
Benefits from Illinois Forest Resources



Many benefits are received from the forest resources of Illinois, ranging from lumber to natural areas for public enjoyment and relaxation. In addition, the forest resources of Illinois contribute financially to the state through jobs and income generated by forestry-related businesses and industries.

The wood harvested from Illinois timberland is used for a variety of goods and products. Forty-six percent of the current (1997) annual growing-stock removals were used for saw logs (Figure 50). Veneer logs, pulpwood, fuelwood, and miscellaneous products combined represent only 12 percent of the current volume of growing-stock removals, while logging residue accounts for 13 percent. Many industries make use of logging residue and convert it into usable products. Logging residue in the form of branches and other woody material left at the logging site eventually decomposes and returns valuable nutrients to the soil.

Other removals accounted for 29 percent of the growing-stock removals in 1997. Other removals include wood removed in timber-stand improvement cuttings (where undesirable trees are removed), trees removed during land clearing, and growing-stock trees on land removed from timberland classification between 1985 and 1998.

Table 22 shows the annual removals of growing stock from timberland for 1997, by species group and removal/product type. The latter is a class indicating what the removed volume of wood was used for. It should be noted that the difference in the volume of removals by species groups reported in Table 22 and Table 13 is due to the fact that in Table 13, the removal volume is an annual average based on the period between 1985 and 1998, whereas Table 22 is limited to the annual removals for 1997. Other red oaks had the highest volume of growing stock removed, followed by select white oaks. These two species groups also accounted for the highest average annual removals (Table 13).

Of the 75,198 thousand cubic feet of growing-stock volume removed in 1997, 42,995 thousand cubic feet were used for products (Table 22). The remaining volume removed was in logging residue and other removals. For the majority of species groups, the largest portion of growing-stock volume removed was used for products. The highest volume removed for a product was saw logs. Other red oaks and select white oaks were the two highest species groups used for saw logs. Select white oaks had the highest volume used for veneer logs, followed by black walnut. The remaining three oak species groups also represented a significant portion of the volume used for veneer logs but not nearly as much as the select white oaks and black walnut species groups. The loblolly and shortleaf pine species group and the cottonwood and aspen species group had the highest volumes of wood used for pulpwood. Soft maples and elms are also important for pulpwood production.

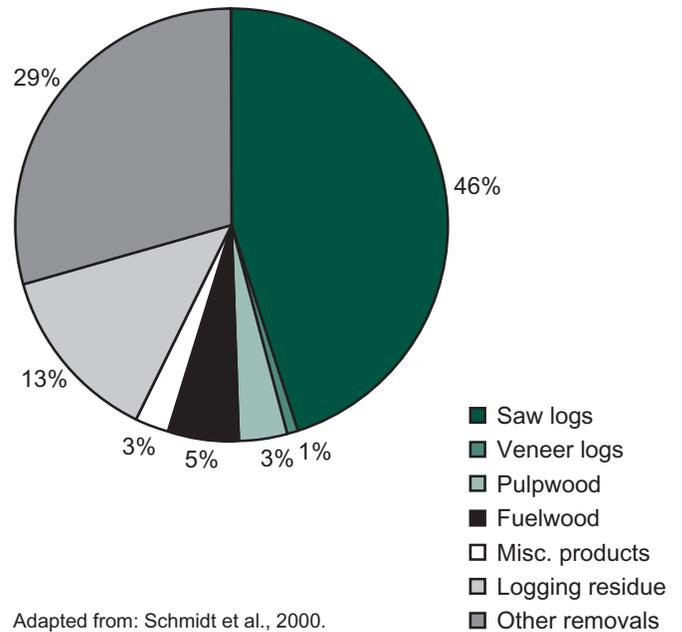
For fuelwood, the select white oaks species group was highest, followed by hickory and other red oaks. The volume of growing stock for logging residue by species group was similar to that of total removals, because logging residue is a by-product of removals and usage. The species most commonly removed for nonproduct uses (other removals) were the other red oaks and the select white oaks. Some species groups had a higher portion of their total removal volume in the other removals category than in the product removals category. These species groups included loblolly and shortleaf pine, eastern redcedar, other eastern softwoods, elm, black cherry, basswood, and other hardwoods.

The private individual was responsible for the greatest average annual volume of growing stock removed (Figure 51). This is to be expected, considering that the private individual ownership class owns the vast majority of Illinois timberland (Figure 36). The unavailable class in Figure 51 has the second-highest removal volumes, followed by the National Forest and corporate ownership

classes. In the unavailable class, wood volume was removed by undetermined sources. The National Forest had a higher removal volume than the corporate ownership class, even though the corporate ownership class owns more timberland (Figure 36). Corporations not related to the forest industry own 96 percent of the timberland acreage in the corporate ownership class. This may account for the lower volume of removals compared with that of the National Forest.

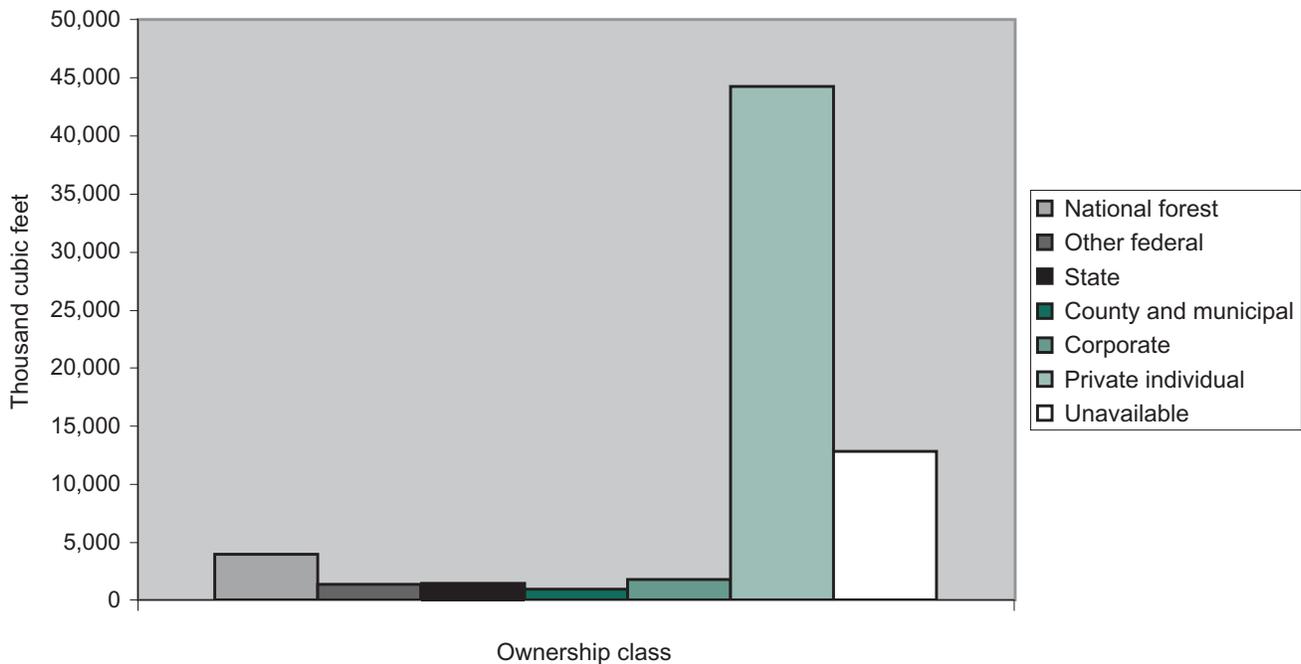
A total of 2,032 businesses in Illinois deal with forest resources (Table 23). The data for Table 23 are from information supplied by Dun & Bradstreet. Business establishments are categorized by a general business type and a specific business type. The general business types are forestry, lumber and wood products, and paper products. Forestry includes those businesses that deal directly with the forest resource itself, whereas lumber and wood products and paper products include businesses that convert the raw wood material into products used by consumers.

Figure 50. Percentage of current and annual growing stock removals on timberland in Illinois by product/removal type, 1997.



Adapted from: Schmidt et al., 2000.

Figure 51. Average annual removals of growing stock on timberland in Illinois from 1985 to 1997 by ownership class.



Adapted from: Schmidt et al., 2000.

The specific business type is a more detailed classification of the firms within each general business type. The majority of businesses in Illinois are in the lumber and wood products general type, but the paper products general type has both the highest sales volume (in 2000) and the greatest number of employees. Number of employees refers only to employees who work at a business's location in Illinois and does not include employees who work for a corporation at out-of-state locations.

The number of establishments in Table 23 is based on all businesses in Illinois that operate in any of the business types (general or specific) listed in the table. The primary business activity of some of the businesses summarized in this table is not forestry-related. Of the totals in the table, 12 thousand workers, \$8 billion, and 253 establishments are from businesses whose primary business activity is different from the forestry-related one under which they are summarized. For these businesses, the forestry-related business type they are summarized under is a sec-

ondary or indirect business activity type. They perform their forestry-related activities as a secondary part of their operations instead of as the primary part. Some of these are companies that manufacture their own packaging for materials created in their primary business activity.

There are few businesses in Illinois that deal directly with the forest resource (Table 23). The majority of these are tree farms and timber tracts, where trees are grown for commercial harvest, and forest services. Many of the tree farms are Christmas tree farms. The low number of forest nurseries is due to the exclusion of nurseries that grow trees only for ornamental purposes. Businesses providing forestry services are those that can assist timberland owners with the various aspects of managing timber. As the importance of private ownership of Illinois timberland becomes recognized, a new opportunity for businesses in this field may exist. Figure 52 shows the number of forestry businesses by county. The majority of these businesses are in the Chicago area.

Figure 52.
Forestry businesses, 2000.
Data from: Dun & Bradstreet, 2001.

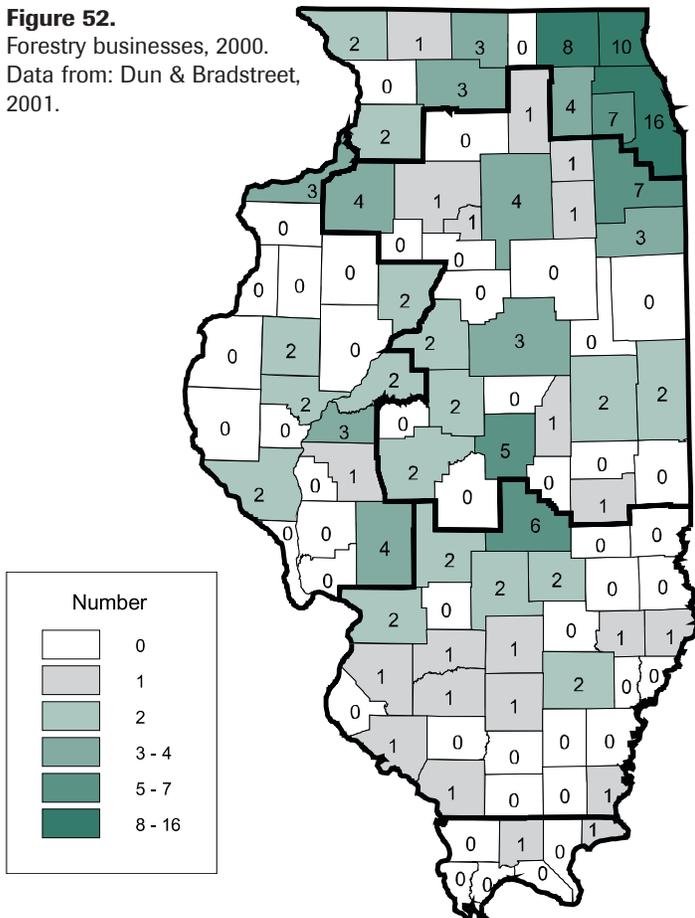
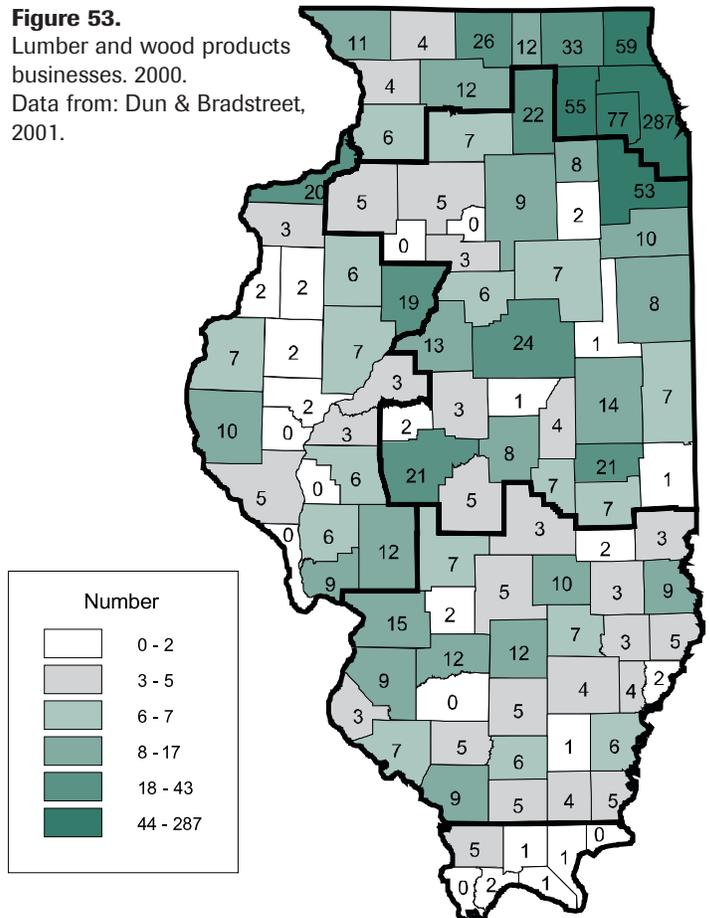


Figure 53.
Lumber and wood products businesses, 2000.
Data from: Dun & Bradstreet, 2001.



In the lumber and wood products general type, millwork has the most businesses, the highest annual sales volume, and the most employees (Table 23). Businesses that make wood kitchen cabinets and wood pallets and skids also have high numbers of employees in this general type. Structural wood members and reconstituted wood products also have large annual sales volumes. Figure 53 shows the number of lumber and wood products businesses by county for Illinois, and again the highest concentration is in the Chicago area.

Businesses involved in the manufacturing of paper products show a much higher annual sales volume than do the other two general types (Table 23). Companies that make miscellaneous paper products have the highest sales volume, followed by paperboard mills and paper mills. Manufacturers of corrugated and solid-fiber boxes employ the greatest number of people and have the highest number of establishments. Bag manufacturing and coated and laminated paper manufacturing businesses are also large employers. Many businesses manufacture paperboard

products, and these businesses also employ large numbers of people. Most businesses that manufacture paper products are found in and around Chicago (Figure 54).

The forest resources of Illinois provide the majority of the total volume of saw logs used for products within the state (Figure 55). Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin combined provide only 3 percent of the saw-log volume used in Illinois' wood-using industries. However, only 72 percent of the total saw-log volume harvested in Illinois stays within the state for manufacturing (Figure 56). Indiana and Missouri combined receive 21 percent of the Illinois saw-log volume. Iowa and Kentucky are also significant importers of Illinois' saw logs. In effect, 72 percent of the saw-log volume produced in Illinois provides 97 percent of the saw-log volume used for manufacturing goods within the forest products industry in Illinois. The remaining percentage of saw-log volume produced is used by industries in other states. There is an opportunity for more wood-using industries in Illinois.

Figure 54. Paper product businesses, 2000. Data from: Dun & Bradstreet, 2001.

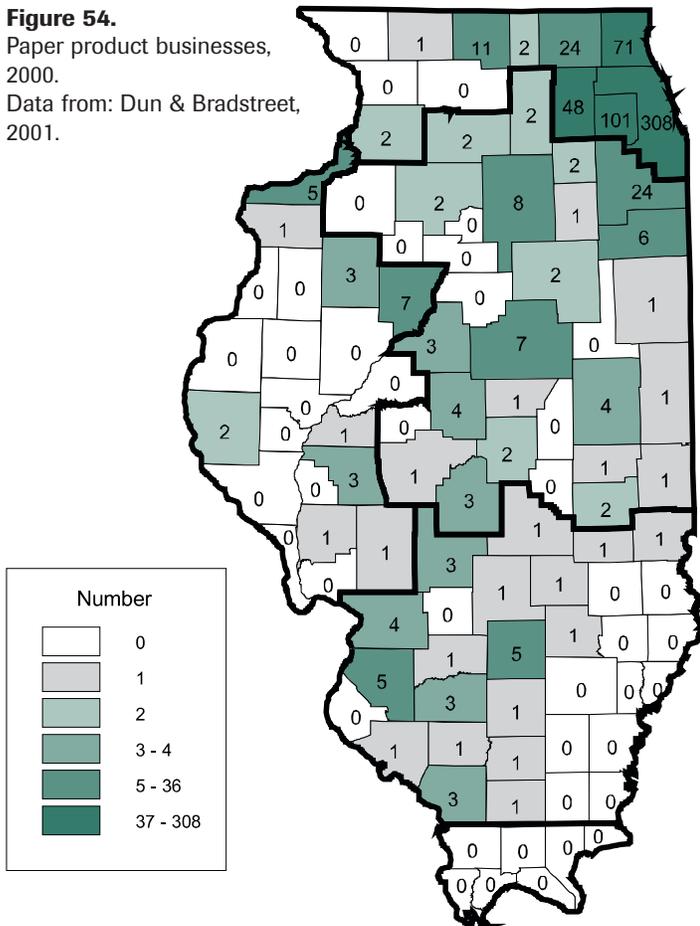
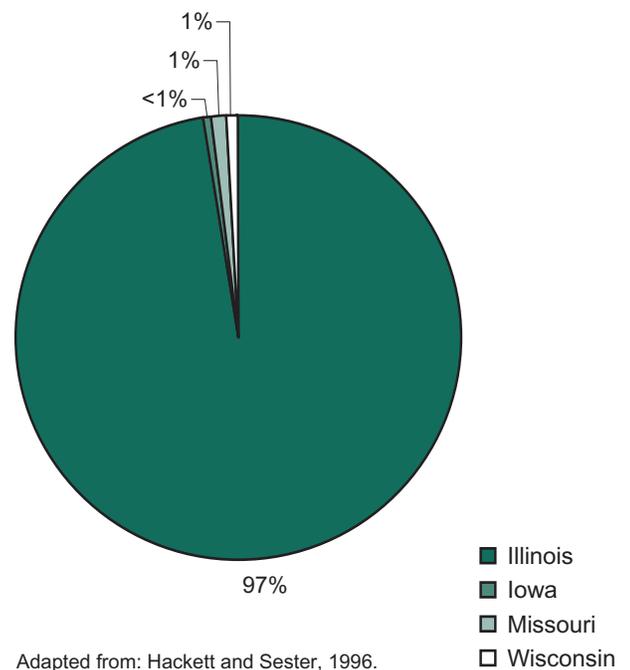


Figure 55. Percentage of saw-log volume processed in Illinois by state of origin, 1996.



Adapted from: Hackett and Sester, 1996.

upland forest, and wet-mesic upland forest. These areas represent very small remnants of original forest community types deserving protection. The total acreage of forested communities listed in the INAI is slightly less than 25 thousand acres. This is only 0.18 percent of the estimated 13.8 million acres of forest land in Illinois at the time of settlement. The acreage of INAI forest communities by county is shown in Figure 57, with the greatest number of acres in Johnson, Adams, and LaSalle Counties.

The importance of Illinois forest resources has not gone unnoticed. Many programs exist that help private landowners manage their timberland and plant trees to create future forest resources for Illinois. Many of these are cost-share programs, where the government pays part of the cost for activities related to proper forest management practices. The requirements of all programs, while differing in nature, specify certain management goals and objectives that must be met in order to receive cost-sharing benefits.

One of the most important programs is provided by the Forestry Development Act (FDA). This cost-share program is administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Forest Resources. Funds are obtained by collecting a harvest fee on all timber sales in Illinois. These funds then go to landowners who enroll in the program and can be used to help cover costs for a variety of forest management activities.

Another important cost-share program is the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which is a national program administered by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). CRP provides cost sharing for a wide variety of resource conservation activities, many of which relate to forestry. In Illinois, the IDNR Division of Forest Resources administers management of forest land enrolled in CRP. An extension of CRP is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which focuses on geographic areas with specific environmental concerns. In

Illinois this is the Illinois River. The Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) provides funds for timber stand improvements, tree planting, and natural regeneration on privately owned timberland and is administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Table 25 shows the acreage of lands in Illinois by various management activities and the cost-share program under which the lands are enrolled. Caution should be used when interpreting Table 25, because lands enrolled in forestry-related practices under CRP or CREP are also often enrolled in the FDA program in Illinois. Those acreages cited under “FDA” are enrolled only in that program, while the majority of acres included under the headings “CRP,” “CREP,” “FIP,” and “Other” are also enrolled in the FDA program. The IDNR Division of Forest Resources oversees the management of all forestry-related activities for these programs in Illinois. The category “Other” includes the following cost-share programs: Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP), and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). ACP and SIP are no longer being funded. The acreage listed represents the total number of acres enrolled in each program from the time of that program’s inception to 2000.

The management activity under which the most acreage has been enrolled is tree planting. This will help provide future forest resources for Illinois. Timber stand improvement is also important, and all these acres are enrolled in the FDA and FIP programs. While not creating new forests for Illinois, this management activity is just as important because it improves the conditions of current forest resources in the state. The acres enrolled in riparian buffer zone protection help guard Illinois residents from the negative effects of soil erosion. The acreage enrolled in the combined cost-share programs for each county can be seen in Figure 58. The Southern Unglaciaded, Western, and South Central Regions all have counties with large acreages enrolled. Johnson County has the highest enrollment, followed by Wayne and Pope Counties.

Figure 58.

Acreages enrolled in all cost-share programs, 2000.

Adapted from: IDNR Division of Forest Resources, 2000; USDA Farm Service Agency, 2000.

