Log Production

PF Olsen Group Scheme FSC NC-FM/COC-000190

Aggregate log production is reported annually by calendar year, in tonnes.

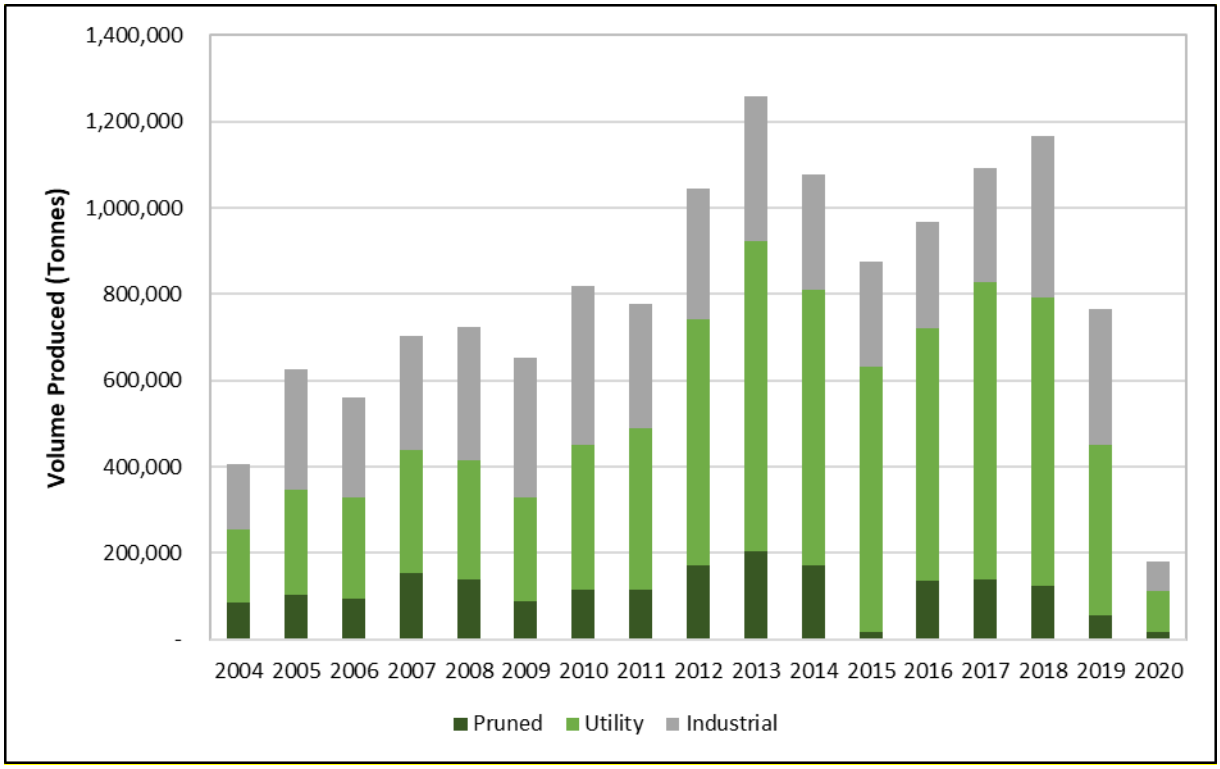
Production is reported in aggregated log categories representing a range of log grades that conform to a general form of value or end use.

The aggregates are:

- Pruned Logs – all fully or partly pruned logs, usually of higher value and destined for domestic or export markets utilising solid finishing timbers.
- Utility Logs – Knotty and high stiffness logs destined for structural and semi-structural use in domestic and internationally based construction markets.
- Industrial Logs – Lower grade logs and residues used in the manufacture of wood pulp, paper and fibreboard products as well as roundwood for agricultural posts and poles.

Production statistics for the past years are listed and graphed below.

FSC Certified Log Production and Sales



Over time the total volume harvested each year has reflected market conditions, number of members within the Group Scheme and the age of their trees. For example, for the first few years the harvested volume was increasing at a reasonably steady rate, reflecting an increase in membership. Then in 2009 there was a decrease following the US housing crisis and the world financial crisis, despite further new producing members coming into the group scheme. This was then followed by stronger markets pushing totals back upward through 2010 and 2013. The 2011 year showed a decline as two significant group scheme members were removed from the scheme following sales of the forests to other parties.

From 2013 until 2018, total FSC volumes were in a state of flux, predominantly reflecting the age-class distribution of the Group Scheme membership, and the mixture of clients who make up the membership of the Group Scheme.

Over the last few years, there has been a rise in interest in FSC certification again, predominantly inspired by conditions of sale imposed by the Overseas Investment Office, and by increased expectations by both the public and domestic and overseas buyers that the logs they purchase will be certified. In particular, mills in the Nelson and Otago/Southland regions are moving away from accepting non-certified wood because of the prevalence of certified wood in those areas.

Towards the end of 2019 and the start of 2020, the log markets took a significant downturn as the first effects of Covid-19 were felt, first in China, and then across the rest of the world. While the markets initially bounced back after the Level 4 lockdown was lifted in New Zealand in April 2020, they continue to experience fluctuations that will probably continue for some time.