

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,  
1956-present

University Relations

---

8-10-1979

### UM collects data on state forest products industry

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

---

#### Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM collects data on state forest products industry" (1979). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 30446.  
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/30446>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

# UM news

information services • university of montana • missoula, montana 59812 • (406) 243-2522

Lenihan/stc  
8/10/79  
Special

IMMEDIATELY

## UM COLLECTS DATA ON STATE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

by Mary Lenihan  
UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research

MISSOULA--

For many years, the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research has followed the ups and downs of Montana's forest products industry. Articles about the industry have appeared in the Bureau's regular publication, the Montana Business Quarterly, several times over the years because of the industry's importance as a source of employment and earnings for Montanans and its impact on the management of one of the state's major natural resources -- its timberlands.

However, in spite of the importance of the forest products industry, economic data about the industry have always been rather sketchy. Past studies have generally relied upon information pieced together from several sources, such as the U.S. Forest Service, the Montana Forestry Division, the Montana Employment Security Division, and various industry trade associations, but there never has been a comprehensive source of information on the various aspects of the industry. The bureau found that people in the industry and in the land management agencies also felt this need.

In 1975, bureau staff members met with representatives of industry and the forestry agencies to pursue ways of funding a project to gather and process the needed information. As a result, several offices of the U.S. Forest Service were able to pool their research funds and, through the coordination of the Intermountain

(more)



UM COLLECTS DATA--2

Forest and Range Experiment Station, in Ogden, Utah, fund the Bureau of Business and Economic Research in what became known as the Montana Forest Industries Data Collection System.

The system was initiated through a survey of Montana's primary wood products manufacturers. Bureau personnel compiled basic data on the source and volume of raw materials used by the industry, and the volumes and types of finished products produced in the state for the year 1976. This information served as the basis for several articles and reports. In addition, the system has enabled the bureau to fulfill numerous requests for information regarding the industry. These requests were from federal and state government officials and agencies, industry representatives, and the general public.

Discussions are under way with the Forest Service and other federal agencies with respect to making the collection of industry data a permanent activity of the bureau, with surveys to be conducted on a regular basis. Bureau researchers Charles Keegan and Randle White are in charge of the project, under the direction of bureau director Maxine C. Johnson.

###