

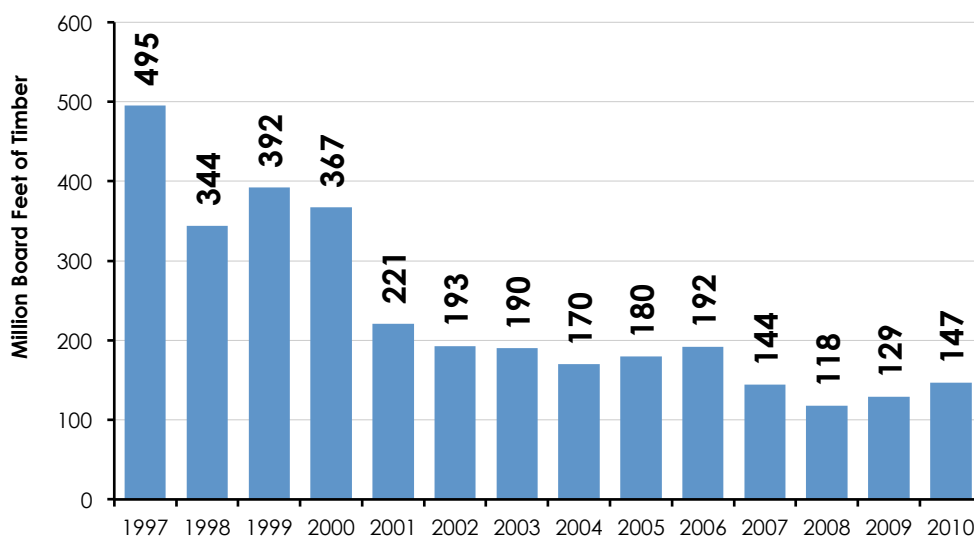
Timber Industry

While the regional economy had its roots in resource extraction, currently timber accounts for only one percent of jobs and wages in the region. The decline of the timber industry has been well documented. At one time there were 12 large sawmills operating in Southeast Alaska. Today there are no large mills; only one mid-sized mill remains along with a handful of smaller mills. In 1990, there were 3,450 direct sawmill and logging jobs in the region; however, by 2010 only 214 sawmill and logging jobs remained in Southeast.

The decline of the timber industry in Southeast Alaska has directly contributed to declines in the non-Juneau regional population (which decreased 8.7 percent between 2000 and 2009.) In 1990, 3,400 workers were employed in the timber industry in Southeast Alaska—so 2010 numbers represent an employment decline of 94 percent since that time.

In 2010, the total Southeast Alaska timber harvest was 147 million board feet (mmbf). This includes 51 mmbf from Sealaska; 30 mmbf from Mental Health timber operations; 36 mmbf from the US Forest Service; and 31 mmbf from State timberlands. The total 2009 harvest represents a 14 percent increase from 2008, but a 60% decrease from 2000.

Total Southeast Timber Harvest, 1997-2010 (mmbf)



Source: Alaska Forest Association