

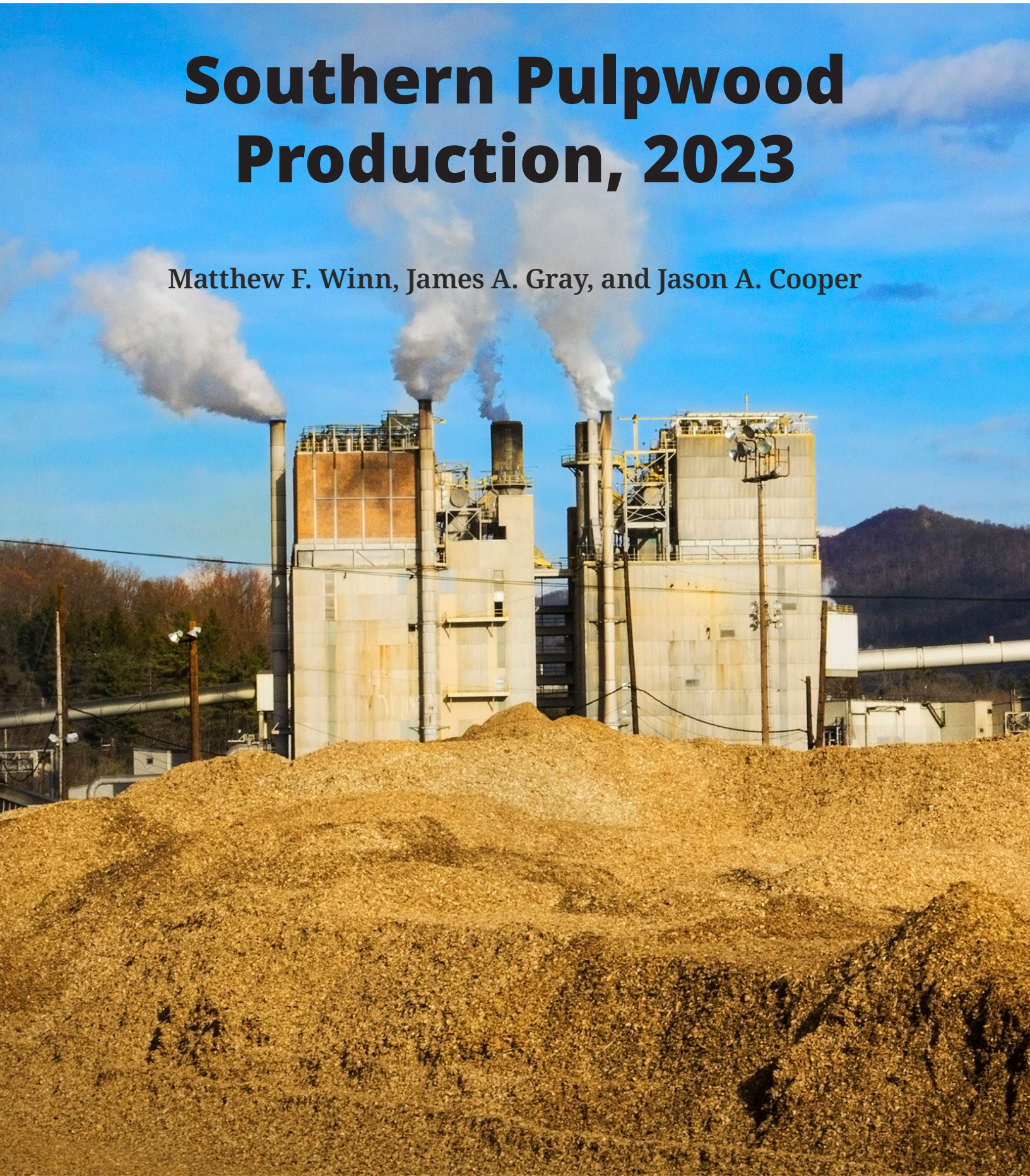


Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Southern Research Station | Resource Bulletin SRS-244 | May 2025

Southern Pulpwood Production, 2023

Matthew F. Winn, James A. Gray, and Jason A. Cooper



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Note: All tables in this report are available upon request as Microsoft Excel workbook files or in a different, customer-specified format.

Photos by James Bentley, USDA Forest Service.

May 2025

<https://doi.org/10.2737/SRS-RB-244>



Forest Service
Research & Development
Southern Research Station
Resource Bulletin SRS-244



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Southern Pulpwood Production, 2023

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INTRODUCTION

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) unit of the Southern Research Station annually compiles, analyzes, and reports data on pulp mills in the South. This 2023 report presents the findings of a 100-percent canvas of pulp mills that used roundwood or wood residues from the 13 Southern States. Of the 70 mills surveyed, 55 responded. For the 15 mills that did not respond, previous survey data and other sources of information were used for this report. Regional conversion factors were used to convert mill data reported in nonstandard units to standard cords (Winn et al. 2020). All production figures are in cords. Tables 1, 2, and 5 express equivalent green tons of production. Unless otherwise indicated, the context for production comparisons (increases, decreases, or stabilizations) throughout the report is the change from 2022 to 2023.

Pulpwood

Total Southern pulpwood production, which includes both roundwood chipped at pulp mills or at independent chip mills, and other primary industry mill residues decreased by 6 percent, 3.1 million cords, to 52.9 million cords (139.3 million green tons) (table 1). This decrease follows a 5-percent decrease between 2021 and 2022 and a 4-percent increase between 2020 and 2021. At 43.6 million cords (114.0 million green tons), softwood production decreased by 1.8 million cords (4 percent). Hardwood production went down 12 percent, from 10.6 to 9.3 million cords (25.3 million green tons). Softwood roundwood and residues combined accounted for 82 percent of total Southern pulpwood production, and hardwoods accounted for the remaining 18 percent. Total Southern pulpwood production was 30 percent lower than the record volume of 75.9 million cords (200.9 million green tons) reported in 1997.

Pulpwood production in the South Central region (Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas) decreased by 2 percent, from 30.6 to 29.9 million cords (78.8 million green tons).

Softwood pulpwood production decreased by 133,000 cords (<1 percent) in the region, and hardwood production decreased by 580,000 cords (9 percent). From the peak year 1997, the South Central region's production was down 30 percent (12.6 million cords, 33.8 million green tons). Between 1997 and 2023, the South Central region had 21 pulp mills to close or switch from roundwood/chips to all recycled material. This region accounts for 57 percent of the South's pulpwood production.

Pulpwood production in the Southeast region (Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia) decreased by 10 percent, from 25.4 to 23.0 million cords (60.5 million green tons). Softwood production was down 1.7 million cords (8 percent) in the region, and hardwood production decreased by 711,000 cords (17 percent). From the peak year 1997, the Southeast region's production declined by 31 percent (10.4 million cords, 27.7 million green tons). Between 1997 and 2023, the Southeast region lost 12 pulp mills.

Alabama's pulpwood production was down 1 percent to 8.9 million cords (23.7 million green tons), leading the South in total pulpwood production (fig. 1, table 2). Georgia's production declined by 4 percent to 8.5 million cords (22.4 million green tons). Production in Mississippi increased by 1 percent to 6.9 million cords (18.4 million green tons). Pulpwood production in Louisiana increased by 4 percent to 5.1 million cords (13.4 million green tons). Arkansas's production decreased by 4 percent to 4.8 million cords (12.6 million green tons), and South Carolina's production decreased by 16 percent to 4.6 million cords (12.1 million green tons). Collectively, these six States accounted for 38.9 million cords (102.6 million green tons), or 74 percent of the South's total 2023 production.

Roundwood

Roundwood pulpwood continues to be the primary fiber source used in pulp manufacturing in the South. In 2023, it accounted for 72 percent of the total Southern pulpwood production (fig. 2).

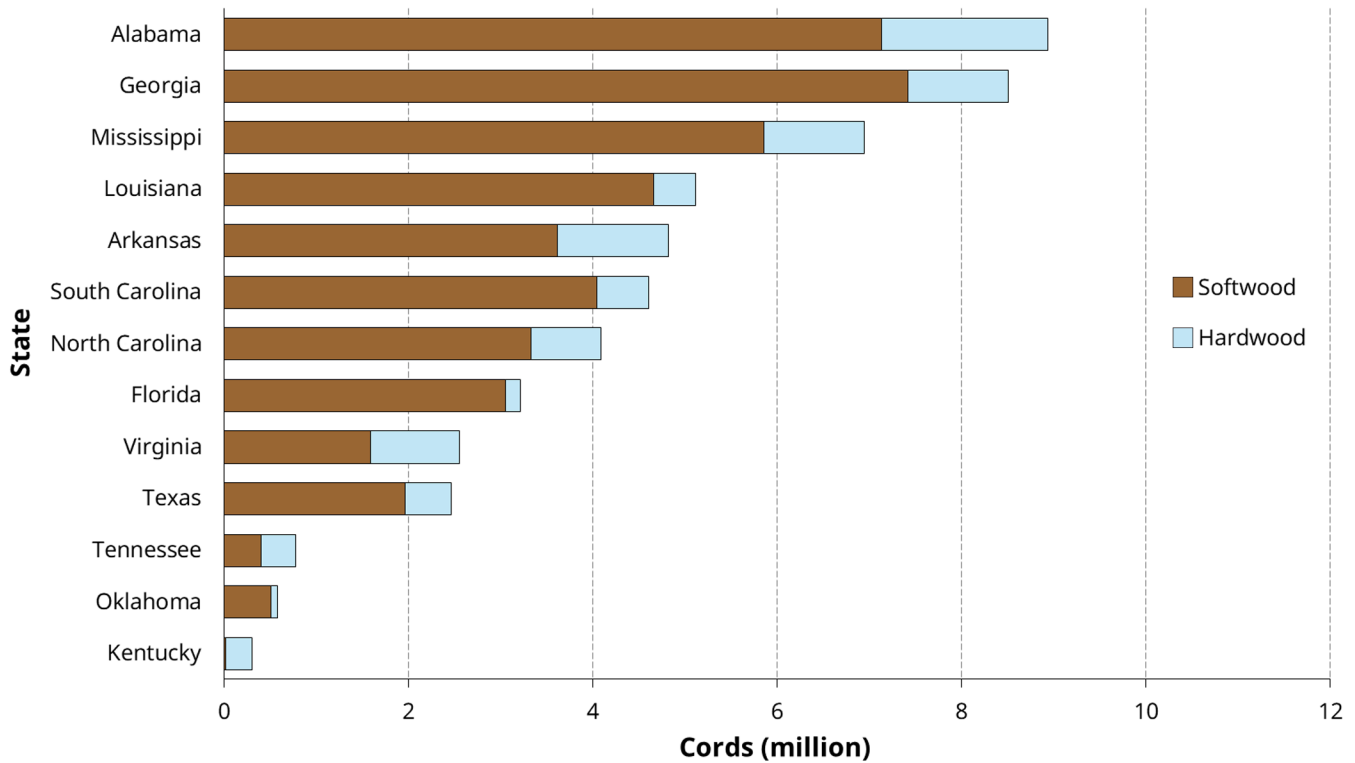


Figure 1—Southern pulpwood production by State and species group, 2023.

This represents a slight decrease from 2022, when roundwood accounted for 74 percent of total pulpwood production. The percentage of pulpwood that is roundwood has generally decreased since its peak of 82 percent in 2015. Overall, from 2022 to 2023, the South's roundwood production decreased by 3.3 million cords (8 percent), from 41.6 to 38.2 million cords (103.9 million green tons) (table 3). At 31.4 million cords (84.7 million green tons), softwood accounted for 82 percent of total roundwood production. Between 2022 and 2023, softwood roundwood production decreased by 2.5 million cords (7 percent), and hardwood roundwood production decreased by 851,000 cords (11 percent). In comparison to peak year 1997, softwood roundwood production was down by 2.6 million cords (8 percent), and hardwood roundwood production dropped by 13.4 million cords (66 percent).

Seven of the 13 Southern States—Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Florida—showed small to moderate decreases in roundwood production of 1 to 10

percent. Tennessee, South Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, and Texas had the greatest decrease in roundwood production at 33, 22, 15, 15, and 13 percent, respectively. Only Oklahoma showed an increase in roundwood production of 5 percent. Alabama led in total roundwood production

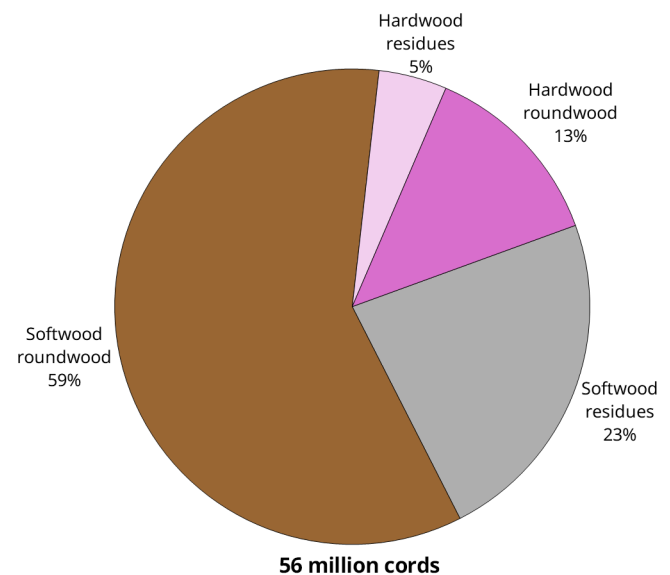


Figure 2—Softwood and hardwood components of Southern pulpwood production, 2023.

with 6.7 million cords (18.3 million green tons) and was the leading producer of hardwood roundwood, at 1.5 million cords (4.2 million green tons). Georgia ranked second in total roundwood production at 6.4 million cords (17.3 million green tons) and was the leading producer of softwood roundwood, at 5.6 million cords (15.1 million green tons). Roundwood pulpwood production in Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Arkansas was 5.3, 3.6, 3.2, and 3.2 million cords (14.3, 9.7, 8.8, and 8.8 million green tons), respectively. Combined production in these six States was 28.4 million cords (77.2 million green tons), for 74 percent of the South's roundwood total.

Wood Residues

Mills reported two types of receipts: roundwood and wood residues. Wood residues consist primarily of mill residue chips, a byproduct of sawmilling and veneer mill operations. This bulletin reports certain residues that technically are not wood residues, such as chips produced in the woods or generated when material received as roundwood by primary producers is chipped instead of milled.

Wood residue production in the South increased by 1 percent to 14.7 million cords (35.4 million green tons) (tables 4 and 5). Softwood residue production was up 5 percent to 12.2 million cords (29.3 million green tons) and accounted for 83 percent of total wood residues. Hardwood residue production decreased by 15 percent to 2.5 million cords (6.1 million green tons).

Three Southern States—Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oklahoma—showed substantial increases in wood residue production at 37, 17, and 16 percent, respectively. South Carolina, Texas, and Georgia showed slight increases ranging between 0.5 and 2.0 percent. Alabama, Arkansas, Virginia, Florida, and Kentucky showed slight to moderate decreases, ranging from 2 to 9 percent. Tennessee and North Carolina had the greatest

decrease in wood residue production at 44 and 16 percent, respectively. Alabama led Southern States in the production of wood residues with 2.2 million cords (5.4 million green tons), followed by Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and South Carolina, with 2.1, 1.7, 1.6, 1.5, and 1.4 million cords (5.1, 4.0, 3.8, 3.7, and 3.3 million green tons), respectively. Combined wood residue production in these six States amounted to 10.5 million cords (25.4 million green tons)—72 percent of the South's total.

County and Parish Production

Table 5 summarizes pulpwood production in the South by source of wood, State, year, and number of mills for 2013 through 2023. Wood residues and pulpwood exported outside the United States are not included in these figures because it is difficult to determine the county of origin for exports. In 2023, of the 1,306 total counties in the 13 Southern States, 876 counties produced softwood or hardwood roundwood or both; in 2022, this number was 878; in 2021 and 2020, this number was 882; in 2019, this number was 872; in 2018, this number was 873; in 2017, this number was 869; in 2016, this number was 875; in 2015, it was 913; in 2014, it was 910; and in 2013, it was 914.

Figures 3 and 4 depict the intensity of production of softwood and hardwood roundwood pulpwood in cords. For both softwood and hardwood, the highest production by county is generally found along the Coastal Plain and Piedmont regions of the South. Figure 5 shows pulp mill locations and the number of mills competing for all roundwood pulpwood (both softwood and hardwood) by county. Figure 6 shows the number of mills competing for softwood roundwood pulpwood by county, and figure 7 shows competition for hardwood roundwood pulpwood by county. The number of mills competing for pulpwood roundwood by county generally corresponds with the intensity of roundwood pulpwood production.

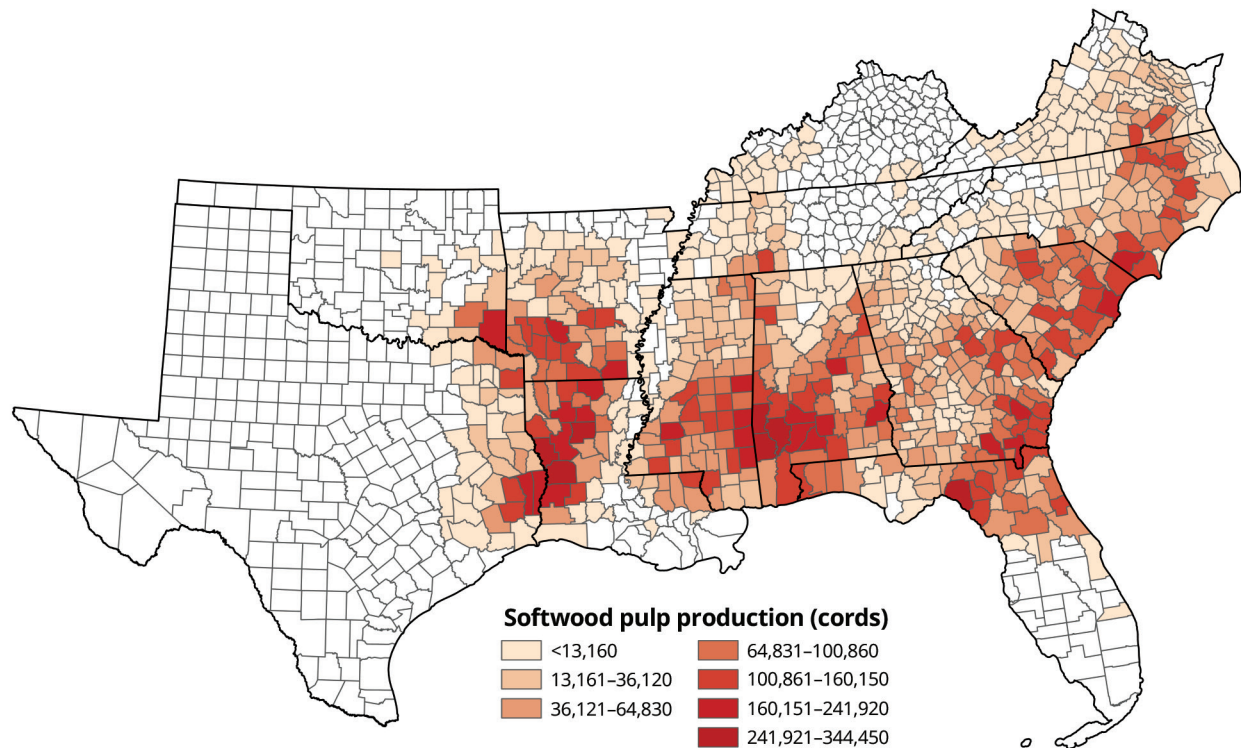


Figure 3—Softwood pulp production by county in the 13 Southern States, 2023.

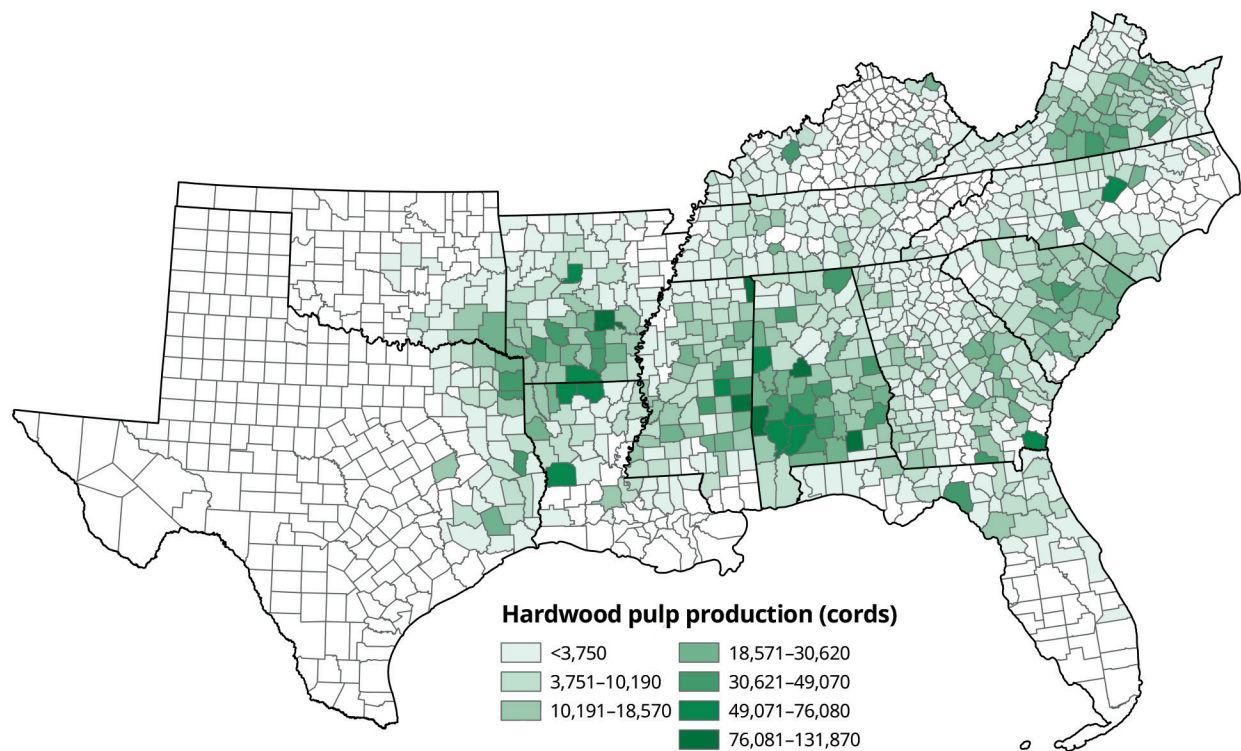


Figure 4—Hardwood pulp production by county in the 13 Southern States, 2023.

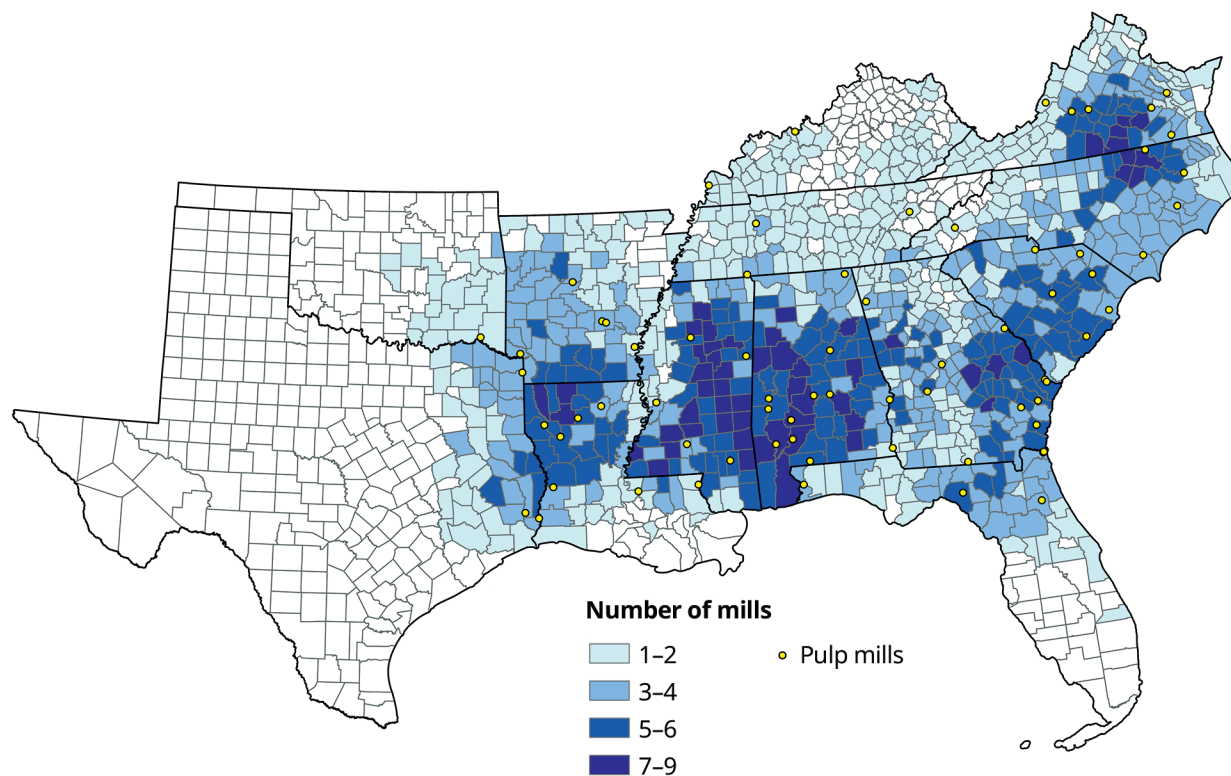


Figure 5—Competing pulp mills in the South by county, 2023.

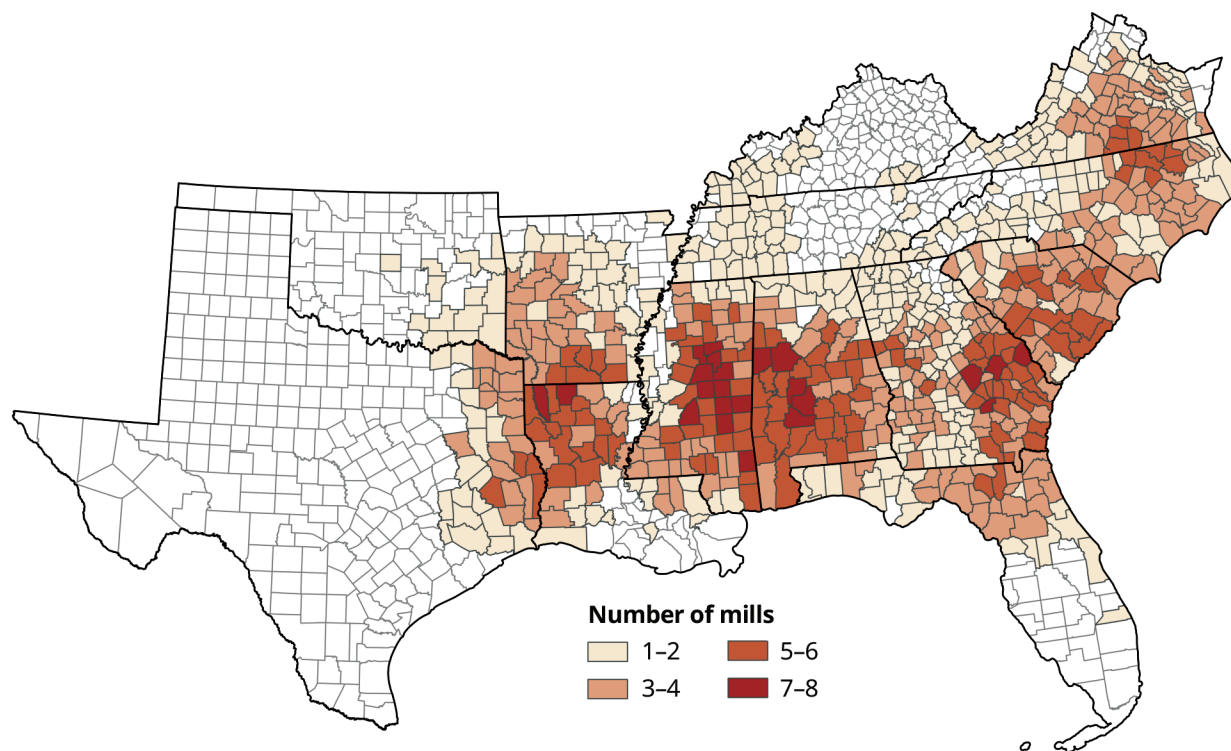


Figure 6—Pulp mills competing for softwood pulp in the South by county, 2023.

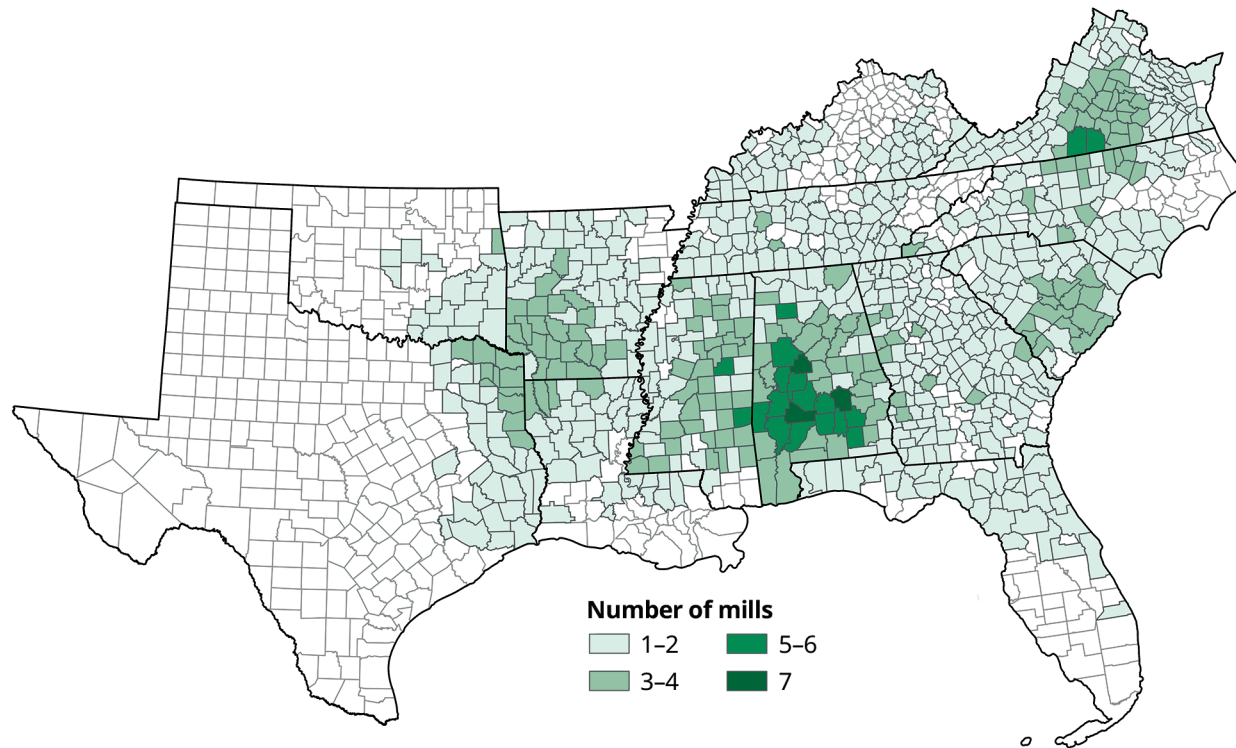


Figure 7—Pulp mills competing for hardwood pulp in the South by county, 2023.

ROUNDWOOD MOVEMENT

Tables 6 and 7 show the domestic import and export volumes and movement of softwood and hardwood roundwood between States in the Southeast and South Central regions. Numbers in boxes represent roundwood harvested and retained for processing in each State. The numbers in columns to the right of the boxed numbers represent wood exported to the other States. Therefore, the sum of the figure for retained wood and the figure for exported wood is the total roundwood production for the State. Note that data for exports from the Southern region to the Northern region were unavailable at the time of publication. Since 2011, softwood exports to the Northern region were <1 percent of total softwood roundwood production, and hardwood exports were <2 percent of total hardwood roundwood production. The numbers in rows below the figures for retained wood represent wood imported from other States. The sum of the retained figure and the figure for wood imported from other States represents roundwood receipts, i.e., the amount of roundwood processed by mills, in a State.

The South Central region was a net exporter of roundwood pulpwood. For softwood and hardwood combined, exports exceeded imports by 290,085 cords (767,202 green tons) (tables 6 and 7). Softwood exports exceeded imports by 450,367 cords (1,215,990 green tons), and hardwood imports exceeded exports by 160,282 cords (448,789 green tons). The Southeast region was a net importer of pulpwood, with softwood and hardwood imports exceeding exports by 606,602 cords (1,651,961 green tons). Softwood imports exceeded exports by 465,243 cords (1,256,156 green tons), and hardwood imports exceeded exports by 141,359 cords (395,805 green tons). No States reported roundwood exported to foreign countries.

MILLS

In 2023, 70 southern pulp mills were operating and drawing wood from the 13 Southern States, one less mill than in 2022 (fig. 8). The WestRock mill in Panama City, FL closed permanently in June 2022. In 1979, 117 mills were operating in the South. By 1997, a peak year for pulpwood

production in the South, the number of operating pulp mills in the South had declined to 103. Figure 9 shows the decline in number of roundwood-receiving pulp mills in the South since 1979.

Many companies operate pulping facilities throughout the South (table 8). In 2023, International Paper Company had the most facilities operating in the South, with 21 pulp mills in 10 Southern States. WestRock Company operated 12 pulp mills in 7 States. Georgia-Pacific Corporation and Koch Industries operated 10 pulp mills in 5 States.

Alabama and Georgia continued to lead the South in the number of operating pulp mills, both with 11. Louisiana followed with 7 mills; South Carolina and Virginia had 6 mills; Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, and North Carolina each had 5 mills; Tennessee and Texas both had 3 mills; Kentucky had 2 mills; and Oklahoma had 1 mill.

Trends

Figure 10 depicts Southern pulpwood production from 1953 through 2023. The 6-percent decrease registered between 2022 and 2023 follows a 5-percent decrease between 2021 and 2022, a 4-percent increase between 2020 and 2021, and a 6-percent decrease between 2019 and 2020. Pulpwood production for 2023 is below the 10-year average for pulpwood production. Softwood roundwood expressed as a percentage of total production declined substantially from 1953 until the mid-1980s. In 1953, softwood roundwood supplied 87 percent of total pulpwood production. By 1985, it made up only 44 percent of total production and remained relatively stable until 2002. Since then, softwood roundwood has made up an increasingly larger share of total pulpwood production. Softwood roundwood showed a slight decrease in 2023, accounting for 59 percent of total pulpwood production.

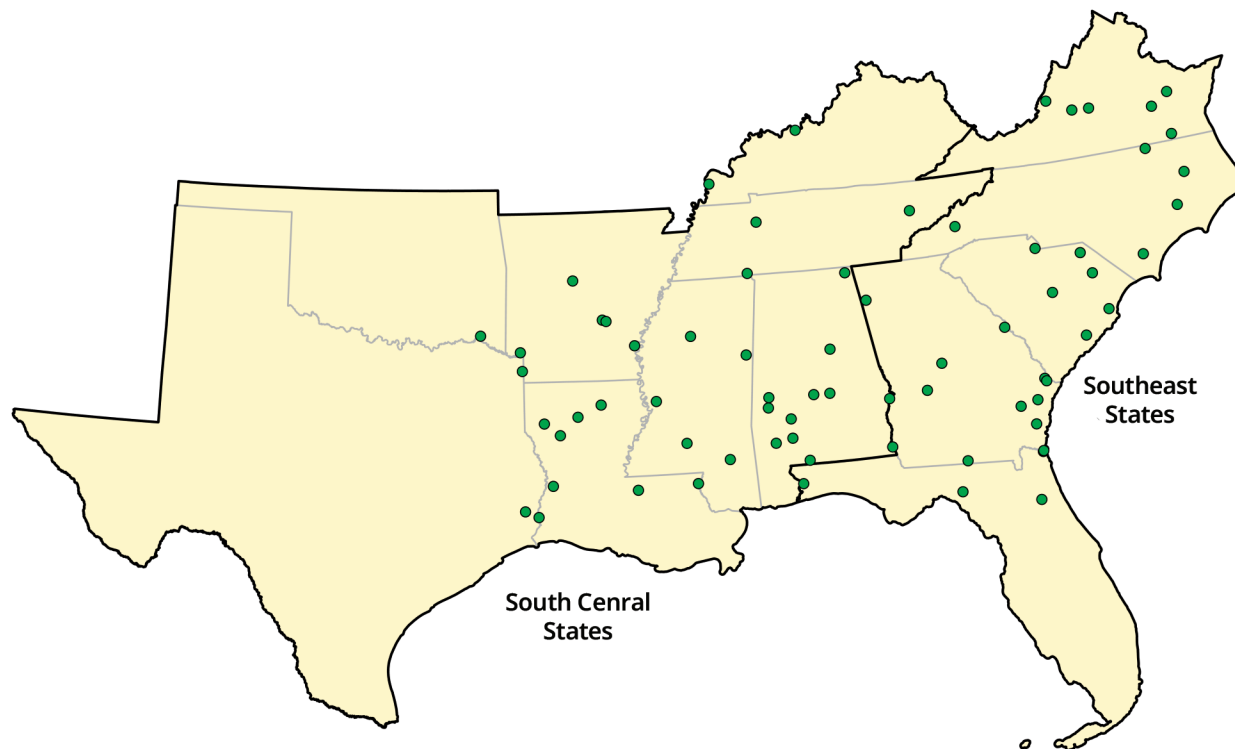


Figure 8—Southern pulp mill map, 2023.

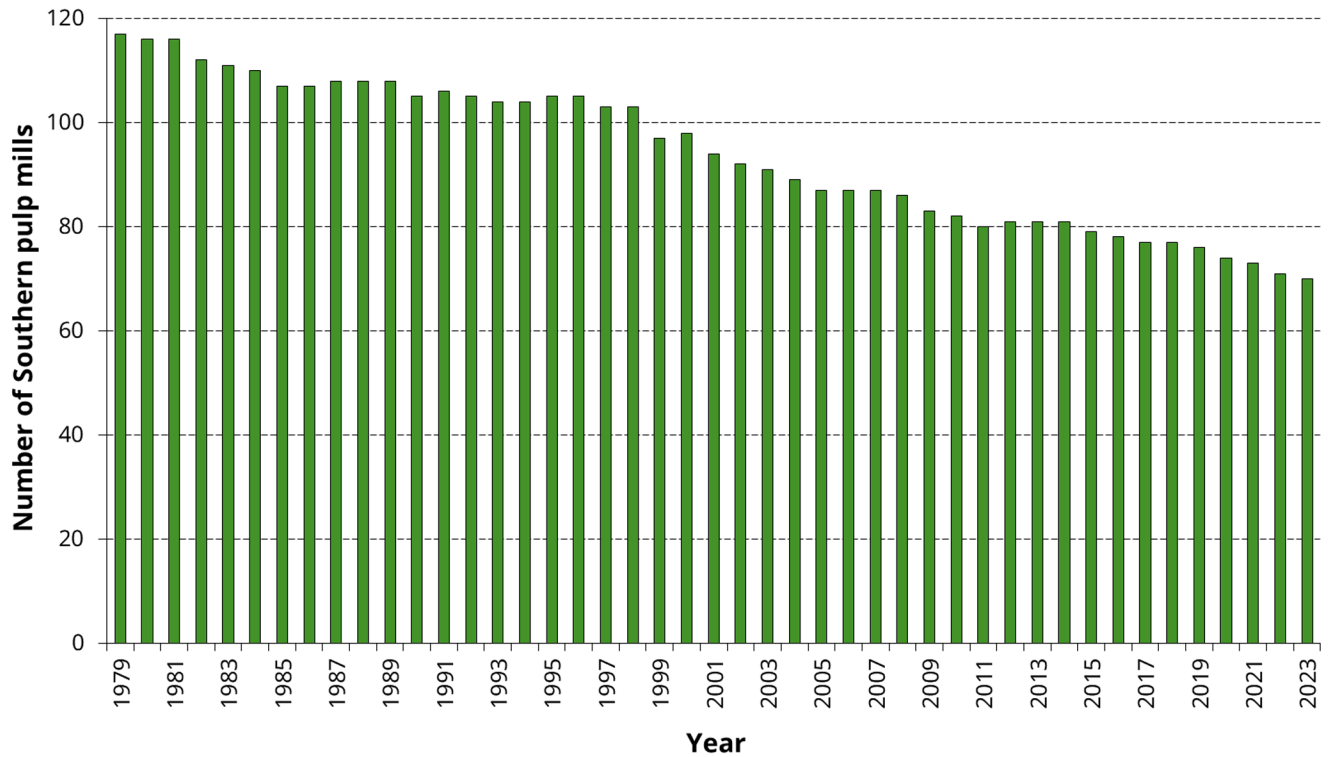


Figure 9—Roundwood-receiving pulp mills operating in the South, 1979–2023.

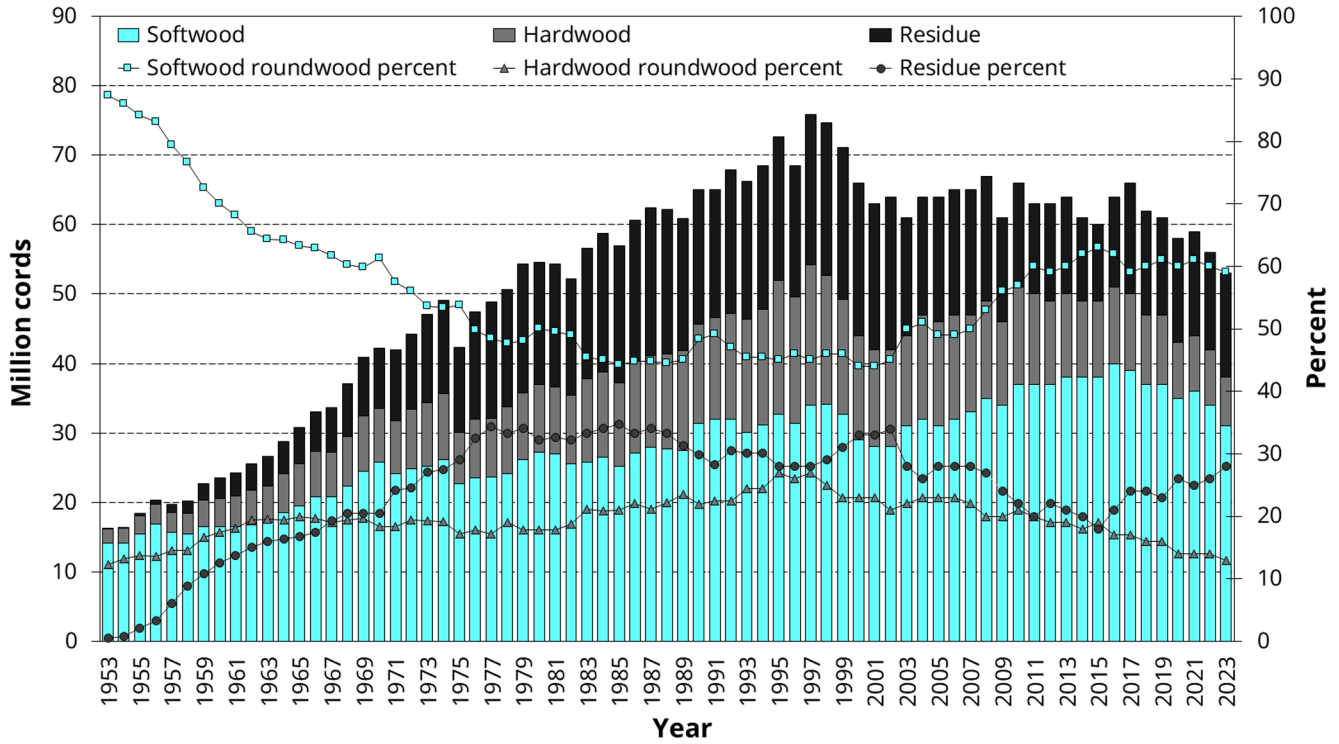


Figure 10—Pulpwood production in the South, 1953–2023.

In contrast, hardwood roundwood as a percentage of total pulpwood production was only 12 percent in 1953 and steadily increased until 1997, when it accounted for 27 percent of total production. The hardwood roundwood component has trended downward through 2023, from its peak in 1997. In 2023, hardwood roundwood production was 13 percent of total pulpwood production, slightly less than in 2022. The lowest hardwood roundwood percentages since 1954 occurred in 2023.

The production and use of wood residues in the South increased steadily from 1953 (when wood residue was not recorded as being used for pulpwood production) until 1985 when it accounted for 35 percent of total pulpwood production. There was a decreasing trend

from 2002 through 2015. From 2015 to 2023, the proportion of wood residues has gradually increased. Wood residues are still an important source of fiber for the pulp and paper industry in the South. The 1-percent increase in wood residue production in 2023 had little effect on the percentage of wood residues, which account for 28 percent of total pulpwood production, 2 percent more than in 2022.

LITERATURE CITED

Winn, M.F.; Royer, L.A.; Bentley, J.W. [et al.]. 2020. Timber products monitoring: unit of measure conversion factors for roundwood receiving facilities. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-251. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 148 p. <https://doi.org/10.2737/SRS-GTR-251>.

TABLES

Table 1—Pulpwood production in the Southeast and South Central regions by species group, 2023

Region	Source of wood	All species	Softwood	Hardwood	All species	Softwood	Hardwood
		<i>standard cords</i>			<i>green tons</i>		
Southeast ¹	Roundwood	16,826,356	14,319,363	2,506,993	45,681,861	38,662,280	7,019,581
	Residues	6,138,152	5,108,534	1,029,619	14,823,918	12,286,036	2,537,882
	Total	22,964,508	19,427,897	3,536,612	60,505,779	50,948,316	9,557,463
South Central ²	Roundwood	21,412,718	17,046,518	4,366,200	58,250,959	46,025,599	12,225,360
	Residues	8,516,026	7,088,294	1,427,732	20,566,545	17,047,363	3,519,182
	Total	29,928,744	24,134,812	5,793,932	78,817,504	63,072,962	15,744,542
Entire South	Roundwood	38,239,074	31,365,881	6,873,193	103,932,820	84,687,879	19,244,941
	Residues	14,654,178	12,196,828	2,457,351	35,390,463	29,333,399	6,057,064
	Total	52,893,252	43,562,709	9,330,544	139,323,283	114,021,278	25,302,005

¹ States of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.² States of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.**Table 2**—Pulpwood production in the South by State and species group, 2023

State	Change from 2022	All species	Softwood	Hardwood	All species	Softwood	Hardwood
		<i>percent</i>			<i>standard cords</i>		
					<i>green tons</i>		
Alabama	-1	8,939,328	7,127,921	1,811,407	23,650,127	18,685,067	4,965,060
Arkansas	-4	4,817,565	3,612,096	1,205,470	12,645,925	9,395,829	3,250,096
Florida	-8	3,210,813	3,047,143	163,670	8,464,476	8,007,553	456,923
Georgia	-4	8,508,937	7,419,542	1,089,395	22,443,119	19,492,555	2,950,564
Kentucky	-12	305,040	11,029	294,011	800,563	28,300	772,263
Louisiana	4	5,114,232	4,659,759	454,473	13,393,418	12,157,975	1,235,443
Mississippi	1	6,940,995	5,854,923	1,086,072	18,350,768	15,352,443	2,998,325
North Carolina	-12	4,083,959	3,330,646	753,313	10,752,935	8,776,781	1,976,154
Oklahoma	9	577,076	507,251	69,826	1,508,643	1,313,131	195,512
South Carolina	-16	4,606,351	4,045,322	561,029	12,087,063	10,554,766	1,532,297
Tennessee	-36	771,611	402,318	369,293	2,062,168	1,078,152	984,016
Texas	-8	2,462,896	1,959,516	503,380	6,405,892	5,062,065	1,343,827
Virginia	-12	2,554,448	1,585,243	969,205	6,758,186	4,116,661	2,641,525
All States	-6	52,893,251	43,562,709	9,330,544	139,323,283	114,021,278	25,302,005

Table 3—Roundwood production in the South by State and species group, 2023 and 2022

State	Change from 2022	2023			2022		
		All species	Softwood	Hardwood	All species	Softwood	Hardwood
	<i>percent</i>	<i>thousand cords</i>					
Alabama	-1	6,721.0	5,228.5	1,492.5	6,773.9	5,183.6	1,590.2
Arkansas	-5	3,234.3	2,402.5	831.8	3,394.5	2,490.8	903.7
Florida	-9	2,461.9	2,302.3	159.6	2,694.0	2,534.3	159.6
Georgia	-6	6,380.1	5,588.3	791.8	6,767.2	5,931.0	836.2
Kentucky	-15	147.9	6.0	141.9	174.8	9.5	165.3
Louisiana	-5	3,568.4	3,224.6	343.8	3,773.0	3,409.3	363.7
Mississippi	-4	5,268.4	4,309.7	958.7	5,476.2	4,513.6	962.6
North Carolina	-10	2,954.6	2,598.6	356.1	3,268.0	2,897.5	370.5
Oklahoma	5	385.7	315.9	69.8	366.2	293.2	73.1
South Carolina	-22	3,245.1	2,799.2	445.9	4,161.1	3,473.5	687.5
Tennessee	-33	594.9	374.8	220.1	886.3	506.0	380.3
Texas	-13	1,492.0	1,184.5	307.5	1,717.7	1,326.8	390.9
Virginia	-15	1,784.6	1,031.0	753.6	2,102.9	1,262.3	840.6
All States	-8	38,238.9	31,365.9	6,873.1	41,555.8	33,831.4	7,724.2

Numbers in rows may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Table 4—Southern output of wood residues for pulp manufacture by State and species group, 2023 and 2022

State	Change from 2022	2023			2022		
		All species	Softwood	Hardwood	All species	Softwood	Hardwood
	<i>percent</i>	<i>thousand cords</i>					
Alabama	-2	2,218.3	1,899.4	318.9	2,269.3	1,962.9	306.4
Arkansas	-3	1,583.3	1,209.6	373.7	1,640.0	1,253.6	386.4
Florida	-5	748.9	744.9	4.0	792.3	788.3	4.0
Georgia	0	2,128.9	1,831.2	297.6	2,118.9	1,777.1	341.8
Kentucky	-9	157.1	5.0	152.1	172.0	5.9	166.1
Louisiana	37	1,545.8	1,435.2	110.6	1,128.0	1,016.6	111.4
Mississippi	17	1,672.6	1,545.3	127.3	1,424.7	1,321.0	103.7
North Carolina	-16	1,129.3	732.1	397.2	1,347.3	708.7	638.6
Oklahoma	16	191.3	191.3	0.0	164.8	164.8	0.0
South Carolina	2	1,361.3	1,246.1	115.1	1,333.1	1,176.7	156.4
Tennessee	-44	176.7	27.5	149.2	317.5	28.3	289.2
Texas	1	970.9	775.0	195.9	963.0	781.7	181.3
Virginia	-4	769.8	554.2	215.6	799.4	587.3	212.1
All States	1	14,654.2	12,196.8	2,457.2	14,470.3	11,572.9	2,897.4

Numbers in rows may not sum to totals due to rounding.

SOUTHERN PULPWOOD PRODUCTION, 2023

Table 5—Pulpwood production in the South by source of wood, State, year, and number of mills

Source of wood and State		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>thousand green tons</i>												
Roundwood	Alabama	21,900	22,949	21,291	22,526	21,900	20,202	20,364	18,440	19,346	18,448	18,296
	Arkansas	8,910	8,857	8,765	9,387	9,835	9,325	9,136	6,603	9,366	9,256	8,816
	Florida	10,641	9,815	10,103	9,843	9,156	9,246	9,245	8,778	8,722	7,290	6,663
	Georgia	21,468	22,143	21,804	21,307	20,975	20,440	20,438	19,285	18,891	18,355	17,305
	Kentucky	900	768	779	511	633	420	556	592	433	488	414
	Louisiana	12,772	12,368	11,431	13,406	12,845	12,549	11,392	10,614	10,365	10,224	9,669
	Mississippi	16,903	16,673	16,918	17,304	17,281	15,947	15,790	14,867	15,167	14,882	14,321
	North Carolina	8,906	8,946	9,621	10,175	10,404	9,556	9,797	9,480	9,301	8,861	8,013
	Oklahoma	1,500	1,472	1,254	1,461	1,435	1,445	1,548	1,152	1,278	996	1,048
	South Carolina	12,523	13,808	13,726	13,848	13,127	12,516	12,919	10,614	11,378	11,304	8,806
	Tennessee	4,178	3,619	3,666	3,055	3,153	3,054	2,924	3,435	4,076	2,431	1,628
	Texas	5,704	5,582	6,867	6,137	5,989	5,662	5,741	5,144	5,698	4,677	4,059
	Virginia	8,281	8,360	8,436	10,458	9,430	7,639	6,787	6,259	6,278	5,762	4,894
All States		134,584	135,360	134,662	139,417	136,164	128,000	126,639	115,263	120,299	112,974	103,932
Residues		32,718	29,294	27,046	32,149	39,923	35,318	33,401	35,241	35,631	34,975	35,390
Total		167,302	164,654	161,709	171,566	176,087	163,318	160,040	150,504	155,930	147,949	139,322
Number of mills		81	81	79	78	77	77	76	74	73	71	70

Numbers in columns may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Numbers updated to reflect latest processing, and may not match previously published results.

Table 6—Softwood roundwood pulpwood movement between States, 2023

Southeast								
Imported from	Exported to ¹							Roundwood production
	FL	GA	NC	SC	VA	AL	TX/OK ²	
standard cords								
Florida	1,842,970	411,064	10			48,231		2,302,275
Georgia	460,984	4,870,389		3,673		253,270		5,588,316
North Carolina			2,247,691	274,064	76,804			2,598,559
South Carolina		519,619	73,262	2,206,218			99	2,799,198
Virginia			147,630		883,384			1,031,014
Alabama	200,056	540,520						NA
Kentucky/Tennessee ²		11,241	353					NA
Mississippi	1,231							NA
Other ³						13,442		NA
Roundwood receipts	2,505,241	6,352,833	2,468,946	2,483,955	973,630	14,319,362		
Total Southeast receipts	14,784,605							

South Central										
Imported from	Exported to ¹								Roundwood production	
	AL	AR	KY/TN ²	LA	MS	TX/OK ²	FL	GA		NC
standard cords										
Alabama	4,051,257	21	294,459		142,195	11	200,056	540,520	5,228,519	
Arkansas	30	1,709,474		349,172		343,820			2,402,496	
Kentucky/Tennessee ²			369,259					11,241	353	380,853
Louisiana		1,144		3,074,814	2,662	145,959			3,224,579	
Mississippi	560,901	4,739	483,972	586,603	2,672,217		1,231		4,309,663	
Texas/Oklahoma ²		53,187		180,260		1,266,961			1,500,408	
Florida	48,231								NA	
Georgia	253,270								NA	
South Carolina							99		NA	
Other ³		10	1,385	39					NA	
Roundwood receipts	4,913,689	1,768,575	1,149,075	4,190,888	2,817,074	1,756,850	17,046,518			
Total South Central receipts	16,596,151									

Boxed numbers are retained roundwood volume processed by mills in the State harvested.

NA = not applicable.

¹ No data available for exports to other regions. Softwood exports in last 5 years were <1 percent of total roundwood production.² Values have been combined for confidentiality purposes.³ Other sources include Indiana; Maryland; Missouri; West Virginia; Quebec, Canada.

Table 7—Hardwood roundwood pulpwood movement between States, 2023

Southeast										
Imported from	Exported to¹						Roundwood production			
	FL	GA	NC	SC	VA	AL				
standard cords										
Florida	81,315	32,085				46,235	159,635			
Georgia		678,516	240	1,639		111,372	791,767			
North Carolina			36,661	261,522	53,343	4,555	356,081			
South Carolina		14,244	14,162	417,489			445,895			
Virginia				3,813	749,803		753,616			
Alabama		40,000	308				NA			
Kentucky/Tennessee²			32,750		917		NA			
Other³				8	229,538		NA			
Roundwood receipts	81,315	764,845	84,121	684,471	1,033,601		2,506,994			
Total Southeast receipts			2,648,353							
South Central										
Imported from	Exported to¹								Roundwood production	
	AL	AR	KY/TN²	LA	MS	TX/OK²	GA	NC		VA
standard cords										
Alabama	1,393,594		58,565			13	40,000	308		1,492,480
Arkansas		705,714				126,105				831,819
Kentucky/Tennessee²	85,076		243,261					32,750	917	362,004
Louisiana		41,111		64,852	8,178	229,685				343,826
Mississippi	480,675	103,505	247,655	303	107,225	19,363				958,726
Texas/Oklahoma²		13,853		5,240		358,252				377,345
Florida	46,235									NA
Georgia	111,372									NA
North Carolina	4,555									NA
Other³		700	71,395							NA
Roundwood receipts	2,121,507	864,883	620,876	70,395	115,403	733,418				4,366,200
Total South Central receipts			4,526,482							

Boxed numbers are retained roundwood volume processed by mills in the State harvested.

NA = not applicable.

¹ Values have been combined for confidentiality purposes.² No data available for exports to other regions. Hardwood exports in last 5 years were <1 percent of total roundwood production.³ Other sources include Illinois; Indiana; Maryland; Missouri; Ohio; Pennsylvania; West Virginia; Wisconsin; Ontario, Canada; Quebec, Canada.

Table 8—Pulp mills in the South, 2023

	Location	Company
Alabama	Claiborne	Georgia-Pacific Corporation
	Jackson	Packaging Corporation of America
	Demopolis	WestRock Company
	Selma	International Paper Company
	Naheola	Georgia-Pacific Corporation
	Brewton	Georgia-Pacific Corporation
	Coosa Pines	Resolute Forest Products
	Pine Hill	International Paper Company
	Cottonton	WestRock Company
	Stevenson	WestRock Company
	Prattville	International Paper Company
Arkansas	Pine Bluff	Twin Rivers Paper Co., LLC
	Morrilton	Green Bay Packaging, Inc.
	Pine Bluff	Evergreen Packaging, Inc.
	McGehee	Clearwater Paper Corporation
	Ashdown	Domtar Paper Co., LLC
Florida	Perry	Georgia-Pacific Corporation
	Cantonment	International Paper Company
	Palatka	Georgia-Pacific Corporation
	Fernandina Beach	Rayonier, Inc.
	Fernandina Beach	WestRock Company
Georgia	Augusta	Graphic Packaging International
	Brunswick	Georgia-Pacific Corporation
	Cedar Springs	Georgia-Pacific Corporation
	Rome	International Paper Company
	Riceboro	DS Smith Riceboro
	Jesup	Rayonier, Inc.
	Valdosta	Packaging Corporation of America
	Macon	Graphic Packaging International, Inc.
	Port Wentworth	International Paper Company
	Savannah	International Paper Company
	Oglethorpe	International Paper Company
Kentucky	Wickliffe	Phoenix Paper, LLC
	Hawesville	Domtar Corporation

Table 8—Pulp mills in the South, 2023 (continued)

	Location	Company
Louisiana	Deridder	Packaging Corporation of America
	Bogalusa	International Paper Company
	Mansfield	International Paper Company
	St. Francisville	Hood Container Corporation
	West Monroe	Graphic Packaging International, Inc.
	Hodge	WestRock Company
	Campti	International Paper Company
Mississippi	Monticello	Georgia-Pacific Corporation
	New Augusta	Koch Industries
	Vicksburg	International Paper Company
	Grenada	Resolute Forest Products
	Columbus	International Paper Company
North Carolina	Canton	Evergreen Packaging, Inc.
	Roanoke Rapids	WestRock Company
	Riegelwood	International Paper Company
	New Bern	International Paper Company
	Plymouth	Domtar Corporation
Oklahoma	Valliant	International Paper Company
South Carolina	Catawba	New Indy CB
	Georgetown	International Paper Company
	Florence	WestRock Company
	Eastover	International Paper Company
	Charleston	WestRock Company
	Bennettsville	Domtar Corporation
Tennessee	New Johnsonville	Hood Container Corporation
	Counce	Packaging Corporation of America
	Knoxville	Tamko Building Products, Inc.
Texas	Texarkana	International Paper Company
	Orange	International Paper Company
	Silsbee	WestRock Company
Virginia	West Point	WestRock Company
	Big Island	Georgia-Pacific Corporation
	Hopewell	WestRock Company
	Franklin	International Paper Company
	Riverville	Greif Packaging, LLC
	Covington	WestRock Company

Winn, M.F.; Gray, J.A.; Cooper, J.A. 2025. Southern pulpwood production, 2023. Resour. Bull. SRS-244. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 15 p. <https://doi.org/10.2737/SRS-RB-244>.

The South's production of pulpwood decreased from 56.0 million cords in 2022 to 52.9 million cords in 2023. Roundwood production decreased by 3.3 million cords to 38.2 million cords and accounted for 72 percent of the South's total pulpwood production. The use of wood residue increased by 1 percent to 14.7 million cords in 2023. Alabama and Georgia led the South in total production, with 8.9 and 8.5 million cords, respectively. In 2023, 70 mills were operating and drawing wood from the 13 Southern States.

Keywords: FIA, pulp mills, pulpwood, residues, roundwood.



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