Oregon’s forest products industry is a major part of Oregon’s economy and a primary player in the nation’s wood products market. The industry is starting to see an increase in production and capacity from the record lows of the previous decade.

The Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) has agreements with PNW-FIA to provide information related to the forest products industry and removals from inventory for product use (Brandt et al. 2006). 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 adjacent states that received timber from the survey state in the survey year. BBER collects information at the firm level on timber purchases by county, ownership class, and type of timber product (e.g., sawlogs, house logs, pulpwood, etc.). Proportion of receipts by species and live vs. dead are also included. From this BBER supplies timber product removals to FIA for reports and databases.

The census also collects information on finished product types, volumes, wholesale value and destination. 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 5 years), and thus BBER is able to describe the condition of the industry, quantify employment and mill capacity, and identify and quantify trends.

Oregon Highlights
- A total of 249 active Oregon facilities were identified (figure 1):
  - 126 Sawmills
  - 33 Plywood and Veneer
  - 25 Log Home
  - 23 Pulp and Board
  - 18 Chipping, Bark Products, Fuel Pellets, and Energy
  - 12 Log Furniture, Cedar Products, Export, and EWP
  - 12 Post, Pole, Piling, and Utility Poles
- The state’s timber-processing capacity in 2005 increased 24 percent from 1996. However, since 1986 capacity has decreased 36 percent (figure 2). Approximately 22 percent of Oregon’s timber-processing capacity can efficiently utilize trees less than 10 inches dbh (figure 3).
- Oregon’s timber harvest in 2003 was just over 4 billion board feet (figure 4). Softwood species made up 96 percent of the volume harvested, while hardwoods made up the remaining 5 percent (figure 5). Douglas-fir was the primary species harvested, making up 65 percent of the total harvest (figure 5). Oregon’s forests supplied approximately 84 percent of the timber utilized by Oregon mills in 2003.
- Oregon is the leading producer of softwood lumber and structural panels in the United States (Adair 2004; WWPA 2003).
- Oregon produced approximately 6.5 billion board feet (figure 4), of lumber or nearly 18 percent of the United States softwood lumber in 2003 (WWPA 2003).
- The state produced approximately 3.2 billion ft² (figure 4) or nearly 22 percent of plywood in the United States in 2003, which is roughly 11 percent of the structural panels produced (Adair 2004).
- Oregon’s primary forest products industry had a sales value of approximately $7 billion in 2003 (Brandt et al. 2006).