



South Carolina, 2009

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FOREST INVENTORY & ANALYSIS FACTSHEET



Introduction

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program implemented a nationally consistent annual inventory system in 1998. Under the new design, one-fifth of all inventory plots in South Carolina are visited each year. The southern FIA unit, working cooperatively with South Carolina Forestry Commission crews, established the State's initial annual inventory plots during the 2001 survey. A complete remeasurement of the annual plots was accomplished over the next 5 years. Results from that 2006 inventory were published in the State's first 5-year report (SRS-158). A second round of annual remeasurement began immediately following the 2006 inventory. This factsheet presents forest resource estimates for South Carolina based on annual data collected up through 2009.

As part of FIA's effort to provide consistent data over time, data compiled for the 2001 and 2006 annual inventories were reprocessed using current methodology. The revised resource estimates for 2001 and 2006 were used in this summary to make comparisons and denote change between surveys.

Forested Area

Total forest area amounted to nearly 13.1 million acres in 2009, including 64,400 acres of reserved forest land. Forests currently occupy 68 percent of the land area of South Carolina.

Timberland area—acres considered available for timber harvesting—totaled 13.0 million acres.



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Forest-Type Composition

Hardwood timber types dominate, accounting for 6.9 million acres (53 percent) of the timberland area. Softwood forest types occupy 5.9 million acres of the State's timberland area.

Loblolly-shortleaf pine remains the most abundant forest-type group, occupying almost 5.4 million acres.

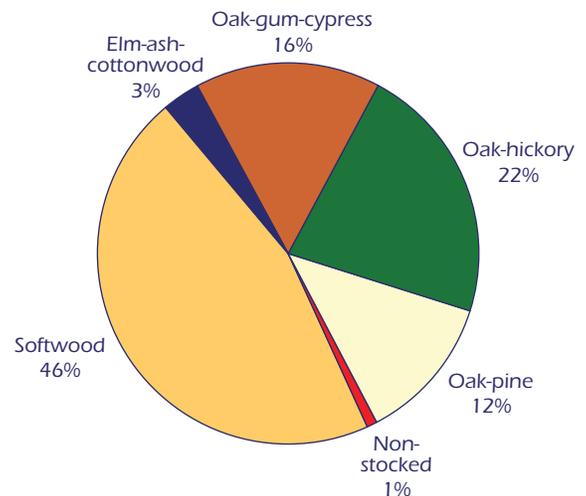
At nearly 2.9 million acres, oak-hickory is the predominant hardwood forest-type group, followed by oak-gum-cypress types (2.0 million acres), and oak-pine (1.6 million acres).

Area by land class and survey, South Carolina

Land class	1978	1986	1993	2001	2006	2009
	<i>million acres</i>					
Timberland	12.5	12.2	12.5	12.7	12.8	13.0
Other/reserved	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total forest land	12.6	12.3	12.6	12.8	12.9	13.1
Nonforest land	6.8	7.1	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.2
Total land area	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3
Percent forested	65	63	66	66	67	68

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Area of timberland by forest-type group

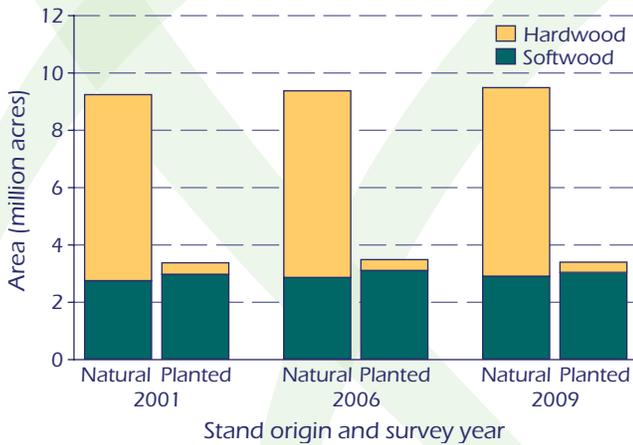


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In 2009, natural stands totaled almost 9.5 million acres, including 6.6 million acres of hardwoods.

South Carolina's softwood timberland area is split nearly equally between natural pine stands (2.9 million acres) and artificially regenerated acres (3.0 million acres). Planted stands have outnumbered natural stands since 2001.

Timberland area by major forest-type group, stand origin, and survey year

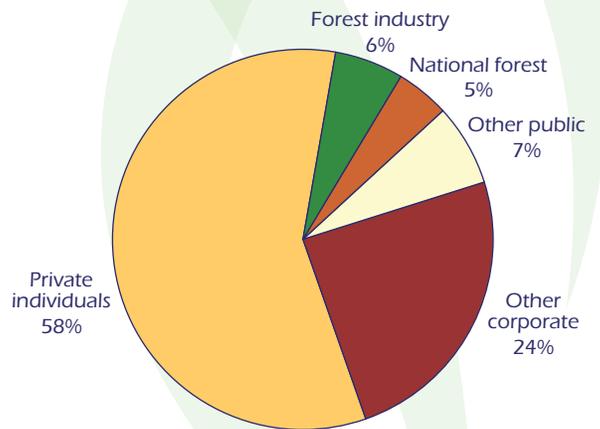


Forest Ownership

The majority (58 percent) of South Carolina's 13.0 million acres of timberland remains in the hands of private individuals, and another 24 percent is controlled by private corporations. Only 12 percent of the State's timberland is managed by public agencies.

The decline in forest industry holdings continues as this group collectively owns just 6 percent (759.5 thousand acres) of the State's timberland area as of 2009.

Timberland by ownership



Harvesting Activity on Timberland

Each year since 2006, an average of 463,500 acres of South Carolina's timberland have experienced some form of tree cutting activity.

Final harvest (143,500 acres annually) has typically been the dominant form of annual tree harvesting in the past. However, as of 2009 commercial thinning (235,000 acres annually) surpassed final harvest as the primary stand treatment activity.

The majority (89 percent) of the commercial thinning has occurred in pine stands. Due to the economic slowdown, pine stands that would have been clearcut for pulpmills are now being thinned and managed for sawtimber.



Tree Volume

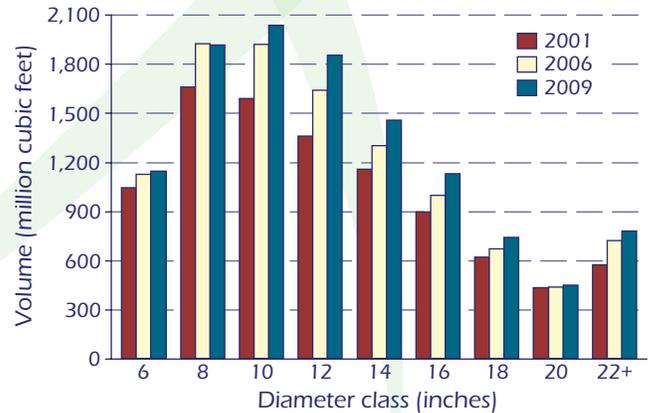
Results from the 2009 inventory show all-live volume on timberland at just under 23.1 billion cubic feet, exceeding all levels previously reported.

As a species group, all-live volume in softwood species amounted to 11.5 billion cubic feet as of 2009, equaling the volume in hardwood species.

The loblolly-shortleaf pine species group accounted for 9.6 billion cubic feet (83 percent) of the all-live softwood volume.

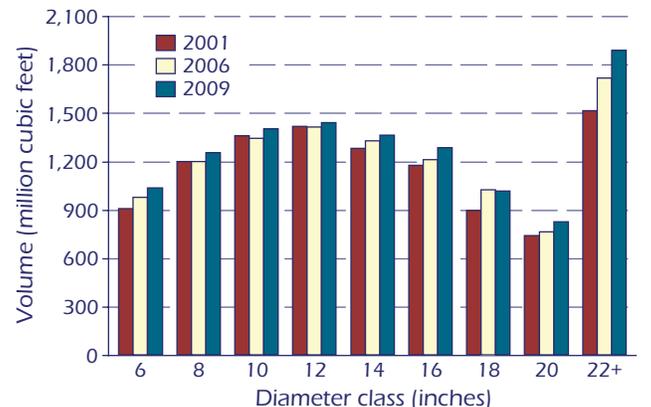
Softwood all-live volume has increased in nearly all diameter classes since 2001; particularly in the 10-inch to 18-inch classes. Much of this increase is due to reduced harvesting of planted pine. This planted pine volume has been accumulating over the past 10-20 years and is referred to as South Carolina's "wall-of-wood."

Softwood all-live volume by diameter class and survey year



Hardwood all-live volume has increased in all diameter classes since 2001 reflecting the economic slowdown and reduced harvesting occurring throughout the South.

Hardwood all-live volume by diameter class and survey year



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Annual Growth and Removals

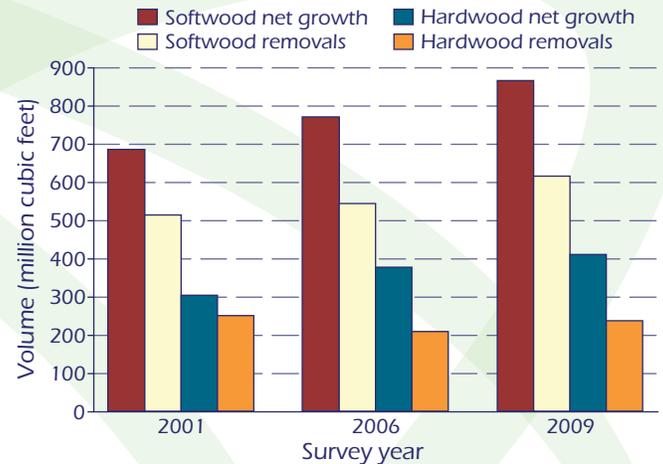
Total net annual growth of all-live trees on timberland averaged almost 1.3 billion cubic feet per year between 2006 and 2009, surpassing levels recorded for all previous surveys.

Total removals of all-live trees on timberland averaged 853.2 million cubic feet per year between 2006 and 2009.

Since 2006, net growth for all-live softwood species on timberland averaged 865.1 million cubic feet per year, and annual removals of softwood species averaged 616.0 million cubic feet. Softwood annual removals have increased 13 percent since 2006.

For hardwood species, net annual growth averaged 411.0 million cubic feet per year since 2006. Average annual removals of hardwood species increased 14 percent since 2006, to 237.2 million cubic feet per year as of 2009 estimates.

All-live growth and removals by survey year



Biomass

The aboveground green weight of live trees > 1.0-inch in diameter on South Carolina's forest land amounted to almost 1.2 billion green tons (593 million dry tons), as of 2009. More than one-half (54 percent) of the green tons were in hardwood species.

Over 930.6 million green tons were on nonindustrial private forest land and another 64.6 million tons were on forest industry lands.

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