New York State Industrial Timber Harvest Production and Consumption Report - 2019

This report summarizes the estimated industrial timber harvest production level from New York’s forests, the consumption level of New York’s primary wood processors, and the flow of harvested wood to/from New York for the calendar year 2019.

Data were derived from several sources: (1) returned surveys; (2) reported summary data; and (3) estimates based on known mill capacities. Estimates reported for logs are conservative due to difficulties associated with collecting or estimating relatively small volumes of certain in-state and out of state/country consumption of wood harvested in New York.

Definitions

**Industrial Harvest Products:** Wood utilized by sawmills (fixed and portable), pulp mills, wood energy plants and other primary processors. Fuelwood for residential purposes and posts, poles and other miscellaneous products used locally are not included.

**Logs:** All types (e.g.—saw, veneer, bolter, pallet, scrag, poles, etc.).

**Pulpwood & Chips:** Roundwood and roundwood or whole tree derived fuel, pulp, and panel chips.

**Log Scale:** International ¼ inch

Production

**Total Production by Product and HW/SW, 2019**

Total timber harvest production level was 124 million cubic feet, composed of the following product breakdown:

**Log production – 517 million board feet (MMbf)**

**Pulpwood & Chips production—1.6 million green tons**

This is the eleventh consecutive year that the harvest volume of pulpwood and chip products was greater than the harvest of logs.

Returned surveys (accounting for 36% of total estimated log production) indicate that more than 91% of New York’s log harvest was comprised of just eight species: sugar maple, white ash, red maple, red oak, black cherry, white pine, white oak and red pine. Sugar maple alone accounted for more than one-half of total log production. On a volume basis, 67% of pulpwood & chip production was mixed hardwoods, while 33% was softwood. Softwood pulpwood & chip species included mostly white pine, hemlock, and spruce.

**Species Breakdown-Survey Reported Log Production, 2019**

Consumption

Approximately 136 fixed locations, traditional sawmills were known to operate in New York during 2019. Around 39% of the operating mills have a capacity of 1 MMbf or greater.

Combined (reported volumes and estimates), operating mills consumed 386 million board feet of logs, of which around 89% was from New York State harvest production. In addition, it is estimated that 1,800 portable and various other very small capacity fixed location sawmills operated to some extent in 2019. It is estimated these operations consumed about 60 million board feet, with almost all log receipts likely coming from New York production. New York facilities consumed about 1.3 million green tons of pulpwood & chip products harvested from New York’s forests, accounting for 86% of total pulpwood & chip product harvest.
The chart above indicates that 18%, or **22.4 million cubic feet**, of New York’s production was exported. 67% of this volume was logs, while the remaining 33% was pulpwood & chip products. This figure is down from 24% in 2009.

The reported export volume does not include overseas export of logs. Difficulty in surveying log concentration yards and identifying contents of containers using export documentation account for this data gap. Although no analytical estimate of overseas log exports was made for this report, evidence suggests that these exports, although high in value, are a relatively minor component of the overall harvest level with volume perhaps approaching 60 MMBf.

The chart below shows that 62% of total exported volume was shipped to Canada. This figure is up from 53% in 2018.

**Disposition of Exports—All Products, 2019**

Canada is the single largest importer of New York’s industrial timber harvest, importing **14 million cubic feet** in 2019. Breakdown of this volume by product type and species group is as follows:

**Logs: 107 MMBf** (52% HW / 48% SW)

**Pulpwood & Chips: No survey data were returned for this figure** in 2019

Combined, key neighboring states consumed the balance of reported imports of New York timber products, importing approximately **8.4 million cubic feet**. The following indicates breakdown by product type:

**Logs: 7.8 MMBf** (25% HW / 75% SW)

**Pulpwood & Chips: 222 M green tons** (95% HW / 5% SW)

Additionally, unreported volumes of logs were exported to several states in the New England, Mid-Atlantic and Mid-West regions of the US. No attempt was made to estimate this volume, and it is believed to be minor relative to the overall harvest level (<5%).

**Summary**

**Summary—Production, Consumption, and Trade---All Timber Products, 2015-2019**

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Historical

New York Log Harvest 2003-2019

New York Mill Consumption--Logs 2003-2019

New York Pulpwood and Chips Harvest 2003-2019

Log Exports to Canada 2003-2019

Pulpwood and Chips Exports to Canada 2003-2019

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