

## **Indicator 44. Direct and Indirect Employment in the Forest Sector and the Forest Sector Employment as a Proportion of Total Employment**

### **What Is the Indicator and Why Is It Important?**

Some people derive value from forests from employment based on forest resources. Much of this employment supports people living in rural areas, and some supports people in urban areas. Forest resource-based direct employment includes wood and nonwood forest products industries, research, management, protection, education, and recreation and tourism. These activities, by their expenditures, also support indirect jobs in other sectors. The importance of trends in employment may be judged in part by their effect on communities, their relationship to government policy goals, and the values they provide for the general public.

### **What Does the Indicator Show?**

Employment in the forest sector is increasing and accounts for roughly 2 percent of all U.S. jobs. In 2000, jobs in logging, lumber, and wood products and paper and allied products were 849,000 and 660,000, respectively (combined they were 1.1 percent of all U.S. jobs, and 8.1 percent of manufacturing jobs). This is up from 824,000 and 485,000 in 1950 (combined they were 2.5 percent of all jobs, and 8.6 percent of manufacturing jobs). Jobs in wood furniture industries were 182,000 in 1997. Although the current number of jobs from forest-based recreation is uncertain, an estimate for the U.S. is 1.1 million or 0.8 percent of all U.S. jobs. An increase may be inferred by the increase in participation in U.S. forest recreation (see Indicator 37). Jobs in producing nonwood forest products including medicinals, food and forage species, floral and horticultural species, resins and oils, arts and crafts, and game animals and furbearers probably number in the tens of thousands. Jobs in forest management include those in the USDA Forest Service: 29,400 in 2001, down from 37,236 in 1980; jobs on tribal lands in the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribal governments, about 900 in the early 1990s;

in State forestry agencies, 12,405 permanent and 5,648 seasonal in 1996; in the DOI Bureau of Land Management, 9,728 in 1997; and an undetermined number in county and municipal governments, private land management organizations, private consultants, and private forest-resource related organizations. Nationwide, firefighting and support jobs during fire season have recently been 12,000 to 15,000.

Management of forests in parks includes many of those in the DOI National Park Service, 18,361 total in 1997, and an undetermined number in State, county, tribal and municipal governments. Jobs in forest management education and research in 2001 include colleges and universities, 1,361; USDA Forest Service research, 701 (included in the USDA Forest Service total), industry research, 124; and an undetermined number in providing forest resource education in grade schools, and in education efforts of private associations and organizations. Total forest-related jobs are estimated to be close to 3 million or about 2 percent of all U.S. employment. This does not include indirect jobs generated by expenditures of government agencies, businesses, or others. Direct jobs in forest-based recreation and tourism employment is estimated to be highest in the North, followed by the South, Rocky Mountains, and Pacific Coast. In 1997, forest products industry employment was highest in the North (about 600,000), followed by the South (550,000) Pacific Coast (200,000), and Rocky Mountains (70,000). In 1996, employment in State forestry agencies was highest in the South (6,064 permanent and 1,508 temporary), followed by the North (3,399 permanent and 1,934 temporary), Pacific Coast (2,017 permanent and 1,714 temporary), and Rocky Mountains (924 permanent and 492 temporary). Indirect jobs supported by expenditures of wood products firms, furniture firms, paper products firms and forest recreation-related businesses and the expenditures of their employees are estimated to be 2.2 million, 1.2 million, 2.7 million, and 0.9 million, respectively.