Objective
The objective of this study was to describe California’s primary forest products industry and commercial timber harvest during calendar year 2006. The study tracks the flow of timber from the forest through the primary processing sectors and attaches key economic information like employment and sales value.

Highlights
- During 2006, California’s commercial timber harvest was about 1.7 billion board feet (Scribner), down from roughly 2.2 billion board feet in 2000.
- In 2006, the top five harvesting counties in California were Humboldt, Shasta, Siskiyou, Mendocino, and Plumas, respectively (Figure 1).
- 77 primary forest products facilities operated in California during 2006, down from 93 in 2000.
- Softwood species comprised over 99 percent of the total commercial harvest (Figure 4).
- True firs and Douglas-fir accounted for 52 percent of the total harvest.
- A large portion of the timber processors lost were within the 10-50 MMBF per year capacity range (Figure 5).
- Figure 6 shows a decline of about 65% in capacity to process timber since the late 1980s-from about 6 billion board feet annually to just over 2 billion board feet.
- Lumber production in California was about 2.5 billion board feet, down 22 percent from 2000 production.
- California’s primary forest products manufacturers had a total sales value of $1.5 billion in 2006, compared with $2.2 billion in 2000.
- Almost all of the mill residue produced in California (about 2.2 million bone-dry tons) was utilized, with less than one percent not used (about 310 bone-dry tons).
- Figure 3 shows a decline in capacity to process timber since the late 1980s-from about 6 billion board feet annually to just over 2 billion board feet.

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