

Highlights

Forest-Land Area

Forests cover 2.1 million acres or 44.9 percent of New Jersey. This is an increase of 143,900 acres since the previous forest inventory in 1987. Most of this increase is the result of a more inclusive definition of forest land. Small forested areas in rights of ways and in some urban areas that previously were classified as nonforest have been reclassified as forest. These reclassified areas are stocked with trees and at least an acre in size and more than 120 feet wide. There was no significant change in the area considered timberland. Timberland area represents 88 percent of total forest-land area.

(Thousands of acres at each inventory)

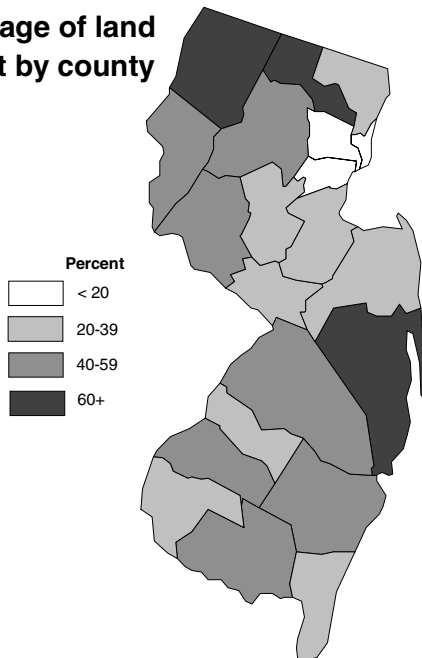
	1956	1972	1987**	1999
Timberland	2,120	1,857	1,874	1,876
Other forest land	109	71	114	256
Total forest land	2,229	1,928	1,988	2,132
Percent forested	46.3%	40.0%	41.9%	44.9%
Total land area*	4,814	4,820	4,748	4,748

* Estimates of the total land area have changed because of new measurement techniques and refinements in the classification of small bodies of water and streams.

** Based on reprocessing of 1987 data.

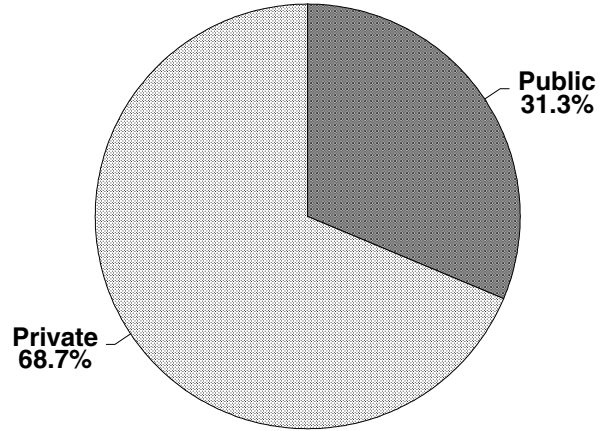
Sussex County is the most heavily forested county (68 percent).

Percentage of land in forest by county



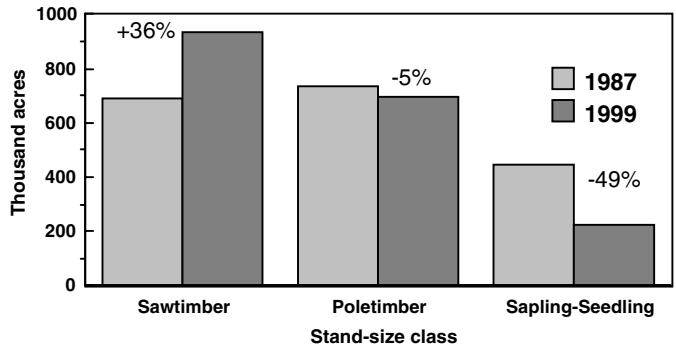
Nearly a third of timberland is in public ownerships, either state, county, municipal, or miscellaneous federal governments. Most forest land classified as Other is in public ownership.

Ownership of Timberland



Sawtimber-size stands increased by 36 percent since the previous inventory and now account for 50 percent of the timberland. Poletimber-size stands declined by 5 percent and now account for 37 percent of timberland. The area in sapling/seedling stands accounts for 12 percent of the timberland and has decreased by 49 percent. Huckleberry and blueberry were the most common shrubs in each stand-size class.

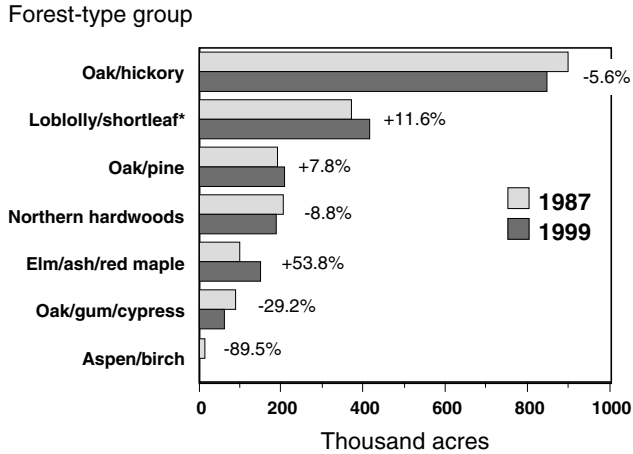
Timberland by stand-size class



Area by Forest-Type Group

Oak/hickory is the dominant forest-type group, occupying 45 percent of the timberland, followed by the loblolly/shortleaf group (composed primarily of the pitch pine forest type), which occupies 22 percent of the timberland. Sixty-two percent of the oak/hickory stands are sawtimber size versus 29 percent of loblolly/shortleaf stands.

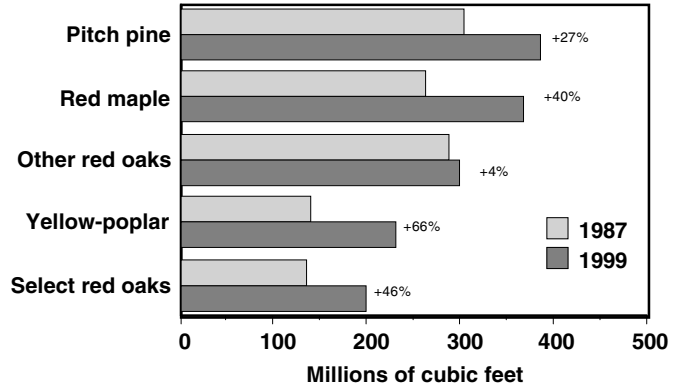
Area of timberland by forest-type group



* Includes the pitch pine forest type

cubic feet in 1999. Pitch pine continued to have the greatest volume, accounting for 13.8 percent of total volume. Red maple had the largest volume increase—105.4 million cubic feet or 40 percent.

Change in growing-stock volume, top five species

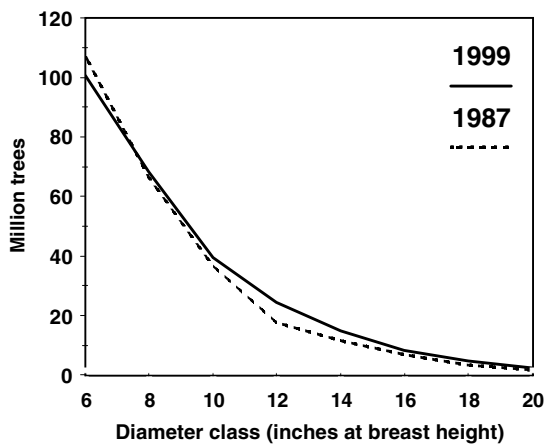


Numbers of Trees Growing on Timberland

The total number of growing-stock trees at least 5 inches in diameter at breast height has increased to 267.8 million. The number of trees in the 6-inch diameter class decreased while the number of trees in all diameter classes above the 6-inch class has increased. Pitch pine was the most numerous species in the 6-inch class and the select red oak species group (composed almost entirely of northern red oak) was the most numerous species group in the 16-, 18-, and 20-inch classes. Yellow-poplar was the most numerous species in trees more than 21 inches in diameter.

The volume in trees large enough to produce sawlogs increased by 43.6 percent to 8.1 billion board feet. Yellow-poplar has the largest board-foot volume.

Number of growing-stock trees at each inventory

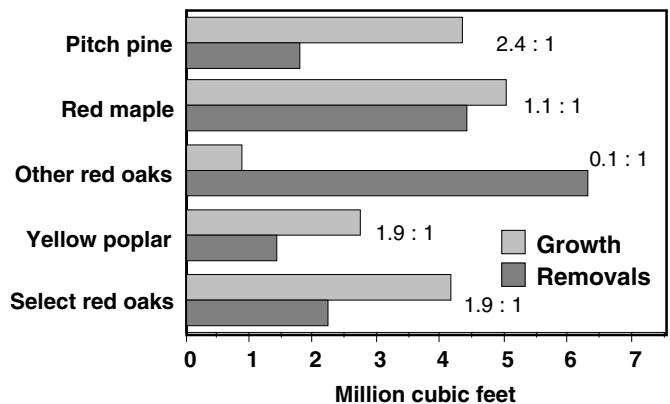


Growth and Removals

On an annual basis, net growth of growing stock on New Jersey's timberland has averaged 46 million cubic feet of wood and the average annual harvest plus other removals has averaged 33.9 million cubic feet. The ratio of net growth to removals has averaged about 1.4 : 1 over the past inventory period.

On an annual basis, mortality has averaged 16.6 million cubic feet or 0.6 percent of the current inventory.

Average annual net growth and removals of growing-stock, top five species



Volume

The volume of growing-stock trees increased by 23.6 percent to 2.8 billion cubic feet. The average volume per acre increased from 1,208 cubic feet in 1987 to 1,493