

Analysis of Forestry Statistics for Nova Scotia 1997 to 2018

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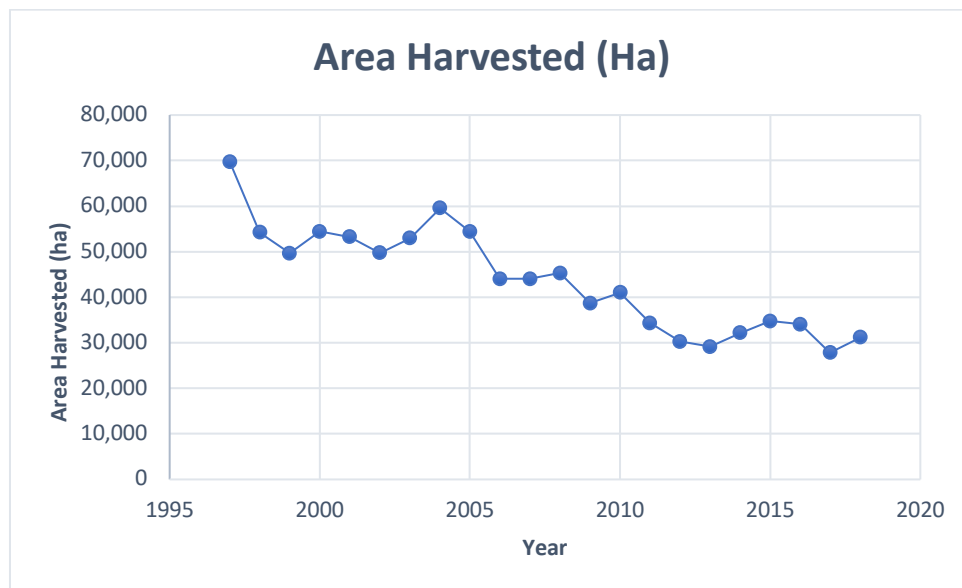
This analysis is based on data obtained from Statistics Canada

(<https://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/statsprofile/employment/NS>)

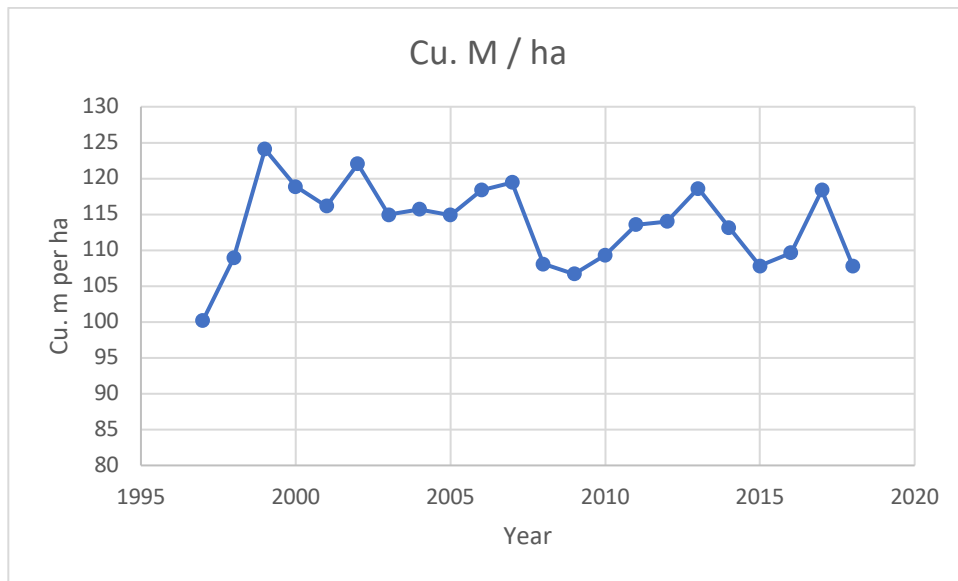
Here I present the data in graphical form showing relationships that I feel are interesting. I will not interpret the trends but just point out apparent relationships.

Harvest

The annual area harvested has decreased from 70,000 ha in 1997 to just over 30,000 ha in 2018. Between 1998 and 2005 area harvested varied between 50 and 60 thousand hectares, between 2006 and 2010 it varied between 40 and 50 thousand and between 2011 and 2018 it varied between 30 and 40 thousand hectares.



The cubic metre per hectare over this period has varied between 125 and 105 between 1998 and 2018. Despite variability, there appears to be a slight decrease over this period.

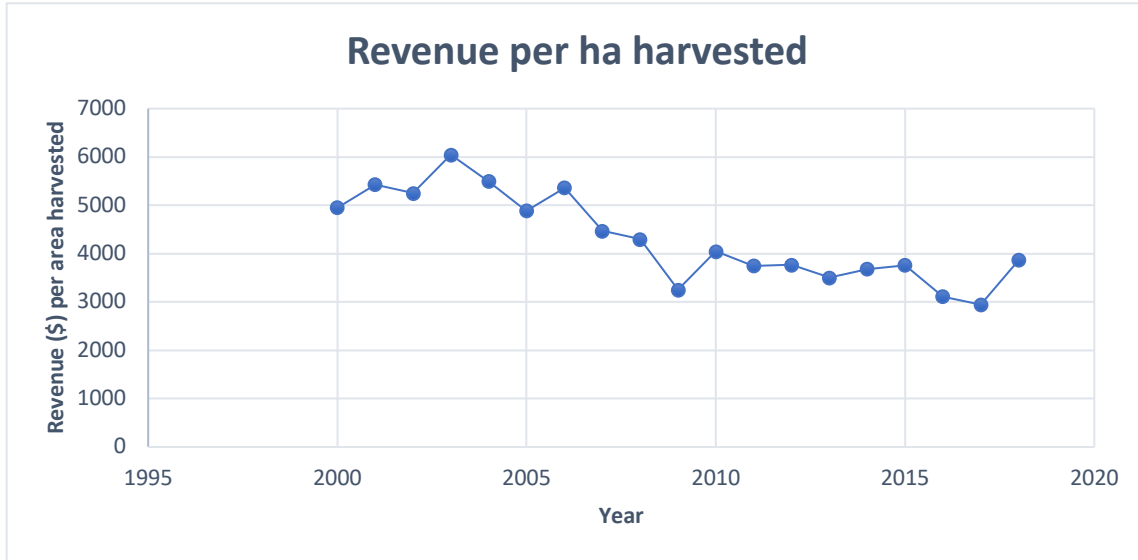


Revenue

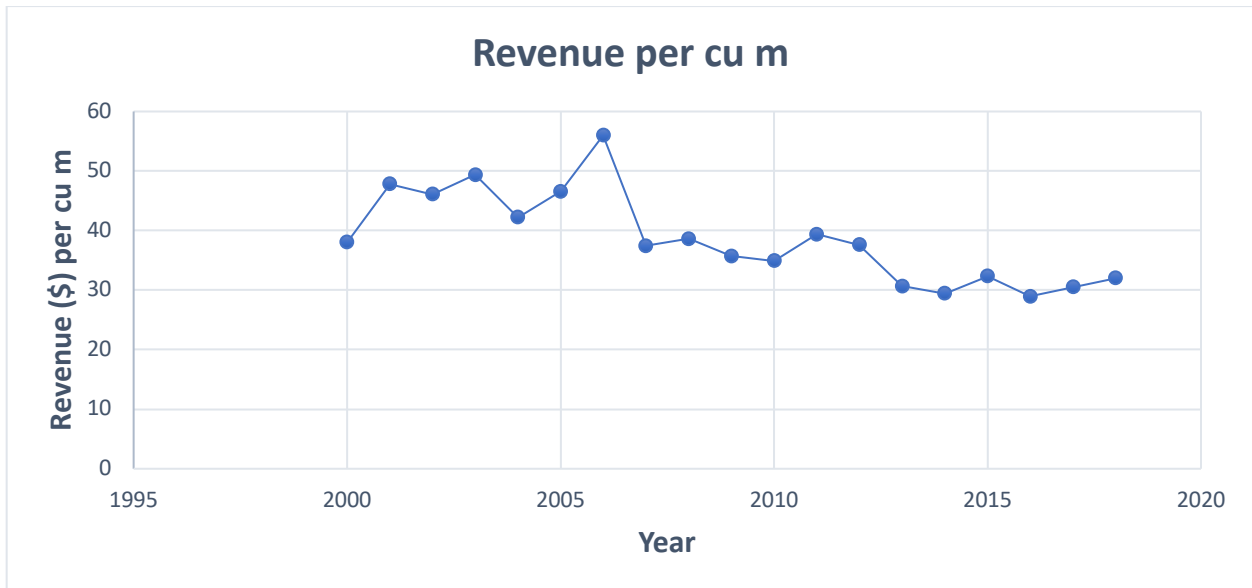
Total revenue from forestry has seen a decrease from \$300 million annually in early 2000 to \$100 million. Revenue hovered around \$300 million between 2001 and 2006. Between 2013 and 2018 revenue has been about \$100 million between 2013 and 2018.



Revenue per hectare harvested has dropped from a high of \$6000 in early 2000 to a low of \$3000 in 2016 and 2017; there is less value being cut. It is noteworthy that Westfor was established in 2016, the year before the jump in revenue per hectare from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

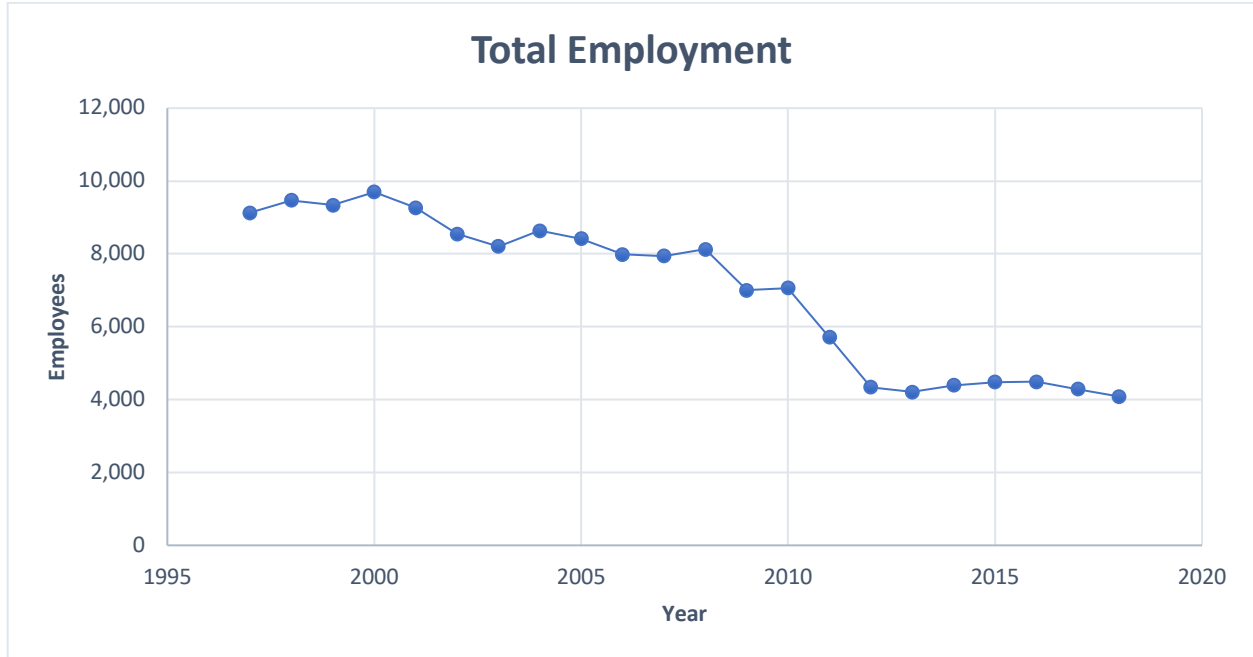


The revenue per cubic metre also reflects a decrease from about \$50 to \$30.

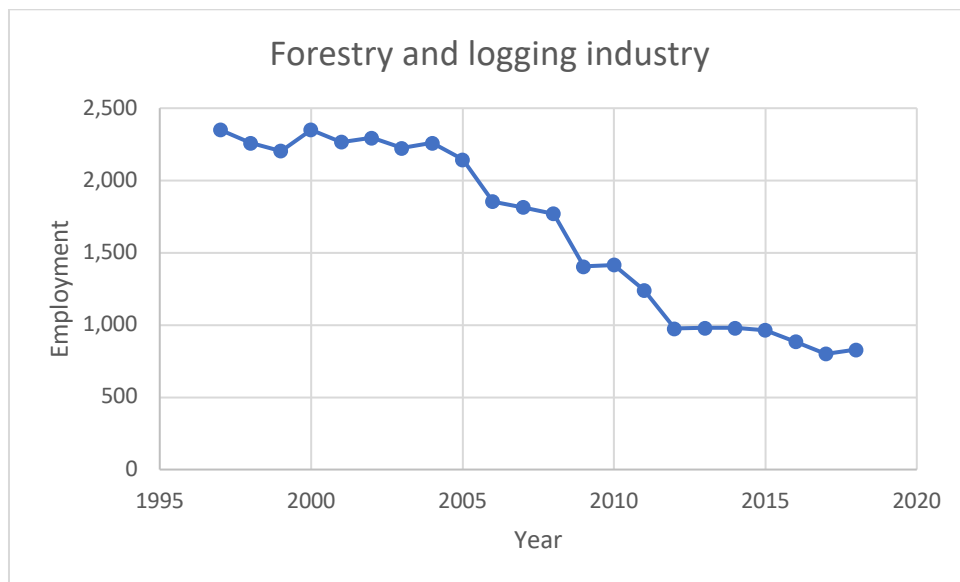


Employment

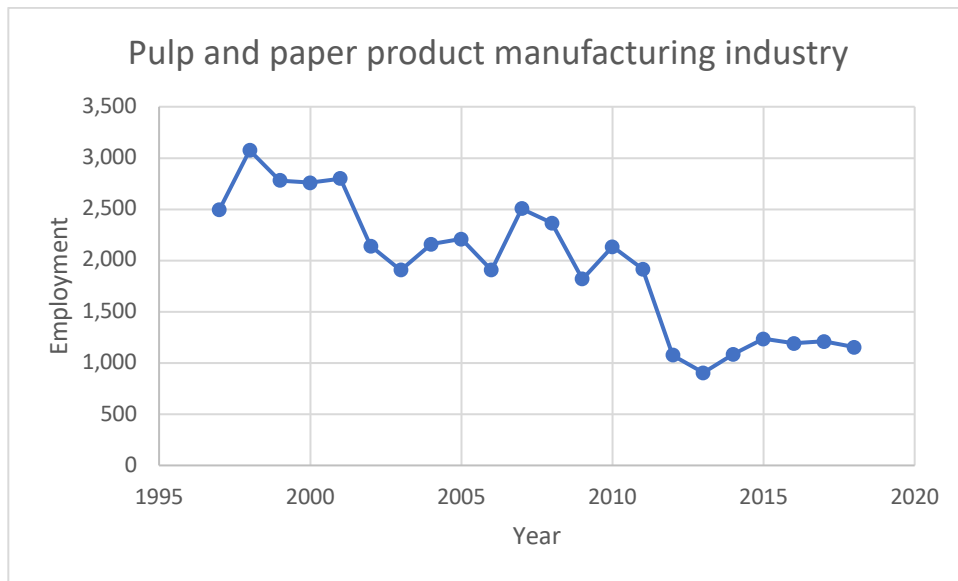
Total employment in forest industries have seen a drop from a high of nearly 10,000 workers to a current low of about 4,000.



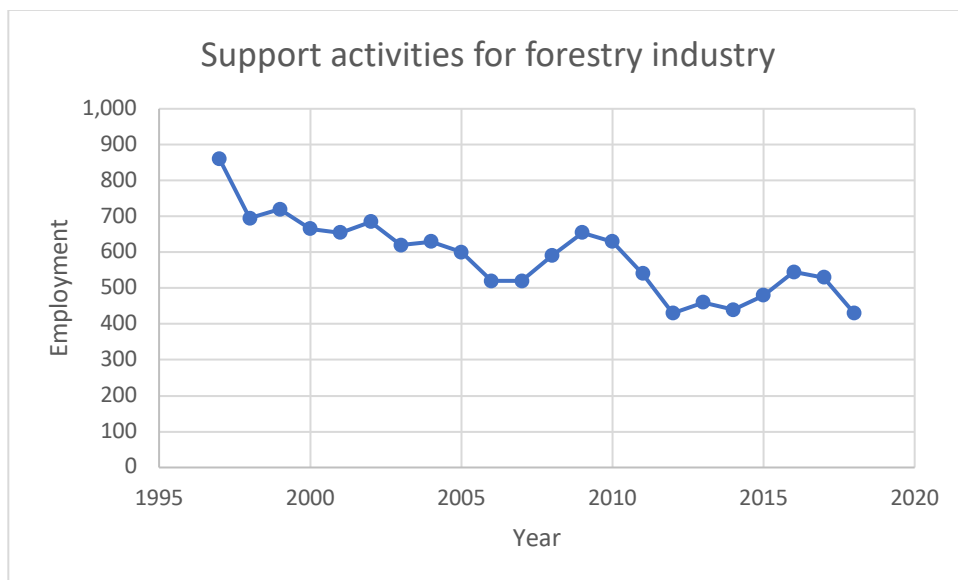
The number of people working in the woods have dropped from just under 2,500 to currently just under 1,000.



The pulp and paper industry has also seen a significant drop from a high of 3,000 to currently just over 1,000. With the recent closure of Northern Pulp this number has dropped even more but data are not available yet from Stats Canada.



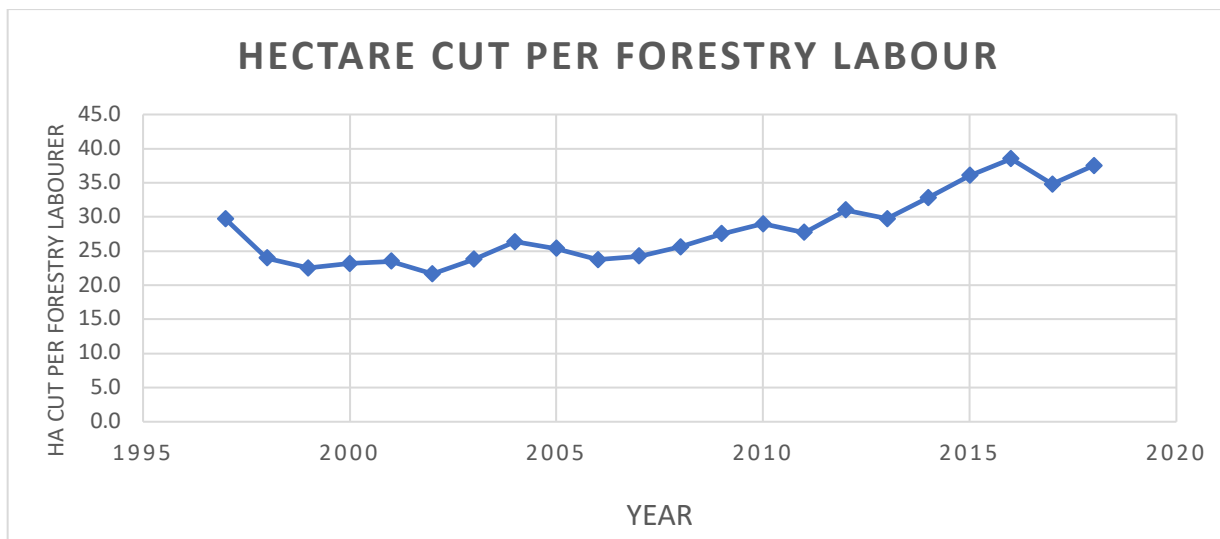
Support workers (not sure what this represents) has also decreased.



Wood products manufacturing has experienced a decrease in number of employees but Between 2011 and 2018 employment seems to be steady. Wood product manufacturing represents value added industries which employs the most people overall.



The decrease in employment in the woods does not seem to be correlated with the decrease in amount of area cut. The amount of area cut per worker has increased steadily and no doubt is a function of increased mechanization.



My personal conclusion: forested land in Nova Scotia has been degraded over many years reflected in the decrease in revenue from area harvested and cubic metre of wood obtained per hectare.