

Ashley County Forests and Forest Industry, 2021

ARKANSAS CENTER FOR FOREST BUSINESS

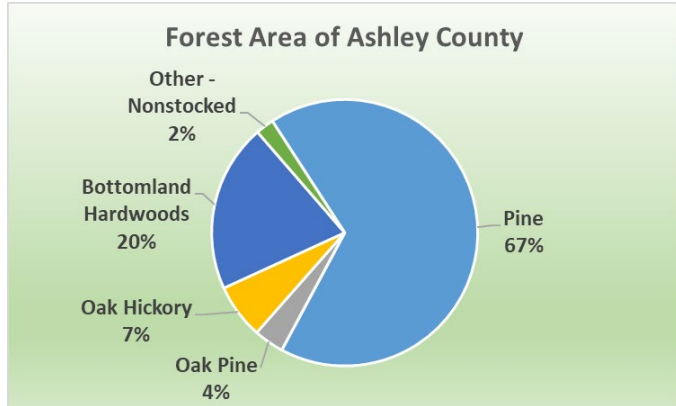
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT MONTICELLO

Report 2021-C2

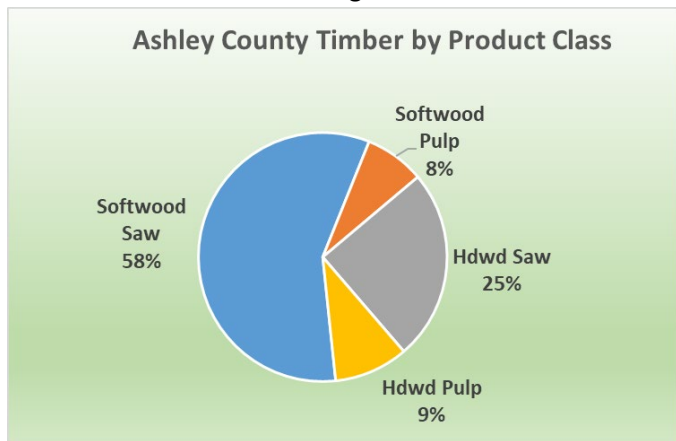


Ashley County Forest Facts

Forests occupy 416,081 acres (71%) of the land area in Ashley County, and 97% of the forests are privately owned. Natural forests account for 41% of all forest area in the county. While 81% of the pine forests are planted, 86% of the non-pine forests are natural. Forest area by covertype is shown in the figure below.



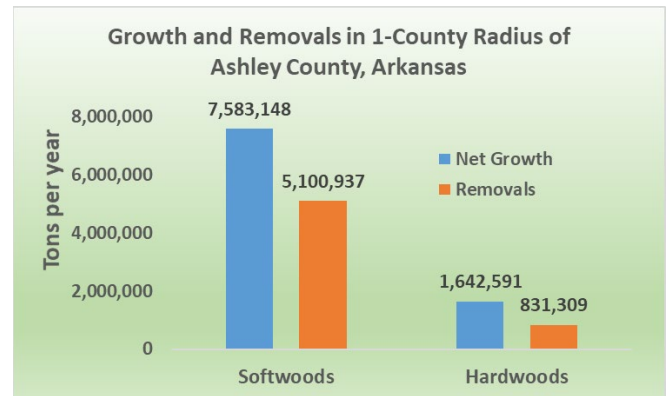
The forests of Ashley County contain 16,885,928 tons of softwood timber and 4,742,220 tons of hardwood timber. The total forest volumes are largely sawtimber sized trees as shown in the figure below.



Timber Supply around Ashley County

Within a 1-county radius around and including Ashley County (Bradley, Chicot, Drew, West Carroll, Morehouse and Union) there are 95 million tons of pine and 56 million tons of hardwood timber. In this seven county

region, annual net growth exceeds harvest by more than 3 million tons. Two thirds of this surplus growth is in softwoods, which is almost entirely pine species.



Economic Contributions of Ashley County Forests

Forest industries contribute 344 million dollars to Ashley County's GDP which is 40% of the county's total economic activity. Georgia-Pacific and Bemis Paper (Hood Packaging) and U S Dunnage are part of the county's enormous pulp and paper industry. There are 20 logging firms in the county and P E Barnes, a large flooring mill. These numbers do not reflect the loss of the Georgia-Pacific bleached board operations in October of 2019, which would reduce the values in the pulp and paper sector by 42%. Tissue operations at Crossett have been recently updated and will be part of the economy for the foreseeable future. Economic contributions by forestry sector are provided below.

Sector	Employees	Labor Income	Value Added
Forestry	9	\$500,132	\$494,094
Logging	294	\$13,351,106	\$12,991,949
Solid Wood Products	162	\$9,722,557	\$17,146,721
Furniture	1	\$2,778	\$3,338
Pulp and Paper	1263	\$127,253,839	\$313,814,090
Forestry Totals in Ashley County	1730	\$150,830,411	\$344,450,192