

# THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RHODE ISLAND'S FORESTRY & WOOD PRODUCTS SECTOR

A report produced by Dr. Tom Sproul of URI, in coordination with the RI DEM, with RIFCO, RI Tree Farm Committee, and RI Chapter of SAF all contributing funds and time on input and review.

The Rhode Island Forestry and Wood Products Sector spans commercial loggers and arborists, Christmas tree farms, forest consultants, sawmills, wood products manufacturers, woodland owners and woodworkers. These 513 firms (not including land owners) generated 2,496 jobs and \$408.0 million of gross sales in 2016. Including spillover effects across all sectors of the Rhode Island economy, the total economic impact was 4,844 jobs and output of \$716.4 million (+/- 17.9%).

This study is the first to measure the economic impact of the RI Forestry and Wood Products Sector using an approach in which businesses are hand-counted to estimate jobs, gross sales, and

economic impacts across the state. We find Arborists comprise the largest subsector by jobs and number of firms, while Milling and Manufacturing is the largest by annual gross sales.

The table below, which is a screen-shot right out of the report, shows the estimates of direct and indirect impacts that are felt in this sector of RI's economy. This economic impact study will allow us to monetize the importance of enhancing and conserving our forested landscape. The RI Woodland Partnership will be incorporating these figures into its effort in this regard.

For a digital copy of this report and the technical appendix that accompanies it, visit [www.rifco.org](http://www.rifco.org) for a link to the pdf files.

More information on economic impact studies that Dr. Sproul has been working on, including farms, nurseries, fisheries, and aquaculture can be found on [www.riepr.org](http://www.riepr.org).

## Economic Impact Estimates

Impact Type	Jobs	Value Added, \$M	Output, \$M
Direct Effect	2,496	158.77	402.14
Indirect Effect	1,220	88.90	158.30
Induced Effect	1,127	95.64	155.97
<b>Total Effect</b>	<b>4,844</b>	<b>343.31</b>	<b>716.41</b>
(+/-)	(865)	(61.32)	(127.95)