



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment
ABARES

Australian forest and wood products statistics

March and June quarters 2021

Research by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

November 2021



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Cataloguing data ABARES 2021, *Australian forest and wood products statistics, March and June quarters 2021*, ABARES series report, Canberra, November, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25814/ny0f-9s98>. CC BY 4.0.

ISSN 189-3128

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Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by ABARES Natural Resource Economics program. ABARES acknowledges co-funding for this report by Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

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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

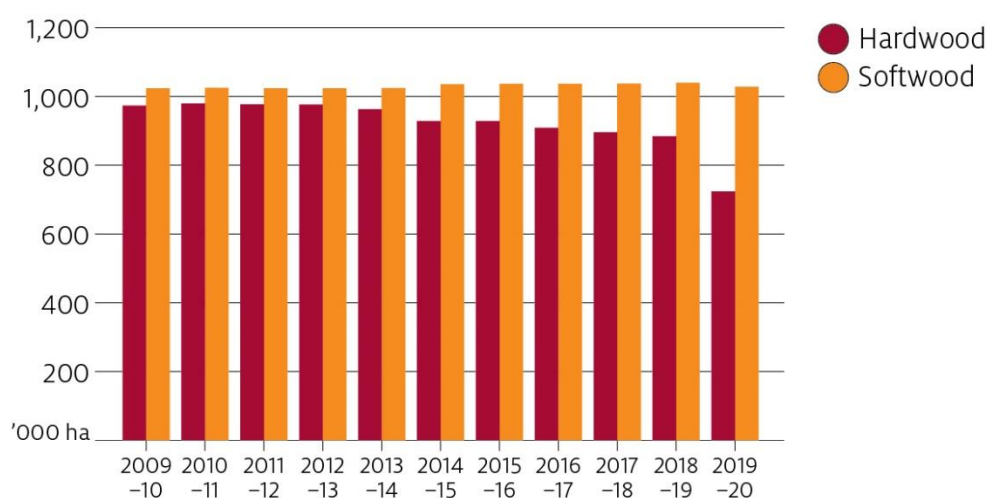


Figure 2 Minimal new plantations have been established in recent years

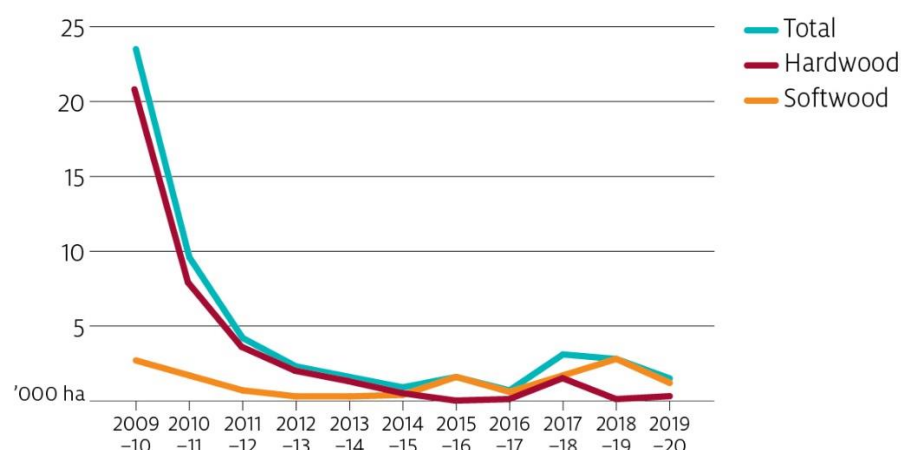
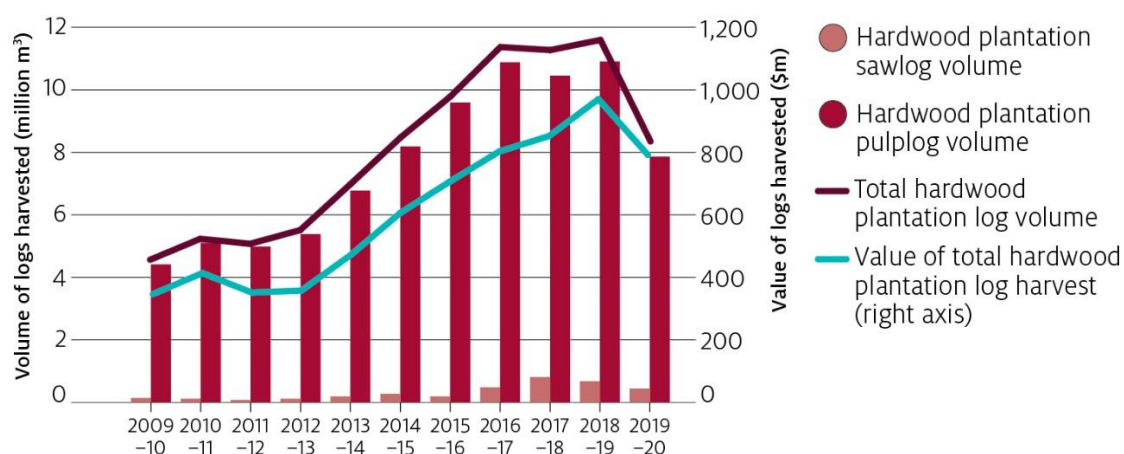
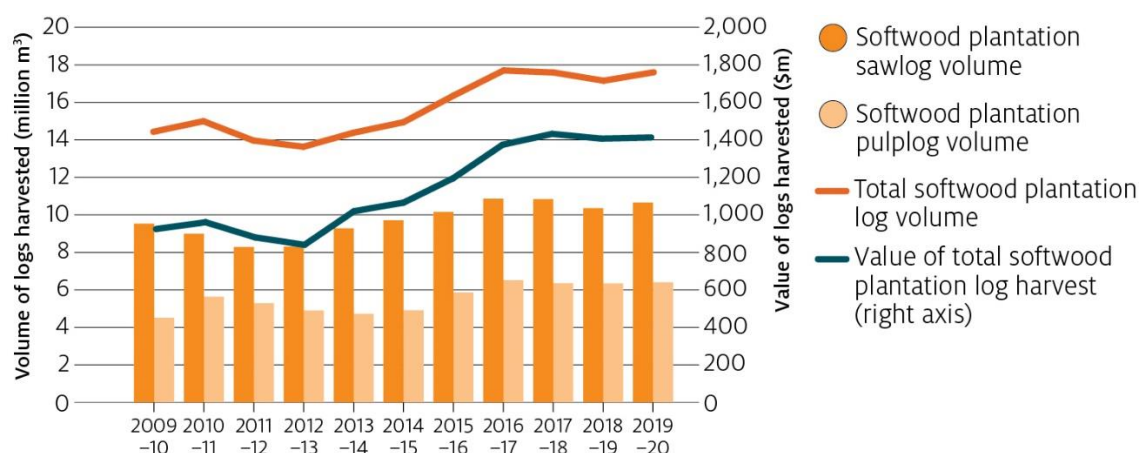


Figure 3 Logs harvested from hardwood plantations declined in 2019-20, with production value falling further than production volume.



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



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

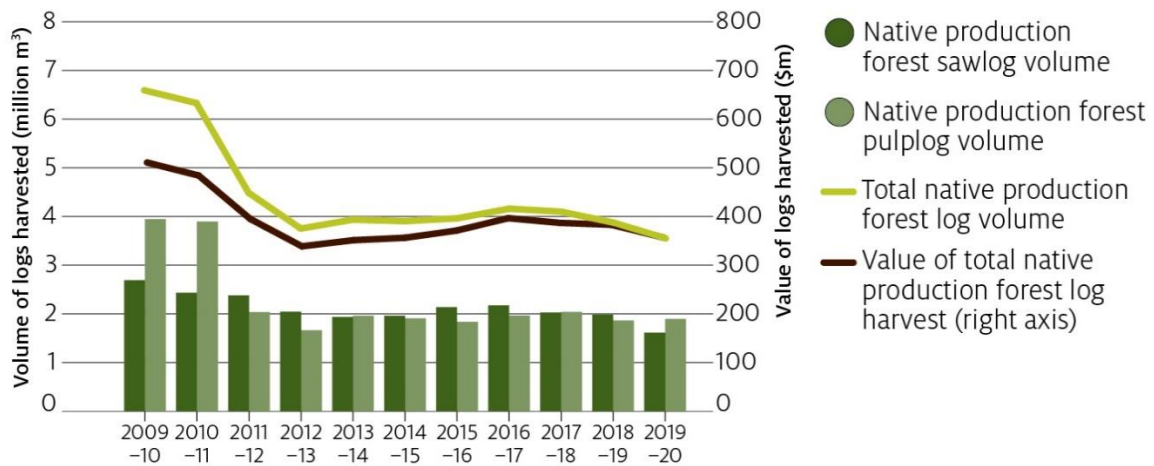
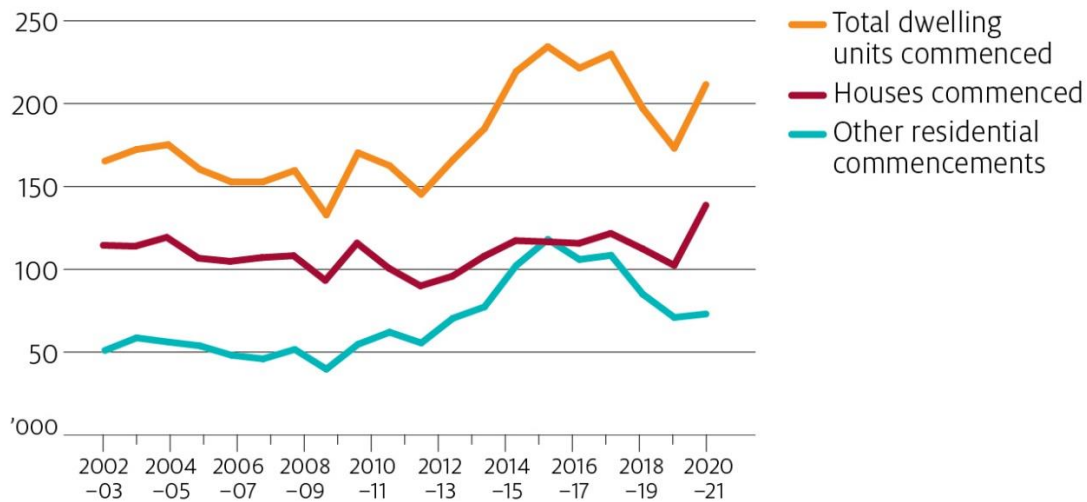
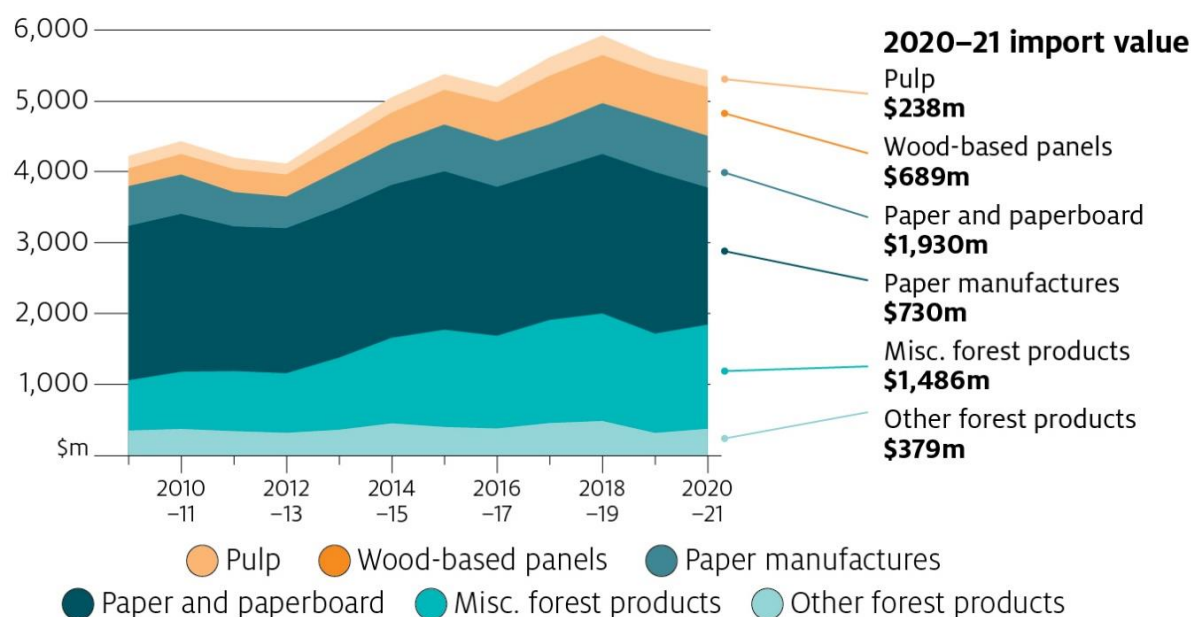


Figure 6 Total new houses commenced increased by 36% in 2020-21



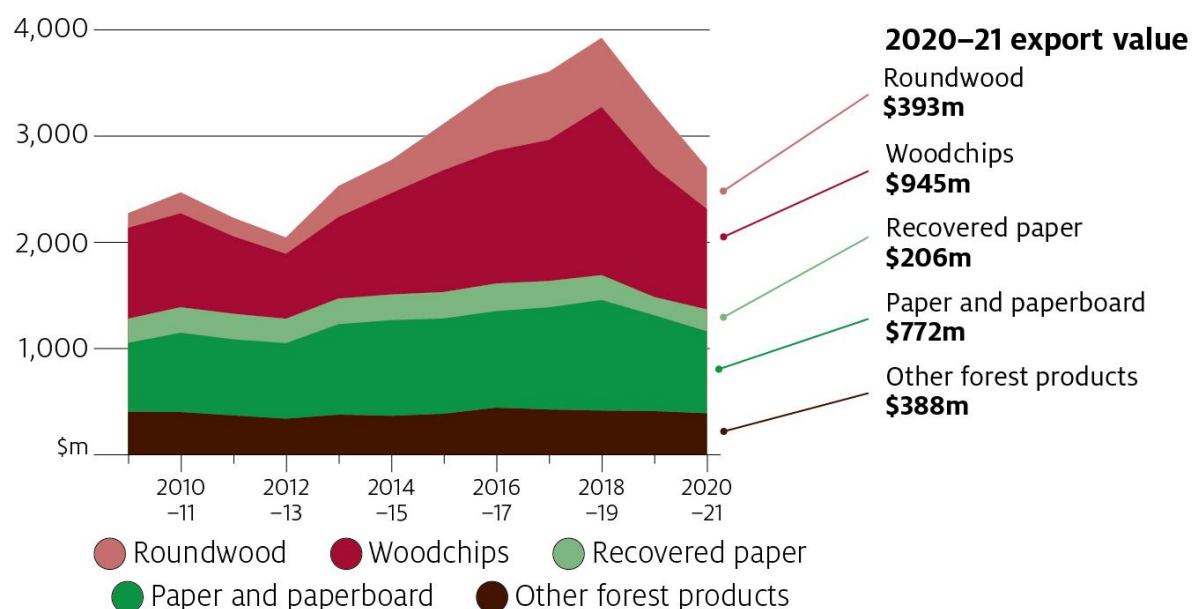
Note: Other residential commencements is calculated as total dwelling units commenced minus new houses commenced.
Source: ABS 2021.

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



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



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.