

WHY WISCONSIN FOR FOREST PRODUCTS?

Wisconsin's forest products industry has statewide, national and international prominence.

- Wisconsin is the number one paper making state in the nation and has been for over 50 years.
- Wisconsin's forest industry ranks first in fine papers, first in sanitary paper products, first in millwork and third in hardwood veneers in the U.S.
- Wisconsin leads the nation in forest product manufacturing capital expenditures, ranks second in annual payroll, and second in total forest products employment, which is growing faster than the national average.
- In Wisconsin, the wood products industry one of the state's largest employer with over 61,000 employees and Wisconsin's forests are the state's largest land cover and by far the state's largest land use.
- The forest product industries in Wisconsin account for 13.2% of manufacturing jobs and is the number 1 employer in 23 counties in Wisconsin.
- Wisconsin's printing and paper converting industry employs an additional 46,000 workers with employee compensation of 2.5 billion dollars.
- For every 10 Wisconsin jobs in the forest related industries, an additional 23 jobs are produced in other sectors of the state's economy.
- Wisconsin has over 1,323 forest product companies and a \$18 billion annual forest products industry that includes one in every six manufacturing jobs.
- Wisconsin continues to grow more wood than it removes. About 572 million cubic feet is grown each year, while only 322 cubic million feet is removed.
- Most of Wisconsin's commercial forests are privately owned, unlike many southern and western states where commercial forestlands are largely in the hands of the federal government or large forest industries.
- Wisconsin recently implemented the most aggressive regulatory reform in the Midwest United States. The time required to get permits has been reduced and permit backlogs have been eliminated.
- Wisconsin has an extensive pool of public, private, basic & applied research and technology available to the forest products industry. The USDA Forest Service Products Laboratory, the University of Wisconsin System, the Wisconsin Technical College System and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources all have valuable resources and programs serving the forest products industry.
- Wisconsin has a highly-skilled, productive workforce and it is the state's most important asset, according to national measures and polls of Wisconsin CEOs.
- Wisconsin has property tax exemptions for manufacturing machinery and equipment, inventories, and computer equipment. Tax credits exist for R&D and sales tax exemptions for manufacturing machinery and equipment, as well as manufacturers' raw materials and fuel and electricity used in manufacturing.
- Wisconsin offers one-day shipping to over a third of the nation's population. Widely-available air and rail service is complemented by a comprehensive network of toll-free, controlled access highways and multi-modal facilities.
- Wisconsin is quality living at an affordable price. Energy, health care, housing, insurance costs and commute times are well below the national average.



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