

Union County Forests and Forest Industry, 2021

ARKANSAS CENTER FOR FOREST BUSINESS

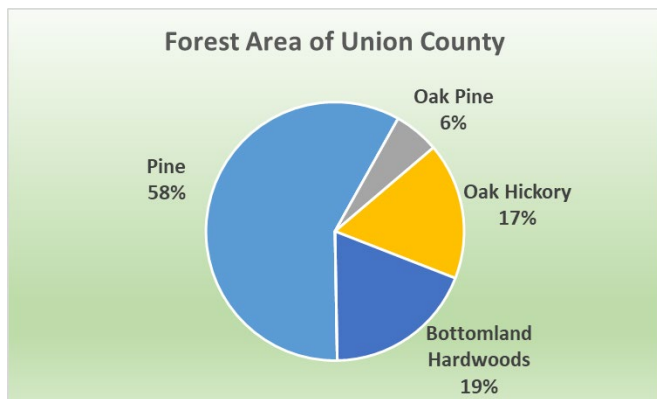
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT MONTICELLO

Report 2021-C70

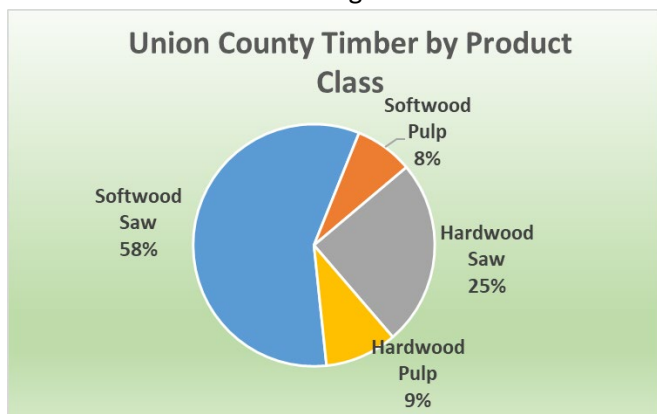


Union County Forest Facts

Forests occupy 630,870 acres (95%) of the land area in Union County, and 93% of the forests are privately owned. Natural forests account for 49% of the pine forests and 98% of hardwood forests in the county. Only 29% of all the forests in Union County are planted. Forest area by covertype is shown in the figure below.



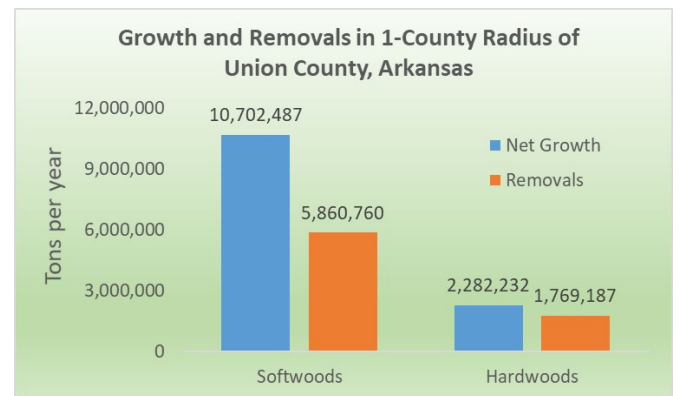
The forests of Union County contain 27,405,895 tons of softwood timber and 14,411,940 tons of hardwood timber. The total forest volumes are largely sawtimber sized trees as shown in the figure below.



Timber Supply around Union County

Within a 1-county radius around and including Union County (Ashley, Bradley, Calhoun, Claiborne, Columbia, Morehouse, and Ouachita) there are 147 million tons of pine and 80 million tons of hardwood timber. In this

eight county region, annual net growth exceeds harvest by more than 5 million tons. 90% of this surplus is softwoods, which is almost entirely pine species.



Economic Contributions of Union County Forests

Forest industries contribute 186 million dollars to Union County's GDP which is 7% of the county's total economic activity. Anthony Forest Products, West Fraser, LTM Chips, Canfor, and Resolute are the backbone of the solid wood products sector. El Dorado Packaging accounts for the majority of the pulp and paper jobs in the county. There are 15 logging firms in the county. Union County's labor income is well above the state average due to the petroleum industry, but per capita labor income in the forestry sector is still 131% of the county's average. The direct economic contribution of Union County's forest industry is shown in the table below by forestry sectors.

Sector	Employees	Labor Income	Value Added
Forestry	26	\$2,757,951	\$2,680,196
Logging	70	\$3,877,625	\$3,775,986
Solid Wood Products	747	\$54,974,259	\$107,934,226
Furniture	1	\$1,389	\$1,715
Pulp and Paper	306	\$27,751,504	\$71,935,145
Forestry Totals in Union County	1150	\$89,362,728	\$186,327,267