# Australian forest and wood products statistics

March and June quarters 2021

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Contents

[Overview 4](#_Toc87461319)

[References 8](#_Toc87461320)

**Tables**

[Table 1 Overview of the forestry sector, 2019–20 4](#_Toc74720425)

**Figures**

[Figure 1 Softwood plantation area remains stable while the hardwood plantation area declines 4](#_Toc88661042)

[Figure 2 Minimal new plantations have been established in recent years 5](#_Toc88661043)

[Figure 3 Logs harvested from hardwood plantations declined in 2019-20, with production value falling further than production volume. 5](#_Toc88661044)

[Figure 4 Logs harvested from softwood plantations remained steady in 2019-20 5](#_Toc88661045)

[Figure 5 Total logs harvested from native forests and native forest log production value decline in 2019-20 6](#_Toc88661046)

[Figure 6 Total new houses commenced increased by 36% in 2020-21 6](#_Toc88661047)

[Figure 7 A decline in the value of paper and paperboard imports results in a 3% decrease of the total value of imported wood products in 2020-21 7](#_Toc88661048)

[Figure 8 Reductions in roundwood, woodchip and paper and paperboard exports contribute to an 18% decrease in the total value of exported wood products in 2020-21 7](#_Toc88661049)

## Overview

This issue of the *Australian forest and wood products statistics* (AFWPS) includes 2020-21 data for key domestic indicators of forestry sector activity such as new housing commencements and the trade of wood products. It also reports 2019-20 data on the value and volume of logs harvested and Australia’s commercial plantation estate. The report is supported by summary tables in excel format that may be accessed below in the Download section. This AFWPS also has a Power BI data visualisation that provides users with an interactive dashboard to interrogate the data.

Table 1 Overview of the forestry sector, 2020-21

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Unit** | **2019-20** | | **% change from 2018-19** |
| **Logs harvested** |  |  | |  |
| Commercial plantation-logs harvested | million cubic metres | 25.8 | | -10 |
| Native forest-logs harvested | million cubic metres | 3.7 | | -8 |
| **Total logs harvested** | million cubic metres | **29.5** | | **-10** |
| **Total value of logs harvested** | **$ billion** | **2.6** | | **-7** |
|  |  |  | **2020-21** | **% change from 2019-20** |
| **Trade** |  |  |  |  |
| Total value of imported wood products | $ billion |  | 5.4 | -3 |
| Total value of wood product exports | $ billion |  | 2.7 | -18 |
| House commencements | ‘000 |  | 138.5 | 36 |
| Other residential commencements | ‘000 |  | 73 | 3 |
| **Total dwelling commencements** | ‘000 |  | **211.5** | **22** |

Figure 1 Softwood plantation area remains stable while the hardwood plantation area declines

Chart, bar chart

Description automatically generated

Figure 2 Minimal new plantations have been established in recent years

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

Figure 3 Logs harvested from hardwood plantations declined in 2019-20, with production value falling further than production volume.

Chart, line chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Note: ‘Total hardwood plantation log volume’ includes the category ‘other’, which comprises other hardwood plantation log products. ‘Hardwood plantation sawlog volume’ includes veneer logs and logs for plywood.

Figure 4 Logs harvested from softwood plantations remained steady in 2019-20

Chart, bar chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

Note: 'Softwood plantation sawlog volume’ includes veneer logs and logs for plywood. ‘Total softwood plantation log volume’ includes the category ‘other’, which comprises other softwood plantation log products.

Figure 5 Total logs harvested from native forests and native forest log production value decline in 2019-20

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

Figure 6 Total new houses commenced increased by 36% in 2020-21

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

Note: Other residential commencements is calculated as total dwelling units commenced minus new houses commenced. Source: ABS 2021.

Figure 7 A decline in the value of paper and paperboard imports results in a 3% decrease of the total value of imported wood products in 2020-21

Chart

Description automatically generated

Note: Other forest products in the figure above includes roundwood, recovered paper, woodchips, pulp, sawnwood, and other miscellaneous forest products.

Figure 8 Reductions in roundwood, woodchip and paper and paperboard exports contribute to an 18% decrease in the total value of exported wood products in 2020-21

Chart, surface chart

Description automatically generated

Note: Other forest products in the figure above includes railway sleepers, pulp, wood-based panels, sawnwood, paper manufactures, and other miscellaneous forest products.

## References

ABS 2021, *Building Activity, Australia*, cat. no. 8752.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.