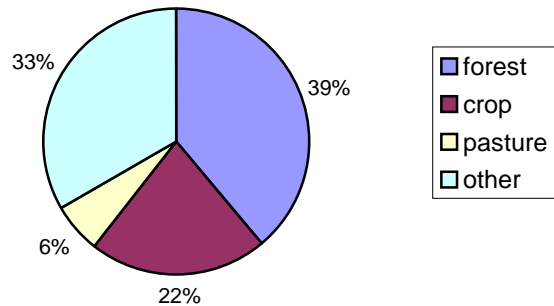


## How important is forestry in Mercer County?

Nearly sixty percent (17 million acres) of Pennsylvania's 28 million acres is forested. Private forest landowners own 12.5 million (75 percent) of the Commonwealth's forests. These forests are a vital resource to sustaining Pennsylvania's economy and environment. The timber and forest products industry is the fourth-largest manufacturing industry in the state, employing over 90,000 workers in 2,500 firms, and contributing almost 5 billion dollars annually to the state's economy. Nationally, Pennsylvania ranks number one in hardwood production. Forest-based recreation in Pennsylvania is a large component of tourism, the state's second-largest industry. The following shows the importance of forestry to Mercer County:

### Mercer County Land Use



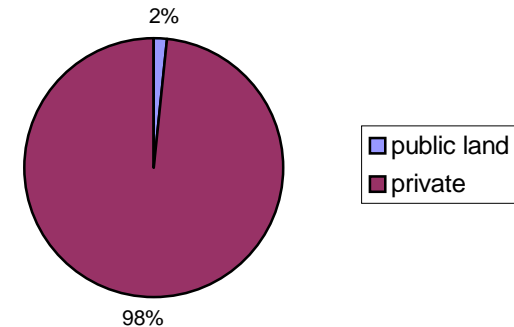
Mercer County has 432,000 acres of land. Forests cover 167,800 acres.

Estimated number of private forestland owners in Mercer County	6,509
Number of forestry and wood products establishments	32
Number of forestry and wood products employees	580
Value of standing timber	\$137.70 million
Annual value of timber harvest	\$5.39 million
Annual economic contribution of forestry sector	\$10.2 million
Annual economic contribution of wood products and paper sector	\$7.7 million

### How does forestry compare to agriculture in Mercer County?

Annual economic contribution <sup>1</sup> of agricultural production sector	\$26.20 million
Annual economic contribution of agricultural processing sector	\$45.85 million

### Mercer County Forestland Ownership



Forests provide many other environmental and economic goods and services such recreation, wildlife, water protection, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and aesthetics. These benefits to Pennsylvania residents are not reported in this data set.

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Sources: Penn State Timber Market Report; 1993 USDA Forest Service, Northeast Forest Experimental Station GTR NE-126; 1994 USDA Northeastern Forest Experimental Station GTR NE-136; USDA Census of Agriculture 1997; PA Department of Labor; Minnesota IMPLAN group, Inc. 1997 data.

<sup>1</sup> Annual economic contribution is the value added of the sector to the local economy