

The West Virginia forest products industry is a robust, thriving industry that has withstood the test of time. Through all the cycles and adversity since the late 1800's until today it has continued to innovate and move forward.

The forest products industry in West Virginia is made up of multiple manufacturing facets with a diversity of ownership from private to corporate. Hardwood grade lumber sawmills, being the largest sector, are located in every region across the state producing over 700 million board feet annually. Some of the largest hardwood grade lumber manufacturers operating in West Virginia include Allegheny Wood Products, Northwest Hardwoods, Jim C. Hamer, Interstate Hardwoods and Collins Hardwoods.

Also operating within the state are OSB and veneer manufacturing facilities that produce 770 and 800 million square feet respectively. Weyerhaeuser, with an OSB plant in Flatwoods and a veneer plant in Buckhannon, procures large volumes of hardwood pulpwood and yellow-poplar. At Columbia Forest Products in Craigsville, yellow-poplar and basswood are also heavily utilized to construct panels that are used in cabinetry and furniture manufacturing.

Armstrong, one of the largest hardwood flooring producers on the east coast operates in the Elkins area. These businesses along with many other forest products industries including split rail, hardwood scragg, hardwood pellets, mulch, charcoal and finished end manufacturers for cabinetry, molding and millwork are a large part of the state's economic and employment structure.

Traversing West Virginia is an extensive infrastructure of roads accessing highways and six interstate routes including I79, I77 and I64 which allow the logging operators easy access from job sites to manufacturers. Over 4,000 workers are employed by the more than 1,000 independent licensed logging operators that harvest and supply the valuable timber resources to various manufacturing locations. These businesses in turn employ approximately 25,000 additional individuals making the forest products industry one of the largest employers in the state.

This diverse industry is a critical component to the economy of the State of West Virginia and the advantage of having the raw materials easily accessible to supply this growing industry is important to its success. Given the nature of these ever renewable resources and the high demand for the myriad of goods they produce, the forest products industry will continue to be a great benefit to investors.

# WEST VIRGINIA FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY



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