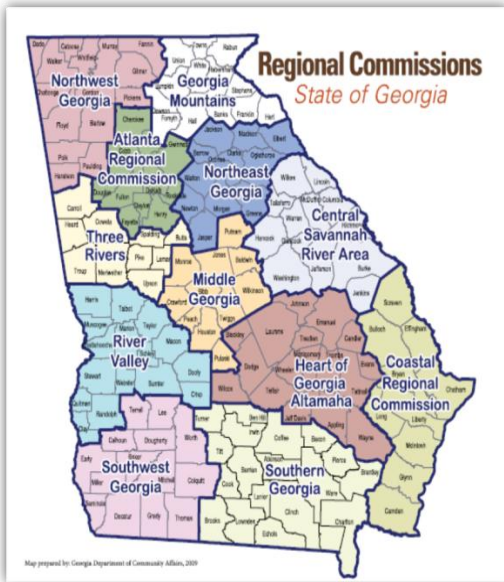


Figure 5. Georgia's 12 Regional Commissions

Employment by Region

The Atlanta Regional Commission, Southern Georgia, and Heart of Georgia Altamaha are the top three commissions in terms of employment, accounting for 46% of the forestry related jobs in Georgia. However, in terms of regional dependence on forestry compared to all other industries, Heart of Georgia Altamaha, Southern Georgia, and Southwest Georgia have the three highest employment percentages at 5.7%, 4.4%, and 3.8%, respectively.

Compensation by Region

The three regions with the greatest dependency on forest-based compensation compared to all industries are Heart of Georgia Altamaha, Southern Georgia, and Southwest Georgia with 9.1%, 6.5%, and 6.1%, respectively. The Atlanta Regional Commission provided the most forest based compensation at \$1.5 billion; however, that accounted for only 0.8% of the region's total compensation (compared to all other industries).

Revisions from 2025 Mill Closures

The data above represents the latest available full year of economic data in 2024. However, due to substantial impacts from several large mill closures in 2025, estimates of those closure impacts were also obtained.

These closures include Georgia Pacific (Cedar Springs) and International Paper mills in Savannah and Riceboro, totaling three pulp mills and one sawmill. The direct impacts from these mill closures are estimated at \$1.7 billion in output, 1,655 jobs, and \$197 million in labor income. This would revise direct impacts in Table 1 down by 4.3%, 5.6%, and 3.0%, respectively. These have a total economic loss of \$3.0 billion in output, 6,932 jobs, and \$564 million in labor income, revising Table 2 values down by 5.3%, 4.1%, and 4.8%, respectively.

REFERENCE

2024 Economic Benefits of the Forest Industry in Georgia. Enterprise Innovation Institute. Georgia Institute of Technology, December 2025.