

Domestic roundwood production totaled 17.2 million cubic meters in 2005, which is equivalent to only 30 percent of the peak in 1967 (52.7 million cubic meters). In 2005, Japan's self-sufficiency rate for lumber was 20.0 percent. Currently, Japan depends mostly on imported lumber for pulp, woodchip and plywood material.

The slowdown in domestic lumber production has resulted in a decline in the number of workers engaged in forestry. In 2005, there were 47,000 workers engaged in forestry, a level which represented only 70 percent of the number recorded five years before. Also, one out of four workers was aged 65 and over, highlighting the aging of the labor force.

Table 5.6
Supply of Industrial Roundwood

							(Thousand cubic meters)
Year	Total	Domestic logs					Imported logs ¹⁾
		Total	By use				
			Saw-logs	Plywood	Pulp and chips	Others	
2000	99,263	18,022	12,798	138	4,749	337	81,241
2002	88,127	16,077	11,142	279	4,370	286	72,050
2003	87,191	16,155	11,214	360	4,293	288	71,036
2004	89,799	16,555	11,469	546	4,249	291	73,245
2005	85,857	17,176	11,571	863	4,426	316	68,681

1) Including wood products converted into log equivalence.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.