

# Highlights

## Forest-Land Area

West Virginia is the third most heavily forested state in the Nation. Forests cover 12.0 million acres or 78 percent of the State. This is a decrease of 112,500 acres since the previous forest inventory in 1989. Statistically, there was no significant change in forest-land area since the two estimates are within the range of the sampling errors. Ninety-eight percent of the forest land is considered timberland and available for timber production.

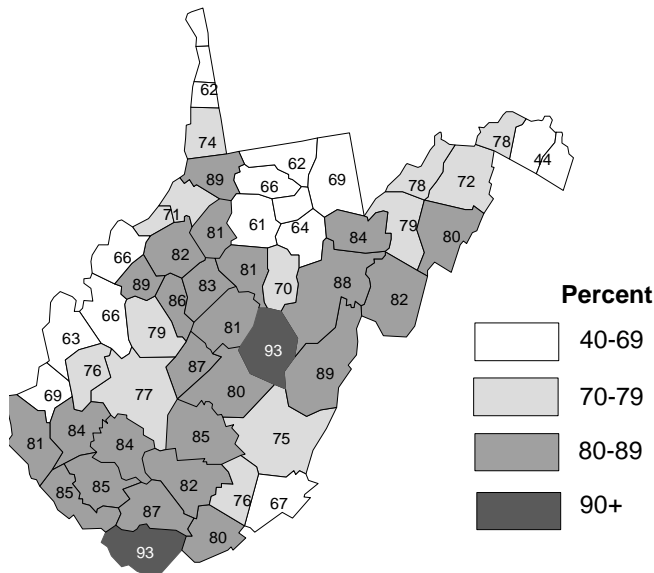
(Thousands of acres at each inventory)

	1961	1975	1989**	2000
Timberland	11,389	11,483.7	11,905.1	11,797.0
Reserved and other forest land	80	148.9	209.0	209.9
Total forest land	11,469	11,632.6	12,114.0	12,006.9
Percent forested	74%	75%	78%	78%
Total land area*	15,411	15,413.8	15,415.4	15,415.4

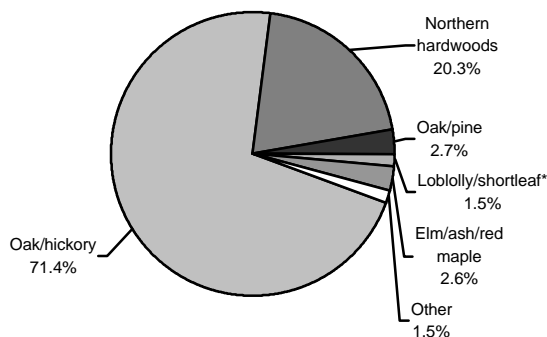
\* Estimates of the total land area have changed because of new measurement techniques and refinements in the classification of small bodies of water and streams.

\*\* Based on reprocessing of 1989 data.

## Percentage of land in forest by county

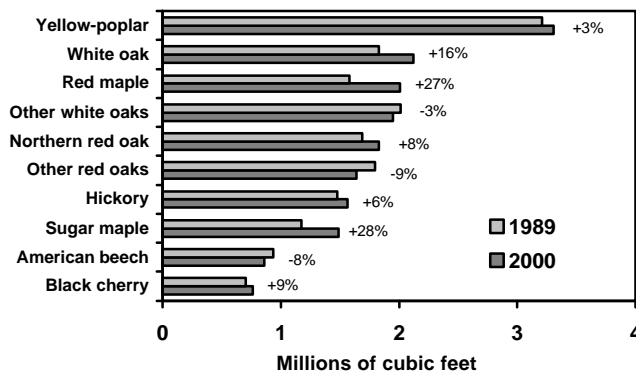


Area of timberland by forest-type group



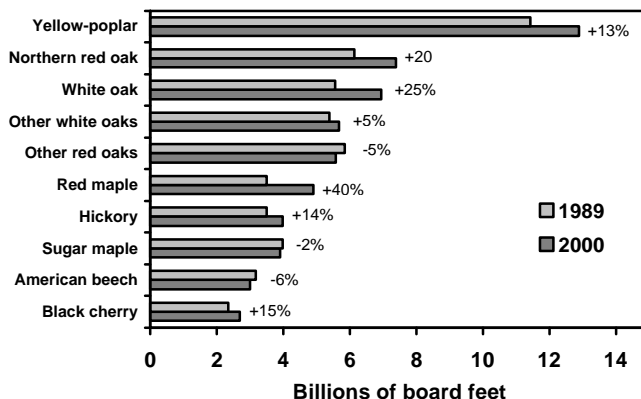
\*Includes pitch pine, Virginia pine, table mountain pine, and eastern redcedar forest types

Change in growing-stock volume, top 10 species



The volume in trees large enough to produce sawlogs increased by 14.4 percent to 71.4 billion board feet. Yellow-poplar has the most board-foot volume.

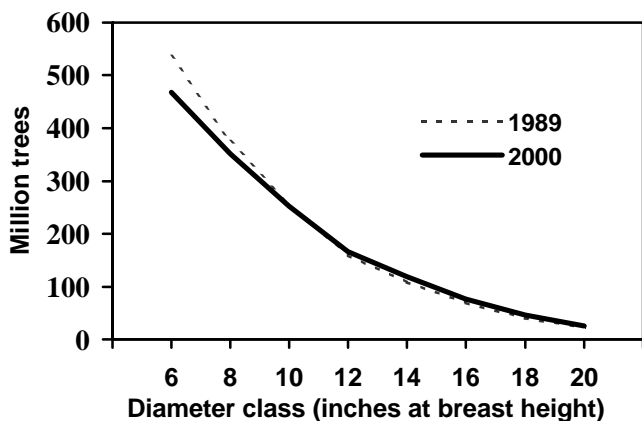
Change in volume of sawtimber-size trees



### Numbers of Trees Growing on Timberland

The total number of growing-stock trees at least 5 inches in diameter at breast height on timberland has decreased by 3 percent since 1989. The number of trees in the 6-, 8-, and 10-inch diameter classes decreased while there were increases the numbers of trees in all diameter classes above 10 inches. Red maple was the most numerous species in the 6-, 8-, and 10-inch classes and yellow-poplar was the most numerous species in all diameter classes above 10 inches. The average number of trees per acre decreased from 138 to 134 between inventories.

Number of growing-stock trees at each inventory



### Volume

The total volume of growing-stock trees increased by 6.5 percent to 22.4 billion cubic feet. The average volume per acre increased from 1,763 cubic feet in 1989 to 1,895 cubic feet in 2000. Yellow-poplar continued to have the greatest volume, accounting for 14.8 percent of total volume. Red maple and sugar maple had the largest volume increases, each increasing by 27 percent.

### Growth and Removals

On an annual basis, net growth of growing stock on West Virginia's timberland has averaged 430.4 million cubic feet of wood and the average annual harvest plus other removals has averaged 247.9 million cubic feet. The ratio of net growth to removals has averaged about 1.7 : 1 over the past inventory period. Oak species accounted for 47.7 percent of total removals. On an annual basis, mortality has averaged 159.7 million cubic feet or 0.7 percent of the current inventory.

Average annual net growth and removals of growing stock, and G/R ratio

