



Forestry in Virginia:

- ▲ **15.7 million acres** of forest land
- ▲ **12.2 million acres** are privately owned
- ▲ **373,000** individual forest landowners
- ▲ Landowners receive **\$350 Million** per year for harvested timber
- ▲ **144,000** Virginians are employed in forestry-related industry jobs
- ▲ **3 percent** of all Virginia workers are employed in forestry-related industry jobs
- ▲ Forestry generates **\$23.4 Billion** annually in total industry output
- ▲ Societal and ecological benefits of forestry contribute another **\$4.1 Billion** annually

CONTACT INFORMATION

Abingdon Region Office:

Phone: (276) 676-5488 ; FAX: (276) 676-5581
Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Wythe counties

Salem Region Office:

Phone: (540) 387-5461 ; FAX: (540) 387-5445
Alleghany, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Highland, Montgomery, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Roanoke and Rockbridge counties

Farmville Region Office:

Phone: (434) 392-4159 ; FAX: (434) 392-1550
Amelia, Appomattox, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Powhatan and Prince Edward counties

Charlottesville Region Office:

Phone: (434) 977-5193 ; FAX: (434) 296-3290
Albemarle, Amherst, Arlington, Augusta, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Frederick, Goochland, Greene, Loudoun, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockingham, Shenandoah and Warren counties

Tappahannock Region Office:

Phone: (804) 443-2211 ; FAX: (804) 443-3164
Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield, Essex, Gloucester, Hanover, Henrico, James City, King & Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Richmond, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Westmoreland and York counties

Waverly Region Office:

Phone: (804) 834-2300 ; FAX: (804) 834-3232
Accomack, Brunswick, Dinwiddie, Greensville, Isle of Wight, Northampton, Prince George, Southampton, Surry and Sussex counties, and cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk and Virginia Beach



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THE VALUE OF VIRGINIA'S FORESTS

*Weldon Cooper Center Study
Finds Virginia Forests Provide
More Than \$27.5 Billion
Annually in Benefits to the
Commonwealth*



Virginia Department of Forestry
www.dof.virginia.gov

The Economics of Forestry

Forestry and the wood products industry is a tremendous economic engine in the Commonwealth that generates more than \$23.4 Billion in total industrial output annually and provides employment for more than 144,000 Virginians, according to a 2008 study by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia.

The study also examined the impact of farming and related agricultural activities, which generated more than \$55 Billion in total industrial output and 357,000 jobs. Thus, forestry and agriculture in the Commonwealth have a combined total annual impact of \$79 Billion and 501,500 people employed (one out of every 10 workers), making it one of the largest and most important sectors of Virginia's economy.

"For more than 400 years, forestry has been a vital component of the Commonwealth's economy," said Carl Garrison, state forester of Virginia. "Timber was the very first product shipped to England by the colonists at Jamestown, and more than four centuries later it remains a strong industry."

The Cooper Center study found that forestry production employs 7,000 workers and generates almost \$2 Billion in total industrial output. Value-added industries that are timber dependent employ an additional 53,000 people and generate nearly \$12 Billion in total industrial output.



Photo courtesy of Virginia Loggers Association

Through purchasing decisions of forestry-related industry and their rippling effects in the economy, another 84,000 jobs and more than \$10 Billion in total industrial output are generated. The 144,000 people employed by forestry and related sectors represent

3 percent (one out of every 33 workers) of total employment in Virginia.

The study noted that more than 15 million acres (62 percent) of the Commonwealth's total land area is forest-use land, the bulk of which is owned by private citizens. In 2006, these Virginians received nearly \$350 Million for timber harvested on their lands. This timber was milled into 1.6 billion-board-feet of lumber that was used to build homes and manufacture furniture. Additionally, portions of the harvested timber were used to create consumer products, such as chewing gum and toothpaste.

The Commonwealth's forests are dominated by hardwood stands, which constitute 78 percent of the state's trees, and Virginia is the third largest producer of hardwood lumber in the nation. Oak-hickory is the most prevalent forest type. While hardwood removal is predominate statewide, in two areas (southeastern and coastal Virginia) softwoods are the number one source of forest products.

The Cooper Center study did not capture the important societal and ecological benefits, such as water quality, carbon sequestration, soil stabilization, flood mitigation, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, scenic amenities and recreational opportunities, provided by our forests. The Virginia Department of Forestry has valued these benefits at \$4.1 Billion annually. Thus, Virginia forests provide more than \$27.5 Billion annually in benefits to the Commonwealth.

Economic Impact of Agriculture and Forestry in Virginia

Economic Impact	Industry	Employment	Value Added (million \$)	Output (million \$)
Production	Agriculture	59,893	\$1,454.00	\$3,067.50
	Forestry	6,931	\$464.10	\$1,601.40
	Total	66,824	\$1,918.10	\$4,668.90
Value-Added Industries	Agriculture	75,953	\$7,513.80	\$25,869.60
	Forestry	53,316	\$3,880.00	\$11,720.00
	Total	129,269	\$11,393.80	\$37,589.60
Indirect + Induced Effects	Agriculture	221,258.6	\$16,852.10	\$26,237.00
	Forestry	84,133	\$6,389.60	\$10,106.70
	Total	305,391.6	\$23,241.70	\$36,343.60
Total	Agriculture	357,104.6	\$25,819.90	\$55,174.10
	Forestry	144,380	\$10,733.70	\$23,428.10
	Total	501,484.6	\$36,553.60	\$78,602.20

For More Information

For more information on how the Virginia Department of Forestry can help you, call your local VDOF office or visit the agency Web site at www.dof.virginia.gov.