

Economic Contributions of the Forest Industry and Forest-based Recreation in Florida in 2016

Fact Sheet

- The state of Florida has 17.16 million acres (26,807 square miles) of forestland, representing 50 percent of the state's total land area, with nearly two-thirds of forestlands privately owned.
- Over 16 million tons of pulpwood and sawtimber, valued at \$315 million (M) to landowners, is harvested annually from Florida forests for production of wood building materials, consumer paper and packaging products, chemicals, and renewable biomass fuels.
- An average of 74 million trees are planted annually on 122,000 acres of forest land in Florida, and sustainable forest growth is 1.92 times the harvest volume.
- The state has 74 primary wood using mills and 1,843 employer business establishments in industry sectors for forestry production, wood, paper, chemicals and allied equipment manufacturing, wholesale trade and biomass electricity generation.
- Revenues for the forest industry were \$12.55 billion (B) and direct employment was 36,055 fulltime and part-time jobs.
- Over 3 million tonnes of Florida forest products, valued at \$1.80 B, were exported to international markets.
- Total economic contributions of the Florida forest industry, including regional multiplier effects in the broader economy, were 124,104 jobs, \$25.05 B in industry output or revenues, \$10.96 B in value added to Gross State Product (GSP), \$6.58 B in labor income (employee wages, salaries, benefits, business owner income), \$880 M in state and local government tax revenues, and \$1.72 B in federal government tax revenues.
- Forestry production accounted for 16,594 jobs, wood product manufacturing accounted for 25,650 jobs, and paper product manufacturing accounted for 57,970 jobs.
- Total employment contributions represented 1.10 percent of the Florida workforce and total value added contributions represented 1.23 percent of GSP.
- The top ten Florida counties in terms of forest industry direct output were Duval (\$1.37 B), Miami-Dade (\$1.18 B), Taylor (\$877 M), Polk (\$811 M), Nassau (\$773 M), Bay (\$723 M), Hillsborough (\$707 M), Putnam (\$604 M), Broward (\$502 M) and Escambia (\$437 M).
- The top ten counties in terms of total employment contributions were Duval (11,885 jobs), Taylor (11,456), Nassau (9,847), Miami-Dade (9,010), Bay (8,461), Polk (6,399), Escambia (5,653), Hillsborough (5,370), Seminole (4,943), and Broward (4,334).
- Counties with the highest economic dependence on the forest industry in terms of total employment contributions as a share of the overall workforce were Taylor (100.0%), Liberty (56.8%), Nassau (32.9%), Dixie (26.9%), Putnam (18.8%), Jefferson (16.6%), Union (14.5%), Lafayette (12.6%), Madison (11.2%), and Calhoun (11.2%).
- Florida has 3 National Forests, 37 State Forests, and 54 Wildlife Management Areas that cover 3.7 million acres and received 6.93 million visitor-days in 2015.
- Total economic contributions of recreational spending by nonresident visitors to Florida's public forestlands were 7,818 jobs, \$851 M in industry output, \$505 M in value added, and \$48 M in state and local tax revenues.
- Ecosystem services provided by Florida forests are valued at \$24 to \$32 B annually.