



# Forest Resources

**Market Notes • Technical Notes • Research Notes • Newsletters**

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## 1997 Harvest of Forest Products

Mississippi's forest industry (including private landowners, independent harvesters, and company harvesting crews) harvested and delivered over \$1.3 billion worth of forest products to mills and other processors in 1997. The total value of Mississippi 1997 timber harvest delivered to the first point of processing (such as a pulpwood yard or sawmill) was \$1,313,317,862. This harvest value is 10.5 percent higher than 1996 and is an all-time record high harvest value for Mississippi forestry. This continues Mississippi forestry's strong value increase in recent years. In 1997 Mississippi's timber harvest value was over \$1 billion for the fifth straight year. Timber was the second most valuable agricultural commodity in 1997. Poultry and eggs was the most valuable with a \$1.43 billion value, timber was second at \$1.31 billion and cotton was third at \$650 million. Mississippi's forest landowners collected a record \$1.02 billion for their standing timber in 1997. This is the first time that the standing value of Mississippi's timber harvest was over a billion dollars. The value of the logging and transportation segment of the industry was valued at \$284,189,306.

Severance tax collections on timber were \$4,319,003 in 1997. This total was 6.8% lower than 1996. Twenty percent of the severance tax collections, or about \$863,801 was returned to the counties where the timber was harvested. Eighty percent or about \$3,455,202 went to the Forest Resource Development Program (FRDP) to provide cost share funds to private, non-industrial forest landowners for reforestation and other forest management practices.

The value of Mississippi's timber harvest increased 10.5 percent in 1997. This is the largest increase since 1993. The increased harvest value was the result of increased harvest volumes and prices in many categories. However, both pine and hardwood pulpwood saw declines in volume and value.

Pine products lead the way to the increase. The pine sawlog harvest value increased 8% while value increased nearly 21%. The pine plywood logs harvested volume increased 4.4% while plywood log value increased 23%. Pine pole volume increased nearly 46% while value increased nearly 48 percent.

Hardwood sawlogs also saw increases in volume and value. The harvest volume of hardwood sawlogs increased 11.5 percent and their value increased 14.4 percent. The hardwood veneer logs volume also increased 13.5 percent and their value moved up 14.2 percent. The crosstie volume was 1.2% lower but crosstie value was 8.2% higher on the strength of increased prices for crossties. (Most crossties, used for railroad beds, are made from oak, hickory and other hardwoods.) By contrast, the pine pulpwood harvest

volume declined nearly 14% as did pine pulpwood value. The harvest volume of hardwood pulpwood also declined nearly 6 percent and value was off over 10%, compared with 1996. The estimated value of the 1997 timber harvest is shown in Table 1. A comparison of timber harvest volume and value for 1996 and 1997 by product categories is given in Table 2. Table 3 compares major product prices by region for 1996 and 1997.

Again in 1997, Mississippi's timber harvest posted strong increases. After moving 8% higher in 1996, the state's timber harvest values moved up 10.5 percent in 1997. The timber harvested for the state's solid wood products manufacturing sector (such as lumber, plywood and structural panels) was the key to increased harvest value in 1997.

In 1997, regional southern pine lumber production surged 15% in the second and third quarters of the year to finish up nearly 4% at year's end, compared to 1996. As harvesting increased through the year and lumber became more available, lumber prices began trending downward, but mills continued purchasing standing timber. US housing starts began 1998 10% higher than they began 1997. This upsurge of housing construction fueled the solid wood products manufacturing activities in Mississippi in 1997. The harvest of pine and hardwood logs in Mississippi during 1997 reflects that trend.

Mississippi's total pulpwood harvest declined slightly in 1996, but by 1997 dropped over 10%. This decrease reflected a continued decline of hardwood pulpwood production since 1995 from a peak production of 3.9 million cords to 1997's 3.5 million cords. Hardwood pulpwood production in 1997 was about the same as 1993. Pine pulpwood production in 1997 fell to about 1994 levels with a total of 4.3 million cords.

The pine pole market in 1997 remained competitive. Average pole prices moved higher and volume harvested also increased significantly. Pole production in 1997 was the highest it has been in the last 15 years.

The market for Mississippi Christmas trees improved in 1997 with production of trees 6.5 percent higher and production value up 10%. This was the third straight year of increased Christmas tree harvest in Mississippi.

Average standing prices for Mississippi's major forest products moved higher in 1997, continuing a decade-long trend. Pine sawtimber remained the highest-valued product in Mississippi's forests with standing prices averaging between \$396.50 to 447./MBF, Doyle, depending on region of the state. Prices increased between 9 and 19 percent for pine sawtimber during 1997. Standing prices also increased significantly for hardwood sawtimber, pine pulpwood and hardwood pulpwood with a few exceptions. Delivered prices were another story. Average pine sawtimber delivered prices moved higher as did hardwood sawtimber delivered prices in almost all regions. Pulpwood delivered prices, however, showed general decreases, in both pine and hardwood, in most regions of the state. This situation may reflect increasing productivity in harvesting and a signal that the rise in standing prices may not continue. Mississippi pulpwood prices have been rising since about 1990 and it may be that this trend will begin to reach equilibrium. Table 3 gives average prices for 1997 by product and region of the state.

Generally, 1997 was another good year for Mississippi forest landowners. Timber markets were good and prices for standing timber increased. Sawtimber products performed better than pulpwood. The production value of Mississippi's timber harvest reached another all-time record high and the standing value of the harvest topped \$1 billion for the first time in history. Forest landowners are encouraged to plant idle acres, manage their forest property for increased production and use professional assistance when selling timber.

Table 4 shows harvested volumes of forest products for Mississippi counties within the Mississippi Timber Price Report regions.

For more information on timber marketing procedures and timber prices, contact your County Extension Service or Mississippi State University, Department of Forestry, Box 9681, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Daniels".

Dr. Bob Daniels  
Extension Forester

**Table 1. Estimated Value of the 1997 Timber Harvest**

PRODUCT	UNIT	PRICE/UNIT <sup>1</sup>		VOLUME	VALUE	
		STANDING	DELIVERED		STANDING	DELIVERED
		—DOLLARS—			—DOLLARS—	
SAWLOGS - PINE - HARDWOOD	MBF,D	2/ 2/		1,183,673	512,438,665	595,818,653
	MBF,D			501,432	113,693,526	149,024,466
PULPWOOD - PINE - HARDWOOD	Cords	3/ 3/		4,315,689	126,151,429	194,197,189
	Cords			3,550,640	70,082,338	124,441,410
POLES - PINE	MBF,D	550 <sup>5</sup>	648 <sup>5f</sup>	60,556	33,305,800	39,240,288
PLYWOOD LOGS - PINE <sup>11</sup>	MBF,D	404 <sup>4f</sup>	475 <sup>4f</sup>	369,427	149,248,508	175,477,825
HARDWOOD VENEER LOGS <sup>11</sup>	MBF,D	625	755	26,634	16,646,250	20,108,670
CROSSTIES - HARDWOOD	MBF,D	161.75	--	15,820	2,558,885	--
	Tie <sup>6f</sup>	--	17.25 <sup>5f</sup>	354,470	--	6,114,608
STUMPWOOD	Tons	5 <sup>5f</sup>	63 <sup>5f</sup>	20,631	103,155	1,299,753
TURPENTINE GUM	Barrel	--	100 <sup>5f</sup>	0	0	0
CHRISTMAS TREES <sup>7</sup>	Tree <sup>8</sup>	20 <sup>9</sup>	31 <sup>10</sup>	245,000	4,900,000	7,595,000
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>					<b>\$1,029,128,556</b>	<b>\$1,313,317,862</b>

<sup>1</sup>Regional product prices taken from the Mississippi Timber Price Report, except where otherwise noted.

<sup>2</sup>Sawlog Prices by Region, \$/MBF, Doyle

<sup>3</sup>Pulpwood Prices by Region, \$/Cord

Region <sup>a</sup>	Standing		Delivered		Region <sup>a</sup>	Standing		Delivered	
	Pine	Hardwood <sup>b</sup>	Pine	Hardwood <sup>b</sup>		Pine	Hardwood	Pine	Hardwood
North	396.50	225.50	454	298.25	North	32.50	23	47.75	33.50
Central	420	246.25	496.25	312	Central	29	20	46.75	35
South	447	191.50	515	302.50	South	28.50	17.75	42	35.50
Delta/River	398.50	265.75	480	350	Delta/River	21.50	15	46.50	36.75

<sup>a</sup>Regions are those defined in the *Mississippi Timber Price Report*

<sup>b</sup>Hardwood sawlog average prices were calculated using mixed hardwood and oak sawtimber prices from the *Mississippi Timber Price Report*. The hardwood sawlog average prices are based on the assumption that Mississippi's hardwood sawmills cut 70% oak and 30% other species primarily yellow poplar, and sweetgum in 1997. Therefore, the hardwood sawlog average price for each region was calculated using the following formula: Regional hardwood sawlog prices = .7 [average regional oak price] + .3 [average regional mixed hardwood price].

<sup>4</sup>Prices from Timber Mart South.

<sup>5</sup>Price estimates by consultation with industry contacts.

<sup>6</sup>Calculated as 44.63 board feet per 7" x 9" x 8.5' tie.

<sup>7</sup>Estimate in cooperation with the LA-MS Christmas Tree Association and individual growers.

<sup>8</sup>The average Christmas tree is assumed to be 6 to 8 feet tall.

<sup>9</sup>Standing price is the estimated average wholesale Christmas tree price to growers.

<sup>10</sup>Delivered price is the estimated average price paid for a "choose and cut" Christmas tree.

<sup>11</sup>Plywood and hardwood veneer log volumes estimated by veneer mill survey and consultation with industry contacts.

**Table 2. Comparison of 1996 and 1997 Harvest Volume and Value by Product**

PRODUCT/UNIT	1996		1997			
	VOLUME	VALUE*	VOLUME	%CHANGE	VALUE*	%CHANGE
Pine Sawlogs, MBF,D	1,096,244	492,971,915	1,183,915	8.0	595,818,653	20.9
Hardwood Sawlogs, MBF,D	449,914	130,211,014	501,432	11.5	149,024,466	14.4
Pine Pulpwood, Cords	5,002,620	224,404,778	4,315,689	-13.7	194,197,189	-13.5
Hardwood Pulpwood, Cords	3,760,326	139,248,091	3,550,640	-5.6	124,441,410	-10.6
Plywood Logs, MBF,D	353,907	142,624,521	369,427	4.4	175,477,825	23.0
Poles, MBF,D	41,507	26,522,973	60,556	45.9	39,240,288	47.9
Hardwood Veneer Logs, MBF,D	23,456	17,615,456	26,634	13.5	20,108,670	14.2
Crossties, Delivered, Ties	358,951	5,653,478	354,470	-1.2	6,114,608	8.2
Stumpwood, Tons	42,509	2,678,067	20,631	-51.5	1,299,753	-51.5
Turpentine Gum, Barrels	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Christmas Trees, Tree	230,000	6,900,000	245,000	6.5	7,595,000	10.1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,188,830,293</b>			<b>1,313,317,862</b>	<b>10.5</b>

\*Value delivered to the first point of processing.

**Table 3. 1996 Versus 1997 Major Product Price Comparison by Region**

PRODUCT/UNIT	REGION	1995		1996			
		STANDING	DELIVERED	STANDING	%CHANGE	DELIVERED	%CHANGE
Pine Sawtimber, MBF,D	North	331.75	400.50	396.50	19.5	454.00	13.4
	Central	385.25	429.50	420.00	9.0	496.25	15.5
	South	389.00	438.25	447.00	14.9	515.00	17.5
	Delta/River	351.25	418.50	398.50	13.5	480.00	14.7
Hardwood Sawtimber, MBF,D	North	202.00	275.75	225.50	11.6	298.25	8.2
	Central	233.00	306.25	246.25	5.7	312.00	1.9
	South	216.50	311.25	191.50	-11.5	302.50	-2.8
	Delta/River	260.00	351.25	265.75	2.2	350.00	-0.4
Pine Pulpwood, Cords	North	31.00	47.00	32.50	4.8	47.75	1.6
	Central	24.50	45.25	29.00	18.4	46.75	3.3
	South	23.00	43.00	28.50	23.9	42.00	-2.3
	Delta/River	23.00	51.00	21.50	-6.5	46.50	-8.8
Hardwood Pulpwood, Cords	North	17.50	34.00	23.00	31.4	33.50	-1.5
	Central	17.75	38.00	20.00	12.7	35.00	-7.9
	South	15.00	36.75	17.75	18.3	35.50	-3.4
	Delta/River	12.50	41.75	15.00	20.0	36.75	-12.0







TABLE 4. 1997 HARVESTED VOLUMES BY COUNTY

COUNTY	PINE LUMBER MBM	HARDWOOD LUMBER MBM	PINE SAWLOGS MBF/D	HARDWOOD SAWLOGS MBF/D	PINE PULPWOOD CORDS	HARDWOOD PULPWOOD CORDS	PINE POLES C CU FT	STUMPWOOD TONS	TURPENTINE GUM BARRELS	CROSSTIES MBF/D	OTHER MBF/CORDS	PINE LOGS TONS	HARDWOOD LOGS TONS
<b>SOUTH REGION</b>													
AMITE	1174.66	1393.66	60517.52	3567.42	89950.33	68236.53	976.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,550.00	1,525.00
COBLAR	722.66	0.00	41438.07	8632.06	102690.46	100134.88	688.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,591.66	162.50
COVINGTON	0.00	0.00	20624.83	5124.00	40744.06	34257.06	1143.64	1168.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,950.00	1,150.00
FORREST	0.00	0.00	16480.77	1792.00	47023.06	14192.22	7289.44	1148.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,650.00	312.50
FRANKLIN	2890.66	5.33	44345.02	4577.33	35438.56	47614.31	387.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,558.33	512.50
GEORGE	0.00	242.66	11725.16	545.33	56170.20	14643.06	797.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,783.33	400.00
GREENE	0.00	2392.66	29217.51	3382.57	146980.53	56046.66	4374.42	36.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,480.33	0.00
HANCOCK	0.00	17.33	23652.99	589.33	106559.73	19210.40	1352.61	84.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,950.00	1,037.50
HARRISON	0.00	16.00	11194.34	38.66	60777.93	4498.22	2577.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,058.33	0.00
JACKSON	0.00	1732.00	15570.95	130.66	62341.83	3816.00	1759.01	364.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,191.66	0.00
JEFF DAVIS	0.00	14.66	15168.20	2606.66	50292.13	6077.95	626.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,708.33	1,580.00
JONES	0.00	232.00	44462.78	6141.28	80291.03	62350.53	1594.69	246.60	0.00	36.00	20.00	7,608.33	250.00
LAMAR	0.00	0.00	15799.38	2234.66	58938.93	7565.64	7386.78	8872.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,358.30	1,975.00
LAWRENCE	21.33	68.00	24976.85	9130.66	53800.26	51854.71	330.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,966.66	2,675.00
LINCOLN	176.00	128.00	40823.27	7853.14	96467.20	63482.31	649.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,708.33	75.00
MARION	445.94	0.00	21425.28	40823.27	67512.30	20642.44	1726.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,558.33	5,600.00
PEARL RIVER	0.00	0.00	33354.40	3356.00	131676.66	31539.66	3409.35	5148.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,975.00	3,087.50
PERRY	0.00	117.33	28452.44	3281.33	61529.66	19175.37	3628.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,075.00	62.50
PIKE	198.66	848.05	21632.02	3162.66	78220.33	45473.68	496.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,075.00	237.50
STONE	0.00	0.00	23651.58	660.00	89962.03	13290.66	3268.95	3272.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,966.60	1,537.50
WALTHALL	494.66	718.66	13166.16	4254.66	56098.80	23312.13	340.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.33	4,591.60	1,912.50
WAYNE	2509.33	2391.33	40912.60	8957.33	155149.03	86287.68	665.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,966.60	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8633.90</b>	<b>10339.00</b>	<b>598592.12</b>	<b>84869.74</b>	<b>11728615.05</b>	<b>795702.30</b>	<b>45489.12</b>	<b>20338.60</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>36.00</b>	<b>97.33</b>	<b>14349.72</b>	<b>24162.50</b>

