**Idaho’s Forest Products Industry**

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### Highlights

- A total of 97 active Idaho facilities were identified during 2006 (figure 1):
  - 35 Sawmills
  - 3 Plywood / Veneer
  - 24 Log home
  - 12 Residue related products (particleboard, chips, pulp and paper products, bioenergy products, and decorative bark)
  - 7 Cedar product
  - 16 Post, pole, and log furniture

- Idaho’s total timber harvest in 2006 was just under 1,121 million board feet (MMBF) Scribner. Saw and veneer logs made up over 91 percent of the total harvest. Clearwater Shoshone, and Benewah counties were the largest contributors to the state’s total harvest (figure 1).

- Idaho was a net importer of nearly 30 MMBF in 2006. About 89 MMBF of timber harvested in Idaho was shipped outside of the state for processing and nearly 119 MMBF of timber harvested in other states was processed in Idaho.

- The number of Idaho sawlog processors has declined by 76 percent since 1979 (figure 2) while total capacity has fallen 37 percent to 1,304 MMBF Scribner.

- Idaho timber processors having a capacity of over 50 MMBF accounted for over 80 percent of Idaho’s timber processing capacity in 2006 compared to 80 percent in 1995 (figure 3).

- In Northern Idaho, timber harvest from privately owned timberlands increased by 20 percent from 2001 to 2006, while sawlog processing capacity fell 7 percent and the sawlog volume processed increased 5 percent (figure 4).

- In Southern Idaho, total timber harvest, sawlog processing capacity, and sawlog volume processed fell to the lowest level since the 1970’s (figure 5).

- Timber harvested in Idaho is traveling a greater distance to primary processors in the state. Since 1985, the portion of timber received by primary processors that was harvested from within the same county as the facility declined by 18 percent as receipts from other counties increased by 13 percent (figure 6).

- Idaho’s primary forest products industry had a sales value of approximately $1.6 billion in 2006. Lumber and plywood/veneer contributed 48 percent of total sales while residue related products represented 47 percent.

- Idaho’s 37 sawmills produced over 1.8 billion feet of lumber, and over 1.8 million bone-dry tons of wood residues from about 953 MMBF (Scribner) of raw timber for a statewide overrun of 1.89.

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### Introduction and Methods

The Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) has agreements with Interior West Forest Inventory and Analysis (IW-FIA) to provide information related to the forest products industry and removals from inventory for product use.

The BBER conducts censuses of the forest products industry in a given state or states. The censuses consist of questionnaires or phone interviews of all the firms within the survey state as well as firms in nearby states that received timber from the survey state in the survey year. Information is collected at the firm level on timber receipts by county, ownership class, and type of timber product (e.g., sawlogs, house logs, pulpwood, etc.).

The census also collects information on finished product types, volumes, wholesale value and destination. Mill residue information is also collected with the census. Through this complete accounting of timber inputs, products, and residues, BBER is able to develop statewide residue factors, overrun estimates, and analyze timber use efficiency.

The censuses are conducted on a periodic basis (about every 5 years), and thus BBER is able to describe and quantify the condition of the industry, employment, mill capacity, and production as well as identify related trends.

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**Cooperators**

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