

Tropical Timber Market Report

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Top story

Initiatives to stabilise the property market in China

China has announced new initiatives to boost household consumption of durable goods. Construction of affordable housing will also be increased.

Specific measures include: transforming urban villages, supporting the purchase of existing commercial housing by urban governments, introducing tax policies to promote the real estate market, lowering interest rates on housing loans and expanding the categories of people eligible for housing loans.

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Central and West Africa

Tariff shock waves

The president of the African Development Bank said an onslaught of tariffs by the United States will send "shock waves" through African economies, warning of reduced trade and higher debt-servicing costs.

Arfica.com has quoted Ecobank CEO, Jeremy Awori, as urging African nations to boost intra-continental trade to cushion the impact of US tariffs which threaten many of the continent's economies.

The US is Africa's fourth-largest trading partner and as such the new tariffs could have a disproportionate impact on the continent as they undermine demand for the continent's exports.

Awori called for accelerated implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), removal of non-tariff barriers and more local value addition to raw materials as a means of weathering the effects of US tariff realignment and earlier announced aid cuts that could push millions of people into extreme poverty.

See: <https://africa.com/228500-2/>

Regional update

Cameroon

Road and rail operations to Douala and Kribi Ports are reported as generally stable and container availability remains good with sufficient empty containers in stock.

Northern Cameroon has experienced severe flooding (with considerable damage to housing and infrastructure reported) but the weather has not significantly disrupted operations in the south.

Gabon

The domestic press has quoted the Ministry of Economy as saying in the fourth quarter of 2024 the timber industry recorded a sharp decline marked by a 6.6% drop in the composite index for sectoral activities compared to the previous quarter.

This slowdown, says the press, was mainly due to insufficient log supplies and weakening Chinese demand.

The sawmill production index posted a 5.3% quarter-on-quarter decline for the third consecutive quarter fueled by a sparse order book as well as operational constraints including frequent power outages.

The veneer production index was down 4% compared to the previous quarter. The plywood production index recorded the sharpest decline, -24% compared to the third quarter of 2024. This decline was explained by electricity shortages and log availability. However, for the year plywood production showed a notable increase of 27%.

It is reported that in Nkok's Special Economic Zone around 50% of Indian veneer peeler mills have closed because of a lack of orders from their regular customers.

See: <https://www.lenouveaugabon.com/fr/agro-bois/1104-20542-bois-le-gabon-enregistre-un-repli-de-6-6-de-l-activite-au-4e-trimestre-2024>

Republic of the Congo

Operators report logging operations continue without major disruption and road and rail transport to Douala Port remain open with no recent changes in fees or tolls reported.

Operations remain steady though rains and poor roads continue to be problematic. In general, prices for some timber species (iroko, padouk and okan) have increased slightly but overall business remains quiet.

Chinese engagement in railway, road, housing and mining projects continues to expand and was bolstered by the recent visit by China's Finance Minister. These investments may improve local infrastructure.

Log export prices

West African logs Asian market	FOB Euro per cu.m		
	LM	B	BC/C
Acajou/ Khaya/N"Gollon	220	220	175
Ayous/Obeche/Wawa	220	220	200
Azobe & ekki	250	250	175
Belli	220	220	-
Bibolo/Dibétou	200	200	-
Bilinga	250	250	-
Iroko	270	250	225
Okoume (60% CI, 40% CE, 20% CS) (China only)	180	180	220
Moabi	260	260	220
Movingui	180	180	-
Niove	160	160	-
Okan	210	210	-
Padouk	280	250	200
Sapele	230	230	220
Sipo/Utile	250	250	200
Tali	260	260	-

ATIBT publishes guide on tropical wood structures

The ATIBT has published a guide on African tropical timber structures. ATIBT says the guide is a response to requests from project owners, mainly architects, who want to use tropical woods in public contracts due to their particular performance but who faced difficulties in drafting the specifications of special technical clauses.

Another objective of the guide says ATIBT is to support and promote the certification process for sustainable forest resource management.

See: https://www.atibt.org/files/upload/technical-publications/guide_de_performance_des_ouvrages_africains/ATIBT-GUIDE-DE-PERFORMANCE-DES-OUVRAGES-EN-BOIS-V6.pdf

Sawnwood export prices

West African sawnwood	FOB Euro per cu.m
Ayous FAS GMS	440
Bilinga FAS GMS	680
Okoumé FAS GMS	420
Merchantable KD	400+
Std/Btr GMS	370
Sipo FAS GMS	520
FAS fixed sizes	-
FAS scantlings	540
Padouk FAS GMS	850+
FAS scantlings	900+
Strips	400
Sapele FAS Spanish sizes	530
FAS scantlings	550
Iroko FAS GMS	800
Scantlings	840
Strips	400
Khaya FAS GMS	420
FAS fixed	440
Moabi FAS GMS	550
Scantlings	550
Movingui FAS GMS	460
Okoume Merch	380
Assamela FAS GMS	1,400
Gheombi	450

Ghana

Revision of timber stumpage fees

The Forestry Commission (FC) has concluded negotiations to increase stumpage fees starting with an increase of 30% of the legally mandated fee as of 2 April 2025 to be gradually increased to 70% over the next two years. This was agreed in collaboration with representatives from the Traditional Authorities/Landowners, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL) and the Timber Industry.

Ogyeahoho Yaw Gyebi II, Omanhene of the Sefwi Anhwiaso Traditional Area and President of the National House of Chiefs said after the meeting he praised all parties who attended for the peaceful and collaborative atmosphere of engagement which resulted in the positive outcome to the interest of all stakeholders.

The Chief Executive of the Forestry Commission, Dr. Hugh C.A. Brown, extended his appreciation to all stakeholders for prioritising the review. He emphasised the importance of stumpage fees in supporting the Commission, the traditional authorities and for national development. He also highlighted the legal requirement for periodic fee reviews, against macro-economic factors.

There were concerns on the current stumpage calculations which puts Timber Utilization Contract (TUC) holders at a disadvantage regardless of market conditions.

The chair suggested that the Forestry Commission and the timber industry engage the government on a stumpage formula to implement a new law that would benefit all stakeholders.

See: <https://fcghana.org/timber-stumpage-fees-revised/>

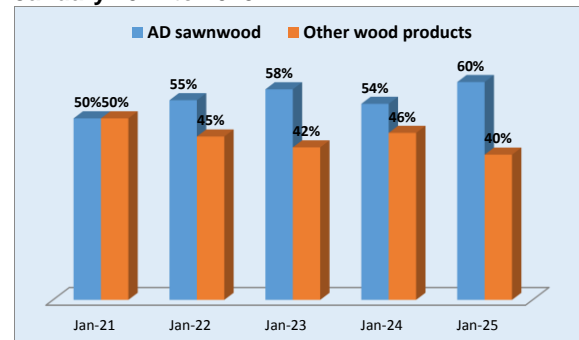
Air dried sawnwood exports number one

Data from the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) industry report published for January 2025 showed that air-dried sawnwood accounted for 60% (12,440 cu.m) of the total export volume for the period (20,594 cu.m)– to maintain its lead as the top wood product exported.

Sawnwood exports registered a 6% volume growth when compared to the same period in January 2024. For the period 2021 to 2025 data also showed that the volume of air-dried sawnwood exports accounted for at least 50% of the total volume of timber and wood exports shipped each year. Kiln-dried sawnwood took the second position to air-dried during the 5-years period, accounting for an average of 15% of the total export volumes with billet and plywood taking the third position.

The reason for the performance of the air-dried sawnwood export volumes compared to kiln-dried, could be attributed to the fewer facilities of the latter and the high energy cost associated with kiln-drying.

Air-dried sawnwood wood export performance, January 2021 to 2025



Data source: TIDD

Fifty (50) registered exporters contributed to the total export volume of the product (12,440cu.m.) for the period. Species that went into the production of sawnwood included teak, denya, kako/ekki, niangon, dahoma, ananta, essa/celtis, odum and dahoma.

While the major market for sawnwood was Asia (India, 85% and Vietnam, 8% twelve other countries accounted for 7% of the total volume.

For the period in 2025, air-dried sawnwood product accounted for 52% of export receipts (Eur 5.10 million) compared to 4.73million in the previous year.

US 10% tariff - call for strengthening local content policy

The 10% across the board tariff on all Ghanaian exports to the US is anticipated to have a dire impact on Ghana’s future commodities trade including wood products.

The president of the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), Dr. Humphrey Ayim-Darke, has cautioned that the weak implementation of the country’s local content policy has left the economy vulnerable to external shocks such as the new US tariff on Ghanaian exports.

On its website the policy think tank IMANI Africa - Ghana says it sees the action by the US as an opportunity for the country and recommended that Ghana expand its trade partners beyond the US to build the leverage to export the same commodities to other markets during such crisis.

It further stated that strengthening Ghana’s regional value chains under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is very crucial. The statement added that by that Ghana can create more demand for local goods and reduce its vulnerability to external shocks such as the recent tariffs.

The report also emphasised that Ghanaian exporters must improve product quality, branding and packaging to differentiate their goods in competitive markets. Exports to the US have been increasing in both volume and value for the last few years.

See: <https://imaniafrica.org/2025/04/criticality-analysis-of-economic-issues-31st-march-to-5th-april-2025/> and <https://thebftonline.com/2025/04/10/u-s-tariffs-a-wake-up-call-for-africas-economic-self-reliance-afcfta-chief/>

90% plus businesses are in the informal sector

According to a Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) survey (Ghana 2024 Integrated Business Establishment Survey) 92% of businesses in Ghana are in the informal sector.

This was disclosed by (the then) government Statistician, Professor Samuel Kobina Anim, who indicated that these informal businesses were identified as entities which fail to keep any formal book-keeping accounts. The report revealed that during the period 2014-2024 over 1.2 million businesses were established with most of these recording low revenues annually.

The GSS identified that at least 55% of large-sized and medium-sized privately owned establishments are in the formal sector. Timber processing companies fall into the medium-sized establishments which are largely privately owned .

See: <https://www.myjoyonline.com/92-3-of-businesses-in-ghana-remain-informal-gss/> and <https://www.myjoyonline.com/ghanas-economy-estimated-at-gh%c2%a21-17trn-gss/>

Boule export prices

	Euro per cu.m
Black Ofram	330
Black Ofram Kiln dry	420
Niangon	650
Niangon Kiln dry	910

Rotary veneer export prices

Rotary Veneer, FOB	Euro per cu.m	
	CORE (1-1.9mm)	FACE (>2mm)
Ceiba	337	410
Chenchen	472	612
Ogea	367	590
Essa	555	656
Ofram	350	435

Export sawnwood prices

Ghana sawnwood, FOB	Euro per cu.m	
	Air-dried	Kiln-dried
FAS 25-100mmx150mm up x 2.4m up		
Afromosia	860	925
Asanfina	465	947
Ceiba	290	295
Dahoma	343	587
Edinam (mixed redwood)	640	741
Emeri	700	758
African mahogany (Ivorensis)	783	874
Makore	692	800
Niangon	795	907
Odum	930	1.161
Sapele	695	858
Wawa 1C & Select	437	471

Plywood export prices

Plywood, FOB	Euro per cu.m		
	Ceiba	Ofram	Asanfina
BB/CC			
4mm	620	580	641
6mm	414	535	604
9mm	433	504	560
12mm	350	489	480
15mm	396	356	430
18mm	460	415	383

Grade AB/BB would attract a premium of 10%, B/BB 5%, C/CC 5% and CC/CC 10%.

Sliced veneer export prices

Sliced face veneer	FOB
	Euro per cu.m
Asanfina	1122
Avodire	2,582
Chenchen	750
Mahogany	1,738
Makore	1,246
Odum	3,453
Sapele	1,505

Malaysia

Discussions on measures to withstand tariff storm

Like many other countries the recently introduced tariffs by the United States have dominated the news headlines and also the focus of the business community. In 2024, Malaysia’s timber exports to the United States were RM198.65 bil out of a total export of RM 1,508 bil.

Key measures to help Malaysia withstand the global tariff storm from the United States are being discussed by the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (Miti).

Among the measures being explored are possibly diversifying Malaysia's current trade and investment interests as well as strengthening the country's supply chains.

Miti also said the government would continue to engage with the United States by leveraging its influence in the Malaysian-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement. Malaysia, as the chair of ASEAN, will also engage in discussions with several member states of the bloc to reach a collective approach.

See: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2025/04/04/measures-to-help-malaysia-weather-trump-tariff-storm-being-discussed-says-miti?gsid=11efc45a-0e05-47d7-8d64-58dcf2acab09>

US importers ask for delayed furniture shipments

The furniture industry has been advised to delay shipments to the United States following the imposition of a 24% tariff by the US government. The Malaysian Furniture Council's deputy president, Matthew Law, said this significant tariff has resulted in some manufacturers postponing shipments due to the prevailing market uncertainty, "some US customers have requested us to temporarily hold off on shipments" he said.

He added "the situation remains unpredictable and it is unclear how much of this cost will be passed on to consumers as manufacturers may absorb some of the impact of duties."

The United States is a crucial market for Malaysian furniture accounting for 60% of the country's exports as of February 2025.

Steve Ong Yeou Huan, president of the Federation of Johor Furniture Manufacturers and Traders Associations, confirmed that several American clients have requested furniture exporters to temporarily suspend shipments to the United States.

"Some furniture export orders are currently on hold due to the uncertainties surrounding the new tariffs," he said. He added "although the 24% tariff imposed on Malaysia is lower than that for some other countries, clients may eventually shift their production to nations with even lower tariffs which would undermine Malaysia's competitiveness."

See: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2025/04/08/furniture-shipments-to-us-put-on-hold-for-now>

All forest workers must be certified

The Sarawak Timber Association (STA) has called on its members to accelerate the training of their forest workers to ensure compliance with the Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015. STA chairman, Henry Lau, said all forest workers must undergo training and obtain Forest Worker Certificates to support sustainable forest management (SFM).

According to Lau, these certificates are now mandatory for license renewals and approvals for the Permit to enter Coupe, as required by the Director of Forests. Lau also highlighted that, since the skills sets offered by the STA Training Co Ltd (STAT) were registered with the Human Resources Development Corporation, members should take advantage of STAT's training provider status.

Looking ahead, Lau said STAT planned to expand its training programmes significantly in the coming years to offer more opportunities for skill development to meet evolving industry standards and regulatory requirements.

See: <https://theborneopost.pressreader.com/article/281560886598209>

AI tool contributes to forest assessment

Telekom Research & Development Sdn Bhd (TM R&D), a subsidiary of The Multimedia University (MMU) was recognised at the Malaysia Technology Excellence Awards 2025 in the AI - Environmental Services category. This recognition celebrates a breakthrough in Smart Forestry AI Tools Enhancement which contributes to forestry assessments and advances biodiversity conservation in Malaysia.

The AI-powered solution, launched in 2024, utilises a mobile app that captures tree images and calculates tree diameters (DBH) without the need for additional equipment or reference objects. This innovation significantly reduces the time taken for data collection.

See: <https://www.mmu.edu.my/2025/04/tm-rd-wins-malaysia-technology-excellence-award-for-ai-powered-smart-forestry-innovation/>

Indonesia

Export Benchmark Price (HPE) April 2025

The following is a list of Wood HPE from April 1 to April 30, 2025.

Veneers (prices per cu.m)

Natural forest veneer	US\$666
Plantation forest veneer	US\$672
Wooden Sheet for Packaging Box	US\$811

Wood chips (prices per tonne)

Woodchips	
chips or particles	US\$90
Woodchips	US\$80

Processed wood (prices per cu.m)

Processed wood products which are leveled on all four sides so that the surface becomes even and smooth with the provisions of a cross-sectional area of 1,000 sq.mm to 4,000 sq.mm (ex 4407.11.00 to ex 4407.99.90)

Meranti (Shorea sp)	US\$1,215
Merbau (Intsia sp)	US\$1,100
Rimba Campuran	US\$866
Ebony	US\$1,983
Teak	US\$2,443
Pine and Gmelina	US\$992
Acacia	US\$676
Sengon (P. falcataria)	US\$582
Rubberwood	US\$283
Balsa, Eucalyptus	US\$1,478
Sungkai (P.canescens)	US\$1,298

Processed wood products which are leveled on all four sides so that the surface becomes even and smooth of Merbau wood with the provisions of a cross-sectional area of 4000 mm² to 10000 mm² (ex 4407.11.00 to ex 4407.99.90) = US\$1,500/cu.m

See: <https://jdih.kemendag.go.id/peraturan/keputusan-menteri-perdagangan-republik-indonesia-nomor-446-tahun-2025-tentang-harga-patokan-ekspor-dan-harga-referensi-atas-produk-pertanian-dan-kehutanan-yang-dikenakan-bea-keluar-1>

Furniture entrepreneurs voice concerns on US tariff policy

Abdul Sobur, Chairman of the Indonesian Furniture and Craft Industry Association (HIMKI), expressed concern that the reciprocal tariff policy implemented by the US will significantly impact the furniture and craft industries in Indonesia.

According to the list released by the US government Indonesian export products to the US (until the latest changes) faced a reciprocal tariff of 32%. Sobur explained that the immediate effect will be felt on furniture and crafts being shipped to the US, particularly those departing before April 9 and thereafter.

He said "53% of our exports go to the United States while the remaining products are sent to Europe and other Asian countries. Any goods currently en route or just departed would be as the shipping time is approximately one month. By the time they arrive the pricing structures will have changed."

Any increase in tariffs would lead to a decline in exports of furniture and crafts from Indonesia to the US. The US market may shift to countries offering similar products at lower prices. "Indonesian forest products and furniture exported to the US will incur higher costs, this is significant and will likely reduce the competitiveness of Indonesian furniture products in the US", Sobur concluded. In related news, the Indonesian Furniture and Craft Association (Asmindo) has highlighted the possible adverse effects of import tariff proposed by the United States.

Asmindo pointed out that the US accounts for 60% of Indonesia's total furniture exports, around US\$2.2 billion.

Any introduction of these new tariffs, according to Asmindo Chairman, Dedy Rochimat, would result in a decline in the competitiveness of Indonesian furniture products in the American market. "This decline in utility will ultimately lead to a reduction in the workforce," Dedy stated.

See: <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/ekonomi/20250404141758-92-1215816/53-persen-ekspor-ke-as-pengusaha-mebel-was-was-kebijakan-tarif-trump>.

Assessing impact of US tariffs

Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Airlangga Hartanto, said that the imposition of US reciprocal tariffs will have a significant impact on several export sectors. Airlangga said that the Indonesian government would immediately take strategic steps to mitigate the negative impact on the economy.

According to him, the US reciprocal tariffs will have a significant impact on Indonesia's exports to US competitiveness. Indonesia's main exports to the US are electronics, textiles and textile products, footwear, palm oil, rubber, furniture, shrimp and marine fishery products. Airlangga said the government will continue to communicate with the US government at various levels and will send a high-level delegation to Washington.

See: <https://rri.co.id/en/business/1432760/govt-to-calculate-impacts-of-us-reciprocal-tariff-minister>

Indonesia to boost US imports

Indonesia plans to boost imports from the US in an effort to narrow the trade deficit.. Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartanto explained that the decision is part of ongoing negotiations and said "we will increase the volume of purchases so the US\$18 billion trade deficit can be reduced."

See: <https://en.tempo.co/read/1994262/indonesia-to-boost-u-s-imports-to-offset-trade-gap-as-32-tariff-looms>

Minister seeks collaboration to end poverty

Social Affairs Minister, Saifullah Yusuf, has invited Forestry Minister, Raja Juli Antoni, to support poverty elimination through community empowerment programmes run by the Ministry of Forestry. "We want these (vulnerable, poor and extremely poor) groups to be empowered by programmes of ministries such as the Ministry of Forestry" Minister Yusuf said.

He added that the Ministry of Forestry can empower residents living around forest areas to reduce poverty. "We can select residents living around forests and they can carry out forest-based economic activities.

See: <https://en.antaranews.com/news/350061/minister-seeks-to-collaborate-with-forestry-minister-to-end-poverty>

Forest monitoring Ap to strengthen traceability

Indonesia's vast forests present significant challenges for monitoring. To address this Kaoem Telapak has launched a forestry monitoring application Ground-truthed.id (GTID).

This application is designed to assist in monitoring and tracing products including those from forestry, agriculture and plantations that are subject to the EUDR. This application can be accessed via the web and Android devices to collect and manage forestry monitoring data from civil society groups, indigenous peoples and local communities.

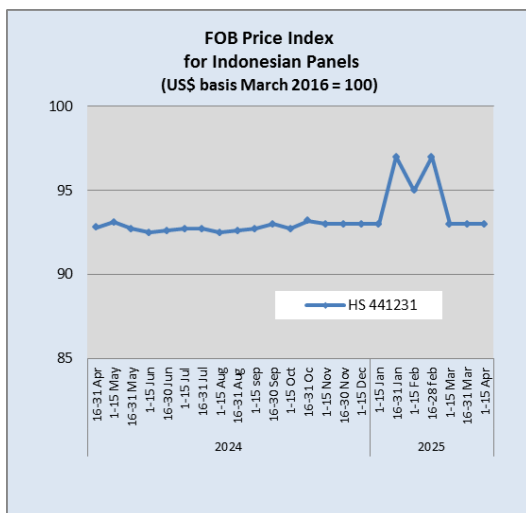
The aim of GTID is to enhance transparency, accountability, and advocacy efforts in the fight against illegal logging, deforestation, land grabbing, and environmental injustice.

See: Ground-truthed.id

Indonesia and Australia to develop furniture industry skills

The Ministry of Industry is ramping up efforts to boost the performance of Indonesia's domestic furniture industry, aiming to strengthen its contribution to national GDP and expand export markets. The Kendal Polytechnic signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CAD+T Australasia Pty Ltd and Pradita University to improve skills in the furniture sector.

See: <https://www.rri.co.id/internasional/1434312/indonesia-australia-develop-digital-talent-for-furniture-industry>



Data source: License Information Unit. <http://silk.dephut.go.id/>

Myanmar

Myanmar reeling from multiple crises

The Myanmar state television reported that the death toll from the earthquake near Mandalay had, as of 11 April, surpassed 3,000 with around 4,500 people being injured.

Although the recent earthquake did not cause significant physical damage to the export sector as key industries, such as wood processing and garment manufacturing are mainly in Yangon where the tremors were mild, however, indirect impacts are inevitable. The most visible impact in Yangon is power shortages with the rotational supply of 4-hour on and 8-hour off.

TMyanmar says the country is reeling from overlapping crises; political turmoil, economic stagnation and recurring natural disasters. The World Bank had already projected a meager 1% economic growth for the fiscal year ending March 2025, down from an average of 6% annually between 2011 and 2019, a period of democratic hope and poverty reduction. Analysts warn that the earthquake's fallout could push growth into negative territory.

See- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/myanmar/overview>

ASEAN mobilises disaster fund

The ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief Fund has been activated to support Myanmar following the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake. ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn said the regional bloc is now shifting its focus toward long-term recovery efforts.

"This reflects the collective commitment among ASEAN member states to respond to humanitarian crises in the region," said Kao. The earthquake, which killed over 3,000 people and caused widespread damage across Myanmar, also triggered tremors felt in Thailand and Laos.

The Malaysian Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, urged ASEAN to deepen its engagement with Myanmar, emphasising the importance of adhering to humanitarian principles and the five-point consensus framework.

See - <https://www.bernama.com/en/news.php?id=2410893> and <https://www.bernama.com/en/news.php?id=2411187>

December election confirmed

Myanmar Government has reaffirmed its commitment to holding a general election in December, despite the challenges in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in March. This announcement was published in the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar.

See - <https://thediplomat.com/2025/04/myanmar-juntas-affirms-december-election-despite-earthquake-chaos/>

Multi-exchange rate system questioned

Critics are saying some economic policies adopted by the State Administration Council (SAC) may have violated Myanmar’s international economic obligations. One of the most significant violations of its international economic obligations is the adoption of a multiple exchange rate system. These rates are set by administrative diktat and do not reflect market conditions.

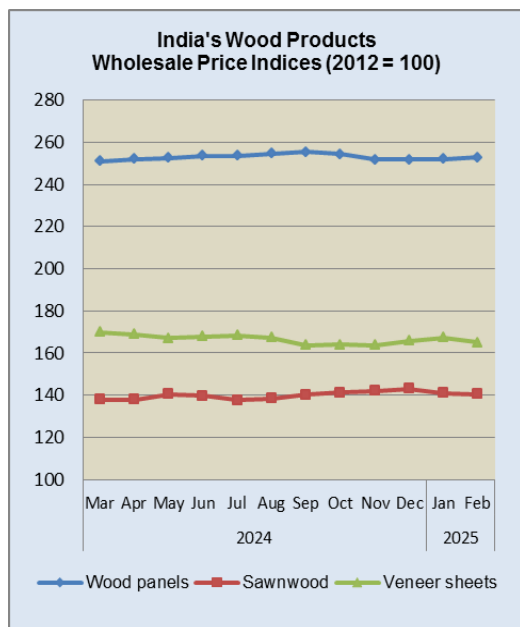
Through the Central Bank of Myanmar, the SAC has access to 25% of export earnings from most exporters at the official rate of 2,100 MMK to a US dollar, about half the market rate. Recent IMF guidelines require that the effective exchange rate be no more than plus or minus 2% lower than the theoretical reference price.

See- <https://fulcrum.sg/myanmars-military-regime-is-violating-its-international-economic-obligations/>

India

Pause in sawnwood price increases

The annual rate of inflation based on the all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) was 2.38 in February. The positive rate of inflation was primarily due to increases in prices of manufacture of food products, food articles, other manufacturing, non-food articles and textiles.



Data source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India

The index for manufacturing increased to 143.8 in February from 143.2 in January. Out of the 22 NIC two-digit groups for manufactured products, 17 groups witnessed an increase in prices, 2 groups witnessed a decrease in prices and 3 groups saw no change in prices.

Some of the important groups that showed month on month prices increases were ‘other’ manufacturing, manufacture of food products, basic metals, other non-metallic mineral products and chemicals and chemical products.

Some of the groups that saw a decrease in prices were manufacture of wood and of products and leather products.

See: https://eaindustry.nic.in/pdf_files/cmonthly.pdf

Panel industry had a tough final quarter

Plyreporter has said the Indian wood panel industry witnessed a tough final quarter in the 2024-2025 financial year mainly due to a liquidity crunch, payment delays and introduction of the new Quality Control Order (QCO) on panel products.

The correspondent reports imports of panel products such as MDF, plywood, Blockboard, particleboard and doors stopped because of the QCO.

Strong demand for new homes

Housing demand in India is expected to grow further due to budget tax incentives and a recent interest rate cut, says CREDAI in a press release. CREDAI points out demand for housing continues to be strong and is expected to grow further on the back of tax incentives offered in the budget and a recent interest rate cut, said the CREDAI president.

In a recent interview the CREDAI president asserted that there are no signs of demand slowdown in the Indian housing market, rather it will continue to rise in the long-term horizon. However, he said there could be an impact in some markets that are "over-heated" but overall at pan-India level there are no concerns at all.

According to a CREDAI study average housing prices across the top eight markets in India witnessed a 10% YoY rise during the last quarter of 2024 led by healthy demand momentum and positive market sentiment. Average house prices have been rising for the past 16th consecutive quarters starting 2021.

While affordable housing segment will continue to form the bulk of housing sales, demand within luxury and ultra-luxury segments can amplify further in 2025. Movement in these segments is likely to drive average housing prices up across most major residential markets of the country in the next few quarters. Overall unsold inventory continued to decline for the fourth consecutive quarter and dropped 5% annually during Q4 2024 backed by healthy demand.

In related news, in April the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently cut interest rates from 6.25% to 6%, a second cut since February when rates were brought down after nearly five years. The RBI also lowered its growth projections for this year from 6.7% to 6.5%.

Analysts point out the RBI shifted its monetary policy stance to "accommodative" from "neutral", which means that the central bank would be more open to cutting rates in the future to stimulate a slowing economy. RBI governor, Sanjay Malhotra, said in a speech "concerns on trade frictions are coming true and unsettling the global community" adding that headwinds from disruptions to trade would continue to pose challenges for the economy.

See: <https://www.credai.org/media/view-details/545>
and
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property/-construction/housing-demand-strong-prices-to-grow-this-year-at-more-than-inflation-rate-credai-prez-boman-irani/articleshow/119072779.cms?from=mdr>

Rupee depreciation a problem for importers

The Indian rupee’s performance in 2024 was a problem for importers. By year end the rupee had depreciated by approximately 3% against the US dollar the implications of which were far-reaching.

In 2025 India’s trade deficit widened, putting pressure on the rupee as the country spent significantly more on imports than it earned from exports. To make matters worse, foreign institutional investors withdrew from Indian equity markets between October and December. This led to a sharp demand for the dollar and further weakened the rupee to an all-time low of 87.3 against the US dollar.

Cost C&F Indian ports in US\$ Hoppus measure

Teak log prices, C&F US\$/Hoppus cu.m

	Hoppus cu.m	US\$ C&F
Brazil	212	477
Colombia	127	430
Costa Rica	119	335
Nigeria	-	-
Benin	-	-
Tanzania	89	470
Laos	-	-
South Sudan	198	675
Guatemala	91	360
Venezuela	-	-

Teak sawnwood prices, C&F US\$/cu.m

	cu.m	US\$ C&F
Benin	247	700
Brazil	145	650
Colombia	-	-
Costa Rica	136	500
Ecuador	-	-
Ghana	124	425
Ivory Coast	267	820
Nigeria	98	412
South Sudan	213	630
Tanzania	-	-
Togo	189	505
Panama	177	480

Locally milled sawnwood prices

Sawnwood Ex-mill	Rs per cu.ft.
Merbau	4,350 - 4,750
Balau	2,950 - 3,250
Resak	-
Kapur	-
Kempas	1,650 - 1,950
Red meranti	1,750 - 2,000
Radiata pine	1,000 - 1,200
Whitewood	950 - 1,150

Price range depends mainly on lengths and cross-section

Sawn hardwood prices

Sawnwood (Ex-warehouse) (KD 12%)	Rs per cu.ft.
Beech	1,900 - 2,200
Sycamore	2,300 - 2,700
Red Oak	2,900 - 3,300
White Oak	3,300 - 3,700
American Walnut	5,300 - 5,900
Hemlock STD grade	1,900 - 2,200
Western Red Cedar	3,000 - 3,350
Douglas Fir	2,400 - 2,600

Price range depends mainly on lengths and cross-section

Plywood

The recently announced price increases have now been introduced.

Domestic ex-warehouse prices for locally manufactured WBP plywood

Plywood Ex-warehouse	Rs. per sq.ft
4mm	85.50▲
6mm	99.00▲
9mm	117.50▲
12mm	140.00▲
15mm	181.00▲
18mm	199.00▲

Domestic ex-warehouse prices for locally manufactured MR plywood

Plywood Ex-warehouse	Rs. per sq.ft
4mm	58.00↑
6mm	74.50↑
9mm	85.50↑
12mm	101.00↑
15mm	136.50↑
19mm	146.00↑
5mm Flexible ply	91.00↑

Vietnam

Wood product exports surged in March

It is estimated that Vietnam’s W&WP exports in March 2025 reached US\$1.5 billion, an increase of 46% compared to February 2025 and an increase of 15% compared to March 2024. Of this WP exports contributed US\$1.01 billion, up 52% from February 2025 and up 13% from March 2024.

For the first three months of 2025 total W&WP exports recorded US\$3.95 billion, up 12% over the same period in 2024. Of which WP exports accounted for US\$2.67 billion, up 11% over the same period in 2024.

W&WP exports to the US in March 2025 fetched US\$764 million, up 46% from February 2025 and up 9% from March 2024.

For the first three months of 2025 total exports to the US reached US\$2.07 billion, up 9% over the same period in 2024.

Vietnam's exports of office furniture in March 2025 amounted to US\$27.7 million, an increase of 32% from February 2025 and an increase of 15% from March 2024.

For the first three months of 2025 exports of office furniture earned US\$78.5 million, up 22% over the same period in 2024.

Vietnam's W&WP imports in March 2025 were valued at US\$260.0 million, up 25% from February 2025 and up 35% from March 2024.

Vietnam's imports of oak in March 2025 were 41,300 cu.m, worth US\$24.4 million, an increase of 24% in volume and 25% in value compared to February 2025 and up 20% in volume and 19% in value compared to March 2024.

For the first three months of 2025 imports of W&WP totalled 96,200 cu.m worth US\$57.4 million, up 30% in volume and 34% in value compared to the same period in 2024.

Vietnam enterprises seek immediate as well as long-term solutions

The new tariff policy that the United States announced for products imported from Vietnam will have a significant impact on Vietnamese enterprises, particularly those that are heavily reliant on the US market, especially the timber sector.

Timber industries are responsible for a substantial portion of Vietnam's exports and the any change in import taxes are viewed with concern. Anticipating potential risks, Phung Quoc Man, Chairman of the Handicraft and Wood Industry Association of Ho Chi Minh City (HAWA), stated that HAWA conducted a survey of 50 exporters. The aim was to gather information, ideas and proposals from enterprises in order to identify the most effective solutions to support them in the short and long term.

The United States is the primary market for 52% of the 50 enterprises in the survey and this market accounts for more than 50% of their export revenue.

Businesses anticipate that the implementation of countervailing duties by the United States could result in an immediate decrease in order volumes and a reduction of new orders from customers according to the survey.

The supply chain has been severely disrupted as a result of numerous clients' requests for delayed shipments. Simultaneously, price pressures are increasing as consumers are requesting price reductions. Despite the fact that input and labour costs have not decreased this imposes additional responsibilities on suppliers to ensure the stability of prices.

Businesses now have to deal with the issue of excessive inventories as a result of their inability to export products which has resulted in financial strain and a decrease in profitability. Many companies have been forced to shut factories or suspend production, resulting in job losses and severely impacting workers’ incomes.

In terms of long-term challenges, timber industry businesses caution that the negative impact will be even more pronounced if this tax rate continues to be applied for an extended period. One of the primary hazards that Vietnamese enterprises may encounter is the loss of market share and the resulting decline in competitiveness in comparison with countries such as Thailand, Malaysia or Mexico.

The competitive advantage of Vietnamese wood products is declining as a result of the excessively high tariffs. Consequently, customers are likely to relocate their sourcing to countries with reduced tariffs, thereby reducing Vietnam's primary export markets.

This not only reduces revenue but also makes it difficult to sustain existing markets, forcing companies to seek out new markets, a costly and time-consuming process.

Furthermore, businesses are being compelled to restructure their production models in response to substantial cost pressures. This not only results in instability but also diminishes profit margins and even poses a bankruptcy risk for numerous small and medium-sized enterprises.

Shifting markets to mitigate dependence on the US

In an effort to mitigate dependence on the US market, numerous wood industry enterprises affiliated with HAWA have proactively transitioned to alternative markets including Japan, Australia, Europe and Canada. In order to sustain production and stimulate growth certain enterprises are also actively pursuing new partners and customers to replace US buyers.

In addition to market diversification, businesses are also striving to reduce production costs by enhancing labour efficiency and sourcing more cost-effective raw materials to reduce the overall price of products. At the same time, many enterprises are placing greater emphasis on enhancing design and product quality to create differentiation and increase added value.

Nevertheless, not all enterprises have established specific strategies. Some enterprises are still unprepared, as they have been entirely dependent on the US market. They are currently awaiting official updates from government authorities or feedback from customers.

Enterprises are advocating for the Vietnamese government to ramp-up negotiations with the US in order to mitigate duties.

A gradual and reasonable tariff reduction roadmap, in conjunction with the reduction of export and import tariffs on American wood materials, would provide businesses with additional time to adjust to the new business environment.

"Enterprises also hope that the government will consider and promote policies to help balance the trade relationship between Vietnam and the US. Reducing export tariffs on wood products and increasing financial support for exporters are crucial measures to help them weather this difficult period.

HAWA has requested assistance in the form of legal consultation and information to address the current situation," said Phung Quoc Man.

See: <https://vietnamagriculture.nongnghiep.vn/wood-enterprises-look-for-market-shift-d747048.html>

Vietnam's wood exports surged in early 2025 but face mounting headwinds

Continuing the growth seen in 2024, Vietnam's wood exports reached US\$3.95 billion in the first quarter of 2025 marking a 12% year-on-year increase. March exports alone accounted for an estimated US\$1.5 billion in wood and wood product exports.

The United States is Vietnam's largest export market for wood and wood products, making up 53% of total exports.

Japan and China followed, accounting for 13% and 11% respectively. Despite this robust performance, the wood sector continues to grapple with considerable challenges.

A large proportion of Vietnam's wood businesses are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), many of them family-run operations. These firms are particularly vulnerable to market fluctuations and often struggle with the modernisation of production and processing technologies.

Supply-side constraints also persist

Vietnam lacks a stable domestic supply of large-diameter wood forcing companies to rely heavily on imports.

This dependency not only inflates production costs but also diminishes the competitiveness of Vietnamese wood products in global markets.

Additionally, while demand remains steady in core export destinations, Vietnam's wood exports remain overly concentrated in a few key markets. Such market dependence poses long-term risks, especially amid ongoing global geopolitical uncertainty.

US tariffs threaten industry outlook

Ngo Si Hoai, Vice President and Secretary-General of the Vietnam Timber and Forest Product Association (Viforest), recently addressed the mounting challenges enterprises face and urged businesses to prepare for market headwinds.

In 2025, Vietnam's agriculture sector aims to generate US\$18 billion in wood and wood product exports, up US\$2 billion from the previous year. The US is the main target market for much of this growth however, the tariff policy casts a shadow over these ambitious goals.

The stakes are especially high for the wood sector which generates the largest trade surplus among Vietnam's agricultural exports to the US.

Over the past four years US imports of Vietnamese wood products has consistently ranged from US\$7–9 billion annually, accounting for over 50% of Vietnam's total wood exports. In contrast, Vietnam imports only around US\$300 million in wood products from the US annually.

The sudden announcement of a 46% tariff, nearly double the 25% that was anticipated shocked the industry.

Compounding the issue is an ongoing investigation under Section 232 of the U.S. Trade Expansion Act of 1962 which assesses whether wood imports pose a threat to national security. While this probe has yet to result in new duties, the possibility remains.

In the short term, Hoai advises Vietnamese businesses to ship goods before any final ruling or tariff enforcement, aiming to minimise losses and to re-evaluate operations.

Broader market strategy needed

One of the key strategies being pursued by Vietnam's agriculture ministry is to prove the complementary not competitive nature of US and Vietnamese agricultural products including wood. This argument is central to ongoing trade negotiations.

At a recent meeting with the US Ambassador, Vietnam's Minister of Agriculture and Environment, Do Duc Duy, emphasised that the two countries' agricultural exports are mutually supportive and should not be seen as adversarial. He also affirmed Vietnam's openness to importing more US agricultural goods.

To that end, Viforest, in coordination with local trade associations, exporters and relevant ministries is preparing to participate in upcoming hearings. Their goal: to demonstrate that Vietnam-US wood trade is mutually beneficial and poses no threat to the US domestic industry.

Still, Hoai cautioned that diplomacy alone may not suffice "We need to do more than just talk. The key now is for Vietnamese agencies and enterprises to consider increasing imports of US wood products such as sawnwood, logs and veneer in order to rebalance trade and underscore the benefits of cooperation."

Another critical area is raw material sourcing. To build a strong and competitive wood industry capable of meeting international demand businesses must invest in sustainable, legal timber supplies with forest management certification. This is essential not only for increasing export orders but also for meeting the country's broader sustainability goals.

See: <https://antidumping.vn/vietnams-wood-exports-surge-in-early-2025-but-face-mounting-headwinds-n28621.html>

FDI firms play significant role in Vietnam's wood industry

Foreign direct investment (FDI) businesses have played a significant role in Vietnam's wood industry, one of the country's biggest export earners. A 2024 report on FDI activities in Vietnam's wood industry showed that last year, the number of new FDI projects in the industry increased by 73% in terms of investment capital year-on-year according to a report released by Forest Trends, the Vietnam Timber and Forest Products Association (VIFOREST) and local timber associations.

Companies from mainland China led both in number of new projects and share purchases. Out of 61 new projects invested by 16 countries and territories, 25 were of mainland China. Projects focused on wood processing, including products such as beds, cabinets, tables, chairs and sofas. Taiwan P.o.C followed with five new projects worth US\$129.62 million.

The report anticipated that in 2025 the Vietnamese wood industry will continue to witness a shift in investment across regions and countries globally with growing importance of the FDI sector's role as manufacturers seek to diversify risks and seize opportunities in new markets.

Industry experts noted that the substantial increase in FDI activity highlights the growing prominence of Vietnam's wood industry, especially in view of the impact of U.S. policies in the next four years. Experts from Forest Trends stated that amid escalating trade wars due to new US import tax policies and corresponding retaliatory measures from trade partners the trend of increasing FDI in Vietnam's wood industry is inevitable.

See: <https://theinvestor.vn/fdi-firms-play-significant-role-in-vietnams-wood-industry-research-d14816.html>

Brazil

Native forest restoration in Brazil

The new National Plan for Native Vegetation Restoration (Planaveg) launched by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MMA) presents a strategy to restore 12 million hectares of native vegetation by 2030 in line with Brazil's commitment under the Paris Agreement.

According to Planaveg 2025-2028, the proposal combines four cross-cutting strategies, monitoring, support for the production chain, financing and research, alongside specific implementation arrangements aimed at restoring native vegetation in permanent preservation areas, legal reserves, restricted-use areas, public lands and low-productivity rural properties.

A study published in Biological Conservation identified 76 million hectares of priority areas for restoration across the six Brazilian biomes, based on biodiversity and ecological connectivity criteria.

A study highlights that restoring just 30% of these priority areas could increase available habitat for native species by up to 10% and enhance habitat connectivity by 60%.

In the Atlantic Forest the loss of mature forests between 2010 and 2020 totaled more than 186,000 hectares with 73% of this loss occurring on large private properties. The analysis, based on remote sensing and geospatial data, revealed weaknesses in enforcement and significant anthropogenic pressures on the biome including within protected areas.

The findings emphasise the need for integrated public policies, grounded in robust scientific data, to guide large-scale ecological restoration efforts focused on ecosystem resilience, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.

In related news, the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) and Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. (Petrobras) have established an unprecedented partnership through the ProFloresta+ program.

This focuses on ecological restoration of degraded areas in the Amazon and the promotion of the carbon credit market.

The initiative targets the restoration of up to 50,000 hectares of native forest and an estimated sequestration of 15 million tons of carbon, representing one of the largest restoration-based carbon credit acquisition programs in the country.

In its initial phase the programme will purchase up to 5 million carbon credits over an area of approximately 15,000 hectares, with investments exceeding R\$450 million solely for restoration and generating around 4,500 jobs. The programme aims to make reforestation economically viable by strengthening the ecological restoration sector and establishing technical and legal benchmarks for the market.

See: <https://www.maisfloresta.com.br/pesquisa-aponta-areas-prioritarias-para-restauracao-da-vegetacao-nativa-do-brasil/>

See: <https://www.maisfloresta.com.br/bndes-e-petrobras-firmam-parceria-para-reflorestar-a-amazonia-e-fortalecer-o-mercado-de-creditos-de-carbono/>

Assessing impact of US tariff changes

The imposition of a minimum tariff of 10% on Brazilian products by the United States government has raised significant concerns in the forest sector of Paraná State. As the US is the primary destination for Paraná's timber product exports such as plywood, sawnwood and pine framing the measure could undermine the competitiveness of the local industry.

Last year, the Southern states (Paraná, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul) exported a total of US\$1.37 billion in wood products to the US representing over 85% of Brazil's total timber sector exports according to the American Chamber of Commerce for Brazil (Amcham).

The Organization of Cooperatives of the State of Paraná (Ocepar) also highlights that other sectors such as coffee, iron and steel, may be affected. Nevertheless, the Federation of Agriculture of the State of Paraná (FAEP) sees potential opportunities for Brazil to gain access to new markets amid the restructuring of global trade.

While FAEP is awaiting the official details of the US decision it is already engaging with the federal government coordinating action aimed at mitigating the impact on the timber industry. The United States is the main export destination for Paraná's wood and any tariff barriers would represent a significant challenge to maintaining employment in the sector.

See: <https://apreflorestas.com.br/noticias/taxacao-dos-eua-industria-florestal-do-parana-analisa-riscos-de-perda-de-mercado-e-aumento-nos-custos-de-producao/>

Value of profiled wood exports plunging

Profiled wood, Para state's main export product saw a 64% drop in export value. The timber sector in the State is facing a challenging scenario. Although the exported volume grew by 18% in the first two months of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024 when 41,400 tonnes were exported generating approximately US\$21.1 million, the total export value dropped by nearly 40%.

This decline primarily affected profiled wood, the state's main export product, which saw a 64% drop in export value. Contributing factors include fluctuations in international demand, growing pressures for environmental certifications, and changes in trade policies in foreign markets.

According to Aimex (Associação das Indústrias Exportadoras de Madeiras do Estado do Pará) the sector's main challenge lies in obtaining environmental export licenses from the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) for species such as Ipê, Cumaru and Cedro.

The recent requirement for CITES and LPCO (Export Licensing Document) authorisations has led to delays in trade of legally produced timber. This has resulted in the retention of hundreds of containers at ports and company yards which has compromised logistics efficiency and is resulting in financial losses. Aimex has called on IBAMA to implement a more efficient system for processing licenses.

Timber industry leaders have raised concerns on the excessive bureaucracy and lack of institutional capacity in IBAMA. The local timber sector remains attentive shifts in the global market and reinforces its commitment to high-quality and sustainable production practices. However, the sector warns that without immediate action, the competitiveness of Brazilian timber will continue to decline in relation to international competitors.

See: <https://www.oliberal.com/economia/setor-madeireiro-do-para-tem-queda-de-40-nas-exportacoes-e-busca-estrategias-para-se-fortalecer-1.931839>

Domestic log prices

Brazilian logs, mill yard, domestic	US\$ per cu.m
Ipê	397
Jatoba	173
Massaranduba	154
Muiracatiara	152
Angelim Vermelho	170
Mixed redwood and white woods	119

Prices do not include taxes. Source STCP Data Bank

Domestic sawnwood prices

Brazil sawnwood, domestic (Green ex-mill)	US\$ per cu.m
Ipê	1,685
Jatoba	849
Massaranduba	753
Muiracatiara	784
Angelim Vermelho	706
Mixed red and white	485
Eucalyptus (AD)	280
Pine (AD)	232
Pine (KD)	275

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

Domestic plywood prices

	US\$ per cu.m
Parica ex-mill	
4mm WBP	553
10mm WBP	448
15mm WBP	384
4mm MR.	512
10mm MR.	391
15mm MR.	342

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

Prices for other panel products

	US\$ per cu.m
Domestic ex-mill prices	
15mm MDParticleboard	261
15mm MDFibreboard	262

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

Export prices

Average FOB prices Belém/PA, Paranaguá/PR, Navegantes/SC and Itajaí/SC Ports.

Export sawnwood prices

Sawnwood	US\$ per cu.m
Ipe	2,376
Jatoba	1,303
Massaranduba	1,277
Muiracatiara	1,305
Pine (KD)	207

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

Export plywood prices

	US\$ per cu.m
Pine plywood	
9mm C/CC (WBP)	328
12mm C/CC (WBP)	283
15mm C/CC (WBP)	265
18mm C/CC (WBP)	263

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

Export prices for added value products

Added value product	US\$ per cu.m
Decking Boards	
Ipê	3,219
Jatoba	1,821

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

Peru

Exports of shihuahuaco impacted by CITES

The inclusion of the Shihuahuaco and Tahuari timber species in Appendix II of CITES announced in 2022 and made official in November 2024 has had a significant impact on the export of shihuahuaco one of the most widely used timber species in the joinery sector, said Erik Fischer Llanos, president of the Timber and Wood Industries Committee of the Association of Exporters (ADEX).

CITES Appendix II includes species that, while not necessarily in danger of extinction, could become so if their trade is not properly regulated. In the case of Peru, Article 46 of the Forestry and Wildlife Law establishes inspection of 100% of the more than 9,000 registered shihuahuaco trees adding an additional layer of control to their commercialisation.

“Based on technical evidence, this CITES decision was made without solid evidence, with alterations in official information and without conclusive evidence that the species was in danger of extinction. This has caused uncertainty and jeopardised the sustainability of formal forestry activities”, warned Fischer Llanos.

Forestry sector stakeholders meet with government authorities

The Ucayali Forest Producers Association participated in the second session of the Executive Committee for the Development of the Forestry Sector sponsored by the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

The meeting was held to promote agreement that strengthen the sector's competitiveness and define strategies to ensure the legal origin and controlled movement of timber in Peru, said its president, Luis López Panduro.

This meeting was attended by SERFOR, the Ucayali Regional Government, the San Martín Regional Government, the Specialized Environmental Prosecutor's Office (FEMA), OSINFOR, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Production of Peru, the ADEX Exporters Association, the National Society of Industries and other national institutions.

"It is hoped that, based on the recommendations made by the country's forest producers and the commitments made at the meeting conditions will be created to boost timber exports", López Panduro concluded.

Ucayali producers committed to sustainability

In the Ucayali Region 45 forest concessionaires reaffirmed their commitment to the sustainable management of the Amazon forests. After successfully completing the five-year audit conducted by the Forest and Wildlife Resources Supervisory Agency (OSINFOR), these producers can request an extension of their forest concessions for a period of up to 20 years.

This achievement was possible thanks to the positive reports provided by OSINFOR and the collaborative work with the Ucayali Regional Forestry and Wildlife Management Office. Initiatives such as this strengthen forest governance in the Peruvian Amazon and reaffirm the importance of working toward the sustainability of natural resources.

See: <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/osinfor/noticias/1141588-productores-forestales-de-ucayali-renuevan-su-compromiso-con-la-sostenibilidad>

Export prices for added value products

	US\$ per cu.m
Strips for parquet Cabreuva/estoraque KD12% S4S, Asian market	1327-1398
Cumaru KD, S4S Swedish market Asian market	989 -1022 1189-1271 ↑
Cumaru decking, AD, S4S E4S, Central American market	1029-1044
Pumaquiro KD Gr. 1, C&B, Mexican market	501-561
Quinilla KD, S4S 2x10x62cm, Asian market	591-627
2x13x75cm, Asian market	774-831

Export veneer prices

Veneer FOB Callao port	US\$ per Cu.m
Lupuna 3/Btr 2.5mm	221-249
Lupuna 2/Btr 4.2mm	234-266
Lupuna 3/Btr 1.5mm	219-228

Export sawnwood prices

Peru sawnwood, FOB Callao Port	US\$ per cu.m
Pumaquiro 25-50mm AD Mexican market	703-728
Virola 1-2" thick, length 6"-12" KD Grade 1, Mexican market Grade 2, Mexican market	582-602 527-541
Cumaru 4" thick, 6"-11" length KD Central American market Asian market	1116-1188 1210-1265 ↑
Ishpingo (oak) 2" thick, 6"-8" length Spanish market Dominican Republic	918-983 952-1091
Marupa 1", 6-11 length KD Grade 1 Asian market	564-576

Export plywood prices

Peru plywood, FOB Callao (Mexican market)	US\$ per cu.m
Copaiba, 2 faces sanded, B/C, 8mm	349-379
Virola, 2 faces sanded, B/C, 5.2mm	487-511
Cedar fissilis, 2 faces sanded, 5.5mm	766-783
Lupuna, treated, 2 faces sanded, 5.2mm Lupuna plywood B/C 15mm	396-419 449-495
B/C 9mm	379-399
B/C 12mm	350-360
B/C 8mm	466-487
C/C 4mm	389-425
Lupuna plywood B/C 4mm Central Am.	391-407

Domestic prices for other panel products

Peru, domestic particleboard	US\$ per cu.m
1.83m x 2.44m x 4mm	282
1.83m x 2.44m x 6mm	230
1.83m x 2.44m x 12mm	204

Domestic sawnwood prices

Peru sawnwood	US\$ per cu.m
Mahogany	-
Virola	236-251 ↑
Spanish Cedar	333-344
Marupa (simarouba)	208-234

Domestic plywood prices (excl. taxes)

IQUITOS MILLS	US\$ per cu.m
122 x 244 x 4mm	512
122 x 244 x 6mm	519
122 x 244 x 8mm	522
122 x 244 x 12mm	528
PUCALLPA MILLS	
122 x 244 x 4mm	503
122 x 244 x 6mm	511
122 x 244 x 8mm	516
122 x 244 x 8mm	521

Japan**Tariffs could inflict serious blow to Japanese industries**

The combination of additional automobile tariffs and the reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US could inflict a serious blow to Japanese industries. Japanese companies are scrambling to discuss measures against the tariffs but handling the situation will not be easy as reviewing production systems is not a simple task.

Ken Kobayashi, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, expressed strong concerns over the additional 25% tariffs imposed on automobiles. "The automobile industry is underpinned by wide reaching supply chains. I am concerned that (the additional tariffs) will have an enormous impact on the Japanese economy as a whole through decreases in orders, investment and employment," he said.

The automobile industry employs 5.5 million people in Japan, which also includes such firms as parts companies, so there are concerns that the tariffs will have impact on related industries.

The tariffs cover a wide range of items, including construction machinery and agricultural, forestry and fishery products, with exemptions placed on such items as pharmaceutical products and semiconductors. The Japanese government plans to increase exports of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and food to 5 trillion yen in 2030 but the target will be difficult to achieve if exports to the United States slow down.

See:

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/business/companies/20250404-246973/>

Soaring prices keeps 'real' wages on the decline

Japan's inflation-adjusted wages fell for the second month in February as price increases outweighed pay raises. The Ministry of Labour data show that real wages were down 1.2% from the same month last year. Officials noted that soaring prices kept real wages on the decline.

Workers in February earned an average of 289,562 yen, including base pay and overtime. That's up 3.1% year on year in yen terms and marks an increase for the 38th month in a row.

See: https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20250407_B4/

Government to offer aid to Japan-based exporters

The Ministry of Trade has indicated it plans to offer aid to Japan-based exporters amid concern that US tariffs will hurt their business. The ministry set up a task force to implement easier loan terms and develop other policies to help affected exporters.

Loans to struggling businesses will be offered with easier requirements under the Ministry plan. State-run financial institutions such as Japan Finance Corporation will provide the lending. The ministry also plans to set up about 1,000 inquiry counters across Japan including at its bureaus and state-run financial institutions.

The Minister of Trade, Muto Yoji, reiterated that the government continues to seek an exemption from the new tariffs and will work to protect industries.

See: https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20250404_B1/

Bank of Japan welcomes strengthening of the yen

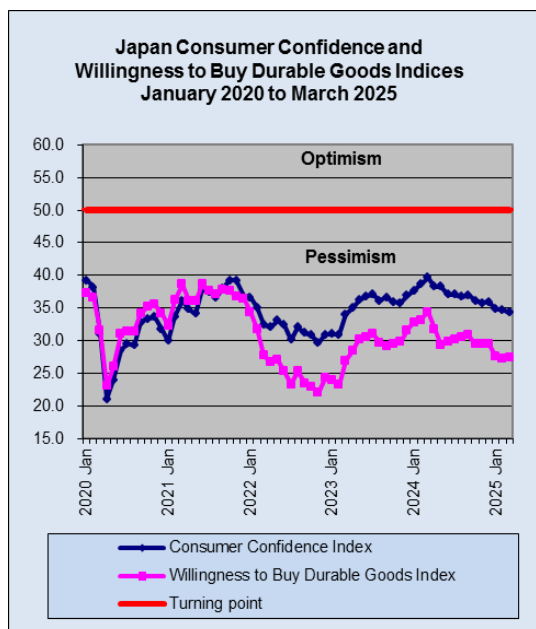
New US tariffs may delay but not halt the Bank of Japan's plan to raise interest rates further as policymakers seek to avoid renewed yen falls that would worsen inflationary pressures.

The US decision to impose a 25% levy on auto imports and a reciprocal 24% tariff on other Japanese goods, will deal a huge blow to the export-heavy economy with analysts predicting the higher duties could knock up to 0.8% off economic growth.

See: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/rates-bonds/trump-tariffs-may-delay-wont-derail-japan-rate-hikes-2025-04-04/>

Households cut back on spending

In February Japanese households cut back on spending as inflation remained high. The Ministry of Internal Affairs reported household outlays, adjusted for inflation, declined 0.5% in February from a year earlier.



Data source: Cabinet Office, Japan

Consumer spending accounts for more than a half of the economy and is a key component of GDP that is monitored closely by Bank of Japan. Inflation has stayed at or above the BoJ's target for almost three years, sapping spending power and the latest tariffs from the United States are now expected to weaken the economy further.

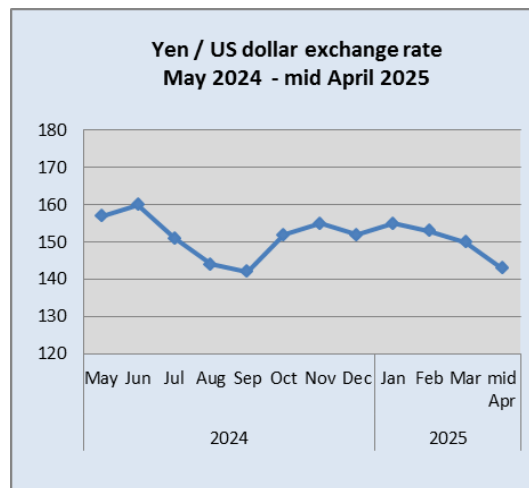
Calls are growing in Japan for a major economic stimulus package that includes adjustments to the consumption tax cut in order to cushion any negative impact to the Japanese economy from US tariffs.

With food prices still rising even ruling party officials have started to discuss a consumption tax cut as a key policy especially in light of the upcoming election for the the upper chamber of the country's parliament.

See: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2025/04/06/japan/politics/consumption-tax-cut/>

Yen at strongest level in six months

Concern over a global economic slowdown from wide-ranging US reciprocal tariffs led to a rapid appreciation of the yen in mid April. The yen appreciated to the mid-145 range against the dollar mid month taking Japan's currency to its strongest level in about six months on concerns about a US economic slowdown.



Data source: WSJ

The world's largest wooden structure

Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan will run 13 April to 13 October. The six month event is being held in Yumeshima (Konohana Ward, Osaka). The 'Grand Ring', a wooden structure, symbolises this Expo's theme, 'Designing Future Society for Our Lives,' and has attracted considerable attention.

This massive, ring-shaped structure with a circumference of about two kilometres covers an area of approximately 60,000 square metres and stands between 12 and 22 metres in height. Such a large-scale structure made of wood has generated significant interest.

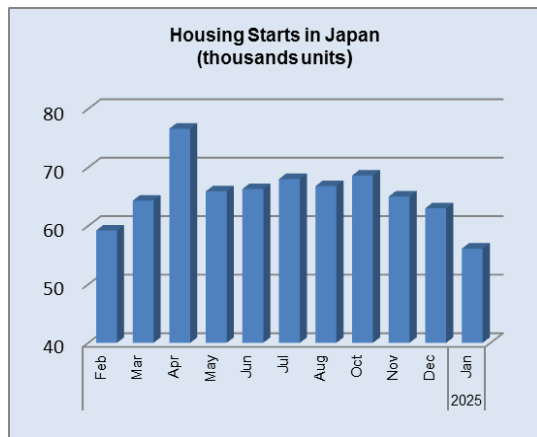
The centerpiece of the 2025 Expo, the Grand Ring, has been recognised by Guinness World Records as the world's largest wooden structure. Sou Fujimoto, the architect responsible for the design of the Grand Ring and the Expo Site Design Producer, commented “when creating the overall concept for the Expo site, we proposed and developed the theme of ‘Unity in diversity’ while designing the venue.

See: https://www.gov-online.go.jp/hlj/en/february_2025/february_2025-05.html and <https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20250304-02/>

Tighter of overtime rules drive up construction costs regulations

According to the Real Estate Economic Institute the national average price of newly built condominiums in 2024 was 60.82 million yen (approx. US\$405,000), topping 60 million yen for the first time since statistics began in 1973. Prices have risen for eight consecutive years.

One factor behind the price increases is surging construction costs. Along with material prices remaining high, the "2024 problem," referring to the strengthening of overtime regulations in the construction industry, has exacerbated labour shortages and labour costs are expected to continue to climb.



Data source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan

The Japan Residential Property Price Index (set at 100 in 2010), which indicates national real estate price trends, shows that both condominiums and detached homes have been rising in price in recent years but that the increase in condominiums is more pronounced.

Positive assessment of regional economies

In mid-April the Bank of Japan (BoJ) maintained its economic assessments for all nine regions of the country, even as US tariffs are threatening to impact the economic outlook. In its quarterly report on regional economies, the BoJ said the nine regions were either "recovering moderately," "picking up" or "picking up moderately although some weakness had been seen in part," using the same expressions as in the previous assessment in January.

The wide-ranging US tariffs will "put downward pressure" on the Japanese and global economies, Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda said Friday.

See: <https://www.boj.or.jp/en/research/brp/rer/data/rer250407.pdf>

Import update

Assembled wooden flooring imports

The value of Japan’s January 2025 imports of assembled wooden flooring HS441871-79 were over 60% higher than in January 2024 and over 60% compared to December 2024. The last time the value of imports was so high was in June 2022.

Assembled flooring imports

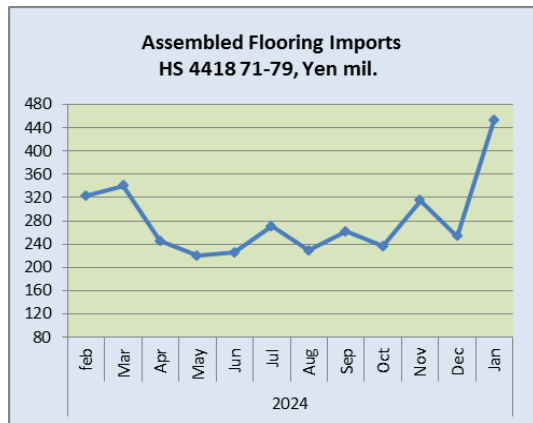
	Jan-25 000s Yen
HS441873	
China	84,444
HS441874	
China	11,216
HS441875	
China	85,066
Vietnam	42,701
Thailand	19,815
Malaysia	5,778
Indonesia	6,625
Italy	11,586
Austria	15,595
USA	93,137
Total	280,303
HS441879	
China	18,967
Thailand	11,884
Indonesia	9,573
Belgium	1,097
Switzerland	2,563
USA	32,285
Total	648,191

Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

The main category of assembled flooring imports in January 2025 was HS441875, accounting for 62% of the total value of assembled flooring imports compared to the 59% share reported in December. Of HS441875 imports, 33% was provided by shippers in the US, 30% by shippers in China and 9% by shippers in Vietnam. The sudden rise in imports of HS441875 from the US taking to top spot in terms of the value of imports was a surprise especially as US deliveries exceeded those from China.

The three other sources of assembled flooring (HS441875) in January were Thailand, Austria and Italy.

The second largest category in terms of value in January 2025 was HS441873 all of which was shipped from China. In January HS441873 accounted for 19% of all HS441873 arrivals. The third largest category in value terms was HS441879 (17%).



Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

Plywood imports

The very quiet market for plywood in Japan in January 2025 was reflected in the volume of imports. Year on year the volume of imports was down 12% and compared to December there was little change. Malaysia and Indonesia were, as usual, the top suppliers in January 2025. Arrivals from Malaysia were up slightly while arrivals from Indonesia were at around the same volume as in December 2024.

In January 2025 all the main shippers recorded a decline in the volume of shipments except shippers in Vietnam where the volumes in January were around the same level as in December 2024. The volume of January 2025 plywood imports (441210-39) was 121,161 cu.m.

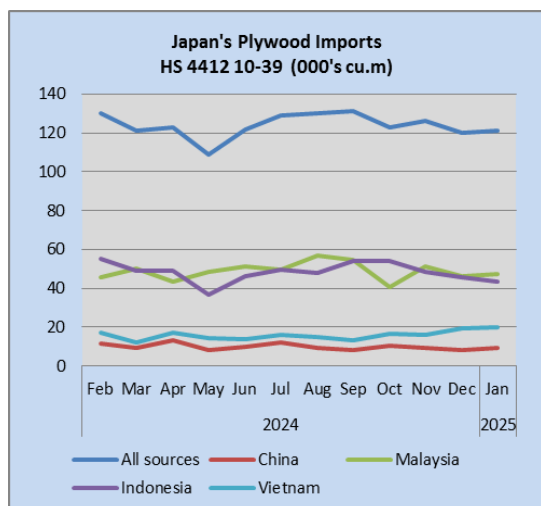
As in previous months, of the various categories of plywood imported in January 2025 HS441231 was the largest (84% of total imports) followed by HS441233 (7%). Malaysia and Indonesia accounted for most of the HS441231 arrivals in December.

Small volumes of HS441239 and HS441234 arrived in Japan during January from a wide range of suppliers including Latvia, Chile, the Philippines, Taiwan P.o.C and New Zealand.

Main sources of Japan's plywood imports (000's cu.m)

		China	Malaysia	Indonesia	Vietnam
2021	Jan	9.7	76.9	59.3	15.7
	Feb	6.8	53.5	50.1	13.0
	Mar	5.7	89.4	61.5	11.5
	Apr	11.4	65.9	58.2	17.3
	May	10.3	72.0	51.0	13.0
	Jun	10.5	61.9	56.6	15.6
	Jul	11.8	74.1	57.1	16.4
	Aug	12.8	54.7	57.8	17.5
	Sep	16.0	61.8	60.4	21.8
	Oct	12.6	72.8	60.4	22.5
	Nov	14.6	60.6	66.0	21.8
	Dec	13.6	51.2	76.5	21.0
2022	Jan	15.9	78.6	73.9	16.8
	Feb	14.7	61.0	56.8	11.4
	Mar	13.7	71.0	76.9	8.8
	Apr	25.0	79.3	72.0	13.1
	May	32.2	67.6	68.2	12.9
	Jun	37.5	61.4	52.4	18.4
	Jul	27.7	70.6	67.8	15.2
	Aug	19.0	63.0	70.8	18.5
	Sep	16.5	58.4	60.4	16.2
	Oct	13.4	39.2	65.5	17.1
	Nov	13.1	45.1	50.1	15.9
	Dec	13.9	49.2	47.1	21.6
2023	Jan	13.7	40.3	49.2	19.4
	Feb	7.8	44.9	40.6	12.9
	Mar	14.9	29.8	45.3	14.3
	Apr	13.8	28.7	46.3	14.6
	May	14.0	47.7	34.2	12.6
	Jun	10.7	36.9	37.2	12.7
	Jul	10.6	38.8	43.1	12.9
	Aug	10.6	49.6	38.1	15.7
	Sep	12.3	63.4	52.4	12.0
	Oct	10.5	46.1	50.3	17.2
	Nov	11.9	63.6	53.0	16.8
	Dec	12.1	43.5	54.0	17.7
2024	Jan	13.3	50.2	52.3	20.5
	Feb	11.5	45.4	55.3	17.1
	Mar	9.4	50.1	48.8	12.2
	Apr	13.2	43.2	49.0	17.0
	May	8.4	48.3	36.5	14.3
	Jun	10.1	51.0	46.1	13.7
	Jul	12.1	49.8	49.7	15.8
	Aug	9.3	56.8	47.9	14.7
	Sep	8.1	54.5	54.2	13.1
	Oct	10.3	40.9	54.0	16.4
	Nov	9.1	51.5	48.2	16.1
	Dec	8.1	46.0	45.6	19.2
2025	Jan	9.2	47.2	43.3	20.1

Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan



Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

Trade news from the Japan Lumber Reports (JLR)

The Japan Lumber Reports (JLR), a subscription trade journal published every two weeks in English, is generously allowing the ITTO Tropical Timber Market Report to reproduce news on the Japanese market precisely as it appears in the JLR.

For the JLR report please see:

https://jfpj.jp/japan_lumber_reports/

Imported wood fuel in 2024

Import of wood pellet in 2024 is more than 2023 and of PKS is less than last year. Total volume of wood pellet and PKS is 8,814,103 tonnes, 1.4 % more than last year.

Volume of wooden pellet in 2024 is 638,931 tonnes, 10.0 % more than 2023 and it is 577,557 tonnes increased. The reason for the increase is that the volume of South Asian wooden pellet rises from the previous year.

Vietnamese wooden pellet is 3,315,260 tonnes, 27.4 % more than last year. Canadian wooden pellet is 1,166,602 tonnes, 26.3 % less and American wooden pellet is 1,118,215 tonnes, 11.5 % less than 2023.

On the other hands, Malaysian wooden pellet is 403,069 tonnes, 74.7 % more, Indonesian wooden pellet is 314,895 tonnes, 372.9 % more and Thai wooden pellet is 35,077 tonnes, 349.2 % more than last year. Australian wooden pellet is 23,961 tonnes, 51.3 % less than last year.

Total volume of PKS in 2024 is 2,433,172 tonnes, 15.7 % less than 2023. Indonesian PKS is 1,876,999 tonnes, 16.0 % less and Malaysian PKS is 534,406 tonnes, 16.7 % less than the previous year. However, Thai PKS is 21,767 tonnes, 108.7 % more than last year.

Revised Clean Wood Act

The revised Clean Wood Act will come into effect in April, 2025. As illegal logging is being eradicated worldwide, Japan has also been working on this issue. The main change to the revised Clean Wood Act is that a business person, who involves wood industry, will be required to verify legality.

The current Clean Wood Act is that the forest business owners are obligated to make efforts to cut down trees legally. The third party organization registers the forest business owners to use more legal woods.

Volume of composite wood flooring in 2024

The production and sales volume of composite wood flooring in 2024 do not exceed the result of 2023. The sales volume decreases for three years in a row. The reasons are the low new starts and a decrease in floor areas. The production is 4.4 % less and the sales volume is 5.7 % less than last year. The starts in 2024 are 3.4 % less than 2023.

The production at the first half of 2024 is 6.8 % less and the sales volume at the first half of 2024 is 7.7 % less than the same period last year. However, demand for composite wood flooring rose at the second half of 2024.

The production of LL45, which is the classification of sound insulation, is 1,976,000 tsubo, 2.5 % more and the sales volume is 1,997,000 tsubo, 1.5 % more than the previous year. One of the reasons for the increase in LL45 production is that some building material companies had market development of sound insulation for apartment buildings through the COVID-19.

China

Initiatives to stabilise the property market

It has been reported that “Special Initiatives to Boost Consumption” have been announced by the government. The initiatives emphasises boosting consumption and includes stimulating demand for housing. The construction and supply of affordable housing will be increased.

The government has indicated greater support will be provided to the real estate sector at the macro level. The purpose is to boost consumption, stabilise the property market and then promote the upgrading of household product consumption.

Specific measures to stabilise the property market include:

- intensifying efforts to transform urban villages and dilapidated houses to fully release the potential of strong and improved housing demand.
- special bonds will be allowed to support the purchase of existing commercial housing by urban governments for use as affordable housing.
- tax policies will be implemented to promote the steady and sound development of the real estate market.
- interest rates on housing provident fund loans will be lowered.
- the scope of the use of the housing provident fund will be expanded to support contributors applying for individual housing loans.

See:

https://www.gov.cn/gongbao/2025/issue_11946/202503/content_7015860.html

Annual output value of wood processing industry

It has been reported that the annual output value of the wood processing industry in China in 2024 exceeded RMB3 trillion and the total value of the customised household industry has exceeded RMB300 billion.

China continues to promote the reform of the collective forest rights system and the development of the forest industry and the total output value of the national forest industry reached RMB10.17 trillion, an increase of over 9% year on year.

See: <https://www.forestry.gov.cn/c/www/zhsz/608914.jhtml>

Industrial standard on ultra-thin fibreboard

The National Forest and Grassland Administration recently approved the release of forest industry standard LY/T 3411-2024 "Ultra-thin Fibreboard", which will be officially implemented on 1 May 2025.

This standard is the first special technical specification for fibreboard products with a thickness of no more than 1.5mm and specifies the definition of terms, technical indicators, inspection methods and storage and transportation requirements of the products and is suitable for the production and circulation of cushion layer materials for finishing materials.

The implementation of this standard will fill the gap in the quality evaluation system of ultra-thin fibreboard, provide a technical basis for its product design, manufacturing and marketing and is of significance to promote the transformation and upgrading of lightweight and functional fibreboard products.

See: <https://www.77d.cn/article/1593150622922702849>

Supervision site for imported logs in Fujian

The first imported log supervision site was officially opened to handle foreign shipping in Putian City of Fujian Province.

This will further improve the function of Putian Port to develop the port for the timber sector, promote integration of port and production and help Putian Port transform and upgrade from "logistics port" to "industrial port" and "trade port".

The commissioning of the supervision site for imported logs further will enrich the business of the port and will also improve the port's ability to serve the wood processing enterprises around the port.

Through creating designated supervision sites for imported logs it may be possible to attract more domestic and foreign timber traders to settle in Putian.

The opening of the designated supervision site for imported logs has also reduced the logistics costs of local enterprises in Putian City. For enterprises that need more than 70,000 cubic metres of raw materials per year most previously came via Xiamen Port.

For logs via the new site at Putian Port logistics costs can be reduced.

See:

https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1827156086577742774&wfr=s_pider&for=pc

Guangxi International Timber Trading Center operational

Recently, in the Guangxi Pilot Free Trade Zone (Qinzhou Port Area) bonded port zone the Guangxi International Timber Trading Center officially began operation.

It has been reported that investment for the project came via the Guangxi Free Trade Zone Guanglin Investment Development Co., LTD. The site has a land area of 11.7 hectares and a total construction area of nearly 6,680 square metres.

The Trade Center is committed to building a comprehensive, high quality, industrial platform integrating timber import, storage, processing, trading, logistics and supply chain, financial services to integrate the rich timber resources of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and its surrounding areas, take advantage of the location advantage of Guangxi as an important node on the "Belt and Road" initiative countries and strengthen the interconnection with domestic and foreign timber markets.

The position and influence of Guangxi timber industry in the global industrial chain will be enhanced.

See: <http://gzw.gxzf.gov.cn/xwzx/gzdt/t19554066.shtml>

Average CIF prices, logs US\$/cu.m

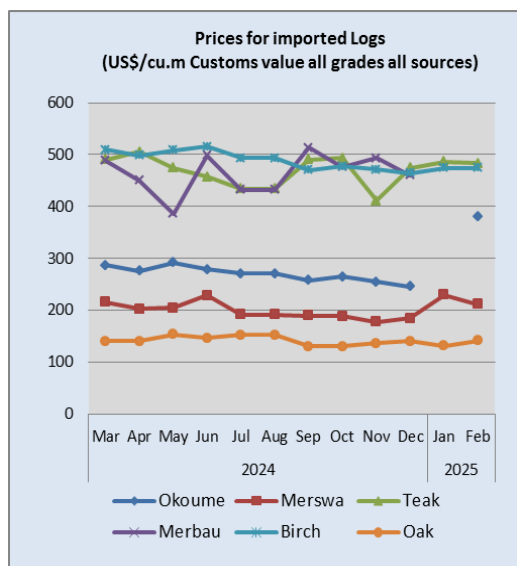
	2025	2025
	Jan	Feb
Okoume		381
Merswa	230	212
Teak	486	483
Merbau	191	169
Birch	474	474
Oak	137	141

Data source: Customs, China

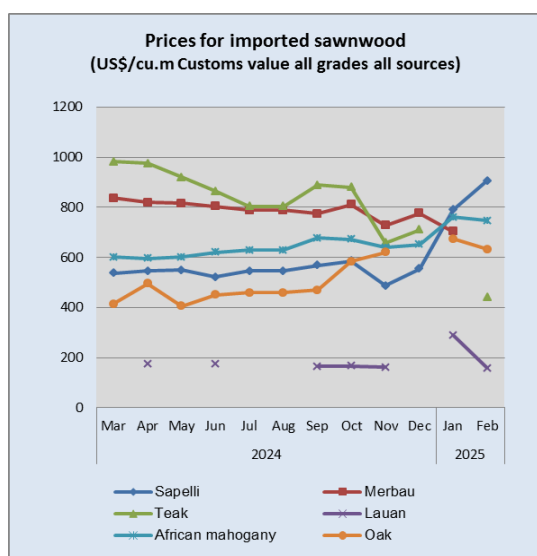
Average CIF prices, sawnwood, US\$/cu.m

	2025	2025
	Jan	Feb
Sapelli	790	906
Merbau	704	
Teak	428	440
Lauan	290	157
African mahogany	761	746
Oak	674	632

Data source: Customs, China



Data source: Customs, China



Data source: Customs, China

EU

Construction timber environmental credentials

The Netherlands timber market development organisation Centrum Hout is working to raise awareness of the environmental credentials of wood in construction by increasing its profile in the country's National Environmental Database (NMD).

The NMD Foundation is an independent organisation responsible for managing and developing the 'Determination Method' and its associated database with which the Environmental Performance of Buildings (MPG) is assessed. Its data forms the basis by which calculations of the Environmental Performance of Buildings (MPG). The latter determines how sustainable a building is based on the materials used.

Until recently, says Centrum Hout, wooden building materials were underrepresented in the NMD, resulting in less favourable MPG scores for timber construction.

To change this, it is developing and updating timber building product cards and processes within the Database.

This contributes to a fairer and more realistic environmental score for timber construction and stimulates the use of wood in the construction sector, says Centrum Hout. To develop new Life Cycle Analyses (LCAs), Centrum Hout collaborates with various parties within the Home for the Future project, an initiative of FSC Netherlands and part of the EU LIFE programme. This includes collaborations with FSC Denmark, Lister Buildings, TBI Woonlab, TU Delft and VIA University College.

The development of the construction product cards, says Centrum Hout, is an ongoing process and is part of the broader drive towards 100% circular construction by 2050. It has already produced numerous new and updated product cards which have been added to the NMD, including ones for:

- Wood types, including European softwood, glulam, and LVL, with CLT to follow.
- Timber frame and with NBvT and VVNH, including wooden frames and HSB elements.
- Hardwood sheet piles, deck parts and clamped bulkheads.

It has also developed 'Process maps', looking at performance and sustainability credentials of tropical wood from Africa, South America and Asia have also been developed. These efforts actively contribute to a sustainable and circular construction sector, says Centrum Hout.

"By improving the representation of wooden building materials in the NMD, the environmental benefits of timber construction are better recognized," it says.

"By making timber construction more attractive to clients and developers it will strengthen the position of wood as a sustainable building material within the transition to a circular economy."

See: <https://www.centrumhout.nl/centrum-hout-nmd/>

Tackling barriers to timber frame façades in France

A range of work is underway in France to remove obstacles to the use of timber frame façades on buildings. Among its focuses, the sector's Structure-Envelope Commission is looking at the compatibility of different types of exterior cladding used on façades supports. Main issues, it says, are durability and 'waterproofing against deformation'.

As part of this project, a study financed by CODIFAB, the council for the development of the French furniture and wood industries and carried out by the FCBA technical institute has evaluated the resilience of wooden cladding and HPL or fibre-cement panels on façades.

A new test protocol has been put in place, and a document validating the installation of wood cladding on any type of façades should be published by mid-2025, reports French timber trade association Le Commerce du Bois (LCB).

LCB adds that the tile and terracotta and metal cladding industry has also been approached to participate in the ongoing façades project, but that ‘progress remains limited at this stage’.

The goal is to integrate these new technical findings into existing standards and LCB reports that work is also underway to raise awareness among manufacturers and encourage product certification adapted to requirements for façades.

See:

<https://www.lecommercedubois.org/actualites/1310/maintien-des-performances-des-bardages-sur-facades-ossature-bois-etat-des-lieux>

Wood construction expertise shared at ‘Build in Wood’

The Build in Wood Conference in Copenhagen gives stakeholders the opportunity to hear about latest developments in timber construction and to share experience and expertise. The event, supported by conference partner the Danish Timber Trade Federation (DTTF), takes place on 20-21 May. It has been held annually since 2018 and is now Denmark’s largest wood focused conference.

See: <https://community.build-in-wood.eu/events/157095> and <https://dktimber.dk/english/>

Spanish trade sees positive prospects

The ‘timber trade barometer’ survey conducted by Spanish timber trade association AEIM at its annual general assembly showed most delegates were upbeat about prospects for 2025.

The assembly in early March was attended by delegates from 112 member companies, with the online, real-time survey canvassing their opinions on latest trends and the market outlook.

On trade in 2024, the majority of companies stated that business had been on a level with 2023 and that stocks at the end of the year were higher than 12 months before. But 40% said that their sales volume had been better than the previous year. Barometer results also showed that unpaid bills and bad debt were at a lower level in 2024 than the year before, while quotes and general inquiries increased considerably.

On supply, availability and delivery times, almost a third of the companies surveyed reported that they had experienced problems only with African tropical hardwoods. A fifth said they had experienced problems with European hardwoods, but hardly any issues were reported with other timber or panel products.

Looking forward, 63% of the survey respondents said they anticipate growth in sales volume in 2025, while the remaining 37% predicted business to be on a level with last year. Further underlining this positivity, 80% of participants said they have investment plans and most also said they plan to expand their workforce in 2025.

Also at the general assembly, EU Deforestation Regulation, which comes into force at the end of 2025, was a key topic of discussions, reports AEIM. It says it will continue to be one of its main focuses through the year. It will monitor any further developments in the Regulation and provide training on its application. It will also follow the development of the GD Holz online EUDR conformance support software and platform, said AEIM Secretary General Alberto Romero.

He reported that AEIM members had attended a webinar on the development of the platform too. It also ran training sessions for the European Commission’s EUDR information system and platform.

AEIM, said Mr Romero, had also provided information and support follow-up on EU antidumping procedures against plywood and multi-layer flooring from China, as well as the ongoing sanctions against Russia.

See: <https://www.aeim.org/index.php/2025/03/18/asamblea-general-de-aeim/> and <https://www.aeim.org/index.php/2025/03/19/barometro-del-sector-2025/>

French timber sector – construction and renovation remain in crisis

The 2024-2025 edition of the Memento publication, which provides data on the French timber industry is now available. Memento, essentially a profile of the sector, is produced by the Forest, Cellulose, Wood Construction and Furniture (FCBA) technical institute. Reporting the launch of the latest edition, French timber trade association Le Commerce du Bois (LCB) describes it as providing a clear and comprehensive overview of the industry.

Memento opens by setting its data against the current market context, which it acknowledges is challenging. “The [French] construction/rehabilitation sector remains in crisis, as illustrated by the 14% drop in housing starts compared to 2023, which was already experiencing a sharp decline,” it states.

“Although inflation remains contained, the overall economic situation remains strained by the uncertainty generated by the national and international political context, which is hampering investment and recovery efforts. The first signs of falling interest rates are not yet sufficient to translate into an economic recovery. Standing timber prices have been trending downward since 2022 but are still higher than in previous years.”

However, longer term prospects are brighter, states Memento, given the wider environmental benefits of using timber.

“In terms of the future, the importance of timber resources in France's carbon sequestration (carbon sink) and substitution objectives is significant,” says the FCBA. “Professionals in the sector, the primary stakeholders in achieving these objectives, are maintaining their efforts with state support, with a view to ensuring the sustainability, development, and use of forest resources.”

As well as being free to download online, Memento will also be published in paper format by the end of April.

See: https://www.fcba.fr/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Memento-2024-2025-WEB.pdf?utm_source=Sarbacane&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Memento%202024-2025
<https://www.fcba.fr/>
<https://www.lecommercedubois.org/actualites/1321/le-memento-fcba-2024-2025-est-desormais-disponible>

Broader Market Recognition Coalition development continues

The interim secretariat of the UK government-backed Broader Market Recognition Coalition (BMRC) project says that through 2025 the project will ‘accelerate its mission to promote national sustainable forestry systems and secure broader global recognition for responsibly sourced tropical timber’.

Formed by six tropical timber-producing countries, Cameroon, Ghana, Guyana, Indonesia, Liberia and the Republic of Congo the BMRC is described as a multi-stakeholder coalition bringing together government, private sector, and civil society to ‘support inclusive forest governance and drive market transformation’.

The UK timber trade body TDUK has supported the Coalition from the outset and seed development funding came from the Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) run by UK Government’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

The BMRC interim secretariat said that securing future funding sources is a key part of the BMRC Roadmap and will be addressed as part of establishing BMRC’s foundations.

In the April to June quarter BMRC is focusing on initiatives aimed at ‘demonstrating its value and deepening global engagement’. A central element is development of a proof of concept to showcase how national forestry verification systems can serve as credible, country-wide pathways to sustainability and market access. BMRC is inviting ideas from stakeholders across its network.

This collaborative approach is reported by the interim secretariat as central to shaping the Coalition’s agenda, ensuring it ‘reflects the real needs of producer countries and resonates with the expectations of the international timber trade’.

Topics under discussion include ‘strengthening national ownership, advancing BMRC membership pathways, and refining criteria and indicators for endorsement’.

BMRC will participate in the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in May, where it will host a side event in New York.

The aim is to communicate the BMRC message and engage with policy leaders, and ‘strengthen recognition of national sustainable forestry systems as a credible solution for climate, trade, and development goals’.

The Coalition is also undertaking market analysis of major timber importing regions, including the EU, UK, US, China, Japan, South Korea, and Australia. The interim secretariat said the BMRC is open for other countries to join.

See: <https://timberdevelopment.uk/tduk-supports-broader-market-recognition-coalition-bmrc/>
and <https://forestgovernance.org/faqs/>
and <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office>

North America

Hardwood plywood imports at highest in more than a year

US imports of hardwood plywood rose 13% in February with the volume at its highest in more than a year. At 266,976 cubic metres, hardwood plywood imports were a healthy 36% above February 2024 totals.

The rise was fueled by a 20% gains in imports from Indonesia for the month. Imports from Indonesia were 41% better than last year in the first two months of the year. Imports from most other key trading partner countries are behind last year’s pace in volume while total imports are up 4% over 2024 for the year so far.

	2025 Feb cu.m	MoM % change
Total	266,976	13%
China	2,027	-32%
Russia	7,796	-42%
Indonesia	75,731	20%
Malaysia	8,138	11%
Cambodia	10,728	-7%
Vietnam	78,279	-5%
Ecuador	8,893	-32%
Other	75,384	76%

Data source: US Department of Agriculture, Foreign Trade Statistics

Imports of sawn tropical hardwood flat

US imports of sawn tropical hardwood showed little movement in February, rising 1% from the previous month. At 13,987 cubic metres the volume was 14% lower than in February of last year.

Imports from Indonesia fell 35% in February, receding from a very strong January, while imports from Brazil rebounded somewhat from a dismal January, rising 152%. Despite the gains imports from Brazil were still less than half the volume they were in February 2024 and are down 71% for the first two months of the year.

Imports of Mahogany and Ipe both fell by just under one third in February while Cedro imports fell by more than two thirds. Import volumes for the first two months of the year are down sharply for most tropical hardwoods, while Teak (up 222%) and Meranti (up 69%) have shown considerable gains. Total imports of sawn tropical hardwood were down 14% versus last year through February.

Canadian imports of sawn tropical hardwood fell 9% in February but remain well above last year’s volume. Imports for February were 82% higher than in February of last year. Strong gains in imports from the US and Bolivia mitigated declines in imports from Congo and Cameroon.

	2025 February	MoM % change
Total	13,987	1%
Ecuador	512	37%
Brazil	1,848	152%
Cameroon	1,309	4%
Malaysia	1,983	24%
Rep. Congo	1,221	4%
Peru	96	-42%
Indonesia	2,931	-35%
Ghana	431	5%
Cote d'Ivoire	17	-95%
Other	3,639	11%

Data source: US Department of Agriculture, Foreign Trade Statistics

Veneer imports rebound

US imports of tropical hardwood veneer surged 20% in February, bouncing back from a 34% fall the previous month. On a percentage basis, imports from many top trading partners continue to be irregular from one month to the next.

Imports from India fell 59% and imports from Italy fell 83% in February while imports from China and Cote d’Ivoire both rose more than 50%. Despite the month-to-month volatility total imports for the first two months of the year are nearly even with last year at US\$4.2 million.

Flooring imports cool

US imports of hardwood and assembled flooring panels cooled in February after posting strong numbers in January. February Imports of hardwood flooring showed a 22% decline from the previous month as imports from China dropped by a steep 44%.

Imports from Malaysia fell by 20% while imports from Indonesia slid 7%. Total imports for the month fell 15% short of last February’s total. Despite the decline, the year-to-date total for 2025 is ahead of 2024 due to the strong January figure. Imports of assembled flooring panels declined by 12% in February. However, at US\$29.4 million, imports were 18.5% higher than the previous February despite the slide.

A 24% increase in imports from Canada made up somewhat for declines of 51% from Indonesia and Thailand and a 42% drop in imports from both China and Brazil. After the first two months of the year, total imports of assembled floor panels for 2025 are outpacing last year by 29%.

Moulding imports slump

US imports of hardwood moulding fell by 13% as imports from all top trading partners slumped. At just under US\$13 million the import level was better than last February’s by 12%.

While imports from top trading partner Canada slid by only 4%, imports from other major trading nations fell more sharply. Imports from Brazil plunged 52%, while imports from China fell 35% and imports from Malaysia slipped 27%. However, due to January’s strong numbers, imports from all top importing countries remain well ahead of last year’s pace and total imports are up 29% over last year through the first two months of the year.

	2025 Feb US\$	MoM % change
Total	12,977,257	-13%
Brazil	297,893	-52%
China	901,905	-35%
Malaysia	1,125,030	-27%
Canada	4,216,644	-4%
Other	6,435,785	-8%

Data source: US Department of Agriculture, Foreign Trade Statistics

US wooden furniture imports take a hit

US imports of wooden furniture fell 11% in February, ending a three-month streak of gains. At nearly US\$1.68 billion, imports were 4% lower than last February as imports slowed from all major trading nations. Imports from China and Malaysia both fell 15% in February, imports from Indonesia slid 13% and imports from Vietnam slowed by 9%. Despite the setback, total imports of wooden furniture are up 2% from last year through the first two months of the year.

See: <https://usatrade.census.gov/index.php?do=login>

January residential furniture orders a mixed bag

New residential furniture orders dropped 3% in January compared to the same period in 2024, according to the March issue of *Furniture Insights*. Yet, despite the overall decline, two-thirds of respondents reported seeing increased orders.

Compared to December figures, January new orders were up 2%, although that could be due to some seasonality from the holiday break noted Mark Laferriere, assurance partner at Smith Leonard, the accounting and consulting firm that produces the monthly report.

January shipments were up 4% compared to 2024 figures, and up 8% compared to December 2024. Consistent with new orders, shipments in January 2025 were also up for approximately two-thirds of the participants compared to January 2024, Laferriere said.

Tariffs, both existing and potential, continue to impact American business and spending, making projections difficult, Laferriere said. "so I'll stick to what we do know, which is that consumer confidence declined for a fourth consecutive month as concerns grew about labour market conditions and stock market volatility (seemingly hitting consumers in both the low-end and high-end of the market, which, as a leading economic indicator, could be a signal of trouble ahead at least until some of the current uncertainty is resolved."

See:

<https://www.woodworkingnetwork.com/furniture/january-residential-furniture-orders-mixed-bag-smith-leonard> and

<https://www.smith-leonard.com/2025/03/03/february-2025-furniture-insights/>

Lumber excluded in US tariff plan

After repeatedly saying that the US didn't need Canadian lumber and numerous repeated threats to add to import taxes to a big chunk of US wood supply, lumber has been left out of the US tariff blitz.

When President Trump announced reciprocal tariffs on a list of dozens of countries, lumber, composite wood panels and related products and other USMCA-compliant goods from Canada and Mexico were exempted.

Trump, who said he had the authority to issue the sweeping round of tariffs against its global trading partners under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977 (IEEPA), said the plan imposes 10% tariffs on goods imported into the US from most of the world's remaining countries. These tariffs went into effect April 5.

In addition to the base tariff, Trump proposed additional reciprocal tariffs on a country by country basis, which he has since paused until early July.

According to Annex II released by the White House, many wood and wood-related products, including specific species, plywood, MDF, OSB and other engineered woods are exempted. Still, the tariffs will "undoubtedly raise some construction costs, according to a statement from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

According to a report in the *Washington Post*, the broad tariffs Trump announced Wednesday will add about US\$6,400 to the cost of building an average house.

See:

<https://www.woodworkingnetwork.com/news/woodworking-industry-news/trump-excludes-lumber-massive-tariffs-plan> and

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Annex-II.pdf>

Home furnishings sector braces for impact from tariffs

The latest round of tariffs proposed by US President, which includes double-digit levies on many of the United States' leading trading partners, will have a very significant impact on 70% of home furnishings-related businesses according to a Strategic Insights survey.

The survey of more than 420 home furnishings retailers, manufacturers/suppliers, interior designers and industry allies, revealed few believe they will avoid the impact of tariffs, with another 23% saying it will be somewhat significant. Of the remaining 7%, just 1% said there will be no fallout.

Additionally, 69% of respondents view the tariffs as a long-term situation lasting six months or more. Among those within the 31% seeing a shorter-term duration for tariffs, some say there will be positive negotiations between the United States and other countries soon.

In the face of new tariffs 27% plan to raise prices immediately, while nearly as many (26%) will hike prices only on new orders and new business. A little more than one-third (36%) are taking a wait-and-see approach to price increases.

Among those enacting or anticipating increases, 41% estimate they would hike prices by 11% to 20%, while another 28% forecast bumps of 21% to 30%. Meanwhile, nearly 14% would go as high as between 41% and 75%.

No product sector within the home furnishings universe will be immune to the impact from tariffs but the survey takers singled out case goods to be the most impacted with 63% citing both bedroom furniture and dining furniture, followed by accent furniture (56%) and home office furniture (50%).

Upholstered goods are also high on the impact list with 49% mentioning motion upholstery and 42% stationary. At 22%, the mattress category was considered the least impacted by tariffs.

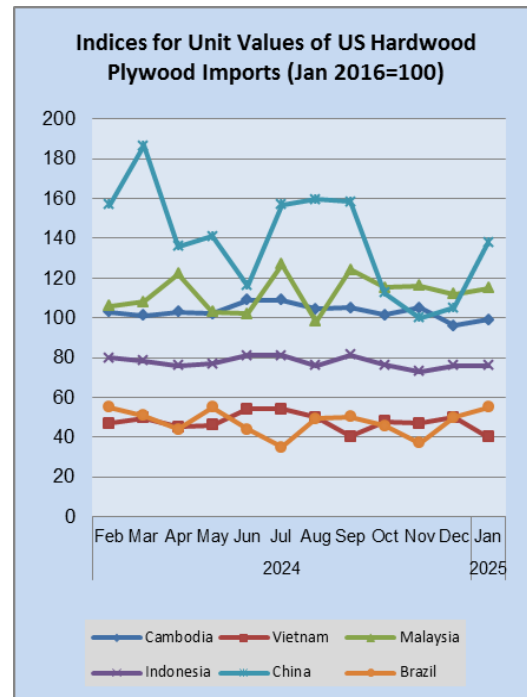
See: <https://www.furnituretoday.com/tariffs/home-furnishings-industry-braces-for-very-significant-long-duration-impact-from-tariffs-exclusive-survey/>

US to increase logging in national forests to boost timber production

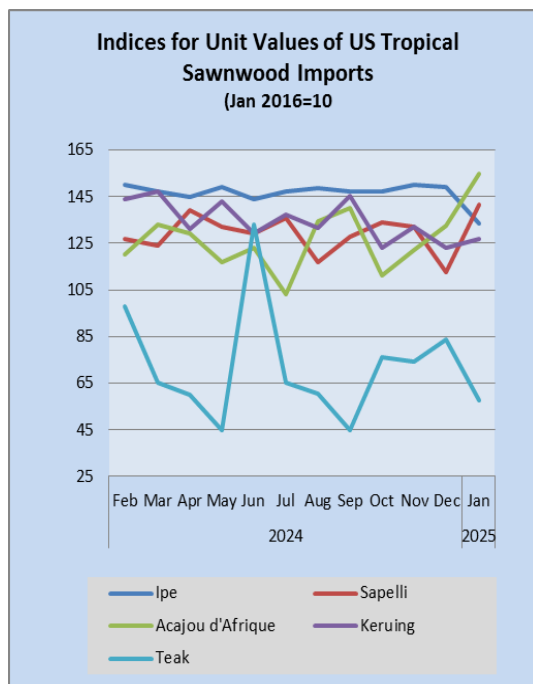
On 4 April US Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke Rollins, issued a Secretarial Memo to establish an "Emergency Situation Determination" on 112,646,000 acres of National Forestry System (NFS) land. The memo comes on the heels of an Executive Order to expand American timber production by 25%. It will empower the US Forest Service to expedite work on the ground and carry out authorised emergency actions to “reduce wildfire risk and save American lives and communities.”

See: <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/04/04/secretary-rollins-announces-sweeping-reforms-protect-national-forests-and-boost-domestic-timber-and>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/news/content/ar-AA1CmNtw?ocid=BingNewsVerp>



Data source: US Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics



Data source: US Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics

Disclaimer: Though efforts have been made to ensure prices are accurate, these are published as a guide only. ITTO does not take responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

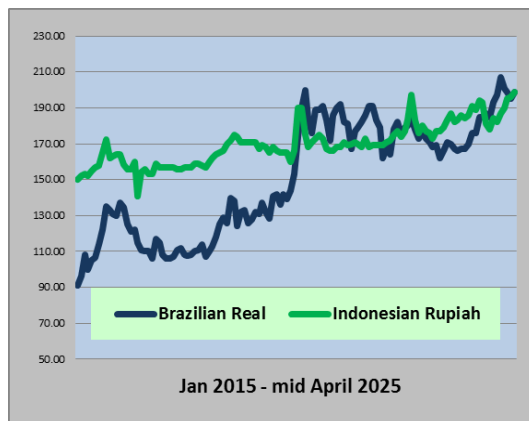
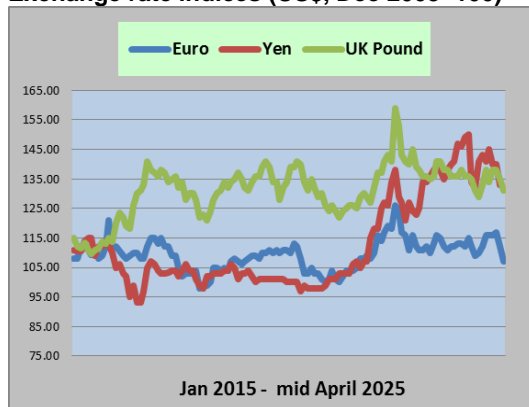
The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the correspondents and do not necessarily reflect those of ITTO

US Dollar Exchange Rates

As of 10 April 2025

Brazil	Real	5.87
CFA countries	CFA Franc	578.14
China	Yuan	7.29
Euro area	Euro	0.883
India	Rupee	86.08
Indonesia	Rupiah	16,797
Japan	Yen	143.52
Malaysia	Ringgit	4.42
Peru	Sol	3.67
UK	Pound	0.768
South Korea	Won	1,421.22

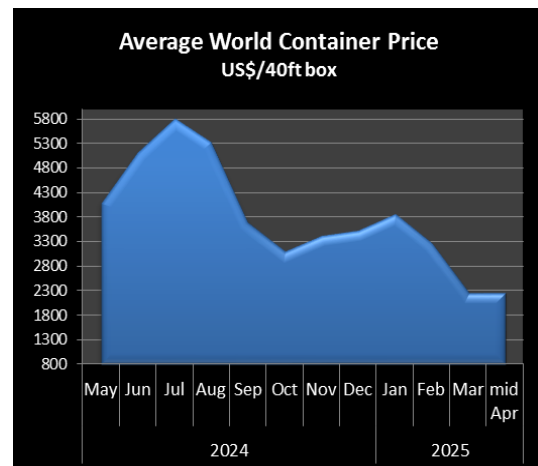
Exchange rate indices (US\$, Dec 2003=100)



Abbreviations and Equivalences

Arrows ↓↑	Price has moved up or down
BB/CC etc	quality of face and back veneer
BF, MBF	Board foot, 1000 board foot
Boule	bundled boards from a single log
TEU	20 foot container equivalent
CIF	Cost insurance and freight
C&F CNF	Cost and freight
cu.m cbm	cubic metre
FAS	First and second grade of sawnwood
FOB	Free-on board
Genban	Sawnwood for structural use in house building
GMS	General Market Specification
GSP	Guiding Selling Price
Hoppus ton	1.8 cubic metre
KD, AD	Kiln dried, air dried
Koku	0.28 cubic metre or 120 BF
LM	Loyale Merchant, a grade of log parcel
MR., WBP	Moisture resistant, Weather and boil proof
MT	Metric tonne
OSB	Oriented Strand Board
PHND	Pin hole no defect
QS	Qualite Superieure
SQ,SSQ	Sawmill Quality, Select Sawmill Quality

Ocean Container Freight Index

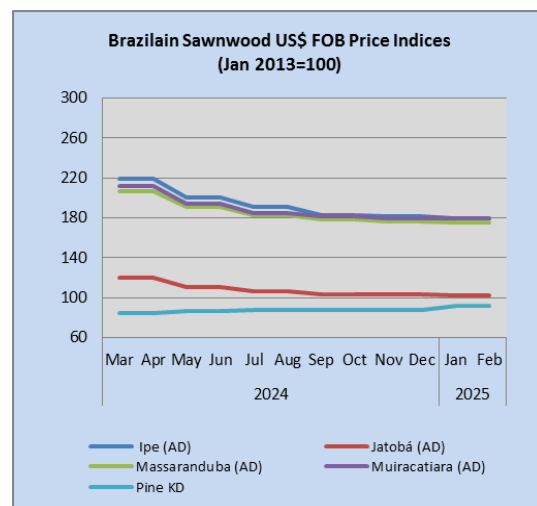
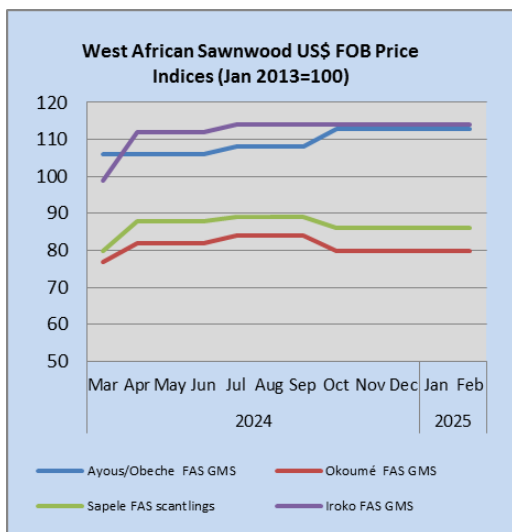
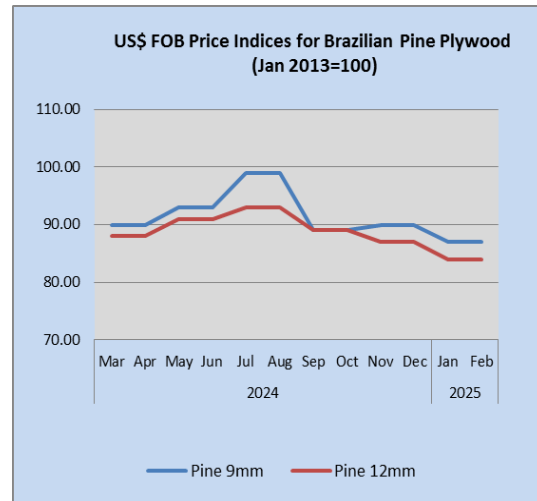
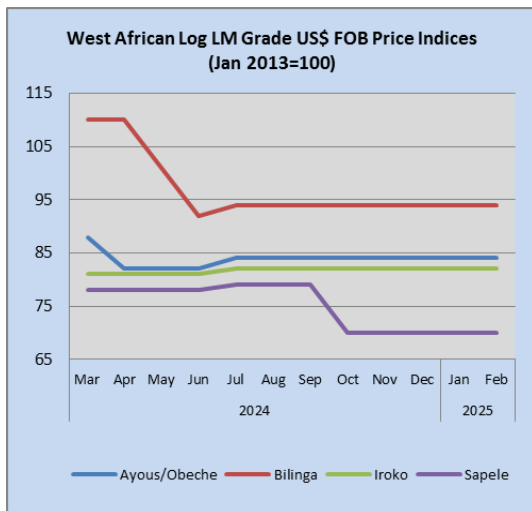


Data source: Drewry World Container Index

See: <https://www.drewry.co.uk/supply-chain-advisors/supply-chain-expertise/world-container-index-assessed-by-drewry>

Price indices for selected products

The following indices are based on US dollar FOB prices



Note: Indices for W. African logs and sawnwood are recalculated from Euro to US dollar terms.

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