

Forest Products Industries' Economic Contributions: Illinois - 2017

Illinois has 5.0 million acres of forest land that cover 14.2 percent of its land base, and most of this forest land can produce commercial timber. The majority, 83.1 percent, is privately owned; about 9.3 percent is managed by state and local government, and 7.6 percent by the federal government. Illinois ranks 10th in forest land acres among the 20 Northeast and Midwestern area states. These forests support a vibrant forest products industry.

Key Findings – Forest Products Industries:

- Provided almost 38,554 direct jobs and supported a total of 90,102 jobs in 2017.
- Provided more direct labor income, value-added, and output than commercial fishing, hunting, and trapping, and mining and oil and gas production.
- Accounted for 6.3 percent of Illinois direct manufacturing jobs, and 7.6 percent of non-food manufacturing jobs.
- In Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri, employed over 132,181 workers and had \$37.7 billion in direct output.

Economic Contributions:

Direct Contributions by Industry Group, 2017 (in number of jobs, and thousands of dollars)

Industry Group	Employment	Labor Income	Value-added	Output
Forestry*	499	\$10,472	\$12,188	\$22,227
Logging*	705	\$4,713	\$8,067	\$23,565
Primary solid wood products	1,201	\$50,761	\$86,731	\$487,465
Secondary solid wood products	6,304	\$298,112	\$376,276	\$1,149,448
Wood furniture	10,808	\$651,738	\$915,132	\$2,101,745
Pulp, paper, and paperboard mills	1,081	\$139,691	\$196,595	\$852,881
Secondary paperboard and other paper products	17,956	\$1,596,156	\$2,036,965	\$8,226,039
Total	38,554	\$2,751,641	\$3,631,953	\$12,863,371

Total Contributions by Industry Group, 2017 (in number of jobs, and thousands of dollars)

Industry Group	Employment	Labor Income	Value-added	Output
Forestry*	553	\$13,954	\$18,821	\$33,745
Logging*	319	\$3,851	\$6,555	\$14,925
Primary solid wood products	3,081	\$167,216	\$281,492	\$779,822
Secondary solid wood products	11,828	\$639,865	\$939,094	\$2,102,131
Wood furniture	20,235	\$1,225,143	\$1,860,965	\$3,711,006
Pulp, paper, and paperboard mills	4,496	\$350,083	\$553,489	\$1,422,867
Secondary paperboard and other paper products	49,589	\$3,595,788	\$5,334,572	\$13,786,862
Total	90,102	\$5,995,900	\$8,994,987	\$21,851,360

*Forestry and Logging are reported in this table; but most of their contributions are as indirect inputs or intermediate inputs that are used in the production in the other five industry groups – part of their jobs is included in the estimates for the other groups.



Top Forest Products Industries in Illinois:

Top 5 Industry Sectors by Direct Jobs

Industry Sector	Employment
Paperboard container manufacturing	12,104
Paper bag and coated and treated paper manufacturing	3,936
Wood kitchen cabinet and countertop manufacturing	3,165
Showcase, partition, shelving, and locker manufacturing	2,955
Wood container and pallet manufacturing	2,885

Top 5 Industry Sectors by Value Added (Thousands)

Industry Sector	Value Added
Paperboard container manufacturing	\$1,285,493
Paper bag and coated and treated paper manufacturing	\$499,971
Showcase, partition, shelving, and locker manufacturing*	\$266,180
Wood kitchen cabinet and countertop manufacturing	\$200,341
Wood container and pallet manufacturing	\$153,211

Comparison with Neighboring States:

Forest Products Industries Direct Employment in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri, 2017

Industry	Illinois	Indiana	Iowa	Missouri
Forestry*	499	356	94	536
Logging	705	1,422	610	2,270
Primary solid wood products	1,201	3,485	590	3,053
Secondary solid wood products	6,304	12,572	9,038	5,989
Wood furniture	10,808	22,062	3,751	7,063
Pulp, paper, and paperboard mills	1,081	1,202	63	460
Secondary paperboard and other paper products	17,956	8,995	3,688	6,329
Sum of Direct Contributions	38,554	50,093	17,834	25,699

*Includes maple syrup production.

Forest Products Industries in Context to other Industries:

Natural Resources and Agricultural Production Industries in Illinois, 2017

Manufacturing Industries	Employment	Labor Income (Thousands)	Value-added (Thousands)	Output (Thousands)
Forest products	38,554	\$2,751,641	\$3,631,953	\$12,863,371
Commercial fishing, hunting, and trapping	809	\$1,045	\$13,507	\$13,660
Mining and oil and gas production	26,786	\$1,001,073	\$2,397,525	\$5,155,762
Agricultural production (plant crop and animal)	85,388	\$2,511,755	\$4,916,001	\$17,301,444

About this Bulletin:

This bulletin summarizes the economic contributions of forest products industry in Illinois in 2017, as part of an analysis of the 20 Northeast and Midwest states plus Nebraska supported by a U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service 2017 Landscape Scale Restoration Grant. Several measures of economic contribution are presented below; for more information, see the full report at <http://www.northeasternforests.org>. This analysis used 2017 IMPLAN data for 32 industry sectors summarized in 7 industry groups.

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