



Top 5 reasons to support Maine's forest economy

1 Preserving a cherished way of life: Maine's forests are essential to the quality of life that Mainers cherish. Forests provide clean water and air, crucial habitat for wildlife and great recreation opportunities, including the largest tract of undeveloped forest east of the Mississippi. Surveys show people spend about \$1 billion annually on forest-based recreation activities in Maine.

Fortunately, there's plenty of forest land to share. Maine is 83 percent forested, including 17.1 million acres of timberland. Maine ranks 39th in land area among the 50 states, but is 17th in total forest land. Nine million acres of Maine's working forest is certified for sustainable forestry practices – more than any other state.

Most of Maine's forest land (93 percent) is privately owned. From 2003 to 2008, the greatest change in forest ownership was a nearly 300,000-acre drop in the area owned by corporations. During the same period, forest land owned by state agencies increased by 143,000 acres, and by families and individuals by 72,000 acres. Of 233,000 families and individuals who own forest land, nearly two-thirds have 1-10 acres and more than half have 50-500 acres, with the average 25 acres.

"History teaches us that Maine's forest is a resilient resource capable of supporting multiple uses, including timber harvesting (and), recreation, as well as maintaining a healthy ecosystem with abundant wildlife habitat and clean water, and a strong industry."

– Maine Forest Service



2 Maine's forest-based manufacturing: The combined total value of shipments for the wood product, paper, furniture and related manufacturing industries totaled \$4.46 billion in 2010, nearly 30 percent of the \$15.16 billion total value of manufacturing shipments.

"Undeniably, what sets Maine apart from the rest of the country — and the major reasons that Maine's forests remain largely intact and healthy — are the diversity of markets that Maine's forestland owners have and the ability of forest-based industries to adapt, strengthen and diversify those markets."

–Keeping Maine's Forest-Based Economy:
A National Demonstration Project

3 Good-paying jobs: In 2011, forest-based industries, including forestry, logging, and wood products, paper and furniture manufacturing, directly generated nearly 15,000 jobs and a payroll of nearly \$762 million with an average wage of \$50,836.

Maine Forest-Based Employment and Wages, 2011			
NAICS* Description	Average Employment	Total Wages	Average wages
Forestry and logging	2,397	\$94,993,026	\$39,630
Wood product manufacturing	4,127	\$147,391,476	\$35,714
Furniture and related product manufacturing	1,165	\$46,657,289	\$40,049
Paper manufacturing	7,299	\$472,884,877	\$64,788
Total	14,988	\$761,926,668	\$50,836

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics *North American Industry Classification System

“Our industry has transformed itself to thrive in the new global economy. You can see changes in the woods and in the mills that reflect advanced technology and significant capital investment. And more could be done to strengthen Maine’s forest economy.”

*– Patrick Strauch,
executive director;*

Maine Forest Products Council



4 **Top export:** Exports by pulp, paper and wood industries increased from \$681 million in 2009, to \$951 million of products sent across the world, with Canada, Asia and Europe topping the export markets. These forest products led the list of Maine exports, representing 30 percent of Maine’s total export value in 2010.

“One of the backbones of the state’s economy . . .”

– Maine International Trade Center

5 **Mainers consider forest products very important to the state economy:** In a 2009 survey mailed to 3,000 Maine residents by University of Maine researchers, both statewide and mill town respondents felt that Maine’s forest products industry was very important to the



state’s economy (41.9 percent and 58.3 percent, respectively). A relatively large percentage of respondents indicated that they worked or had worked within the forest products sector (15.3 percent and 43.9 percent, respectively, for statewide and mill town respondents).

Almost 22 percent of the statewide sample and 23.9 percent of the mill town sample thought that Maine’s forest products industry was “increasing” in economic importance to the state, while 36.8 percent (statewide) and 36.3 percent (mill towns) thought the industry was holding “constant” in economic importance.



“Respondents from both State-wide and Mill Town samples expressed strong support for the development of forest-based biorefinery projects in the state.”

– Preliminary findings of the Maine Forest and Forest Products Survey, 2009

SOURCES: Maine Forest Service; Maine International Trade Center; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Amanda Recker, State Economist, Governor’s Office of Policy and Management.