The State of South Carolina's Forests



FOREST AREA



South Carolina has 13.1 million acres of forestland. This is 68% of the state's total land area.



Hardwood timber types occupy over 53% of the state's forestland. Softwoods occupy 47%.



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 there were in the first inventory in 1936.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

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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.

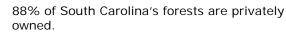


South Carolina exports \$1.4 billion in forest products each year.



Timber is the state's **#1** harvested crop at \$759 million annually.

FOREST OWNERSHIP





64% of private forests are family-owned.

The average "family forest" is 80 acres. 57% of these owners have their primary residence on the land.



In 2012, forest industries owned 238,100 acres, down 88% since 2001 and continuing to decrease.





FOREST INVENTORY



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 more wood than is being harvested.



Net annual softwood growth is double prehurricane Hugo growth rates. The present annual growth of 927 million cubic feet per year is the highest ever recorded.



Net annual hardwood growth rates have recovered since Hurricane Hugo. The present net annual growth of 362 million cubic feet per year is 39% above pre-Hugo levels.

FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH



The state's forested watersheds fulfill a critical resource role as the primary supplier of clean public water.



South Carolina's forested watersheds are well managed as documented by a 93.4% compliance rating with state water quality guidelines.



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

Sources: SC Forestry Commission and USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA)

For more information about South Carolina's forest resource, contact the SC Forestry Commission at 803-896-8800 or visit www.trees.sc.gov.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission and the USDA Forest Service are equal opportunity employers and providers.