

# **SAWMILLING IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**2 September 2014**

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# HISTORY



- × 1652 → Indigenous wood used primitively  
Construction and furniture use
- × 1802 – 1860 → First commercial sawmill  
Located in Knysna
- × 1910 → Introduction of exotic specie plantings in plantations  
Pine and Eucalyptus  
Supplementing indigenous resource
- × 1937 → First two sawmills commissioned by State  
George and Elandshoek  
Small private sawmilling started
- × 1970 – 1980 → State announced curtailment in development in  
sawmilling
- × 1980 – today → Private sawmilling growth
- × 2000 – today → State plantation privatization packages

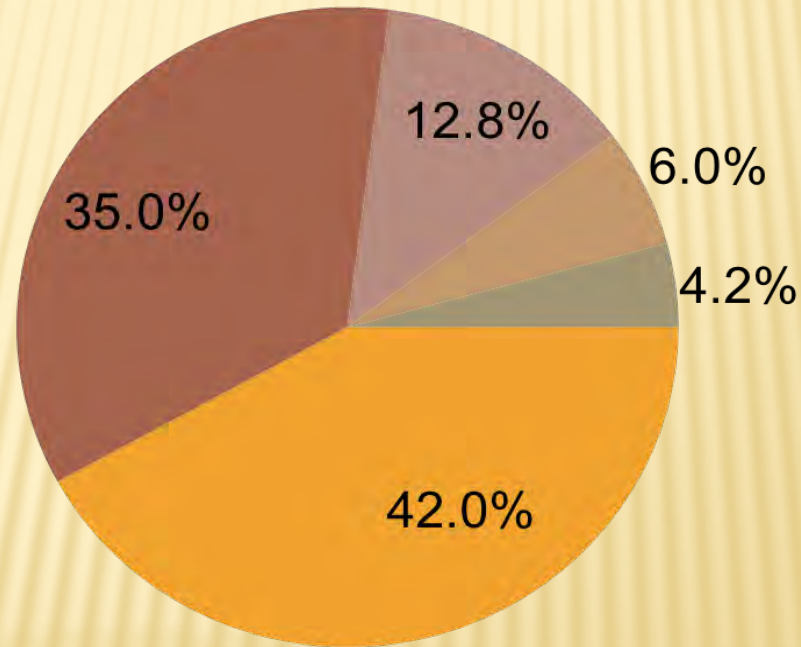
# INDUSTRY TODAY



- ✘ Well developed Industry, more than 200 enterprises producing lumber
- ✘ Pine sawmilling is dominant
- ✘ Structural Pine market is the most important
- ✘ Imported lumber plays a role – Mainly in furniture industry
- ✘ Exports very limited
- ✘ Classification of Pine sawmills;
  - + Formal sawmills. (*kiln drying, SANS grading*)
  - + Informal sawmills (*air drying, basic grading*)
  - + Bush mills ( *wet lumber production, produce lower grade utility lumber*)
  - + Seasonal mills (*opportunistic milling*)
- ✘ Beneficiation of Pine is limited – Roof truss's
- ✘ Beneficiation of Imported lumber is high - Furniture
- ✘ Large employer in rural areas
- ✘ Limited returns
- ✘ Renewable resource being maintained

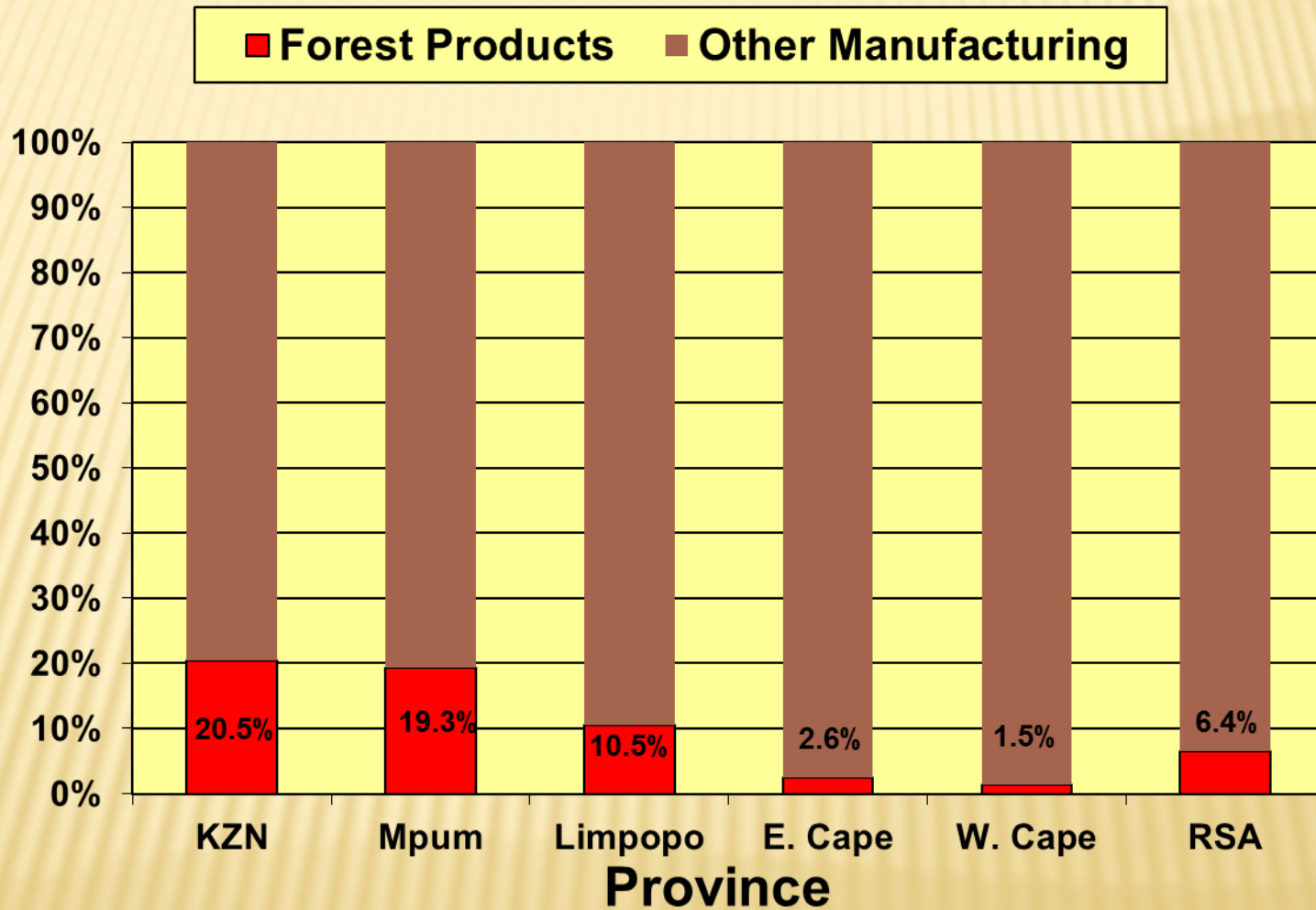
# INVESTMENT IN SECTOR

■ Mpumalanga ■ KZN ■ E. Cape ■ W. Cape ■ Limpopo



**Investment - R 46 billion**

# CONTRIBUTION TO GDP



R 35.4 billion (27 % of Agric GDP)

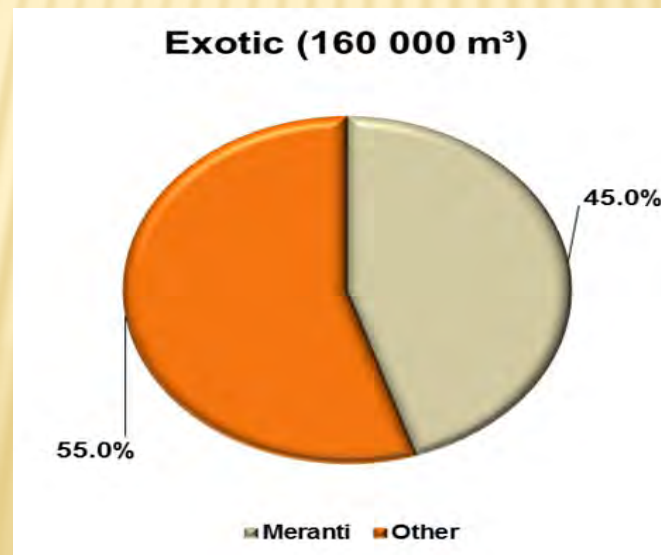
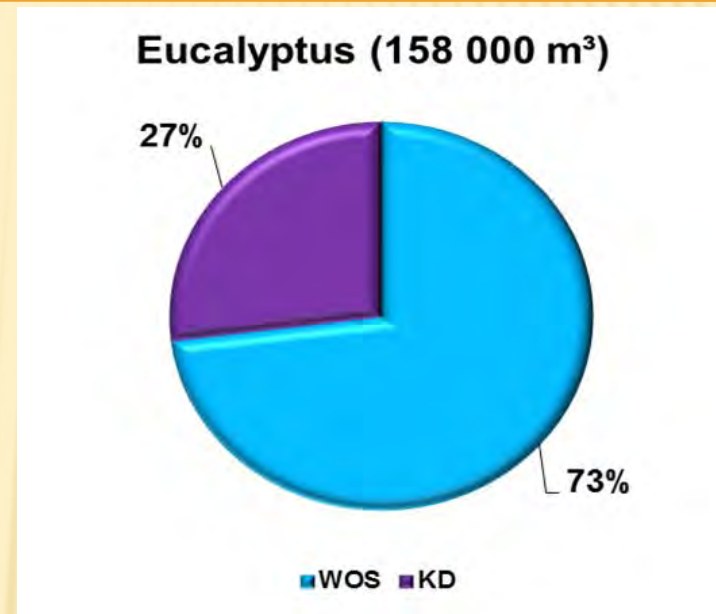
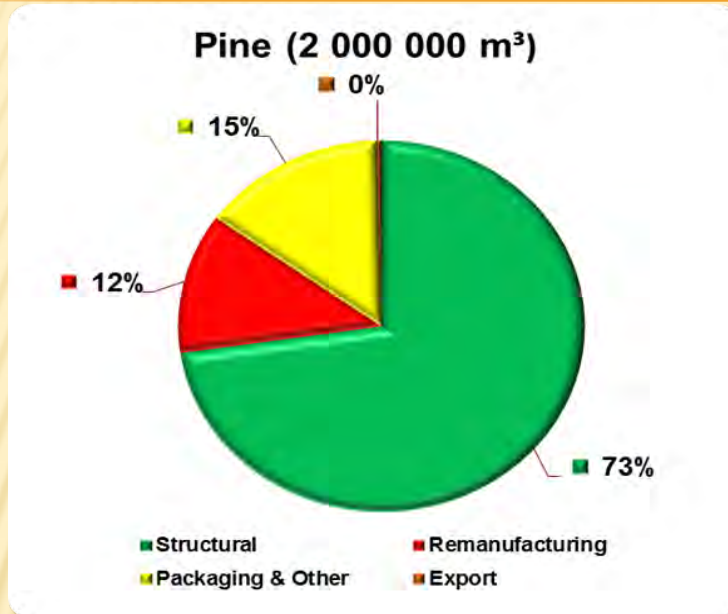
# SAWMILLING



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# SPECIES AND VOLUME

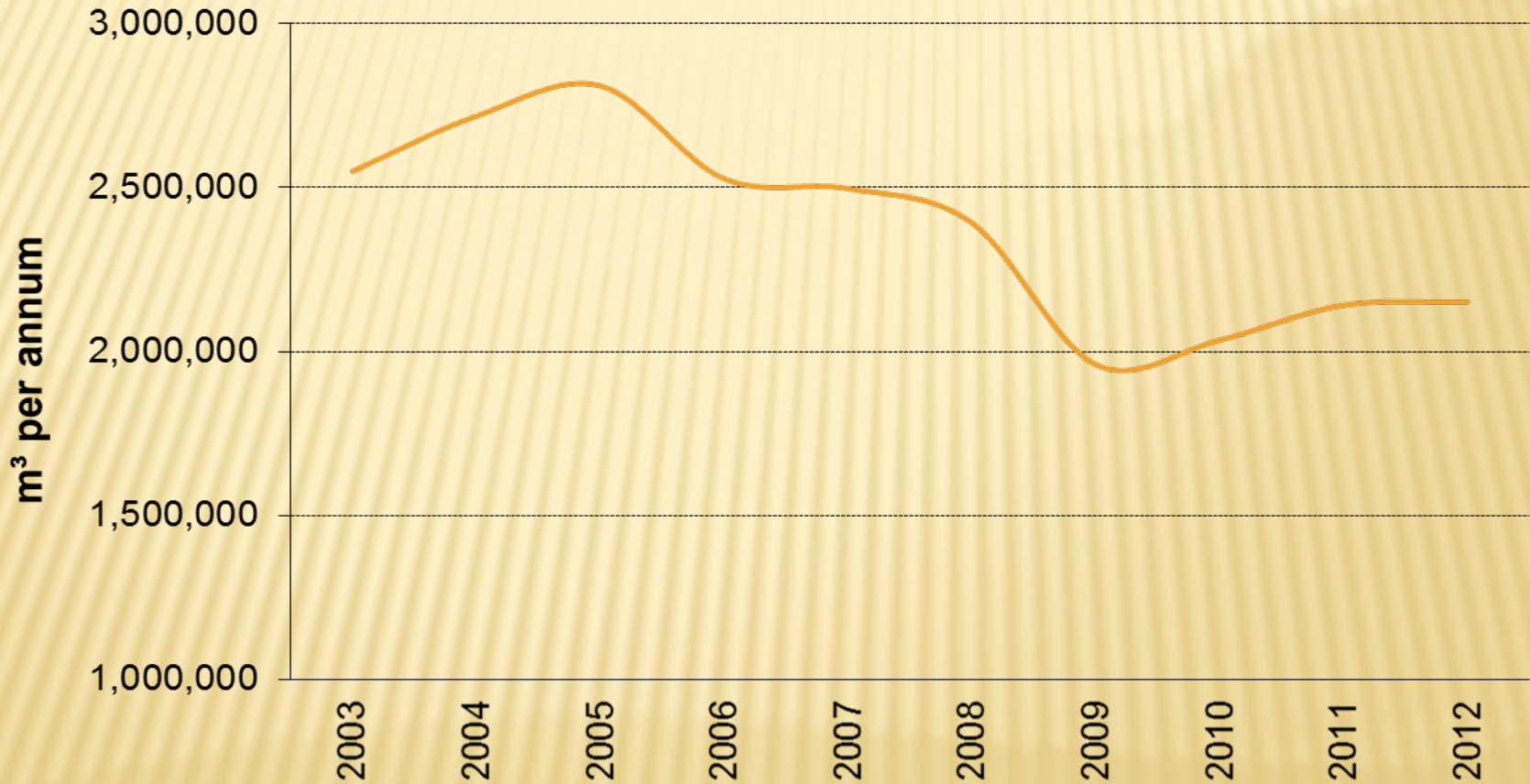


Source: Industry stats

# DEMAND



**Total Annual Sales**  
2003 to 2012

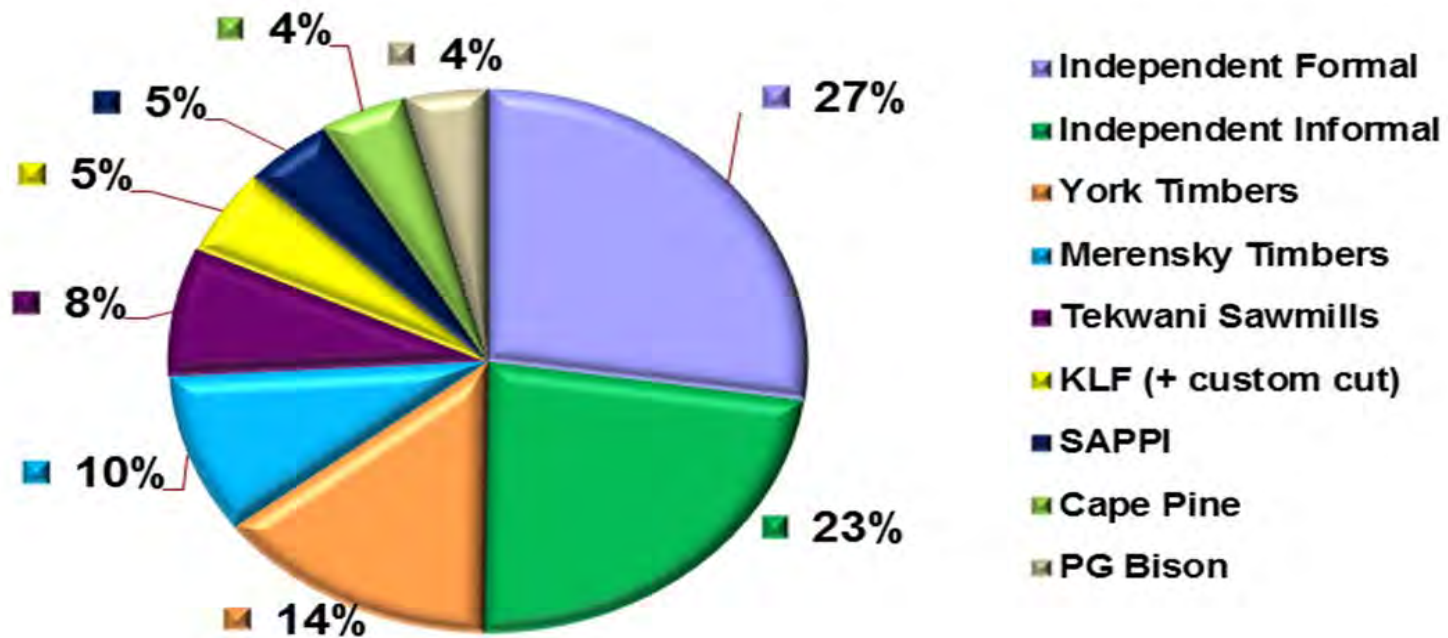


Source: Crickmay



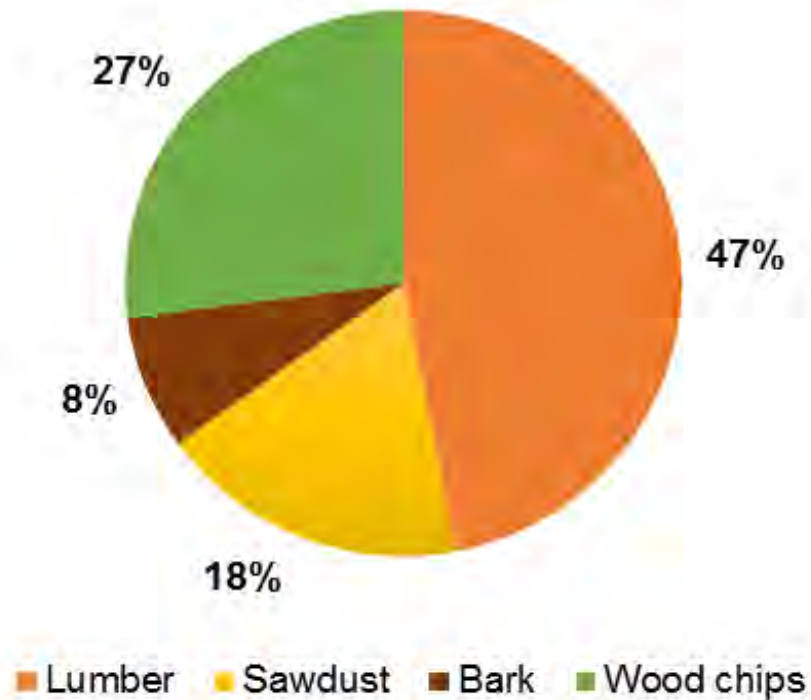
# MAIN PLAYERS

## Sawn Softwood Market Share by Ownership



# PRODUCTS PRODUCED

## Products from sawmilling



# PINE LUMBER PRODUCTS

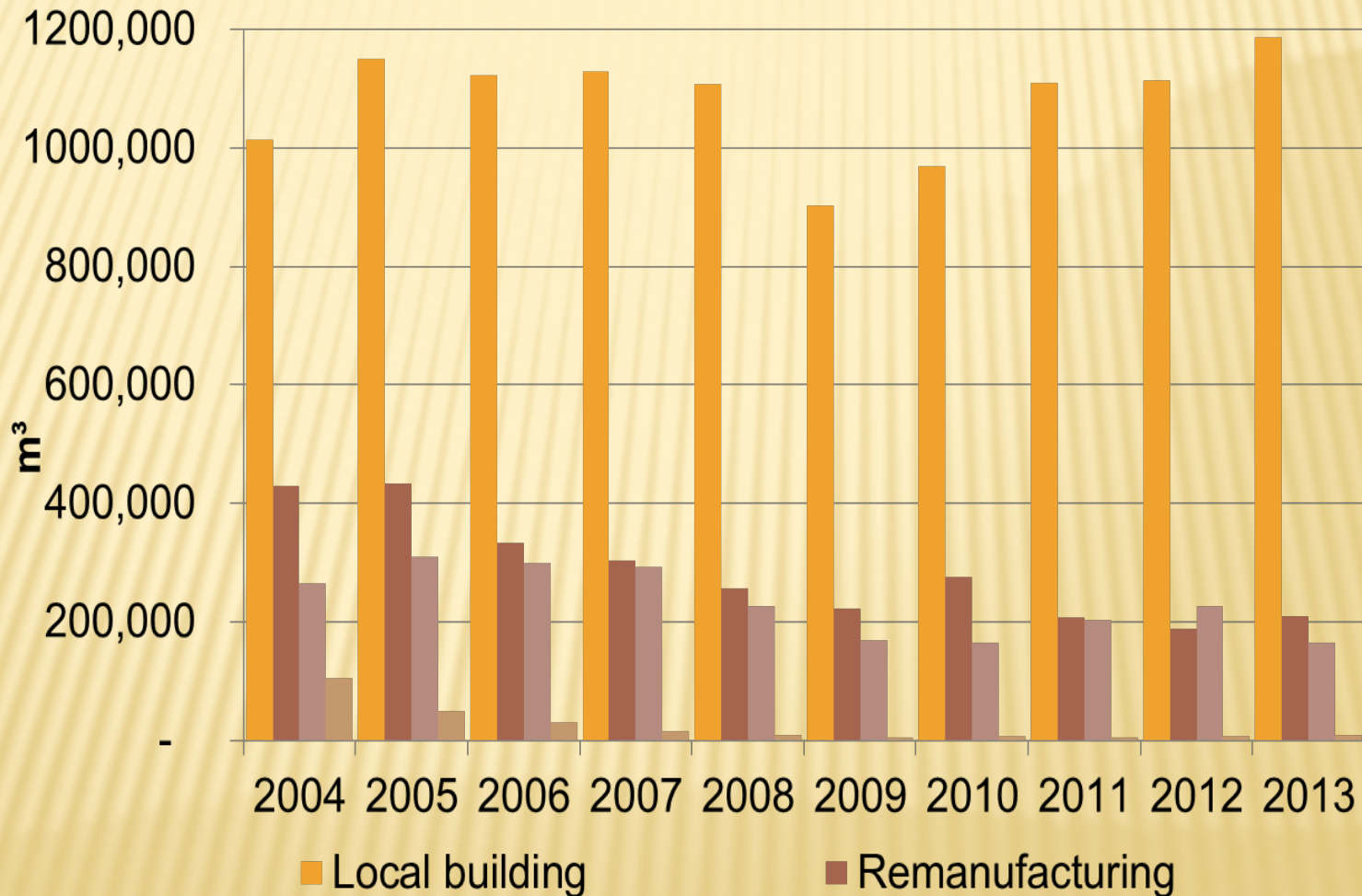
## Pine lumber products



# LUMBER SALES BY END USE



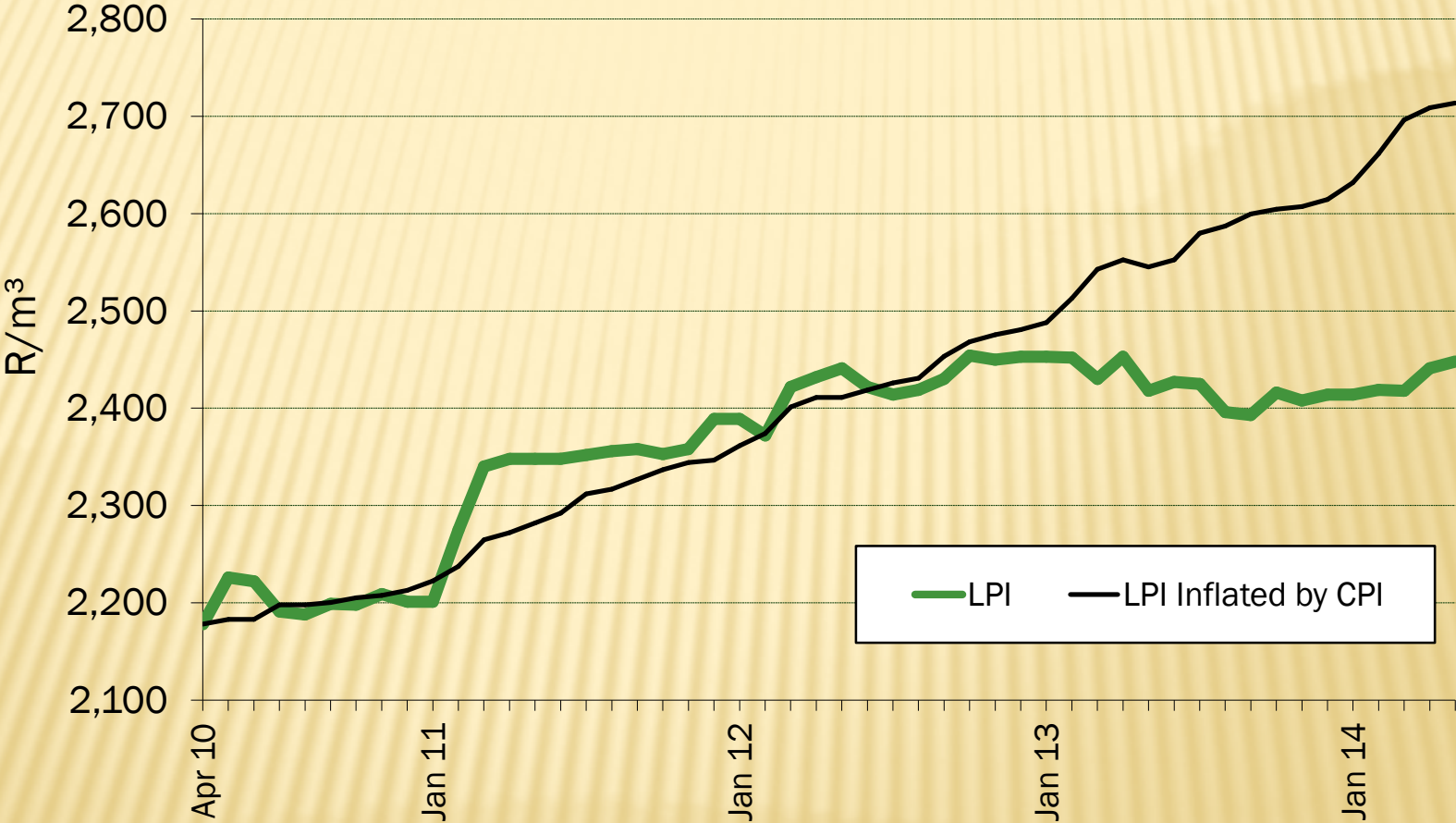
Sawmilling  
South Africa



Source: SA Lumber Index, Crickmay

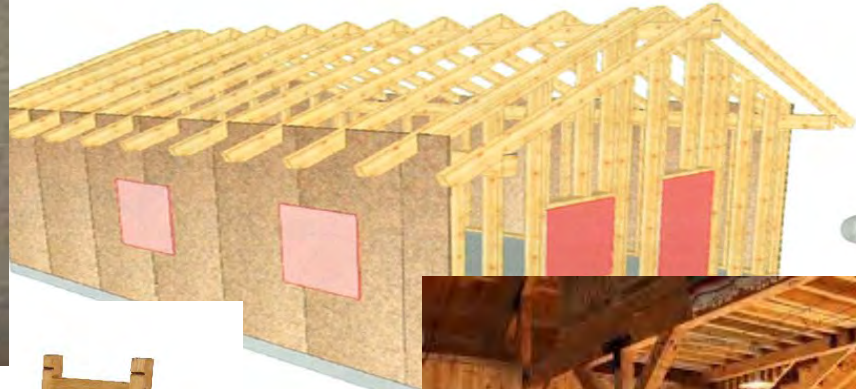
# DELIVERED PRICE: APR 2010 TO MAY 2014

May 2014 LPI R2,448/m<sup>3</sup>

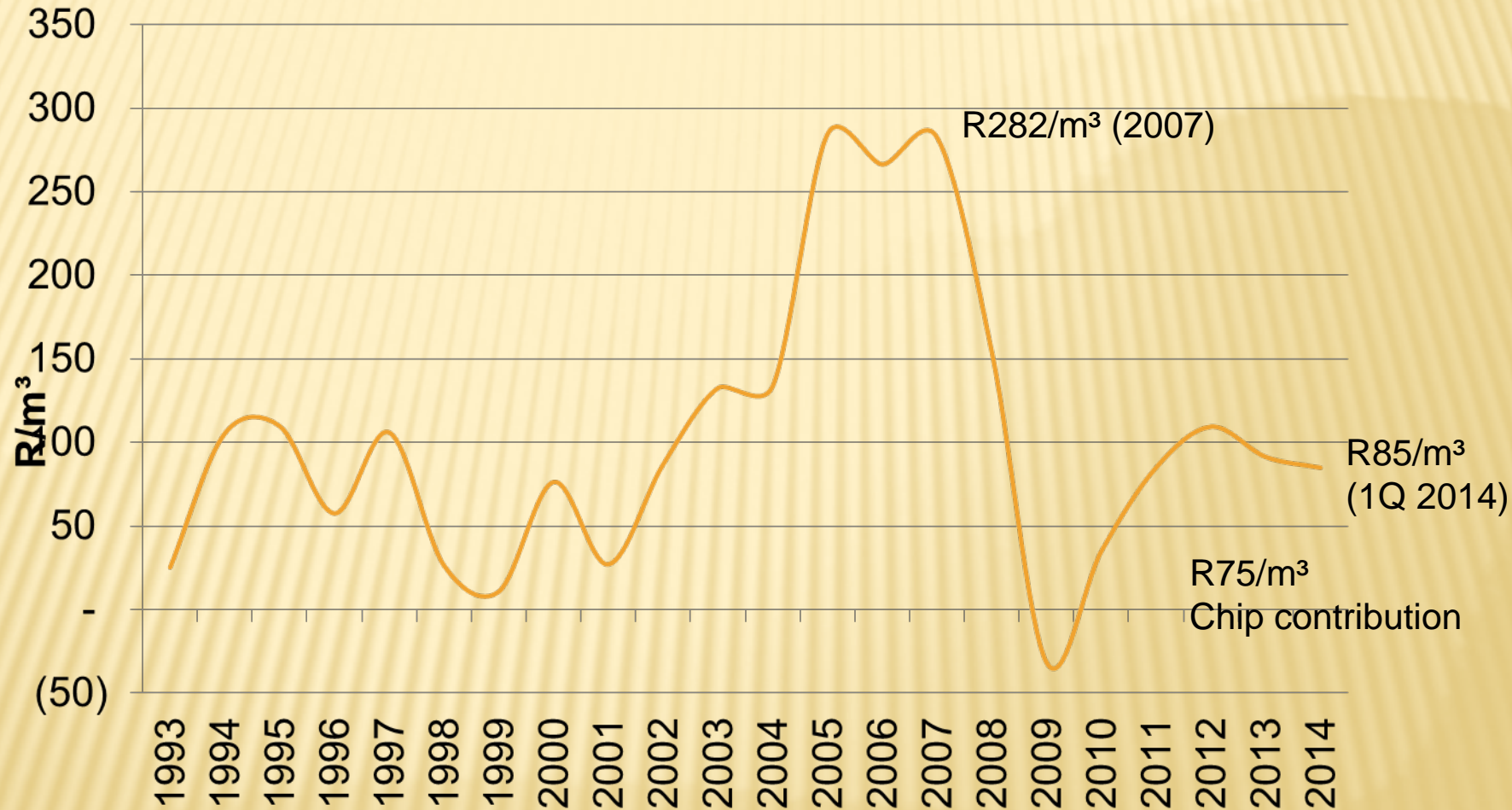


[LPI inflated base Apr 2010]

# SAWMILLING



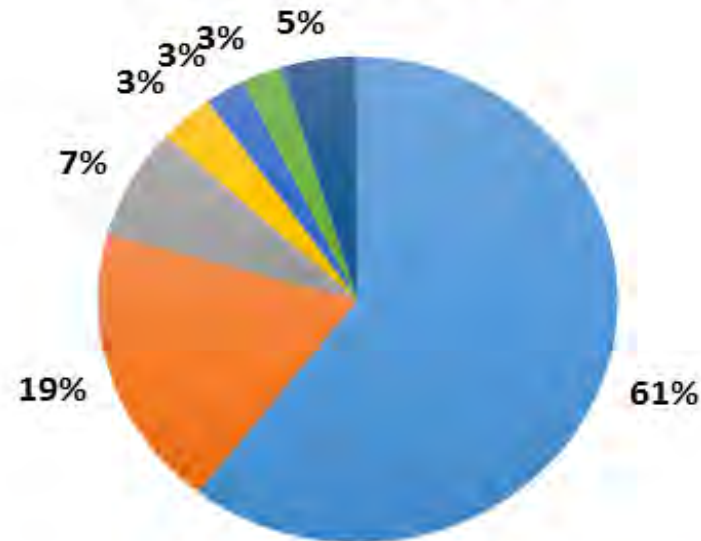
# INDUSTRY PROFITABILITY



Source: Intermill Comparison, Crickmay

# KEY INPUT COSTS

## Key input costs



Raw material    People    Maintenance    Power and water  
Kilns and boilers    Vehicles    Other

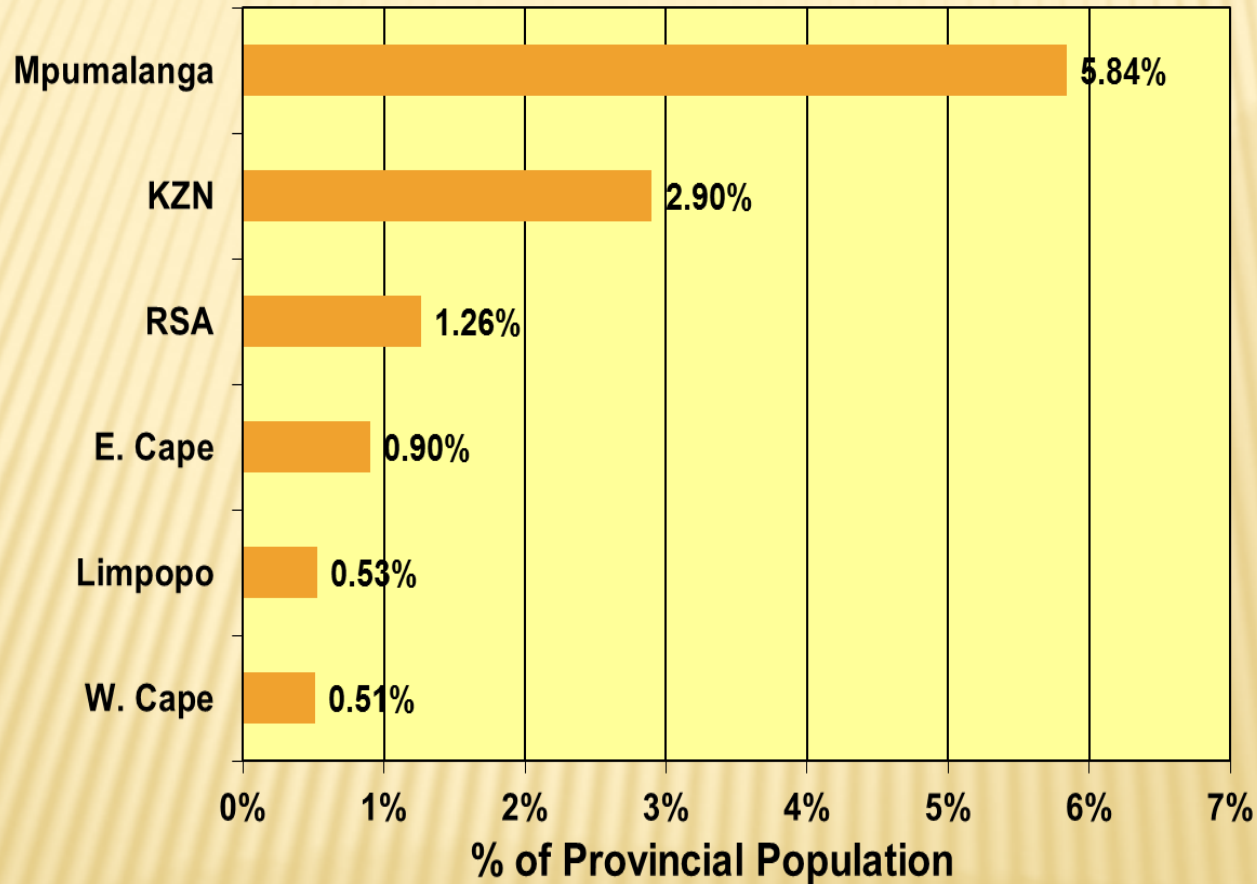


# EMPLOYMENT



Sub-sector	No. of employees		Total Employment
	Direct	Indirect	
Forestry	62,700	30,000	92,700
Pulp and Paper	13,200	10,800	24,000
Sawmilling	20,000	10,000	30,000
Timber Board	6,000	n/a	6,000
Mining Timber	2,200	n/a	2,200
Other	11,000	n/a	11,000
Total	115,100	50,800	165,900

# ESTIMATED % OF POPULATION DEPENDANT ON FORESTRY INDUSTRY (2011)



Total Population
4 040 000
10 267 000
51 771 000
6 562 000
5 405 000
5 823 000

**Total population – 51.8 million**

# STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE



- ✘ Section 12.9 of Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP)
- ✘ Beneficiates a local resource
- ✘ Supplies feed stock to
  - + Building & Construction
  - + Furniture & Joinery
  - + Packaging
- ✘ Eco Friendly Industry
  - + Renewable resource raw material
  - + Capable of generating own energy requirements
  - + Primary lumber processing in rural areas
- ✘ Rural and Urban job creation
- ✘ SMME opportunity broker
- ✘ Infrastructure user
- ✘ Skills development-incubator

# DOWN STREAM BENEFICIATION



- ✘ Lumber beneficiation into products such as
  - + Roof truss
  - + Housing (Timber frame)
  - + Joinery (doors, flooring, paneling, moldings)
  - + Furniture
  - + Packaging (pallets, Fruit boxes, cable drums, Dunnage)
  
- ✘ Import replacement of Tropical hardwoods (Eucalyptus)
- ✘ Product development opportunities from renewable resource
- ✘ Industry unable to compete Internationally against Countries where there is Government subsidies assisting Industry developments
- ✘ Imported Exotics are virtually exclusively used in the value adding market segment

# ENHANCING BENEFICIATION



- ✘ Export incentive schemes of lumber export to assist with:
  - + Marketing of oversupply of lumber Internationally as currently there is a risk of job losses relating to potential mill closures
  - + Skills development to enhance productivity
  - + Resource utilization improvements programs → Product development
  - + Out-bound transport / logistics
- ✘ Carbon footprint acknowledgement and exploitation
- ✘ Incentives for value adding of by-products → Energy
- ✘ Carbon Tax re-bate vs rain tax
- ✘ Cost reduction initiatives to ensure competitiveness
  - + Railways as a means of transport vs Road
  - + Productivity program enhancement
  - + Equipment replacement assistance.
- ✘ Job security in the plantations
- ✘ Assistance with log marketing (free market principle to remain)  
(compete with NZ and Canada focusing on log export to East

# SUNMMARY



## CHALLENGES

- ✘ Prolonged construction market weakness
- ✘ Cost pressures
  - ✘ Rising administered costs and taxes
- ✘ Skills shortage
- ✘ Profitability
- ✘ Infrastructure
  - + Roads & Rail
- ✘ Government Policy needs to give Stability with regard to
  - ✘ Role of SAFCOL needs to be defined, at present it's a supplier, partner to some and a competitor
  - + BBB-EE
  - + Land Claims
  - + Labor legislation
- ✘ Aging equipment/facilities

# SUMMARY CONTINUED

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## OPPORTUNITIES

- ✘ Promotion of the use of renewable resource; Green building
- ✘ Downstream beneficiation into non construction products
  - + Furniture, joinery
- ✘ Expansion into export markets
  - + Assistance needed to make SA Internationally Competitive
- ✘ Ability to grow the Forestry resource and create jobs
  - + Governments undertaking to streamline licensing procedure
  - + Development of the committed 100k ha
- ✘ Construction of dwellings
  - + Use and approval for timber dwellings in sub-economic housing



**THANK YOU**

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