

# SOUTH CAROLINA FOREST INDUSTRY FACTS



## FOREST FACTS

- 13.1 million acres of forestland. This is 68% of the state's total land area.
- Hardwood timber types occupy over 53% and softwood comprises 47% of the state's forestland.
- South Carolina's forestland acreage remains stable, averaging 12.6 million acres since 1968.
- The 2012 forest inventory found that there are 2.4 million more acres of forestland than in the first inventory in 1936.
- South Carolina's forests now contain 24.5 billion cubic feet of wood, more than at any time in the past century.
- The state's forests, both hardwood and softwood, are growing significantly more wood than is being harvested.
- 88% of SC's forestland is privately owned and contains some of the world's most productive land.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Forestry is #1 among manufacturing industries in jobs (90,624) and payroll (\$4.1 billion).
- The total economic impact of South Carolina's forest industry is around \$17 billion annually.
- South Carolina exports \$1.4 billion in forest products each year.
- Timber is the state's #1 rural commodity at \$759 million annually.
- Forest products is the #1 export by volume out of the Charleston Port.

## FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

- The state's forests produce timber & jobs while providing a backdrop for a desirable quality of life. In addition to beautiful landscapes, forests provide clean water & air, wildlife habitat, recreation, carbon storage, and soil protection.

## FOREST-RELATED INDUSTRY

- World class industry presence – International Paper, Sonoco, Domtar, Georgia Pacific, Canfor New South, Norbord
- Primary Industries – Pulp & Paper, Sawmills, Poles, & Panels (oriented-strand board & plywood).
- Secondary Industries – Value-added products (cabinetry, millwork, MDF & particleboard, flooring, furniture, log homes)
- Strong forestry supply chain, from loggers to specialized equipment fabricators.
- To find primary or secondary producers, visit [www.trees.sc.gov/refind.htm](http://www.trees.sc.gov/refind.htm).
- Tree improvement companies like ArborGen specialize in tree genetics, making SC a leader in forest tree genetics.

## SOUTH CAROLINA LOCATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTS FOREST INDUSTRY

- South Carolina is located on the East Coast, halfway between New York City, NY & Miami, FL
- The Port of Charleston is the busiest port in the Southeast & Gulf Coasts. It has one of the deepest shipping channels in the Southeast and can serve ships of 9,000 TEUs.
- Norfolk Southern, CSX, and 8 short-line railroads operate 2,300 miles of track in SC, carrying 40 MM tons of freight annually.
- South Carolina has five interstate highways that provide direct access to 60% of the US population within 1 day.

## WORKFORCE

- Clemson University, ranked #21 in top public universities, boasts both a nationally-recognized forestry program and the Clemson Experimental Forest for teaching and research.
- The University of South Carolina's International MBA program was recently ranked 3rd in the international business specialty by US News & World Report. The undergraduate international business specialty was also ranked #1 in a survey by US News and World Report of "America's Best Colleges."
- More than 107,000 students are enrolled in technical colleges statewide
- South Carolina is a Right-To-Work state, and has the second lowest unionization rate in the nation at 1.9%.