

## Indicator 6.1a: Value and volume of wood and wood products (2024)



This indicator measures the size and economic contribution of the wood products sector to Australia's economy. Analysis of trends in the value and volume of wood and wood products enables socio-economic benefits derived from the forest industry to be assessed.

### Context and definitions

This indicator focuses on Australia's three main wood product categories:

- Softwood plantation logs: predominantly sawlogs destined for the domestic construction sector.
- Hardwood plantation logs: predominantly pulplogs, destined for woodchip production and export markets.
- Native forest logs: predominantly hardwood sawlogs, veneer logs and ply logs, destined for the domestic market, and including a small volume of cypress pine softwood logs.

**Industry value added:** the value added by an industry to the inputs used by that industry, and therefore the contribution of that industry to gross domestic product; includes forest management, wood harvesting and wood processing, but excludes wholesaling, retailing and further value-adding.

Australian forestry and forest products industries are defined according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006. More detail is given in the [Supporting information for Indicator 6.1a](#).

### Key points

In Australia in 2022-23, compared to 2021-22:

- the total volume of **all logs harvested** fell by 3.9% to 25.0 million cubic metres while the total value was stable at \$2.4 billion (adjusted for inflation)
- the total volume of **logs harvested from softwood plantations** fell by 5.4% to 14.0 million cubic metres, however, the total value increased by 4.5% (adjusted for inflation) to \$1.35 billion
- the total volume of **logs harvested from hardwood plantations** increased by 10.3% to 8.5 million cubic metres and the total value increased by 5.6% (adjusted for inflation) to \$800 million
- the total volume of **hardwood native forest logs harvested** fell by 30% to 2.4 million cubic metres and the total value decreased by 26% (adjusted for inflation) to \$278 million
- the total volume of **all logs harvested from native forest** (including cypress pine softwood) fell by 29% to 2.5 million cubic metres and the total value decreased 25.5% (adjusted for inflation) to \$296 million.

The **value added** by forestry and forest products industries, referred to as 'industry value added', was \$11.3 billion, or 0.44% of Australia's gross domestic product in 2022-23.

### Australia's total log harvest

The total volume of logs harvested in 2022-23 fell by 3.9% to 25.0 million cubic metres compared to 2021-22, and fell by 17% from 30.1 million cubic metres in 2015-16.

The real (adjusted for inflation) value of logs harvested in 2022-23 was stable at \$2.4 billion compared to 2021-22 (with a change of only -0.1%). Log prices increased significantly over the 12-month period, mostly driven by high

levels of inflation, as measured by the consumer price index. Increases in the value of logs harvested from softwood and hardwood plantations offset the decline in value of logs harvested from native forests.

**Table 6.1a-1: Australia's log harvest by volume and value, 2022-23**

Harvested log type	Volume of logs harvest		Value of logs harvested	
	million m <sup>3</sup>	% change from 2021-22	million \$	% change from 2021-22
Native forest (incl. native cypress)	2.5	-29.2	296	-20.4 (-25.5)
Commercial plantation hardwood	8.5	10.3	800	12.9 (5.6)
Commercial plantation softwood	14.0	-5.4	1,348	11.8 (4.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>2,443</b>	<b>6.9 (-0.1)</b>

Values in brackets are in real terms (2022-23 dollars) to account for inflation.

Values for native forest logs include hardwood native forest logs and native cypress pine softwood logs.

Fuelwood logs are not included.

Source: ABARES (2024).

[Click here for a Microsoft Excel workbook of the data for Table 6.1a-1.](#)

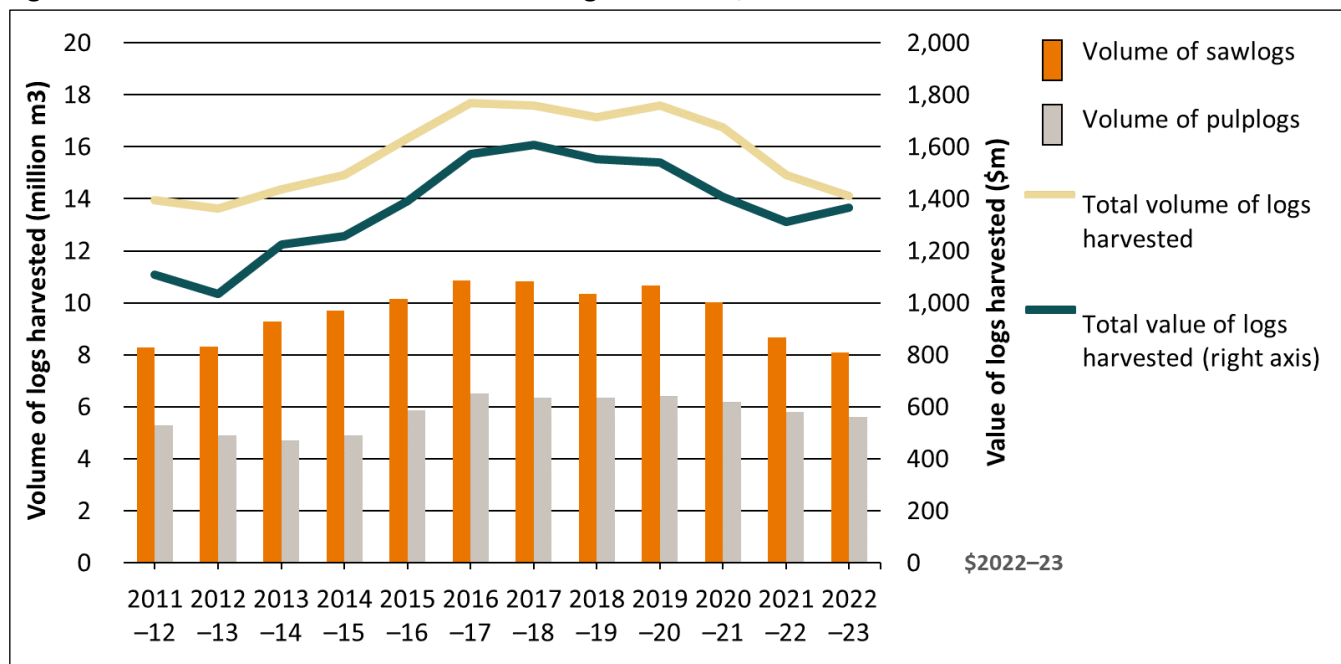
## Softwood logs harvested

The total volume of logs harvested from Australia's softwood plantations was 14.0 million cubic metres in 2022-23 which was a fall of 5.4% compared to 2021-22 (Figure 6.1a-1).

The total value of logs harvested from softwood plantations in 2022-23 increased by 11.8% (4.5% in real terms, i.e. adjusted for inflation) to \$1.35 billion compared to 2021-22. This increase in value was driven by an increase in production costs and in turn the price of softwood logs.

The volume of softwood sawlogs produced in 2022-23 declined by 6.7% to 8.1 million cubic metres compared to 2021-22. The real (adjusted for inflation) value of softwood plantation sawlogs produced in 2022-23 increased by 1.7% to \$916 million, largely due to the increase in production costs and in turn the price of sawlogs.

**Figure 6.1a-1: Volume and value of softwood logs harvested, 2011-12 to 2022-23**



Adjusted for inflation to 2022-23 dollars. Includes a small component (\$17.4 million or 0.12 million cubic metres) of native cypress pine logs harvested from native forests.

'Sawlog volumes' includes veneer logs and logs for plywood. 'Total volume of logs harvested' includes the category 'other', which comprises other plantation log products.

Source: ABARES (2024).

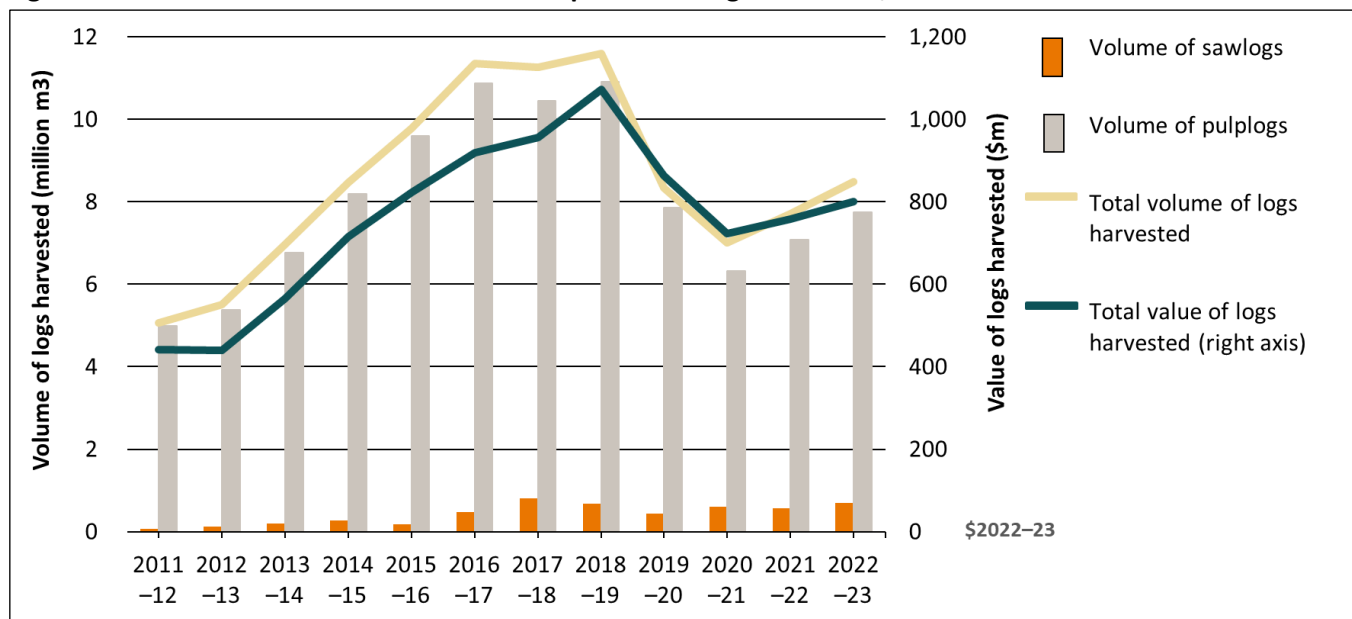
[Click here for a Microsoft Excel workbook of the data for Figure 6.1a-1.](#)

### Hardwood plantation logs harvested

The total volume of logs harvested from Australia's hardwood plantations was 8.5 million cubic metres in 2022-23, an increase of 10.3% compared to 2021-22.

Hardwood plantations produced 78% of the volume of all hardwood logs produced in Australia in 2022-23. Most (87%) of the logs harvested from hardwood plantations were pulplogs destined for export as woodchips. The nominal (unadjusted for inflation) value of hardwood plantation log production increased by 12.9% to \$800 million in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22 (Figure 6.1a-2). In real terms (adjusted for inflation), the growth in value was 5.6%.

**Figure 6.1a-2: Volume and value of hardwood plantation logs harvested, 2011-12 to 2022-23**



Adjusted for inflation to 2022-23 dollars.

'Sawlog volumes' includes veneer logs and logs for plywood. 'Total volume of logs harvested' includes the category 'other', which comprises other plantation log products.

Source: ABARES (2024).

[Click here for a Microsoft Excel workbook of the data for Figure 6.1a-2.](#)

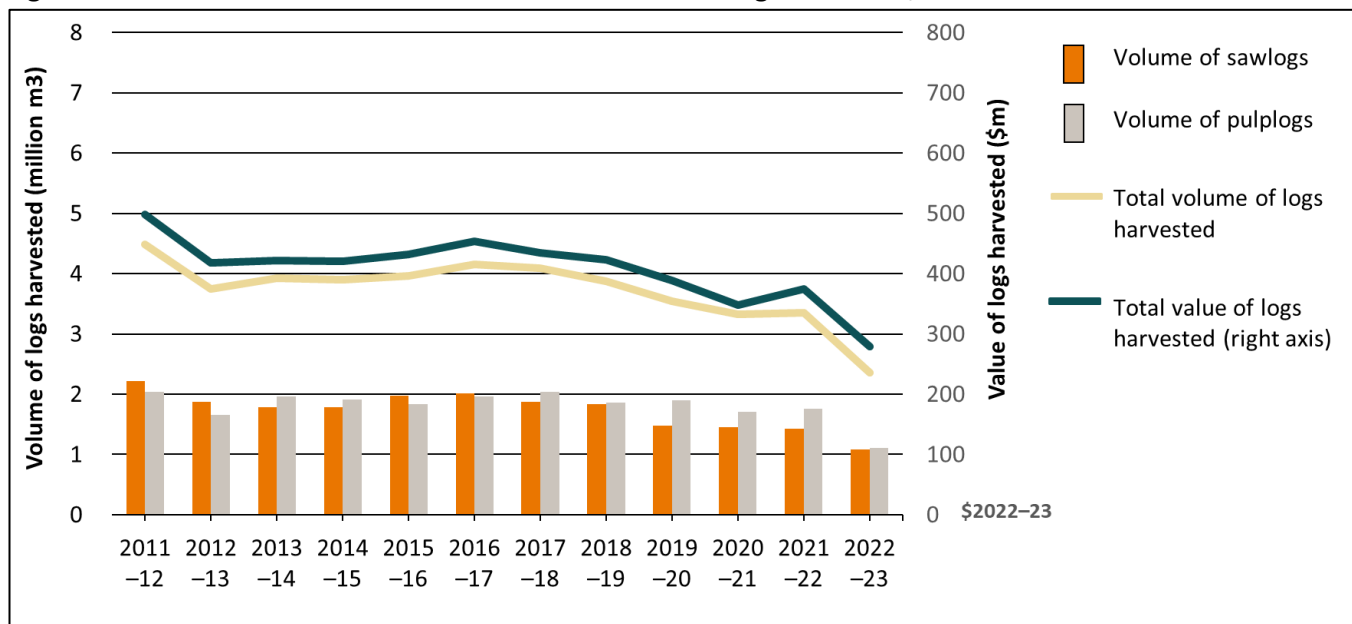
### Hardwood native forest logs harvested

The volume of hardwood native forest logs harvested was 2.4 million cubic metres) in 2022-23 and fell by 30% compared to 2021-22 (Figure 6.1a-3), with sawlog and pulplog harvests reducing by 25% and 37% respectively.

The total value of hardwood native forest logs harvested in Australia in 2022-23 declined by 21% to \$278 million, compared to 2021-22. This was a 26% decrease in real terms (adjusted for inflation).

The fall in the value and volume of production from Australia's native forests over the 12 months to 2022-23 is a continuation of the trend observed over the past two decades.

**Figure 6.1a-3: Volume and value of hardwood native forest logs harvested, 2011-12 to 2022-23**



Adjusted for inflation to 2022-23 dollars.

Source: ABARES (2024).

[Click here for a Microsoft Excel workbook of the data for Figure 6.1a-3.](#)

### Contribution of the forestry and forest products industries

The value added by the Australian forestry and forest products industries, referred to as ‘industry value added’, was \$11.3 billion in 2022-23 (Table 6.1a-2). The ‘Other wood product manufacturing’ sub-sector drove most of this value-add (\$5.0 billion), reflecting the value derived with the transformation of logs into high-value products such as wooden structural fittings and components.

**Table 6.1a-2: Industry value added in forestry and forest products industries, 2018-19 to 2022-23**

Product industries	Industry value added (\$ billion)				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Forestry and logging	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.5
<b>Total forestry industry</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Log sawmilling and timber dressing					
Log sawmilling	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8
Wood chipping	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Timber resawing and dressing	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9
Total	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.8
Other wood product manufacturing					
Prefabricated wooden building	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Wooden structural fittings and components	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.7	3.5
Veneer and plywood	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Reconstituted wood product	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
Other wood products nec	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7
Total	3.2	3.4	3.0	4.1	5.0
<b>Total wood products</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Pulp, paper and paper products					
Pulp, paper and paperboard	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
Corrugated paperboard and paperboard container	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Paper bag	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Paper stationary	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Sanitary paper product	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7
Other converted paper product	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total pulp and paper products	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.9
<b>Total forest products industries</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>9.8</b>
<b>Total forestry and forest products industries</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>11.3</b>

nec, not elsewhere considered.

Original ABS data, not adjusted for inflation. Industry value added should be used with caution due to high relative standard errors.

Sources: ABARES (2024); ABS (2022).

[Click here for a Microsoft Excel workbook of the data for Table 6.1a-2.](#)

The Australian forestry and forest products industries contributed 0.44% of Australia’s gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022-23 (Table 6.1a-3).

**Table 6.1a-3: Forestry and forest products value added, compared to GDP, 2018-19 to 2022-23**

Product industries	Units	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total forestry industry	\$b	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.5
Total forest products industries	\$b	7.4	7.1	6.9	8.3	9.8
<b>Total forestry and forest products industries</b>	<b>\$b</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>11.3</b>
Total manufacturing	\$b	109.9	107.3	107.9	124.2	133.9
Forestry and forest products industries as proportion of total manufacturing	%	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.7	7.3
National Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	\$b	1,950.0	1,984.6	2,088.9	2,333.2	2,563.8
Forestry and forest products industries as proportion of GDP	%	0.47	0.44	0.39	0.42	0.44

Original series data, not adjusted for inflation. Industry value added should be used with caution due to high relative standard errors.

Source: ABARES (2024).

[Click here for a Microsoft Excel workbook of the data for Table 6.1a-3.](#)

## Supporting information for Indicator 6.1a: Value and volume of wood and wood products

### Industry definitions

The Australian forestry and forest products industries are defined according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006. The forestry industry is equivalent to Division A, Subdivision 3 - forestry and logging. The forest products industry consists of Division C, Subdivision 14 – wood product manufacturing, and Division C and Subdivision 15 – pulp, paper and paperboard manufacturing (Trewin and Pink 2006). Forestry support services are excluded, and are reported separately under agriculture, forestry and fishing support services.

‘Industry value added’ is a measure of economic activity that represents the value added by an industry to its intermediate inputs; that is, the value added to the goods and services other than capital that are inputs to the production process. It is the measure of the contribution by manufacturing to gross domestic product. In this case, ‘industry value added’ omits some downstream parts of the forestry and wood products industries, particularly wholesaling, retailing and value-adding, and thus omits the manufacturing of some commodities.

### Data sources

ABARES (Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences) (2024). *Australian forest and wood products statistics*, Production to 2022-23, ABARES series report, Canberra, August. CC BY 4.0. [doi.org/10.25814/PZH6-3W22](https://doi.org/10.25814/PZH6-3W22)

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2022). *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product*, cat. no. 5206.0, Canberra; ABS, Australian Industry, cat. no. 8155.0, Canberra

### References

Trewin D, Pink B (2006). [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(ANZSIC\) 2006](#). Cat. no. 1292.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.



## More information

Learn more about [Criterion 6 of Australia's State of the Forests Report](#).

Web [agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr/](http://agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr/)

Download a [Microsoft Excel workbook of the data presented in Indicator 6.1a](#).

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### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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