Geauga County’s Forest Economy

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Geauga County contains 400 square miles (256,000 acres) of land and is home to 93,700 citizens\(^1\). There are 230 industries in the county\(^2\), with the median household earning an income of $66,200\(^1\). Major employers include businesses in the sectors of food services, wood furniture manufacturing, wholesale trade, and state and local governments\(^2\).

The land resources of Geauga County provide many economic benefits. The county’s 850 agricultural farms produce dairy and milk products, cattle and calves, and poultry, among others\(^3\). An abundance of wooded acres are also present, providing community support to the county’s timber and non-timber forest industries. These businesses generate $368 million in industrial output and $33.2 million in taxes\(^2\). Included is the local maple industry, with Geauga County generating nearly one-third of Ohio’s statewide maple syrup production.

Some of the many contributions Geauga County’s forests and forest industries provide to the local economy are illustrated in this fact sheet using key figures and statistics. Figures 2–4, describing Geauga County’s forest resources, were constructed using data from the 2011 forest survey database provided by the United States Forest Service’s Forest Inventory and Analysis and the economic impact software package IMPLAN\(^a\). Figure 5 from the United States Census of Agriculture illustrates the contributions of the local maple industry. Figures 6–8 explain the county’s forest industries and were developed from data analyzed using IMPLAN\(^a\). Table 1 summarizes the IMPLAN\(^a\) model for Geauga County’s economy\(^a\).

Benefits of Woodland Management

- Properly managing your woodland improves forest health, aesthetics, and wildlife habitat. It also provides soil stabilization, clean water, carbon sequestration, self-satisfaction, and a potential source of income.
- Managing timber requires less long-term inputs compared to many other land uses.
- You are often able to obtain cost share funds to establish your woodland, property tax credits while managing your forest property, and preferable tax treatment at harvest.

\(^1\)For more information regarding IMPLAN\(^a\) and the economic impact analyses for Geauga County, please contact the first author in the School of Environment and Natural Resources.
Standing timber is a stable form of wealth, often comparable in performance to mutual fund investments.

**How Can I Learn to Better Manage My Woodland?**
- Become actively involved in the stewardship of your property.
- Join your local forestry association.
- Search Ohio State University Extension's website Ohioline (http://ohioline.osu.edu/for-fact/index.html) for further study of forestry related topics.
- Contact your local service forester at the Ohio Division of Forestry to help you develop a management plan for your property.
- Obtain soils and management information for trees suited to your soil types at your local Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Enlist the assistance of a professional forester when planning a timber sale.
- Consider hiring an Ohio Master Logging Company to conduct your harvesting operation.

For More Information, Please Consult the Following Sources

**School of Environment and Natural Resources**
The Ohio State University
2021 Coffey Rd.
Columbus, OH 43210
Phone: (614) 688-3421
Web: [http://www.ohiowood.osu.edu/](http://www.ohiowood.osu.edu/)
[http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/](http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/)

**Ohio State University Extension, Geauga County**
14269 Claridon-Troy Rd., PO Box 387
Burton, OH 44021
Phone: (440) 834-4656
Fax: (440) 834-0057
Web: [http://geauga.osu.edu/](http://geauga.osu.edu/)

**Ohio Division of Forestry**
15444 West High St.
Middlefield, OH 44062
Phone: (440) 632-5299
Fax: (440) 632-1410

**Geauga County Soil and Water Conservation District**
14269 Claridon-Troy Rd., PO Box 410
Burton, OH 44021
Phone: (440) 834-1122
Fax: (440) 834-0316
Web: [www.geagaswcd.com](http://www.geagaswcd.com)
Terminology[4,7]

**Acre**: A unit of land measure equal to 43,560 square feet (208.7 feet × 208.7 feet). One square mile equals 640 acres.

**Direct Economic Impact**: The effect generated by the industry of interest in an economic impact analysis. This is measured through employment, value-added, and industrial output produced to meet demand for the manufactured product(s).

**Direct Federal Tax Impact**: Taxes collected by the United States government. These taxes are generated from labor income, indirect business taxes, households, and corporations associated with the industry of interest.

**Direct State and Local Tax Impact**: Taxes paid to state, county, and municipal governments. These taxes are generated from labor income, indirect business taxes, households, and corporations associated with the industry of interest.

**Employment**: The total wage and salary and self-employed jobs in a geographical area.

**Indirect Business Taxes**: Sales and excise taxes paid by individuals to businesses through normal operations. They do not include taxes on corporate profits and dividends.

**Industrial Output**: The total value of production measured as the sum of value-added plus the cost of buying goods and services to produce the product(s).

**Labor Income**: Wages and benefits paid to employees plus proprietary income for self-employed work.

**Sawtimber Volume**: Net volume in board feet by the International 1/4-inch rule of sawlogs in sawtimber trees on timberland. Gross volume minus the deductions that affect use for lumber equals net volume.

**Value-Added**: The sum of labor income, interest, profits, and indirect business taxes.
Table 1. Direct industrial contributions within Geauga County’s economy, 2010[2]. The IMPLAN® model’s 440 sectors were aggregated into 12 industries by each sector’s 2-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry NAICS Description</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Labor Income</th>
<th>Value-Added</th>
<th>Output</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>$18,000,269</td>
<td>$20,776,609</td>
<td>$55,870,502</td>
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<tr>
<td>119998 Non-timber Forest Products Production</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$1,349,834</td>
<td>$1,136,563</td>
<td>$3,596,374</td>
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<tr>
<td>113 Forestry and Logging</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>$2,291,429</td>
<td>$2,257,810</td>
<td>$4,782,208</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Mining</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>$7,143,855</td>
<td>$7,718,454</td>
<td>$10,704,536</td>
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<td>22 Utilities</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>$3,720,226</td>
<td>$11,640,405</td>
<td>$32,487,572</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Construction</td>
<td>4,983</td>
<td>$120,454,051</td>
<td>$167,660,724</td>
<td>$508,040,339</td>
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<tr>
<td>31–33 Manufacturing</td>
<td>7,699</td>
<td>$465,468,396</td>
<td>$632,575,475</td>
<td>$2,030,948,324</td>
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<td>321 Wood Products Manufacturing</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>$8,867,401</td>
<td>$11,572,662</td>
<td>$37,145,897</td>
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<td>322 Paper Manufacturing</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>$3,992,756</td>
<td>$4,741,494</td>
<td>$15,521,519</td>
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<td>337 Wood Furniture Manufacturing</td>
<td>2,343</td>
<td>$124,610,214</td>
<td>$116,811,521</td>
<td>$307,606,539</td>
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<td>42 Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>1,961</td>
<td>$140,878,876</td>
<td>$245,381,653</td>
<td>$313,393,951</td>
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<td>44–45 Retail Trade</td>
<td>5,178</td>
<td>$132,640,468</td>
<td>$194,224,659</td>
<td>$292,140,954</td>
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<td>48–49 Transportation and Warehousing</td>
<td>2,459</td>
<td>$52,214,309</td>
<td>$94,436,507</td>
<td>$159,115,707</td>
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<td>51–56 Professional Services</td>
<td>9,642</td>
<td>$300,843,617</td>
<td>$997,211,596</td>
<td>$1,522,777,687</td>
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<td>61–72 Educational, Health, and Recreation Services</td>
<td>8,864</td>
<td>$247,461,923</td>
<td>$290,813,664</td>
<td>$530,814,634</td>
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<td>81 Other Services</td>
<td>3,598</td>
<td>$102,105,200</td>
<td>$111,482,057</td>
<td>$207,327,965</td>
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<td>92 Government and non-NAICS Industries</td>
<td>4,746</td>
<td>$233,756,739</td>
<td>$263,609,609</td>
<td>$322,394,712</td>
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<td>Timber and Non-Timber Forest Industries</td>
<td>2,726</td>
<td>$141,111,634</td>
<td>$136,520,050</td>
<td>$368,653,537</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>50,029</td>
<td>$1,824,687,930</td>
<td>$3,037,531,412</td>
<td>$5,986,016,887</td>
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References