

2017 Louisiana Forest Facts at a Glance

Land Area: 14 million acres or 50% of the state's land area.

Owners of Forestland: 81% - private non-industrial landowners; 10% - forest product companies; 9% - public (government land).

Economic Impact: \$11 billion. Forestry accounted for 39% of the total value of all plant commodities grown in the state. When you add plant and animal commodities forestry still contributes 25% of the value of Louisiana's ag commodities.

Planting the trees back: Landowners planted over 73 million seedlings or about 16 trees for every Louisiana citizen. Other trees are also naturally regenerated.

2016 harvests: 879.8 million board feet of sawtimber and 6.5 million cords of wood were harvested. This is a 16% decrease in sawtimber with the cordwood products showing only a slight decrease.

Landowner Income: Forest landowners received \$493.2 million in 2016, compared to \$463.7 million in 2015.

Logger contractors and their employees: Earned \$539.7 million in 2015 which was 5.9% more than the previous year.

Jobs in Forestry: Total jobs from forestry were 45,611, according to the LSU AgCenter. There were 13,741 manufacturing employees in 2016 in the wood and paper industries. They received \$864 million in 2016 compared to \$855 million in 2015.

Severance taxes: Severance taxes from timber sales totaled \$13.62 million in 2016, a decrease from \$14.14 million in 2015. Parishes where the timber is grown received 75% of the money; the state's general fund received the remaining 25% with a portion of the funds allotted to landowner cost-share for replanting.

New and expanding industry: The new wood pellet industry is already expanding. Drax Biomass already had one plant in operation and recently purchased an idle pellet plant in Urania, which it hopes to have operation al in 2018. Cool Planet is still in the planning phase for its biofuels business. And Graphic Packaging International is upgrading its facility and combining its two folding plants into a new, modern facility in a joint venture with DHL Supply Chain.

**Sources: Louisiana Forestry Association, Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, LSU AgCenter and the La. Dept. of Labor.