

SYSTEM DIMENSIONS	CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL	BIOLOGICAL COMPONENTS	HUMAN USES
Extent Pattern	Nutrients, Carbon, Oxygen Contaminants Physical	Plants and Animals Communities Ecological Productivity	Food, Fiber, and Water Recreation and Other Services

## ● Timber Growth and Harvest

**What Is This Indicator, and Why Is It Important?** This indicator reports the amount of new wood grown and the amount of wood harvested each year on public and private timberlands, by region. The balance between growth and harvest tells us whether the amount of wood potentially available for harvest is increasing or decreasing.

**What Do the Data Show?** Growth exceeds harvest on both public and private timberlands in both the East and West; with the exception of private timberlands in the West, this has been true for the past 50 years. This difference is increasing in the West (particularly on public lands) and decreasing in the East.

Growth is higher on public and private lands in both East and West than it was in the 1950s, although growth in eastern forests (both public and private) is lower than it was at its peak in the mid-1970s.

Following a peak in the mid-1980s, harvest decreased on public lands in the West; harvest levels in the 1990s on both public and private lands were below those of the 1950s. Harvest on public and private lands in the East increased from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, with private lands accounting for the vast majority of both overall and increased production. Nationally, private lands account for almost 90% of total harvest, a figure that has grown only slightly since the 1950s.

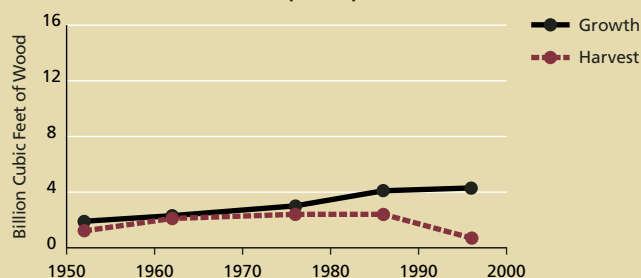
Although not shown, there may be substantial differences between northern and southern areas within the eastern and western regions shown here.

See also Timber Harvest (opposite page).

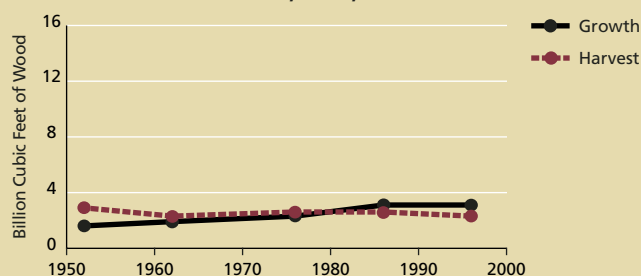
The technical note for this indicator is on page 245.

### Timber Growth and Harvest

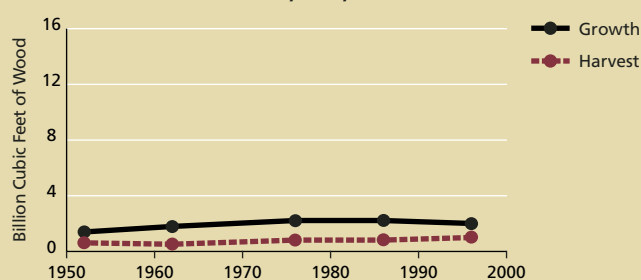
Timber Growth and Harvest, West, Public Timberlands



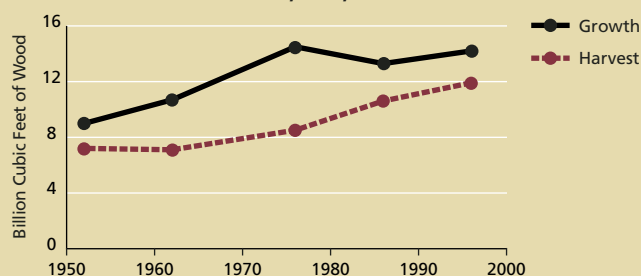
Timber Growth and Harvest, West, Private Timberlands



Timber Growth and Harvest, East, Public Timberlands



Timber Growth and Harvest, East, Private Timberlands



Data Source: USDA Forest Service. Coverage: all 50 states.

Note: "Timberlands" is a USDA Forest Service designation for lands that grow at least 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year, which is considered to be sufficient to support commercial harvest under current economic conditions. Lands on which harvest is prohibited by statute are not included as "timberlands."