

State of Forest-based Industries

The forest-based industries in the State of Iowa represented 8 percent of the manufacturing sector's annual payroll and represents 10 percent of the manufacturing sector's employment.

	Annual Payroll (Thousand Dollars)	Employment
Forest-based Industry*	\$789,030	21,944
Total Manufacturing	\$9,287,817	224,655

Source: Census Bureau 2006

* Forest-Based Industries consists of all industries that use wood as a part of the finished product.

Project Spotlight

During the last 4 years of the Wood Education and Resource Center's activities, the Center provided \$30,000 that was matched with \$30,000 from partners for one project. A brief summary of the project follows:

Project Title:

Evaluating the Potential of Applying Lean Manufacturing Techniques to Smaller-Sized Wood Businesses in Iowa



WOOD EDUCATION
AND RESOURCE CENTER

The Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) is administered by the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. WERC's mission is to facilitate

networking and information exchange with the forest products industry, in order to enhance opportunities that sustain forest products production. WERC's programs support managerial and technical innovation that keep businesses competitive, and provide state-of-the-art training, technology transfer, and applied research. The center consists of offices, training facilities, and a rough mill in Princeton, WV, and serves the 35 States in the eastern hardwood region of the United States.

WWW.NA.FS.FED.US/WERC/



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The project developed and evaluated a Lean Manufacturing Model that uses technology transfer of lean manufacturing principles to adapt it to smaller-sized secondary wood processing businesses in Iowa. Testing of the model was conducted at five secondary wood processing businesses. Employees received training in continuous improvement processes that can be used to identify and implement future improvements. Training materials were designed to be industry specific to reduce learning time and to encourage business adaptability. The processes used and the results achieved were documented and developed into a comprehensive final report detailing the Lean Manufacturing Model that can be adapted for small-sized wood businesses throughout the Northeastern Area.

Detailed information about these projects can be found at the WERC website location: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/projects.shtm>.



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