United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service



Southern Research Station

Resource Bulletin SRS-30

Oklahoma's Timber Industry— An Assessment of Timber Product Output and Use, 1996

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June 1998

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Foreword

This report contains the findings of a 1996 canvass of primary wood-using plants in Oklahoma and presents changes in product output and residue use since 1984. It complements the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) periodic 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 1996 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 sampled canvass of wood processors in Oklahoma was conducted in 1997 to obtain information for 1996. In addition, roundwood from out-of-State mills known to be using logs or bolts harvested from Oklahoma timberland was incorporated into Oklahoma 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 response was necessary.

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

The Southern Research Station gratefully acknowledges the cooperation and assistance provided by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division, in collecting mill data. Appreciation is also extended to forest industry and mill managers for providing timber products information. The information in this report is based on responses from 15 mills operating in 1996: 2 pulpmills, 1 veneer mill, 2 mills manufacturing other industrial products, and 10 of the 68 sawmills.



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 a All tables in this report are available in Microsoft® Excel workbook files. Upon request, these files will be supplied on $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diskettes.

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Production = Retained + Exports

Receipts = Retained + Imports

Figure 1-Movement of roundwood exports and imports within the United States.

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Output of Industrial Timber Products

Note: The reader must understand that certain terms, namely—retained, export, import, production, and receipts—have specialized meanings and relationships unique to the Forest Inventory and Analysis Units across the country that deal with timber products output (fig. 1).

- Between 1984 and 1996, the combined industrial timber products output (TPO) from roundwood and plant byproducts increased 55 percent, from 100 to 155 million cubic feet.
- Timber products output from roundwood was up 58 million cubic feet, doubling to 113 million cubic feet, while output of plant byproducts declined 3 million cubic feet to 42 million cubic feet.

- Output of softwood roundwood products increased 126 percent, to 93 million cubic feet, while output of hardwood roundwood products increased 41 percent, to 20 million cubic feet (fig. 2).
- Saw logs and pulpwood were the principal roundwood products in 1996. Combined product output was 94 million cubic feet and accounted for 84 percent of the State's total roundwood output (fig. 3).
- Total receipts at Oklahoma mills, which included roundwood harvested and retained in the State and roundwood imported from other States, were 110 million cubic feet. The number of primary roundwoodusing plants in Oklahoma declined from 100 in 1984 to 73 in 1996 (fig.4).



Figure 2—Roundwood production for all products by species group and year (see page 5 for references for individual years).



Total 113 million cubic feet

Figure 3-Roundwood production by type of product, 1996.

Saw Logs

- Saw logs accounted for 48 percent of the State's total roundwood products. Output of softwood saw logs increased 106 percent, to 46 million cubic feet (254 million board feet), while hardwood saw-log output declined 14 percent, to 8 million cubic feet (49 million board feet) (fig. 5).
- Oklahoma had 68 sawmills, representing a net loss of 16 since 1984. Total softwood saw-log receipts were 44 million cubic feet, while those of hardwoods totaled 9 million cubic feet. Of the 10 reporting mills, 6 had receipts between 1.0 and 9.99 million board feet, while 4 had receipts greater than 10 million board feet. These 4 mills accounted for 92 percent of the reported volume.
- Oklahoma retained 71 percent of its saw-log production for domestic manufacture, with saw-log exports exceeding imports by 1 million cubic feet in 1996.



Figure 4—Primary wood-using mills by region, 1996.



Year

Figure 5—Roundwood saw-log production by species group and year (see page 5 for references for individual years).

Pulpwood

 Pulpwood production, including chipped roundwood, increased threefold to 40 million cubic feet (549 thousand cords) and accounted for 36 percent of the State's total roundwood TPO. Softwood output was up 383 percent to 29 million cubic feet, while hardwood output increased 182 percent, to 12 million cubic feet (fig. 6).

• Two pulpmill facilities were operating and receiving roundwood in 1996. Pulpwood receipts for these mills totaled 38 million cubic feet, accounting for 35 percent of total receipts for all mills.



Figure 6—Roundwood pulpwood production by species group and year (see page 5 for references for individual years).

• Sixty-one percent of roundwood cut for pulpwood was retained for processing at Oklahoma pulpmills. Round-wood pulpwood accounted for 44 percent of total known exports and 41 percent of total imports. Round-wood pulpwood exports was 16 million cubic feet, or 2 million cubic feet more than was imported.

Veneer and Other Industrial Products

- In 1996, output of veneer and other industrial products totaled 19 million cubic feet and accounted for 16 percent of the State's total roundwood TPO volume. Softwood production increased 42 percent, to 18 million cubic feet, while output of hardwood declined 80 percent, to 127 thousand cubic feet (fig. 7).
- Three veneer and other industrial mills were contacted for this report. Their receipts totaled 19 million cubic feet. Softwood accounted for all volume at these mills.
- Oklahoma retained 76 percent of its veneer and other industrial production for processing at domestic mills. Imports amounted to 5 million cubic feet, while exports were 4 million cubic feet, making the State a net importer of roundwood for veneer and other industrial uses.

Plant Byproducts

- The manufacture of primary products in Oklahoma mills generated more than 42 million cubic feet of wood and bark residues. Coarse residues from all primary products was 18 million cubic feet, while bark volume totaled 10 million cubic feet. Sawdust and shavings constituted 33 percent of total residues, or 14 million cubic feet (fig. 8).
- Forty-six percent of the wood and bark residue was used for industrial fuel (fig. 9). More than 31 percent was used for fiber products, and the remainder was used for miscellaneous and sawn products. Eighty-four and 91 percent of the bark and sawdust, respectively, were used for industrial fuel, while 96 percent of the shavings was used for other miscellaneous products.
- Sawmills generated 31 million cubic feet of residue, accounting for 74 percent of the total residue produced (fig. 10).



Figure 7—Roundwood production for veneer and other industrial products by species group and year (see page 5 for references for individual years).



Total 42 million cubic feet

Figure 8-Primary mill residue by residue type, 1996.



Total 42 million cubic feet

Figure 10—Primary mill residue produced by mill type, 1996.



Total 42 million cubic feet

Figure 9—Disposal of residue by product, 1996.

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Definitions

Board foot. Unit of measure applied to roundwood. It relates to lumber that is 1-foot long, 1-foot wide, and 1-inch thick (or its equivalent).

Composite panels. Consists of structural panels (oriented strand board or waferboard) or particleboard (industrial underlayment, thin panelboard).

Consumption. The quantity of a commodity, such as pulpwood, utilized.

Drain. The volume of roundwood removed from any geographic area where timber is grown.

Exports. The volume of roundwood used by mills outside the State where timber was cut.

Imports. The volume of roundwood delivered to a mill or group of mills in a specific State but harvested outside that State.

Industrial fuelwood. A roundwood product, with or without bark, used to generate energy at a manufacturing facility such as a wood-using mill.

Industrial roundwood products. Any primary use of the main stem of a tree, such as saw logs, veneer logs, pulpwood, poles, pilings, or posts.

Log. A primary forest product harvested in long, primarily 8-foot, lengths.

Plant residues. Wood material generated in the production of timber products at primary manufacturing plants.

Coarse residues. Suitable for chipping such as slabs, edgings, trim, veneer cores, and ends.

Fine residues. Not suitable for chipping such as sawdust, shavings, and veneer clippings.

Primary wood-using plants. Industries that receive roundwood or chips from roundwood for the manufacture of products such as lumber, veneer, and pulp.

Production. The total volume of roundwood harvested from land within the specified State, regardless of where consumed. Production is the sum of timber harvested and used within the State, plus all roundwood exported to other States.

Pulpwood. A roundwood product that will be reduced to individual wood fibers by chemical or mechanical means. The fibers are used to make a broad generic group of pulp products that includes paper products as well as chipboard, fiberboard, insulating board, and paperboard.

Receipts. The quantity or volume of industrial roundwood received at a mill or by a group of mills in a State, regardless of the geographic source. Volume of roundwood receipts is equal to the volume of roundwood retained in a State plus roundwood imported from other States.

Retained. Roundwood volume harvested from and processed by mills within the same State.

Roundwood. Logs, bolts, or other round sections cut from trees for industrial manufacture or consumer use.

Roundwood chipped. Any timber cut primarily for industrial manufacture, delivered to nonpulpmills, chipped, and then sold to pulpmills for use as fiber. Includes tops, jump sections, and whole trees.

Roundwood product drain. That portion of total drain used for a product.

Saw log. A log meeting minimum standards of diameter, length, and defect, including logs at least 8 feet long, sound and straight, and with minimum diameter inside bark of 6 inches for softwoods and 8 inches for hard-woods.

Standard cord. A unit measure applied to roundwood, usually bolts or split wood. It relates to a stack of wood 4 feet high, 4 feet wide, and 8 feet long encompassing 128 cubic feet of wood, bark, and air space. In the South, this usually translates to approximately 75.0 cubic feet of solid wood for pulpwood, because pulpwood is more uniform.

Timber products output. Roundwood production from an area's forests (equals roundwood product drain).

Timber removals. The merchantable volume of trees removed from the timberland inventory by harvesting, cultural operations such as stand improvement, land clearing, or changes in land use.

Veneer log. A log to be used in the production of plywood, finished panels, or veneer sheets, both rotary cut and sliced.

Conversion Factors^a

Saw logs	
Softwood	0.18018 cubic foot = 1 board foot 5.55 board feet = 1 cubic foot
Hardwood	0.16556 cubic foot = 1 board foot 6.04 board feet = 1 cubic foot
Veneer logs	
Softwood	0.17391 cubic foot = 1 board foot 5.75 board feet = 1 cubic foot
Hardwood	0.15873 cubic foot = 1 board foot 6.30 board feet = 1 cubic foot
Pulpwood ^b	
Softwood	72.5 cubic feet per cord
Hardwood	76.6 cubic feet per cord

^{*a*} Conversion factors vary with stem size (d.b.h.) and species.

^b Cubic feet of solid wood per cord.

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Product and	Ye	ear		Percent
species group	1984	1996	Change	change
		Thousand cu	bic feet	
Saw logs				
Softwood	22,254	45,803	23,549	105.8
Hardwood	9.353	8.062	-1.291	-13.8
Total	31,607	53,865	22,258	70.4
Veneer and				
other industrial ^a				
Softwood	12,991	18,398	5,407	41.6
Hardwood	625	127	-498	-79.7
Total	13,616	18,525	4,909	36.1
Pulpwood				
Softwood	5,959	28,788	22,829	383.1
Hardwood	4,145	11.699	7,554	182.2
Total	10,104	40,487	30,383	300.7
All industrial				
Softwood	41,204	92,989	51,785	125.7
Hardwood	14.123	19.888	5.765	40.8
Total	55,327	112,877	57,550	104.0
Byproduct output				
Softwood	28,889	36,006	7,117	24.6
Hardwood	16,233	6,278	-9,955	-61.3
Total	45,122	42,284	-2.838	-6.3
Total output				
Softwood	70,093	128,995	58,902	84.0
Hardwood	30,356	26,166	-4,190	-13.8
Total	100,449	155,161	54,712	54.5

Table 1—Output of industrial products by product andspecies group, Oklahoma, 1984 and 1996

^{*a*} Includes poles, posts, mulch, firewood, log homes, charcoal, and all other industrial products.

Product and	
species group	Receipts
	Thousand
	cubic feet
Saw logs	
Softwood	43,746
Hardwood	8.828
Total	52,574
Veneer and	
other industrial ^a	
Softwood	19,280
Hardwood	0
Total	19,280
Pulpwood	
Softwood	34,161
Hardwood	4,215
Total	38,376
Total output	
Softwood	97,187
Hardwood	13.043
Total	110,230

Table 2—Roundwood receipts by productand species group, Oklahoma, 1996

^{*a*} Includes poles, posts, mulch, firewood, log homes, charcoal, and all other industrial products.

	Year						
Industry	1955	1965	1972	1975	1978	1984	1996
Sawmills	80	110	103	83	66	84	68
Veneer or plywood mills	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Pulpmills	1	2	3	3	3	3	2
Composite panel mills	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other mills	17	19	11	14	11	12	2
All plants	99	131	118	101	81	100	73

Table 3—Number of primary wood-using plants by industry,Oklahoma, 1955-1996

Sawmill size class ^a	Number of mills ^b	Thousand board feet	Percent of volume
Million board feet			
1.0 - 9.99	6	24,712	8
>10.0	4	271,530	92
Total	10	296,242	100

Table 4—Roundwood receipts by sawmillsize, Oklahoma, 1996

^a Based on volume received as opposed to actual capacity.
 ^b Mills under 1.0 million board feet were not included in this report.

		Type of mill			
	All		Veneer and	OSB ^a and	d
Species	mills	Sawmills	other industrial	panels	Pulpmills
		Thousand cubic feet			
Softwood			-		
Yellow pine	63,026	43,746	19,280	0	NA
White pine	0	0	0	0	NA
Cedar	0	0	0	0	NA
Cypress	0	0	0	0	NA
Other softwood	0	0	0	0	NA
Unclassified	34.161	0	0	0	34,161
Total softwoods	97,187	43,746	19,280	0	34,161
Hardwood					
Blackgum and tupelo	0	0	0	0	NA
Soft maple	254	254	0	0	NA
Sweetgum	174	174	0	0	NA
Yellow-poplar	0	0	0	0	NA
Other soft hardwood	304	304	0	0	NA
Hickory	1,025	1,025	0	0	NA
Red oak	2,151	2,151	0	0	NA
White oak	2,620	2,620	0	0	NA
Other hard hardwood	2,300	2,300	0	0	NA
Unclassified	4,215	0	0	0	4,215
Total hardwoods	13,043	8,828	0	0	4,215
All species	110,230	52,574	19,280	0	38,376

 Table 5—Roundwood receipts by species and type of mill, Oklahoma, 1996

NA = not applicable.

^a OSB = oriented strand board.

Product and species group	Production	Exported to other States	Retained	Imported from other States	Receipts
		T	housand cubic fo	eet	
Saw logs					
Softwood	45,803	13,773	32,030	11,716	43,746
Hardwood	8,062	1,601	6,461	2,367	8,828
Total	53,865	15,374	38,491	14,083	52,574
Veneer and other industrial					
Softwood	18,398	4,375	14,023	5,257	19,280
Hardwood	127	127	0	0	0
Total	18,525	4,502	14,023	5,257	19,280
Pulpwood					
Softwood	28,788	5,818	22,970	11,191	34,161
Hardwood	11,699	9,959	1,740	2,475	4,215
Total	40,487	15,777	24,710	13,666	38,376
All products					
Softwood	92,989	23,966	69,023	28,164	97,187
Hardwood	19.888	11.687	8,201	4.842	13.043
Total	112,877	35,653	77,224	33,006	110,230

Table 6—Industrial roundwood movement by product and species group,Oklahoma, 1996

		Species group	
Destination and source	All species	Softwood	Hardwood
		Thousand cubic f	feet
Oklahoma (retained)	38,491	32,030	6,461
Exports to:			
Arkansas	5,689	5,164	525
Kansas	58	0	58
Missouri	187	4	183
Texas	9,440	8,605	835
Total	15,374	13,773	1,601
Imports from:			
Arkansas	4,640	3,111	1,529
Texas	9,443	8.605	838
Total	14.083	11.716	2,367

Table 7—Saw-log volume by destination, source,	and
species group, Oklahoma, 1996	

Table 8—Veneer and other industrial^a volume bydestination, source, and species group, Oklahoma, 1996

		Species group	
Destination and source	All species	Softwood	Hardwood
	Т	housand cubic f	eet
Oklahoma (retained)	14,023	14,023	0
Exports to:			
Arkansas	1,155	1,155	0
Indiana	115	0	115
Missouri	12	0	12
Texas	3.220	3.220	0
Total	4,502	4,375	127
Imports from:			
Arkansas	2,034	2,034	0
Louisiana	88	88	0
Texas	3,135	3,135	0
Total	5.257	5.257	0

^{*a*} Includes poles, posts, mulch, firewood, log homes, charcoal,

and all other industrial products.

	-	Species	group
Destination and source	All species	Softwood	Hardwood
	T	housand cubic f	eet
Oklahoma (retained)	24,710	22,970	1,740
Exports to:			
Arkansas	15,492	5,762	9,730
Texas	285	56	229
Total	15,777	5,818	9,959
Imports from:			
Arkansas	11,759	10,977	782
Texas	1,907	214	1.693
Total	13,666	11,191	2,475

Table 9—Pulpwood volume by destination, source, andspecies group, Oklahoma, 1996

Table 10—Primary mill residue volume by roundwood type, species group, and residue type, Oklahoma, 1996

		Residue type						
Roundwood type	All							
and species group	types	Bark	Coarse	Sawdust	Shavings			
		Thousand cubic feet						
Saw logs								
Softwood	25,567	2,936 11,667		7,757	3,207			
Hardwood	5,751	916	2,934	1,778	123			
Total	31,318	3,852	14,601	4,601 9,535				
Veneer and								
other industrial ^a								
Softwood	6,957	1,815	3,845	1,297	0			
Hardwood	0	0	0		0			
Total	6,957	1,815	3,845	1,297	0			
Pulpwood								
Softwood	3,482	3,482	0	0	0			
Hardwood	527	527	0	0	0			
Total	4,009	4,009	0	0	0			
Total								
Softwood	36,006	8,233	15,512	9,054	3,207			
Hardwood	6,278	1.443	2.934	1.778	123			
Total	42,284	9,676	18,446	10,832	3,330			

^{*a*} Includes poles, pilings, posts, and other industrial products.

		Residue type					
Product and	All						
species group	types	Bark	Coarse	Sawdust	Shavings		
		Thousand cubic feet					
Fiber products							
Softwood	11,667	0	11,667	0	0		
Hardwood	1,608	0	1,608	0	0		
Total	13,275	0	13,275	0	0		
Particleboard							
Softwood	0	0	0	0	0		
Hardwood	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	0	0	0	0	0		
Composite panels							
Softwood	0	0	0	0	0		
Hardwood	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	0	0	0	0	0		
Sawn products							
Softwood	3,748	0	3,748	0	0		
Hardwood	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	3,748	0	3,748	0	0		
Fuel							
Softwood	16,106	6,847	87	9,054	118		
Hardwood	3.161	1,262	1.086	813	0		
Total	19,267	8,109	1,173	9,867	118		
Miscellaneous							
Softwood	4,485	1,386	10	0	3,089		
Hardwood	1,509	181	240	965	123		
Total	5,994	1,567	250	965	3,212		
Not used							
Softwood	0	0	0	0	0		
Hardwood	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	0	0	0	0	0		
All products							
Softwood	36,006	8,233	15,512	9,054	3,207		
Hardwood	6,278	1,443	2.934	1.778	123		
Total	42 284	9 676	18 446	10.832	3 330		

Table 11—Disposal of residue at primary wood-using plants by product, species group, and type of residue, Oklahoma, 1996

		Veneer logs and						
	All pro	oducts	s Saw logs		other industrial		Pulpwood ^a	
	Soft-	Hard-	Soft-	Hard-	Soft-	Hard-	Soft-	Hard-
County	wood	wood	wood	wood	wood	wood	wood	wood
	Thousand cubic feet							
Adair	0	552	0	552	0	0	0	0
Atoka	0	138	0	138	0	0	0	0
Bryan	0	141	0	141	0	0	0	0
Cherokee	0	315	0	315	0	0	0	0
Choctaw	4,119	478	2,601	289	1,333	0	185	189
Delaware	4	246	4	244	0	2	0	0
Haskell	4,942	691	3,402	681	1,512	0	28	10
Latimer	5,413	1,110	3,402	427	1,897	0	114	683
Le Flore	15,388	1,694	9,358	1,137	3,923	115	2,107	442
McCurtain	45,084	7,700	19,608	2,630	6,026	0	19,450	5,070
Nowata	0	58	0	58	0	0	0	0
Ottawa	0	259	0	249	0	10	0	0
Pittsburg	385	0	0	0	385	0	0	0
Pushmataha	17,654	6,043	7,428	738	3,322	0	6,904	5,305
Sequoyah	0	463	0	463	0	0	0	0
All counties	92,989	19.888	45,803	8,062	18,398	127	28,788	11.699

 Table 12—Roundwood timber products output by county, product, and species group, Oklahoma, 1996

^{*a*} Includes roundwood that was delivered to nonpulpmills and then chipped and sold to pulpmills (399,000 cubic feet in 1996).



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Howell, Michael; Johnson, Tony G. 1998. Oklahoma's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 1996. Resour. Bull. SRS-30. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 16 p.

In 1996, roundwood output from Oklahoma's forests totaled 113 million cubic feet. Mill byproducts generated from primary manufacturers was 42 million cubic feet. Almost all plant residue was used primarily for fuel and fiber products. Saw logs were the leading roundwood product at 54 million cubic feet; pulpwood ranked second at 40 million cubic feet. There were 73 primary processing plants operating in Oklahoma in 1996. Receipts totaled 110 million cubic feet.

Keywords: Pulpwood, residues, roundwood, saw logs, veneer logs, wood movement.

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