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Midsouth Veneer Log Production

Herbert S. Sternitzke

Southern Forest Experiment Station
New Orleans, Louisiana
Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Veneer manufacturing is an important segment of the forest industries and is increasing in importance every year. Veneer logs are high-valued in comparison with other kinds of logs and bolts, and considerable employment is generated and much value added in their manufacture.

More than half of the veneer logs made in the Eastern United States are presently cut in the Midsouth—Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. In 1969 the Midsouth's softwood veneer log output totaled 1,123 million board feet (International ¼-inch rule). Hardwood production was 217 million.

During the past decade annual veneer log output in the Midsouth shifted from nearly all hardwood to chiefly pine. This change resulted from the initiation of large-scale manufacture of southern pine plywood in the early 1960's. The first southern pine plywood mill became operational in December 1963. Others soon followed (fig. 1). The growth potential of this fledgling industry points to continued gains in regional veneer log output.

The data in this report are the result of a study of 1969 veneer log production and receipts in Midsouth States. Comparison with an earlier study of 1963 output provides the basis for assessing trends in production and use.[1] The tables showing names and locations of veneer plants are from a 100-percent canvass of mills active or under construction at the time of the study.

[1] Christopher, J. F., and Sternitzke, H. S. **Midsouth veneer industry.** USDA Forest Serv. Resour. Bull. SO-5, 12 p. S. Forest Exp. Sta., New Orleans, La. 1964.

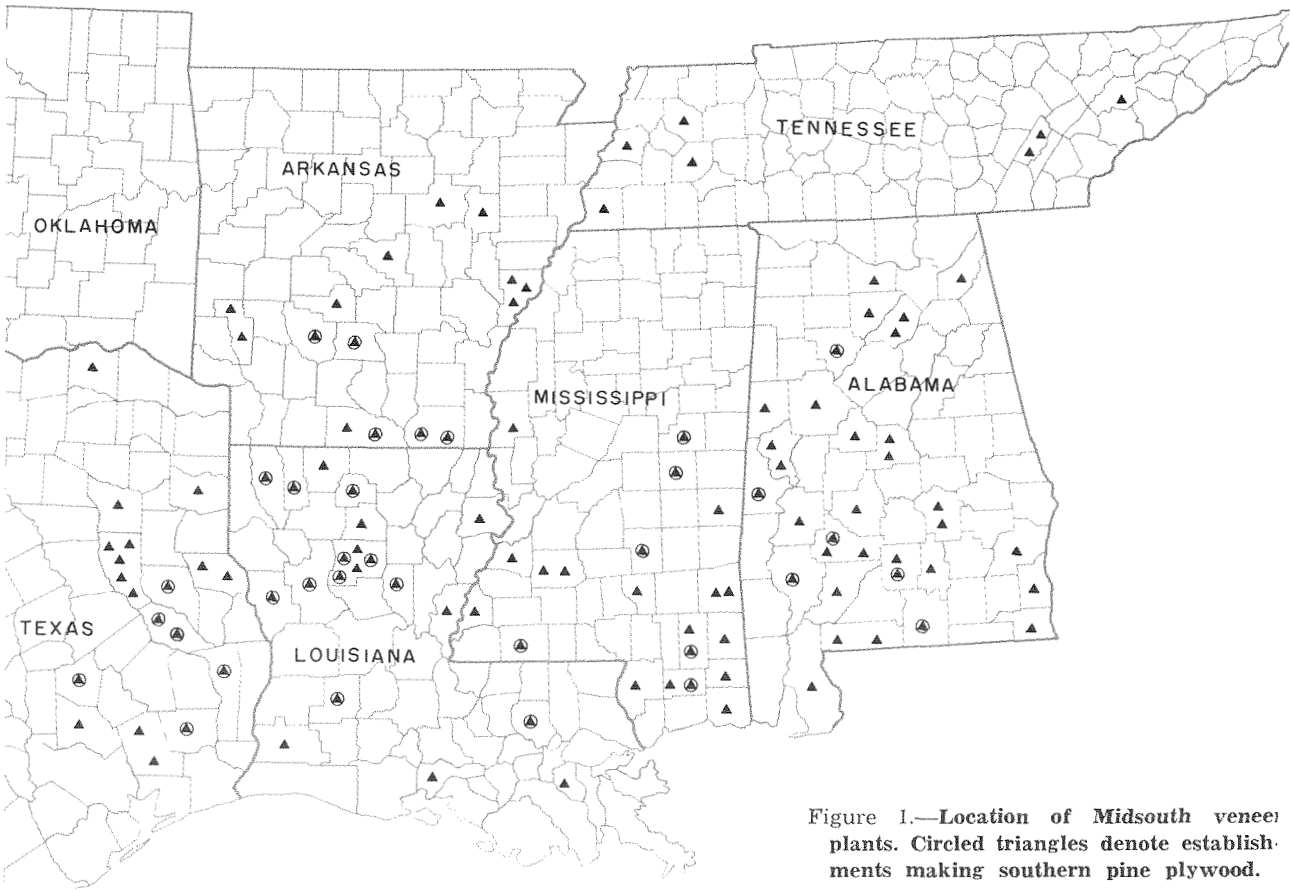

Figure 1.—**Location of Midsouth veneer plants. Circled triangles denote establishments making southern pine plywood.**

HARDWOOD TRENDS

Midsouth forests still provide about one-quarter of the hardwood veneer logs cut in the United States, but output dropped 13 percent between 1963 and 1969, to 217 million board feet. During the same period, the number of hardwood veneer plants in the Midsouth declined a fifth.

Both container and standard veneer plants are fewer today. The latter, which make hardwood veneer for manufacture of plywood, furniture, doors, and woodenware, were formerly the region's major consumer of veneer logs. Today container plants process most of the hardwood logs peeled in the Midsouth. These mills are able to use logs of smaller diameter and poorer quality than standard veneer manufacturers.

The distribution of veneer-log output among timber species is also changing. Manufacturers have long favored soft-textured species such as sweetgum, tupelo, cottonwood, and yellow-poplar. In 1963, such species made up some 85 percent of the hardwood veneer-log output; oak and other firm-textured species made up the rest. In 1969 the cut of soft-textured logs was about 70 percent of the total hardwood output. Production of sweetgum and tupelo dropped 33 and 47 percent, respectively. The reduction is due to shortages of timber rather than a shift in the species preference of manufacturers.

Among firm-textured species, pecan and oak have risen in importance. This change is largely a response to wider consumer acceptance of these woods in furniture (fig. 2).

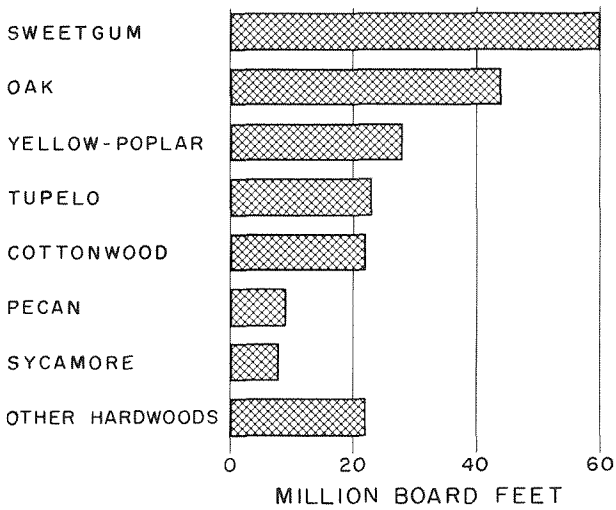

Figure 2.—**Hardwood veneer log output by species.**

As in 1963, most of the hardwood veneer log cut within the Midsouth were milled locally the small quantity exported went mainly to th Southeast and Midwest.

Short-term prospects for maintaining recen levels of hardwood output are dim. In terms c meeting immediate demands, the timber suite to veneer production is the standing volume i hardwoods 18 inches and larger in diameter Regionally, the timber inventory failed to ac crue any volume in such trees during the pas decade. Moreover, much of the existing volum in these sizes occurs either in single trees an small groups that are not economically harvest able or in species that are in little demand fo veneer. In the Lower Mississippi Valley, th tight supply situation has been accentuated b widespread clearing of prime hardwood lan for the production of soybeans. Meanwhile reservoir construction has inundated choic hardwood acreage in secondary river bottoms

SOFTWOOD TRENDS

As late as 1963, southern pine made up a scant 2 percent of the Midsouth's annual outpu of veneer logs. In 1969, more than 80 percen of the region's output was pine. Virtually all o this volume was processed into certified soft wood plywood—that is, plywood meeting desig nated nationwide commercial standards. A small amount was made into container veneer for the fabrication of boxes, baskets, and ham pers.

Until 1963, production of softwood veneer and plywood in the United States was cen tered in the coastal Douglas-fir region. Of the locational factors that contributed to the de velopment of the southern pine plywood in dustry, timber availability was decisive. In 1964, its first full year of operation, the industry produced 80 million square feet (3/8-inch basis) of certified plywood. By the end of 1969, annua output had zoomed to 2.8 billion square feet or 20 percent of the total United States softwood plywood output.

Of the 34 southern pine plywood plants active in 1969, 24 were in the Midsouth. Seventeen were in the West Gulf Coastal Plain, where there is a sizable acreage of industrially and publicly owned forest land.

Production of pine veneer logs in the Mid south was 4 million board feet in 1963. By

1969, it reached a new high of 1,123 million board feet.

All but 2 percent of the softwood residue generated at veneer plants is salvaged for other uses. About two-thirds of the total is converted to fiber products, and many of the cores are sawn into studs.

The pine outlook is bright. Growth of southern pine timber in the 1960's was high enough to support industry's need for timber and simultaneously build up the regional inventory. Gains were realized in all diameter classes customarily harvested. Pine quality—largely a function of tree diameter—has also been improving. These trends do much to explain the emergence of the pine plywood industry. Furthermore, within the range of species and tree sizes that it uses, the pine plywood industry is fully competitive with other major forest products manufacturers.

At the beginning of 1970, the reported annual capacity of the Midsouth pine plywood industry totaled more than 2 billion square feet (3/8-inch basis). Expansion of existing facilities, new plants under construction, and those still in the planning stage will boost the industry's capability to some 4 billion square feet by the mid-1970's. By then, the Midsouth alone should be producing at least a fourth of the Nation's projected cut of softwood veneer logs.

Table 1.—**Veneer log production by State and species, 1969**

Species	All States	Alabama	Arkansas	Louisiana	Mississippi	Oklahoma	Tennessee	Texas
				Thousand board feet[1]				
Softwood:								
Southern pine	1,123,544	137,065	234,685	425,380	174,870	—	—	151,544
Cypress	7	—	4	—	3	—	—	—
Total	1,123,551	137,065	234,689	425,380	174,873	—	—	151,544
Hardwood:								
Sweetgum	60,098	26,340	6,419	8,071	9,416	—	795	9,057
Red oak	35,935	10,162	2,210	9,256	2,937	—	306	11,064
Yellow-poplar	27,831	15,344	—	304	7,575	—	4,608	—
Tupelo	23,007	11,095	1,214	4,185	3,848	—	458	2,207
Cottonwood	22,500	363	5,834	2,072	11,658	1,132	421	1,020
Pecan	9,207	—	1,905	537	873	2,300	681	2,911
White oak	7,829	2,268	434	1,581	564	—	340	2,642
Sycamore	7,826	2,857	2,068	310	1,873	—	459	259
Elm	4,319	1,651	444	460	453	128	105	1,078
Sweetbay	3,640	1,185	57	221	2,042	—	17	118
Hickory	2,256	1,107	31	276	186	—	312	344
Hackberry	2,202	879	594	130	157	64	15	363
Magnolia	2,120	1,526	—	48	432	—	—	114
Maple	2,059	1,378	233	45	197	—	114	92
Ash	1,592	882	66	140	218	—	—	286
Beech	1,569	461	4	365	278	—	—	461
Basswood	1,144	919	3	24	173	—	12	13
Willow	663	98	385	103	—	—	26	51
River birch	531	404	36	4	32	—	8	47
Walnut	217	—	77	—	—	—	127	13
Boxelder	64	—	64	—	—	—	—	—
Persimmon	64	—	—	—	—	—	64	—
Locust	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Cherry	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Total	216,685	78,919	22,078	28,132	42,912	3,624	8,868	32,152
All species	1,340,236	215,984	256,767	453,512	217,785	3,624	8,868	183,696

[1] International 1/4-inch rule.

Table 2.—**Veneer log receipts by State and species, 1969**

Species	All States	Alabama	Arkansas	Louisiana	Mississippi	Oklahoma	Tennessee	Texas
				Thousand board feet[1]				
Softwood:								
Southern pine	1,122,023	149,977	261,317	402,987	179,673	—	—	128,06
Cypress	7	—	4	—	3	—	—	–
Total	1,122,030	149,977	261,321	402,987	179,676	—	—	128,06
Hardwood:								
Sweetgum	62,959	28,827	6,643	6,726	10,000	—	1,763	9,00
Red oak	36,205	10,228	2,484	4,805	5,614	—	319	12,75
Yellow-poplar	26,117	16,115	—	15	7,917	—	2,070	–
Tupelo	25,229	13,196	1,642	4,246	3,542	—	602	2,00
Cottonwood	22,762	365	7,122	4,857	7,551	—	570	2,29
Sycamore	7,957	2,916	2,415	43	1,704	—	613	26
White oak	7,639	2,330	392	682	959	—	87	3,18
Elm	4,508	1,808	465	236	635	—	133	1,23
Sweetbay	3,901	1,419	76	116	2,149	—	23	11
Magnolia	2,477	1,883	—	33	447	—	—	11
Pecan	2,379	—	900	272	—	—	281	92
Maple	2,253	1,569	234	36	195	—	125	9
Hackberry	2,222	894	594	128	165	—	15	42
Hickory	2,123	888	18	224	409	—	187	39
Ash	1,687	973	64	37	291	—	—	32
Beech	1,580	467	—	313	289	—	—	51
Basswood	1,147	918	3	—	198	—	15	1
Willow	671	99	384	103	—	—	34	5
Cherry	645	—	—	—	—	—	639	
River birch	554	427	36	—	32	—	8	5
Boxelder	64	—	64	—	—	—	—	–
Persimmon	64	—	—	—	—	—	64	–
Walnut	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Locust	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cativo	11,960	4,043	—	—	7,917	—	—	–
Virola	1,383	1,383	—	—	—	—	—	–
Khaya	852	—	—	—	—	—	852	–
Total	229,357	90,748	23,536	22,872	50,014	—	8,400	33,78
All species	1,351,387	240,725	284,857	425,859	229,690	—	8,400	161,85

[1] International ¼-inch rule.

Table 3.—**Veneer log movement by State, 1969**

State	Logged and used in State	Outgoing shipments	Incoming receipts	Total log receipts
		Thousand board feet[1]		
Alabama	212,303	3,681	28,422	240,725
Arkansas	250,541	6,226	34,316	284,857
Louisiana	394,344	59,168	31,515	425,859
Mississippi	194,477	23,308	35,213	229,690
Oklahoma	—	3,624	—	—
Tennessee	4,821	4,047	3,579	8,400
Texas	155,824	27,872	6,032	161,856
Total	1,212,310	127,926	139,077	1,351,387

[1] International ¼-inch rule.

Table 4.—**Veneer log movement by species, 1969**

Species	Logged in Midsouth			Midsouth imports	Net used in Midsouth
	Total	Retained	Exported		
			Thousand board feet[1]		
Softwood	1,123,551	1,121,929	1,622	101	1,122,030
Sweetgum	60,098	60,098	—	2,861	62,959
Oak	43,764	43,425	339	419	43,844
Yellow-poplar	27,831	24,511	3,320	1,606	26,117
Tupelo	23,007	22,918	89	2,311	25,229
Cottonwood	22,500	22,389	111	373	22,762
Other hardwoods	39,485	32,296	7,189	1,955	34,251
Cativo	—	—	—	11,960	11,960
Other foreign	—	—	—	2,235	2,235
All species	1,340,236	1,327,566	12,670	23,821	1,351,387

[1] International ¼-inch rule.

Table 5.—**Veneer plant residues used, 1969**

State	All	Fiber	Fuel	Other
		Thousand cubic feet		
Alabama	17,776	12,723	920	4,133
Arkansas	21,432	13,143	421	7,868
Louisiana	30,848	21,789	129	8,930
Mississippi	16,596	14,267	928	1,401
Tennessee	568	218	304	46
Texas	11,757	7,096	1,213	3,448
Total	98,977	69,236	3,915	25,826

Table 6.—**Veneer plant residues not used, 1969**

State	All types	Coarse[1]	Fine
		Thousand cubic feet	
Alabama	689	518	171
Arkansas	283	226	57
Louisiana	1,595	306	1,289
Mississippi	963	703	260
Tennessee	85	81	4
Texas	615	504	111
Total	4,230	2,338	1,892

[1] Coarse residues include cores and other material generally suitable for chipping.

Table 7.—**Alabama veneer plants**

County	Type[1]	Firm	Location
Baldwin	O	Bacon-McMillan Veneer Co., Inc.	Stockton
Barbour	C	Alabama-Georgia Veneer Co.	Eufaula
Bibb	O	W. E. Belcher Co., Inc.	Centreville
Blount	C	Marsh and Standridge	Nectar
	C	Oneonta Basket Co.	Oneonta
Butler	C	Georgiana Veneer Co., Inc.	Georgiana
	O	Union Camp Co.*	Chapman
Chilton	O	Chilton County Veneer Co.	Maplesville
	C	Jemison Basket Co.	Jemison
Clarke	O	Scotch Plywood Co.*	Fulton
Crenshaw	C	H. E. Browder Veneer Co.	Bradleyton
Covington	O	Dixon Plywood Corp.*	River Falls
Cullman	C	E. Malchow & Sons	Cullman
Dallas	O	Howell Veneer Co., Inc.	Selma
De Kalb	C	Winborn Veneer Co.	Allen
Escambia	O	Harold Brothers Lumber Co.	East Brewton
	C	T. R. Miller Mill Co., Inc.	Brewton
Greene	C	Knoxville Veneer Works	Knoxville
	C	Sumter Veneer Works	Eutaw
Henry	O	Dixie Veneer Co.	Abbeville
Houston	O	Howell Plywood Corp.	Dothan
Marengo	O	A. R. Taylor Veneer Co., Inc.	Demopolis
Monroe	O	Meridian Plywood Inc.	Monroeville
Montgomery	C	Browder Veneer Works	Montgomery
	C	Capital Veneer Works, Inc.	Montgomery
Morgan	C	Decatur Box and Basket Co.	Decatur
Pickens	C	Aliceville Veneers Inc.	Aliceville
Sumter	O	Sumpter Plywood Corp.*	Livingston
Tuscaloosa	O	Thompson and Swaim Veneer, Inc.	Tuscaloosa
Walker	O	Birmingham Forest Products, Inc.*	Cordova
Wilcox	C	Browder Veneer Inc.	Camden
	O	MacMillan Bloedel Products, Inc.*	Pine Hill
	C	Millers Bend Lumber Co.	Pine Hill

[1] C indicates plants producing chiefly container veneer.
O indicates plants producing chiefly commercial and other veneers.

* Produces southern pine plywood.

Table 8.—**Arkansas veneer plants**

County	Type[1]	Firm	Location
Ashley	O	Georgia-Pacific Corp.* (Plant #1)	Crossett
	O	Georgia-Pacific Corp.* (Plant #2)	Crossett
Clark	O	Arkla Chemical Corp.*	Gurdon
Dallas	O	Georgia-Pacific Corp.*	Fordyce
Hot Spring	C	Van Veneer Co.	Malvern
Howard	C	Nashville Basket Co.	Nashville
	O	Ouachita Veneer Co.	Umpire
Phillips	O	Beisel Veneer Co.	West Helena
	C	Chicago Mill and Lumber Co.	West Helena
	O	McKnight Veneer and Plywoods, Inc.	West Helena
Pulaski	C	Little Rock Crate and Basket Co.	Little Rock
Union	O	Junction City Veneer Corp.	Junction City
	O	Olinkraft, Inc.*	Huttig
White	O	Enterprise Veneer Co.	Judsonia
Woodruff	O	Delta Plywood Corp.	Cotton Plant

[1] C indicates plants producing chiefly container veneer.
O indicates plants producing chiefly commercial and other veneers.
* Produces southern pine plywood.

Table 9.—**Louisiana veneer plants**

Parish	Type[1]	Firm	Location
Allen	O	Vancouver Plywood Co., Inc.*	Oakdale
Bossier	O	Anthony Forest Products Co.*	Plain Dealing
Calcasieu	C	General Box Co.	Lunita
Claiborne	O	Santiam Southern Co.	Haynesville
Concordia	C	American Box Co.	Clayton
Iberia	O	Freeman Veneer Co., Inc.	Jeanerette
Jackson	O	Louisiana Veneer Co.	Chatham
La Salle	O	Georgia-Pacific Corp.*	Urania
Lincoln	O	Santiam Southern Co.*	Ruston
Livingston	O	U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers, Inc.*	Holden
Madison	C	Chicago Mill and Lumber Co.	Tallulah
Natchitoches	O	South Ply, Inc.*	Natchitoches
Sabine	O	Vancouver Plywood Co., Inc.*	Florien
St. Charles	O	Delta Match Corp. of La.	Kenner
Webster	O	Woodard-Walker-Willamette, Inc.*	Minden
Winn	O	Louisiana Plywood Corp.*	Dodson
	O	Olinkraft, Inc.*	Winnfield
	O	Red Oak Veneer Mill, Inc.	Winnfield
	O	Tremont Lumber Co.*	Joyce
	O	Winnfield Veneer Co.	Winnfield

[1] C indicates plants producing chiefly container veneer.
O indicates plants producing chiefly commercial and other veneers.
* Produces southern pine plywood.

Table 10.—**Mississippi veneer plants**

County	Type[1]	Firm	Location
Adams	O	Natchez Veneer and Lumber Co.	Natchez
Amite	O	Georgia-Pacific Corp.*	Gloster
Claiborne	C	Port Gibson Veneer and Box Co.	Port Gibson
Copiah	C	Central Box Co., Inc.	Crystal Springs
	C	Hazlehurst Box Co.	Hazlehurst
Covington	O	Rhymes Veneers, Inc.	Collins
George	O	Lucedale Veneer Co., Inc.	Lucedale
Greene	C	Leakesville Forest Products, Inc.	Leakesville
Jackson	O	PAVCO Industries, Inc.	Pascagoula
Lauderdale	O	Meridian Plywood, Inc.	Meridian
Neshoba	O	Weyerhaeuser Co.*	Philadelphia
Pearl River	C	St. Regis Paper Co.	Picayune
Perry	O	Delta Pine Plywood Co.*	Beaumont
	O	Perry County Plywood Corp.	Beaumont
Smith	O	Georgia-Pacific Corp.*	Taylorsville
Stone	O	International Paper Co.*	Wiggins
	O	Wiggins Veneer Co., Inc.	Wiggins
Washington	C	Chicago Mill and Lumber Co.	Greenville
Wayne	C	The Day Co.	Waynesboro
	O	Scotch Plywood Co. of Miss.	Waynesboro
Winston	O	Georgia-Pacific Corp.*	Louisville

[1] C indicates plants producing chiefly container veneer.
O indicates plants producing chiefly commercial and other veneers.

* Produces southern pine plywood.

Table 11.—**Tennessee veneer plants**

County	Type[1]	Firm	Location
Gibson	C	Dyer Fruit Box Mfg. Co.	Dyer
Knox	O	Foreign and Domestic Veneers, Inc.	Knoxville
Lauderdale	C	Ripley Veneer and Plywood Co.	Ripley
Madison	O	Ashby Veneer and Lumber Co.	Jackson
Rhea	C	Gholdston Basket Factory	Dayton
	C	W. A. Shipley Basket Mfg. Co.	Dayton
Shelby	O	Tennessee Veneer Co., Inc.	Memphis

[1] C indicates plants producing chiefly container veneer.
O indicates plants producing chiefly commercial and other veneers.

Table 12.—**Texas veneer plants**

County	Type[1]	Firm	Location
Angelina	O	Owens-Illinois, Inc.*	Lufkin
	O	Southern Pine Plywood Co.*	Diboll
Cherokee	C	Aber Box and Basket Factory	Jacksonville
	C	Newton-Shank Mfg. Co.	Jacksonville
	C	Peacock Crate Factory	Jacksonville
	C	F. A. Shinalt and Sons	Jacksonville
	C	Slover Crate and Lumber Mill	Rusk
Hardin	O	Kirby Lumber Corp.*	Silsbee
Harrison	C	Key Brothers Mfg. Co.	Marshall
Jasper	O	Owens-Illinois, Inc.*	Jasper
Lamar	C	American Box Co.	Paris
Liberty	O	E. L. Bruce Co. of Texas	Cleveland
	O	Liberty Veneer and Panel Co.	Liberty
Montgomery	O	Timber Products, Inc.	Willis
Nacogdoches	O	International Paper Co.*	Nacogdoches
Shelby	O	E. L. Bruce Co. of Texas	Center
	O	Center Plywood Co., Inc.	Center
Smith	C	B. C. Slover Crate Factory	Gresham
Walker	O	Georgia-Pacific Corp.*	New Waverly

[1] C indicates plants producing chiefly container veneer.
O indicates plants producing chiefly commercial and other veneers.

* Produces southern pine plywood.