

# Tropical Timber Market Report

Volume 29 Number 12 16th – 30th June 2025



The ITTO *Tropical Timber Market (TTM) Report*, an output of the ITTO Market Information Service (MIS), is published in English every two weeks with the aim of improving transparency in the international tropical timber market. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of ITTO. News may be reprinted provided that the ITTO *TTM Report* is credited. A copy of the publication should be sent to [ti@itto.int](mailto:ti@itto.int).

## Contents

Central/West Africa	2
Ghana	3
Malaysia	5
Indonesia	6
Myanmar	7
India	7
Viet Nam	9
Brazil	11
Peru	13
Japan	15
China	21
EU	23
North America	27
Currencies and Abbreviations	30
Ocean Freight	30
Price Indices	31

## Headlines

	Page
<b>Ghana's intra-Africa exports reached US\$4.8 bil. in 2024</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Could Malaysian timber exports gain a competitive edge in the US?</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Indian manufacturing sector emerging as Attractive for investors</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Viet Nam's wood industry in 2025 - navigating challenges and seizing opportunities</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Commercial strategies for the Brazilian furniture sector</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Japan embraces timber for large structures</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>European imports of tropical wooden furniture recover lost ground</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>US Housing starts plummet to a 5-year low</b>	<b>27</b>

## Top story

### Builder confidence continues to fall

US home builder confidence in the market for newly built single-family homes has fallen according to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI) released in June.

"Buyers are increasingly moving to the sidelines due to elevated mortgage rates, tariffs and economic uncertainty," said NAHB Chairman. He added "to help address affordability concerns and bring hesitant buyers off the fence a growing number of builders are moving to cut prices."

In a further sign of declining builder sentiment the use of price incentives increased sharply in June as the housing market continued to soften.

Page 27

## Central and West Africa

### Cameroon

Unseasonal heavy rains have swept across Cameroon far earlier than expected triggering widespread transport delays. Travel restrictions on key laterite roads are slowing truck movements creating log and sawnwood stockpiles at mills, an unwelcome burden in already sluggish markets.

The Chinese market remains a challenge say producers. Duties on African timbers have reportedly been removed but exporters report no surge in orders and business sentiment is low. Only high-value species such as Azobé, Ovangkol and Okan continue to keep a handful of mills running buoyed by modest enquiries from Europe and the Middle East.

Douala Port is said to be severely backlogged with ships waiting sometimes a week to berth and with this comes substantial demurrage charges. Operations at Kribi Port are said to be steady but Kribi handles a smaller volume than Douala. Containers remain available but shipping delays are squeezing export timelines.

### Gabon

Unverified reports say Gabon's industry association, UFIGA, has lodged a request with both the Forestry and Transport ministries to address inadequate rail wagon allocations for wood product transport. Priority remains with manganese shipments, forcing sawmills to contend with severe backlogs.

With unexpected rains now extending into northern provinces, laterite road repairs remain on hold. A round trip from Makokou or Okondja to Libreville can now take up to a week, leading many truckers to refuse to haul and mills to amass timber stocks.

Producers say market demand remains muted with the exception of Azobé shipments to the Netherlands, Ovangkol and Béli to China and Okoumé to the Philippines. Padouk exports to Belgium 'limp' along under CITES-related documentation delays.

Following government intervention, SEEG's power cuts have ceased entirely. In mid month the Ministry summoned SEEG's board and mandated the final installations on the two Turkish power ships. Since then, Libreville has enjoyed uninterrupted electricity service.

### Republic of Congo

Southern Congo has entered its dry season, though northern areas under Cameroon's rain belt still experience intermittent showers. Harvesting remains constrained by low international demand and veneer mills, bound by long-standing contracts, operate on a single shift.

Transport to Pointe-Noire via the Maloukou corridor is unchanged. River transport operations feed rail or road movement of timber with no new disruptions reported. Port operations at Pointe-Noire continue smoothly despite occasional vessel backlogs.

Timber exports are steady but limited by existing quotas and CITES restrictions. Overall production and shipments remain subdued in line with the broader market downturn.

The latest edition of the Republic of Congo's APV-FLEGT newsletter (January-February-March 2025) focuses on the issue of supplying the local market with timber, highlighting the launch of the Private Sector Support Project – Domestic Timber Market (ASP MIB Congo).

The aim is to strengthen the structure, competitiveness and sustainability of the domestic timber sector in the Republic of Congo. It is part of a drive to formalise a sector that has remained informal for too long, despite its important economic role.

ATIBT reports that in the editorial of the newsletter, the National FLEGT Focal Point, Théophile Ntiakoulou Loulébo, emphasises that this project responds to a long-standing concern of the Congolese government, identified in particular in the 2020 Forest Code, to improve the supply of processed wood for the domestic market and to better regulate artisanal practices.

See: <https://apvflegtcongo.com/>

and

<https://www.atibt.org/en/news/13655/the-domestic-timber-market-mib-project-featured-in-the-republic-of-congo-apv-flegt-newsletter>

### Central African Republic

The correspondent reports only six timber operators remain active in the Central African Republic. They are trucking high-value redwood logs overland to Bertoua, Cameroon and onward (1,200 km) to Douala for export.

ATIBT has reported on the joint initiative of the African Forest Forum (AFF) and the Center for Development and Environment (CDE) at the University of Bern themed: "The AfCFTA and intra-African timber trade for inclusive green growth." a collaborative online event from 30 June 30 to 11 July 11 2025.

Stakeholders from across Africa will have the opportunity to explore the intersection of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), intra-African timber trade and green growth strategies. The discussions aim to strengthen collaboration and policy alignment in support of sustainable and inclusive development across the continent.

See: <https://www.atibt.org/en/news/13652/community-of-practice-afcfta-and-intra-african-timber-trade-a-collaborative-online-event-from-june-30-to-july-11-2025>

and

<https://afforum.org/events/community-practice-afcftas-role-promoting-sustainable-intra-african-timber-trade-inclusive>

## 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	230↓	230↓	-
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	220
Sapele	230	230	220
Sipo/Utile	250	250	200
Tali	260	260	-

## 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	420
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	850
Scantlings	900
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

## Through the eyes of industry

The latest GTI report lists the challenges identified by the private sector in the Republic of Congo and Gabon.

See: <https://www.itto-ggsc.org/static/upload/file/20250616/1750055807148798.pdf>

## Ghana

### Billet exports double, India accounts for most

The Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) of the Forestry Commission (FC) report for the first four month of this year showed that Ghana's timber and wood product exports for the period were 47,492 cu.m. and earned Eur86.76 million.

A total of eighteen different wood products contributed to exports. The table below shows product details for the first four months of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024.

### Export volumes: Jan-Apr 2024/2025

	2024 cu.m	2025 cu.m	Y-O-Y % change
AD sawnwood	47,667	45,266	-5%
KD sawnwood	11,557	10,070	-13%
Billets	4,369	8,900	104%
Plywood (Overland)	6,258	5,099	-19%
Plywood	4,967	624	-87%
Rotary Veneer	2,996	2,564	-14%
Mouldings	2,117	1,696	-20%
Sliced Veneer	1,752	2,395	37%
Boules (KD)	143	29	-80%
Others (9)	4,929	849	-83%
Total	86,755	77,492	-11%

Data source: TIDD

Exports of billet accounted for 12% (8,900 cu.m) of the total export volume for the period against 5% (4,369 cu.m) recorded in 2024 representing a doubling of export volumes.

Billet exports along with air-dried sawnwood (58%), kiln dried sawnwood (13%), plywood to the regional market (6%) and rotary veneer (3%) accounted for 92% of the total export volume for 2025 (77,492 cu.m). For the same products last year, the volume was 86,755 cu.m.

Revenue from the country's wood product exports for the four-months period totalled Eur36.49 million. The table below shows the breakdown of products receipts with billets recording a significant increase of 107% to Eur2.72 million.

### Export values: Jan-Apr 2024/2025

	2024 Eur 000s	2025 Eur 000s	Y-O-Y % change
AD sawnwood	19,401	18,270	-6%
KD sawnwood	7,288	6,955	-5%
Billets	1,317	2,722	107%
Plywood (Overland)	2,427	2,083	-14%
Plywood	1,816	176	-90%
Rotary Veneer	1,454	1,241	-15%
Mouldings	1,938	1,604	-17%
Sliced Veneer	1,889	3,194	69%
Boules (KD)	122	24	-80%
Others (9)	1,640	219	-87%
Total	39,292	36,488	-7%

Data source: TIDD

In 2025 India accounted for a significant 8,854 cu.m of the total Billet export volume with Barbados accounting for 46 cu.m. The major species for billet were teak and gmelina accounting for 86% and 14% respectively. The average unit price of billets registered an almost 2% increase from Eur301/cu.m in January-April 2024 to Eur306/cu.m in the same period of 2025.

### Ghana-China Business Summit 2025

A Ghana-China Business Summit 2025 was held in Accra bringing together over 90 Chinese investors and key stakeholders to explore opportunities for industrial growth and partnerships between the two nations. The Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) was in attendance with key executives including Dr. James Asare-Adjei, past president of AGI and Mr. Eric K. Defor, Chairman of the AGI Construction Sector.

During the summit, the government's Chief of Staff, Julius Debrah assured Chinese participants that Ghana welcomes supports and will assist in establishing manufacturing plants.

AGI members who participated in the event engaged directly with Chinese investors on opportunities in pharmaceuticals, real estate, agribusiness and manufacturing exploring potential collaborations and joint ventures.

With bilateral trade between Ghana and China exceeding US\$9.5 billion in 2024, the summit aimed to catalyse joint ventures, market expansion strategies and knowledge transfer initiatives positioning Ghana as a strategic entry point for Chinese investment into West Africa.

See: <https://agighana.org/ghana-china-business-summit-2025-opens-with-strong-calls-for-collaboration-and-industrial-transformation/>

### Tree nursery to produce indigenous seedlings

The biggest indigenous tree nursery facility in Africa has been inaugurated at Bassengele, a farming community in Bibiani Anhwiaso- Bekwai Municipality in the Western North Region of Ghana.

The facility, which has the capacity to produce 5 million indigenous seedlings annually, features a cutting-edge irrigation system with almost half a million dollars' worth of investment committed. Among the indigenous commercial tree species targeted are mahogany, wawa, amire and odum.

The company, in partnership with the Forestry Commission as part of its long-term commitment, hopes to restore 2,000 hectares of degraded land this year, with 350 hectares expected to be restored in June 2025 as part of the Tree for Life initiative championed by President John Dramani Mahama.

See: <https://fcghana.org/fc-ce-lauds-rainforest-builder-ghana-for-inaugurating-africas-largest-native-tree-species-nursery/>

### Seaports to run 24-hour service

Ghana's ports of Takoradi and Tema are soon to implement a 24-hours service following President John Dramani Mahama's initiative of a broader national strategy to stimulate economic activity through continuous production and trade.

The announcement comes ahead of the official rollout of the country's 24-hour economy policy. The President described the policy as a "game-changing strategy" aimed at unlocking Ghana's economic potential, particularly in export-oriented sectors.

Ghana's wood product exports by sea go through both the Takoradi and Tema Ports where the TIDD has offices for the final inspection of these wood products.

See: <https://thebftonline.com/2025/06/12/mahama-declares-july-1-start-for-24-hour-economy/>

### Ghana's intra-Africa exports reached US\$4.8 bil. in 2024

Ghana accounted for nearly 6% of the intra-African trade in 2024 solidifying its position as one of the continent's top trading economies. This was revealed in the 2024 Africa Trade Report released on the sidelines of the 32nd Afreximbank Annual Meetings in Abuja, Nigeria.

The figure represents a marginal increase over Ghana's share in 2023 and includes both exports and imports with other African countries. According to the report, Ghana's total exports to Africa reached US\$4.8 billion in 2024, up from US\$3.5 billion the previous year.

Ghana's wood product exports to African countries accounts for around 10% of the total export volume. This places Africa at the third largest market destination after Asia and Europe. Of the total volume exported to Africa, more than 70% goes to the regional ECOWAS (Economic Community of West Africa States) markets.

See: [https://media.afreximbank.com/afrexim/African-Trade-Report\\_2024.pdf/](https://media.afreximbank.com/afrexim/African-Trade-Report_2024.pdf/)

### Boule export prices

	Euro per cu.m FOB
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 (1-1.9 mm)	FACE (>2mm)
Ceiba	358↓	410
Chenchen	472	612
Ogea	362↓	590
Essa	567↓	656
Ofram	350	435

### Sawnwood export prices

Ghana sawnwood, FOB FAS 25-100mmx150mm up x 2.4m up	Euro per cu.m	
	Air-dried	Kiln-dried
Afromosia	860	925
Asanfina	465	947
Ceiba	290	465↑
Dahoma	481↓	543↓
Edinam (mixed redwood)	640	672↓
Emeri	690	750↑
African mahogany (Ivorenensis)	783	976↑
Makore	692	700↓
Niangon	829↑	860↑
Odum	887↓	1,233↑
Sapele	695	765
Wawa 1C & Select	485	482↓

### Plywood export prices

Plywood, FOB		Euro per cu.m	
BB/CC	Ceiba	Ofram	Asanfina
4mm	465↓	580	641
6mm	450	535	604
9mm	409	504	560
12mm	396	489	480
15mm	460	356	430
18mm		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	1,120↓
Avodire	2,688
Chenchen	652↓
Mahogany	1,048↓
Makore	1,600↓
Odum	2,568↓
Sapele	1,590↑

### Through the eyes of industry

The latest GTI report lists the challenges identified by the private sector in Ghana.

See: <https://www.itto-ggsc.org/static/upload/file/20250616/1750055807148798.pdf>

## Malaysia

### Uncertain times ahead

Malaysia's trade performance is expected to remain steady in the near term supported by exports ahead of potential US tariff hikes and continued diversification in export markets. Economists caution on the outlook for the second half of the financial year 2025.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Chief Economist, Afzanizam Abdul Rashid, is reported as saying Malaysia's trade remained robust in May building on April's strong momentum. In April total trade rose 18.2% year-on-year with both exports and imports posting strong double-digit increases for the month. Exports expanded by 16% and imports were up by 20%.

Afzanizam noted that the 90-day pause in US tariff hikes had led to front-loading behaviour among Malaysian exporters.

The sharp surge in exports to the US (up 46% YoY in April) and Taiwan P.o.C (up 45%) suggests strategic acceleration of shipments ahead of potential trade policy changes.

See: [https://www.thestar.com.my/business/business-news/2025/06/20/uncertainty-to-cloud-2h25-trade-performance#goog\\_rewarded](https://www.thestar.com.my/business/business-news/2025/06/20/uncertainty-to-cloud-2h25-trade-performance#goog_rewarded)

### Could timber exports may gain a competitive edge in the US?

Malaysia's timber exports may gain a competitive edge in the US market due to higher tariffs imposed on regional rivals such as Viet Nam and Indonesia. Viet Nam, a leading furniture exporter in the region faces tariffs as high as 46% compared with Malaysia's levy of 24% according to Wan Tarmeze, Director of Forest Products Division, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).

The US is the largest buyer of Malaysian furniture accounting for over half of furniture exports. The tariffs announced in April have been paused for 90 days until early July and may be paused further.

On the challenges faced by the timber industry Wan Tarmeze said Malaysia's furniture sector primarily relies on processed wood rather than solid timber, with wood-based materials accounting for up to 85% of inputs in the furniture/industry.

When asked how Malaysia can position itself as a high-value timber exporter rather than a volume exporter, he said the shift ultimately depends on the industry "This has been a long-standing conversation as Malaysia is still heavily reliant on the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) model, manufacturing wood products for others without having its own strong, internationally recognised brands.

OEM refers to manufacturing products for other brands, whereas original brand manufacturers (OBM) involve developing and marketing products under one's own brand name. Wan Tarmeze said that despite the government's repeated calls for the industry to move from being OEMs to OBMs, the shift has yet to happen.

See: <http://theborneopost.pressreader.com/article/282149297287449>

### Tawau Port congestion

Sabah Timber Industries Association (STIA) has called for an assurance from the Sabah State government that it will address the Tawau Port congestion that began in April. STIA President, Tan Peng Juan, said STIA members, especially exporters, are demanding proactive steps and backup plans to resolve existing issues at the port to prevent future recurrences of port congestion.

Tan had likened the recent Tawau Port congestion incident to a 'time bomb' as the same problem could happen when one of the port's two cranes break down again.



On 10 May it was reported that a total of 200 containers with wood products were stranded at the Tawau Port due operational problems. STIA members faced shipment delays, incurred demurrage fees and extra container rental costs. The delays for over a month had significantly affected logistics efficiency which caused setbacks for businesses reliant on timely cargo processing.

See: <https://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news/260704/no-tawau-port-repeat-please/>

### Through the eyes of industry

The latest GTI report lists the challenges identified by the private sector in Malaysia.

See: <https://www.itto-gsgc.org/static/upload/file/20250616/1750055807148798.pdf>

## Indonesia

### Anti-dumping/subsidy investigation on plywood

The Ministry of Trade (Kemendag) is fully supporting Indonesian businesses facing anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations by the US Department of Commerce regarding hardwood and decorative plywood exports. Kemendag will assist Indonesian entrepreneurs in preparing their defence and completing questionnaires. Around one-third of Indonesia's hardwood and decorative plywood production is exported to the US.

See: <https://www.antaranews.com/berita/4905025/kemendag-bela-pelaku-usaha-ri-hadapi-penyelidikan-kayu-lapis-di-as> and <https://www.trade.gov/commerce-initiates-antidumping-duty-and-countervailing-duty-investigations-hardwood-and-decorative>

### Premier woodworking and furniture for Jakarta

For the first time major international trade fairs; Interzum Jakarta, IHFI and IFMAC/WOODMAC will be held concurrently in Jakarta at JIExpo Kemayoran 24-27 September.

This collaborative effort aims to create a comprehensive platform for the entire woodworking and furniture industry value chain. The goal is to foster a connected and mutually reinforcing industrial ecosystem, facilitating cross-sector collaboration from raw materials and technology providers to component suppliers and interior design solutions.

See: <https://wartaekonomi.co.id/read571342/southeast-asias-premier-woodworking-furniture-manufacturing-industry-hub-akan-digelar-di-jakarta>

### Industry needs machinery upgrades

To raise the quality and competitiveness of Indonesia's furniture and wood products machinery upgrades are crucial. Jimmy Chandra, Deputy Chairman for R&D and Regulations at the Indonesian Sawmill and Woodworking Association, emphasised that investing in advanced machines and technologies is the only way to achieve efficiency and improve product quality.

Chandra also stressed the importance of Indonesian industry players not just hosting exhibitions but also actively participating in international events. He urged the Indonesian government to provide subsidies or support for local companies to showcase their products on the global stage similar to the support provided by some other countries.

He added Indonesian wood product manufacturers are urging the government to lower import duties on production machines. According to Chandra the industry faces challenges due to limited technological utilisation while other countries are using more efficient, modern machinery.

Chandra specifically requested a 20% reduction on import duties for the latest generation of production machines. He stressed that modernising production machinery is essential for the woodworking industry to be more competitive in international markets.

See: <https://www.medcom.id/ekonomi/bisnis/GNGz86xK-pelaku-industri-furnitur-membutuhkan-pembaruan-mesin> and <https://www.tribunnews.com/bisnis/2025/06/19/pemerintah-perlu-turunkan-bea-masuk-mesin-produksi-untuk-genjot-daya-saing-industri-kayu-olahan>

### Ministry acknowledges Indowood Expo 2025 a boost for exports

The Ministry of Industry has praised the Indonesia Forestry and Woodworking Machinery Expo (Indowood Expo) 2025 as a vital initiative to bolster national wood industry exports and drive innovation.

Putu Juli Ardika, Director General of Agro Industry at the Ministry of Industry, said that the Expo provides an important platform for the development of Indonesia's woodworking machinery and equipment industry as well as the expansion of the domestic furniture market.

Ardika also pointed to a rising Industrial Confidence Index (IKI) which hit 52.11 in May 2025 underscoring the need for continuous efforts to sustain and improve export performance. He concluded that the Indowood Expo is a strategic platform crucial for supporting the growth of Indonesia's wood industry.

See: <https://jatim.antaranews.com/berita/935261/kamenperin-apresiasi-penyelenggaraan-indowood-expo-2025> and <https://www.jawapos.com/ekonomi/016164492/nilai-ekspor-produk-kayu-indonesia-tembus-usd-32-miliar-indowood-expo-2025-dorong-industri-perkayuan-naik-kelas>

### Increased scrutiny of permits amid mining concerns

The Indonesian Ministry of Forestry is increasing its oversight of forest area use permit (PPKH) holders, particularly in light of heightened environmental concerns surrounding mining activities in Raja Ampat, Southwest Papua. Director General of Law Enforcement, Dwi Januanto Nugroho, emphasised the need to improve supervisory business processes for issued permits.

The recent public outcry over nickel mining in the ecologically vital Raja Ampat islands presents an opportunity for the ministry to ensure good governance.

See: <https://en.antaranews.com/news/359097/ri-govt-bolsters-scrutiny-of-forest-area-use-permit-holders>

### Indonesia champions indigenous rights

Indonesia is a strong advocate for indigenous peoples' rights in the context of climate change actively participating in the Facilitative Working Group on Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (FWG LCIPP).

Yuli Prasetyo Nugroho, from the Ministry of Forestry, highlighted Indonesia's consistent engagement with FWG LCIPP since its inception. Recently, Indonesia showcased its Customary Forest Programme in Germany detailing achievements since 2016. This programme involves 156 Indigenous Law Communities managing 332,505 hectares of customary forests across 19 provinces and 41 districts/cities.

During the LCIPP Annual Dialogue, Indonesia underscored the profound connection of its indigenous peoples (Masyarakat Hukum Adat) to natural resources. The Ministry emphasised the crucial role of customary forests in both local development and broader climate change initiatives, recognising that these communities maintain their identity and contribute significantly to forest management despite evolving socio-economic landscapes.

See: <https://en.antaranews.com/amp/news/360993/indonesia-advocates-indigenous-communities-progress-at-fwg-lcipp>

### SFM and digitalisation cooperation with Finland

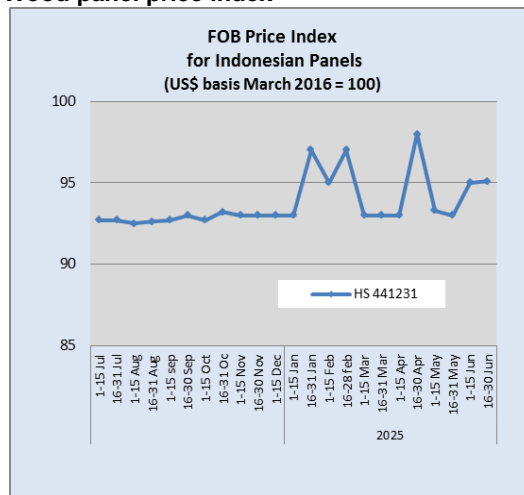
The Papua Provincial Administration recently met with Finnish Ambassador to Indonesia, Jukka-Pekka Kaihilahti, to discuss potential cooperation on SFM and digitalisation.

Ambassador Kaihilahti highlighted Finland's strong emphasis on environmental sustainability and expressed hope that collaboration in these areas could be realised in Papua. He reiterated Finland's commitment to strengthening ties with Indonesia, particularly in telecommunications, forestry and digitalisation, which are also priorities for Papua.

Acting Regional Secretary of Papua, Suzana D. Wanggai, welcomed Finland's interest especially concerning environmental preservation, digitalisation and approaches that respect indigenous values.

See: <https://en.antaranews.com/news/360717/papua-explores-cooperation-in-forest-management-with-finland>

### Wood panel price index



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

### Through the eyes of industry

The latest GTI report lists the challenges identified by the private sector in Indonesia.

See: <https://www.itto-ggsc.org/static/upload/file/20250616/1750055807148798.pdf>

## Myanmar

Our apologies for being unable to provide a report from Myanmar.

Coverage will resume in the next ITTO report.

## India

### Manufacturing emerging as attractive sector for investors

In a special report, S&P Global says India's manufacturing sector is emerging as an increasingly attractive destination for investors as the country makes progress in competitiveness and is making its manufacturing sector more attractive to global investors.

The report also highlights that over the past three decades its core sectors, manufacturing, agriculture and services have grown in step with demographic shifts and structural changes and will see demand grow as the economy advances. The latest report from S&P Global comes after India's manufacturing sector expanded at its fastest pace in 10 months in April, driven by strong demand and a sharp rise in output.

"An analysis of S&P Global Market Intelligence's index over time indicates that India has made notable progress in enhancing its competitiveness and making its manufacturing sector more attractive to investors" the report said.

See: <https://www.spglobal.com/en/research-insights/special-reports/india-forward/india-manufacturing-opportunity-amid-global-trade-uncertainty>

### New Zealand trade mission

New Zealand's Minister of Forestry, Todd McClay, revealed that reciprocal trade missions with India this year are expected to promote New Zealand's forestry systems and sustainable management practices.

He added "the outbound mission is aimed at strengthening trade links, deepening industry ties and unlocking greater value for both countries" New Zealand's wood exports to India surged from US\$9.5 million in 2023 and are forecast to reach US\$76 million this year.

See: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/indonz/564363/todd-mcclay-unveils-two-way-forestry-trade-missions-with-india>

### Outdated property Registration Act to be replaced - will drive sector growth

The Central Government has introduced a draft Registration Bill, 2025, a long anticipated development in India's property registration framework. Replacing the outdated Registration Act of 1908, this bill aims to bring clarity, efficiency and transparency to real estate transactions through digitilisation and legal reforms.

The Registration Bill 2025, says the press, has the potential to make transactions regarding the Indian real estate sector, faster, secure and more transparent. In addition, it is claimed the Bill lays the groundwork for deeper investment and innovation in Indian real estate.

The most exciting part is the vision of interconnected digital property registers linking registration data with land records, municipal databases and financial institutions which will assist developers.

See: <https://housing.com/news/centre-releases-draft-of-the-registration-bill-to-overhaul-property-registration/>

### 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	189	490
Colombia	238	440
Costa Rica	227	330
Nigeria	-	-
Benin	-	-
Tanzania	171	470
Laos	-	-
South Sudan	186	675
Guatemala	134	380
Venezuela	-	-

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

	cu.m	US\$ C&F
Benin	235	680
Brazil	179	645
Colombia	-	-
Costa Rica	160	550
Ecuador	-	-
Ghana	183	425
Ivory Coast	286	820
Nigeria	188	420
South Sudan	233	820
Tanzania	-	-
Togo	145	515
Panama	245	475

### Locally milled sawnwood prices

Sawnwood Ex-mill	Rs per cu.ft.
Merbau	4,440 - 4,800
Balau	3,000 - 3,300
Resak	-
Kapur	-
Kempas	1,700 - 2,000
Red meranti	1,850 - 2,150
Radiata pine	900 - 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	1,950 - 2,250
Sycamore	2,350 - 2,750
Red Oak	2,950 - 3,350
White Oak	3,350 - 3,750
American Walnut	5,400 - 5,900
Hemlock STD grade	1,950 - 2,250
Western Red Cedar	3,000 - 3,400
Douglas Fir	2,400 - 2,600

Price range depends mainly on lengths and cross-section



## Plywood

### 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	181.50
18mm	199.50

### 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

## Viet Nam

### Wood and Wood Product (W&WP) trade highlights

According to the Viet Nam Customs Department W&WP exports in May 2025 reached US\$1.4 billion, down 2.5% compared to April 2025, but up 5% compared to May 2024. WP exports accounted for US\$995.5 million, up 2% compared to April 2025 and up 13% compared to May 2024.

In the first 5 months of 2025 W&WP exports totalled US\$6.8 billion, up 9% over the same period in 2024. WP exports alone fetched US\$4.7 billion, up 10% over the same period in 2024.

W&WP exports to China in May 2025 valued at US\$137.7 million, down 36% over the same period in 2024. In the first 5 months of 2025 W&WP exports to China stood at US\$707.3 million, down 20% over the same period in 2024.

In May 2025 exports of kitchen furniture earned US\$121 million, up 2% compared to May 2024. In the first 5 months of 2025 exports of kitchen furniture brought in about US\$545 million, up 3% over the same period in 2024.

In May 2025 W&WP imports to Viet Nam amounted to US\$301 million, up 22% compared to April 2025 and up 16% compared to May 2024. In the first 5 months of 2025, Viet Nam spent US\$1.2 billion for W&WP imports, up 18% over the same period in 2024.

Viet Nam's pine imports in May 2025 were 100,300 cu.m, worth US\$21.1 million, up 20% in volume and 22% in value compared to April 2025 and an increase of 18% in volume and an increase of 13% in value compared to May 2024. In the first 5 months of 2025, imports of pine stood at 367,500 cu.m, worth US\$76.1 million, up 16% in volume and 10% in value over the same period in 2024.

Viet Nam's imports of raw wood (logs and sawnwood) from ASEAN countries in May 2025 reached 79,000 cu.m, with a value of US\$22.5 million, up 5% in volume and 6% in value compared to April 2025 bringing the total volume of raw wood imported from ASEAN countries in the first 5 months of 2025 to 361,880 cu.m, with a value of US\$101.86 million, down 7% in volume and down 6% in value over the same period in 2024.

### Viet Nam/US promote sustainable timber trade and legal supply chains

The US remains Viet Nam's largest market and accounted for 55% of the country's total wood product exports in 2024. Key products included wooden furniture, plywood, doors and handicrafts.

Enterprises and associations in the timber industry have emphasised the need to increase imports of US legal timber for processing and re-export as a way to ensure sustainable timber trade and legal supply chains.

Speaking at a workshop on Viet Nam/US timber and wood products trade held on 24 June by the Department of Forestry and Forest Protection under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Viet Nam's leading timber associations and Forest Trends, Vice Chairman and Secretary General of the Viet Nam Timber and Forest Products Association (VIFOREST) Ngo Sy Hoai said that in 2024 Viet Nam exported wood and wood products worth US\$9 billion to the US, up 24% year-on-year.

Viet Nam imported US\$316.36 million worth of timber from the US in 2024, up 33% year-on-year, and accounted for 11% of Viet Nam's total wood imports. The top three imported items were sawnwood, logs and veneer.

Hoai stressed that US regulations such as the Lacey Act, require wood imports to be legal and traceable. Exporters must comply with documentation requirements including export certificates and self-certification of origin.

Viet Nam has banned natural forest logging since 2014, focusing instead on sustainable plantation forestry. The country now relies mainly on 3 million hectares of planted forests, mainly acacia and eucalyptus and 1 million hectares of rubberwood plantations.

Until now, 700,000 ha of commercial forests in Viet Nam have been certified. Viet Nam aims to reach 70% certified plantation coverage by 2030.

Imports of tropical timber into Viet Nam have dropped significantly from over 2 million cubic metres in 2015 to 700,000 cubic metres in 2024.

Viet Nam's Timber Legality Assurance System (VNTLAS), which was developed under a voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) between the European Union and Viet Nam on forest law enforcement governance and trade (FLEGT), was launched in 2020 and updated in 2024.

Hoai highlighted that Viet Nam has become one of the top suppliers of timber to the US and one of the largest importers of US wood. He said both sides have strictly followed regulations including the Lacey Act and effectively resolved trade disputes such as the US Section 301 investigation. He called for continued collaboration to promote legal, sustainable and mutually beneficial timber trade between the two countries.

At the workshop, Director of the Department of Forestry and Forest Protection, Tran Quang Bao, revealed that new regulations, including those related to business classification, traceability of forest products, geographical zoning are expected to be issued.

The regulations will help develop a transparent digital transformation system, meeting the requirements of traceability, Bao said.

He noted that his Department is ready to accompany associations and businesses to assure international partners that Viet Nam is a tropical country but has stopped commercial harvesting in natural forests. Viet Nam does not use wood material from natural forests for export and is completely transparent in the supply chain and legal system.

See: [https://en.VietNamplus.vn/Viet-Nam-us-promote-sustainable-timber-trade-legal-supply-chains-post321542.vnp?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://en.VietNamplus.vn/Viet-Nam-us-promote-sustainable-timber-trade-legal-supply-chains-post321542.vnp?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

### **Digital transformation boosts transparency**

At the Viet Nam/US Wood Trade Dialogue held in Hanoi, industry representatives agreed on the need to increase imports of raw wood from the US for processing and re-export to the US and other markets. Industry representatives and associations agreed to enhance international cooperation to improve the reputation of Viet Nam's timber sector while ensuring transparency and compliance with legal frameworks across the supply chain.

Hoai affirmed that Viet Nam is emerging as a top supplier of wood and wood products to the US and one of the largest consumers of US wood. Laws such as the Lacey Act are strictly observed by both sides. Viet Nam has made sustained efforts to deal with concerns over legality and sustainability.

The wood trade between the two countries not only delivers significant economic value but also offers added benefits: US consumers gain more access to high-quality, legally sourced, reasonably priced products.

To Xuan Phuc, Director of the Forest Policy Trade and Finance Program at Forest Trends stated that several misconceptions about Viet Nam's wood sector persist. First, while some believe Viet Nam imports high-risk timber for re-export most imports serve the domestic market and import volumes have dropped significantly.

Second, Viet Nam is not a trans-shipment hub for China's wood supply. Annual wood imports total only about US\$1 billion, with higher-risk items (e.g., panels and furniture) accounting for just US\$200–300 million.

Third, the view that Viet Nam's export growth threatens its forest resources is inaccurate. The country has closed natural forests and does not use domestic natural timber for exports. Exported products are primarily made from plantation timber, rubber wood or legally sourced imports from positive geographic regions.

Phuc urged relevant agencies to actively share information to deepen accurate understanding of the sector's role, thereby mitigating risk and expanding markets. Authorities and industry associations should shift their approach by engaging more directly with export markets and environmental organisations, while joining international associations to strengthen Viet Nam's global wood industry presence.

See: [https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/digital-transformation-boosts-transparency-supports-Viet-Nam-us-wood-trade-post1209559.vov?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com#google\\_vignette](https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/digital-transformation-boosts-transparency-supports-Viet-Nam-us-wood-trade-post1209559.vov?utm_source=chatgpt.com#google_vignette)

### **Viet Nam's wood industry in 2025 - navigating challenges and seizing opportunities**

Viet Nam's wood industry is a vital component of the nation's economy, consistently ranking among the top exporters. The sector is evolving, focusing on sustainable practices and value-added products, while also navigating challenges such as trade tensions and tariffs.

With a commitment to sustainability and growing capabilities, Viet Nam's wood industry is poised for continued growth and innovation in the years to come.

Viet Nam's wood product portfolio is expanding beyond traditional offerings to include value-added, eco-friendly items. While wooden furniture remains dominant, comprising around 60% of the country's wood export value Viet Nam is also becoming a key supplier of processed wood boards such as plywood and MDF, construction components and bioenergy products including wood pellets and chips.

The wood industry in Viet Nam is supported by a robust manufacturing base composed of both domestic leaders and foreign-invested enterprises. In 2024, the number of new foreign direct investment (FDI) projects in the wood industry increased by 7% and total capital inflows grew by over 73% year-on-year.

Much of this investment focused on upgrading to digital machinery and installing facilities powered by clean energy.

Viet Nam's manufacturing is regionally distributed with the southeastern provinces, including Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong and Dong Nai, forming the industrial backbone. These areas benefit from proximity to Cat Lai and Cai Mep–Thi Vai ports, strong logistics infrastructure and access to skilled labour.

In contrast, the north-central provinces of Nghe An and Thanh Hoa are emerging as forest-rich zones for timber cultivation and primary processing thanks to the growth of FSC-certified plantations and government-backed afforestation programmes.

A key development this year was the implementation of a 46% reciprocal tariff by the U.S. on selected Vietnamese wood products. The move, triggered by concerns about trans-shipped Chinese goods, has significantly disrupted trade relationships and created uncertainties for exporters.

To counteract this, the government has prioritised: strengthening traceability systems through blockchain-based verification; expanding timber imports from the US, totalling US\$316.36 million in 2024, a 33% increase from 2023, to ensure clear product origin; and negotiations with U.S. officials to prevent further escalation, particularly concerning compliance with the Lacey Act and anti-dumping regulations.

These efforts have helped maintain Viet Nam's reputation as a compliant and high-quality exporter but the long-term solution lies in diversification and innovation.

#### **Strategic diversification and future opportunities**

Viet Nam's wood industry is rapidly diversifying in both markets and product segments. Digitalisation is accelerating. Many companies are utilising virtual showrooms, AR-enabled customisation tools, and blockchain logistics platforms to connect with global customers and enhance transparency.

Viet Nam's wood industry has evolved rapidly becoming one of the most significant players in global wood production and trade. With over 14 years of experience the country has built a robust reputation for producing high-quality timber, furniture and wooden products.

The Vietnamese wood industry continues to thrive, with new trends, policies and opportunities shaping its future. This article explores the latest developments in Viet Nam's wood sector, highlighting trends, challenges and the potential for global buyers and investors.

#### **Challenges Facing Viet Nam's Wood Exporters in 2025**

Despite strong growth and global recognition, the Viet Nam wood industry faces several challenges that may affect its long-term competitiveness.

- raw material shortages and import dependency
- labor shortages and rising wages

- environmental regulations and certification costs
- global competition
- trade disputes and geopolitical uncertainty

#### **Opportunities for global buyers and investors**

While the Viet Nam wood industry faces challenges it also presents promising opportunities for foreign investors, importers and wholesale buyers. In 2025, Viet Nam remains one of the most attractive sourcing hubs for wood products in Asia thanks to its skilled craftsmanship, competitive pricing and favorable trade agreements along with the country being :

- a strategic sourcing hub for sustainable wood products
- a low cost, high-quality manufacturing base
- strong government support and trade agreements

The Viet Nam wood industry now stands at a crossroads of innovation, opportunity and global competitiveness. With increasing demand for sustainable wood products, strong government support and advanced manufacturing capabilities, Viet Nam has become a leading supplier in the global market.

See: <https://thanhtungthinh.com/Viet-Nam-wood-industry-in-2025/>

## **Brazil**

#### **Commercial strategies for the furniture sector**

The furniture manufacturing sector is undergoing major transformation driven by technological advancements and significant shifts in consumer behavior. A digital presence is no longer a competitive differentiator but a basic requirement directly impacting on how furniture is offered and this demands a consistent multichannel approach from companies.

Sales through online market places have consolidated as a strategic channel due to their broad reach and logistical infrastructure but they require competitive pricing, good customer service and operational efficiency.

At the same time e-commerce platforms are gaining ground growing through investments in technology, 3D product visualisations and personalised customer service channels which assist in building customer loyalty.

Physical stores, in turn, have evolved into experience and customer engagement spaces that complement the digital customer journey. Consumers seek to test furniture, assess materials and experience ergonomics firsthand.

The trend toward customisation and on-demand production driven by the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for layout simulations and product personalisation is also reshaping both the production and sales chains.

Companies investing in an omni-channel model, where customers move seamlessly between physical and digital environments, are achieving results.

This approach allows, for instance, a consumer to view a product in-store, complete the purchase online and have the furniture delivered at home with real-time tracking.

Furthermore, behavioral and preference data analysis has also become an essential tool for identifying the most strategic sales channels. By collecting and interpreting browsing information, purchase history and social media interactions, companies can offer better aligned with customer expectations and run more effective marketing campaigns.

In short, adapting to these models is no longer just a trend but a competitive necessity for the furniture sector. Companies that successfully integrate technology, customer experience and logistics efficiency will be better positioned to face market challenges and respond sustainably to evolving consumer demands.

See: <https://www.moveisdevalor.com.br/portal/vender-moveis-em-2025-exige-ajuste-as-novas-dinamicas-do-consumo>

### **Programme for the silviculture of native species**

In the face of global crises such as biodiversity loss and climate change, nature-based solutions could account for up to 30% of the required mitigation efforts.

Brazil, home to one of the world's richest biodiversity and backed by a solid foundation of technical and scientific expertise accumulated over decades, has the opportunity to establish itself as a global forest power.

Over the past 15 years private investments have emerged in commercial-scale silviculture of native tree species involving a range of species adapted to different biomes.

In 2023 the first step was taken toward the establishment of a Research and Development Program for the Silviculture of Native Species (PP&D-SEN), with the support of the Brazilian Coalition on Climate, Forests and Agriculture, the Southern Bahia Science and Technology Park (PCTSB), and the Bezos Earth Fund.

The silviculture of native species can contribute to the successful implementation of various public policies, government plans and national programs such as the National Plan for Native Vegetation Recovery (Planaveg), the National Plan for the Conversion of Degraded Pastures (PNCPP), the Low-Carbon Agriculture Plan (ABC+), the Sustainable Forest+ Programme and various State Plans for Native Vegetation Recovery, among others.

Brazil holds a valuable genetic heritage and strong potential to drive sustainable value chains while promoting social inclusion. To achieve this, public policies, financial incentives, legal certainty and effective coordination between government, the private sector, academia and civil society are essential.

See: <https://globorural.globo.com/opiniao/noticia/2025/06/brasil-uma-nova-potencia-florestal-em-construcao.ghtml>

### **Export update**

In May 2025, the Brazilian exports of wood-based products (except pulp and paper) decreased 12% in value compared to May 2024, from US\$334.6 million to US\$294.9 million.

Pine sawnwood exports decreased 13% in value between May 2024 (US\$64.1 million) and May 2025 (US\$55.7 million). In volume, exports decreased 13% over the same period, from 271,300 cu.m to 236,100 cu.m.

Tropical sawnwood exports increased 41% in volume, from 23,900 cu.m in May 2024 to 33,700 cu.m in May 2025. In value, exports increased 44% from US\$23.9 million to US\$33.7 million, over the same period.

Pine plywood exports decreased 13% in value in May 2025 compared to May 2024, from US\$76.4 million to US\$66.2 million. In volume, exports decreased 3% over the same period, from 217,100 cu.m to 209,800 cu.m.

As for tropical plywood, exports decreased in volume 20% and in value 27%, from 3,500 cu.m and US\$ 2.2 million in May 2024 to 2,800 cu.m and US\$1.6 million in May 2025.

Wooden furniture exports increased from US\$54.6 million in May 2024 to US\$55.1 million in May 2025, an increase of 1%.

### **Wood product exports drive cargo throughput at Paranaguá Port**

In May 2025 TCP (Paranaguá Container Terminal) recorded the highest monthly container traffic of the year reaching 141,788 TEUs, an increase of 3,303 TEUs compared to the previous record in March. This growth was primarily driven by export volumes, with the timber sector accounting for 10,432 TEUs handled during the month.

The Terminal authorities attribute these successive records registered this year to TCP's commitment to operational and logistics solutions aligned with the clients' needs.

TCP's investment in infrastructure has been instrumental in meeting growing market demand. To support this growth and ensure smooth operations TCP completed an investment of approximately BRL.5 million in April to improve the pre-gate area.

Another important improvement was the investment in the gate complex which increased the hourly vehicle appointment capacity from 50 to 150 vehicles per hour representing a significant advancement in operational flow and efficiency.

According to TCP, these measures aimed to keep pace with growing demand from Brazil's leading export sectors, including agribusiness and timber industries.

See: <https://newspulpaper.com/exportacoes-madeira-impulsionam-recorde-tcp-2025/>



### Forest traceability for EUDR compliance

The European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) establishes requirements for the export of forest-based products to Europe, aiming to ensure that they are not associated with illegal deforestation.

During the APRE (Paraná Association of Forestry-Based Companies) members' meeting held at the end of May the Forest Trackt platform, developed by Resource Wise, was presented as a technological solution to meet the EUDR traceability requirements which will come into effect in January 2026.

Forest Trackt enables end-to-end traceability from forest origin to destination and is integrated with the VeriForest platform and offering low cost, easy deployment and audit-ready documentation. The solution covers products such as sawnwood, wood pellets and pulp.

This platform has been under development since 2023, in collaboration with multinational forest companies it has already undergone operational testing across different segments of the forest-based industry. The solution operates in an integrated manner with Orbis' VeriForest platform. Its structure enables capture, processing and consolidation of critical information required by the EUDR including proof of legal production in the country of origin; mandatory geolocation of harvested areas with geospatial polygons of forest stands.

Also execution of a robust due diligence process covering data collection, risk assessment and implementation of mitigation measures; registration of the compliance statement in the European Union Information System (EU IS) prior to export or commercialisation.

See: <https://apreflorestas.com.br/noticias/solucao-para-rastreabilidade-florestal-exigida-pela-uniao-europeia-e-apresentada-as-associadas-na-reuniao-tecnica-mensal/>

and

<https://www.resourcewise.com/solutions/eudr-compliance-forest-trackt>

### Domestic log prices

Brazilian logs, mill yard, domestic	US\$ per cu.m
Ipê	405▲
Jatoba	176▲
Massaranduba	161▲
Muiracatiara	159▲
Angelim Vermelho	170▲
Mixed redwood and white woods	124▲

Prices do not include taxes. Source STCP Data Bank

### Domestic sawnwood prices

Brazil sawnwood, domestic (Green ex-mill)	US\$ per cu.m
Ipê	1,748▲
Jatoba	887▲
Massaranduba	787▲
Muiracatiara	819▲
Angelim Vermelho	757▲
Mixed red and white	503▲
Eucalyptus (AD)	290▲
Pine (AD)	243▲
Pine (KD)	289▲

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

### Domestic plywood prices

Parica ex-mill	US\$ per cu.m
4mm WBP	566▲
10mm WBP	454▲
15mm WBP	389▲
4mm MR.	517▲
10mm MR.	399▲
15mm MR.	348▲

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

### Prices for other panel products

Domestic ex-mill prices	US\$ per cu.m
15mm MDParticleboard	270▲
15mm MDFibreboard	271▲

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
Ipê	2,278
Jatoba	1,293
Massaranduba	1,263
Muiracatiara	1,305
Pine (KD)	204

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

### Plywood export prices

Pine plywood	US\$ per cu.m
9mm C/CC (WBP)	317
12mm C/CC (WBP)	285
15mm C/CC (WBP)	270
18mm C/CC (WBP)	268

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	3,579
Jatoba	1759

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

### Through the eyes of industry

The latest GTI report lists the challenges identified by the private sector in Brazil.

See: <https://www.itto-gsc.org/static/upload/file/20250616/1750055807148798.pdf>

## Peru

### Exports at US\$21.1 million through April 2025

Shipments of wood products totalled US\$21.1 million during the first four months of 2025 representing a decrease of 21% compared to the same month in 2024 according to the Center for Global Economy and Business Research of the CIEN-ADEX Exporters Association.

According to figures from the ADEX Data Trade Intelligence System exports included sawnwood (US\$9.8 million), semi-manufactured products (US\$4.1 million), firewood and charcoal (US\$2.8 million), furniture and parts (US\$1.5 million) and construction products (US\$1.4 million).



The leading destination was the Dominican Republic, with shipments totalling US\$5.7 million, a 44% increase compared to the previous year. Viet Nam followed with US\$2.8 million, a 105% increase compared to 2024, Mexico with US\$2.7 million, a decrease of 7%, the United States with US\$2.6 million, a decrease of 31% and closing the top 5 market was France where exports of US\$1.6 million represented a decrease of 59%.

### **Bosques Amazónicos lists its shares on the Lima Stock Exchange**

Bosques Amazónicos - BAM, a Peruvian company located in the Ucayali Amazon region specialising in nature-based solutions, forest conservation, commercial reforestation and the generation of high-integrity carbon credits celebrated its listing on the Lima Stock Exchange (BVL) in early June. "This milestone represents the culmination of almost two decades of work, vision and commitment to private investment and technology applied to nature, consolidating BAM as one of the first NatureTechs in Latin America to achieve this level of projection," said the Chairman of the Board of BAM.

See: <https://www.bosques-amazonicos.com/blog/en/bam-joins-the-forum-the-route-to-promote-issues-and-issuers-in-the-capital-markets/>

### **OSINFOR celebrated 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

On its 17th anniversary, the Forest and Wildlife Resources Oversight Agency (OSINFOR) presented an overview of the progress made in forest oversight, the development of innovative platformmes that promote information transparency and capacity-building efforts linked to oversight.

During a presentation, the head of OSINFOR emphasised the importance of reflecting on the context of climate variability that affects health, food production and water supplies.

In this context, he highlighted the fundamental role of the Amazon forests which cover nearly 60% of the national territory as carbon sinks and climate regulators.

"Well-managed forests represent an opportunity to boost the economy, generate employment and improve the quality of life for our population," he stated.

The executive director of the National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) emphasised that effective governance is essential for the advancement of the forestry sector. In this regard, he highlighted that the strategic compass promoted by OSINFOR is a key tool for coordinating efforts and working with a shared vision toward a common goal.

The president of the Amazon Regional Association indicated that they are working to provide legal security to indigenous communities so they can protect their territories from illegal logging and develop their local economies while conserving their forests. He also indicated that the use of certified wood and the formation of MSMEs are being promoted.

See: <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/osinfor/noticias/1195314-osinfor-cumple-17-anos-con-avances-clave-para-la-conservacion-de-los-bosques-del-peru>

### **Peru hosts regional workshop on forest statistics for South America**

With the participation of representatives from thirteen South American countries a Regional Workshop on Forest Statistics was held in Lima 24 June. The workshop was organised by the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI) through the National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) in coordination with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The event aimed to strengthen the technical capacities of participating countries for the collection, analysis and reporting of forestry sector statistics through the use of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) an international tool designed by FAO, ITTO, Eurostat and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

The workshop included technical sessions, debates, panels with representatives from the productive sector, field visits and exchanges of experiences. Among the topics covered was the harmonisation of statistical concepts, the identification of barriers and opportunities and the use of data in the formulation of sustainable forest policies.

The participating countries included Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

See: <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/serfor/noticias/1193748-midagri-peru-es-sede-del-taller-regional-de-estadistica-forestal-para-america-del-sur>

### **Export prices for added value products**

	US\$ per cu.m
Strips for parquet Cabreuva/estoraque KD12% S4S, Asian market	1,327-1,398
Cumarú KD, S4S Swedish market Asian market	1,088 -1,162 1,189 -1,271
Cumarú decking, AD, S4S E4S, Central American market	1,299-1,324
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**

	US\$ per Cu.m
Veneer FOB Callao port	
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	591-607
Grade 2, Mexican market	527-541
Cumaru 4" thick, 6"-11" length KD	
Central American market	1127-1195
Asian market	1210-1265
Ishpingo (oak) 2" thick, 6"-8" length Spanish market	1039-1,079▲
Dominican Republic	1073-1,141▲
Marupa 1", 6-11 length KD Grade 1 Asian market	601-611

## 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	396-419
Lupuna plywood	
B/C 15mm	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

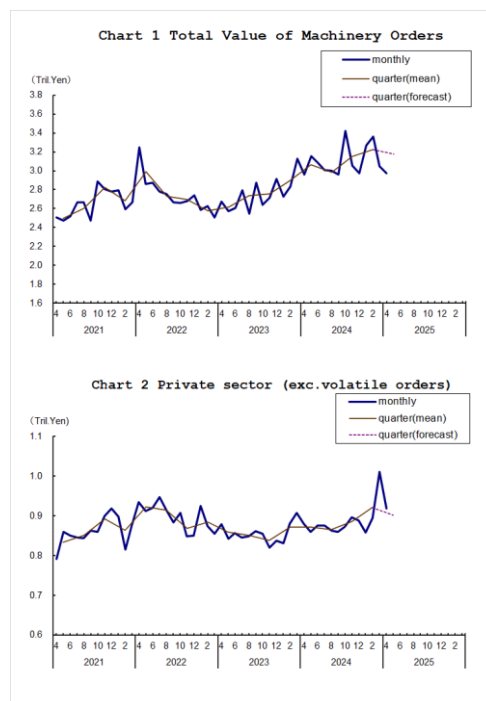
## Domestic plywood prices (excl. taxes)

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

### Business sentiment turns negative – first time in 5 months

A government survey shows that business sentiment at major Japanese firms has turned negative for the first time in five quarters. This comes amid concerns about the impacts of new US tariffs. A negative result indicates that a majority of companies feel business conditions have worsened. About 11,000 companies responded to the quarterly survey by the Finance Ministry and the Cabinet Office.



Source: Cabinet Office, Japan

The index for manufacturers stood at minus 4.8, marking a second straight quarter with a negative figure. However the index is projected to swing to positive territory in the July to September period as robust demand in the chip sector and brisk inbound tourism will likely push it up.

The total value of machinery orders received by top manufacturers operating in Japan decreased 2.3% in April from the previous month on a seasonally adjusted basis. Private-sector machinery orders, excluding those for ships and those from electric power companies, decreased a seasonally adjusted by 9.1% in April.

See: [https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20250612\\_B4/](https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20250612_B4/)

### Japan not in a good position to absorb energy shocks

Japan's economy is particularly vulnerable to conflicts in the Middle East and the current crisis comes at a time when Japan is not in a good position to absorb energy shocks. According to the Petroleum Association of Japan, about three-quarters of the country's crude oil imports are shipped via the Strait of Hormuz and recently Iran threatened to close the strategic passage.

Yuki Togano, a researcher at the Japan Research Institute, has been reported as saying “a large portion of crude oil and gas is transported through this strait, so any disruption would hinder energy procurement and cause prices to increase sharply.”

**Bank of Japan concerned on outlook for the economy**  
Bank of Japan (BoJ) governor, Kazuo Ueda, has expressed concern on the outlook for the Japanese economy following US tariff hikes saying downside risks now "exceed" upside ones for both growth and prices. At a press conference after the BoJ ended its recent two-day meeting Ueda also said the Bank will continue raising interest rates as needed but added, "overseas trade policies pose a downside risk."

He warned that the economic impact of tariffs may intensify later this year, saying the duties on the auto sector, one of Japan's major exports are likely to affect how the central bank proceeds with its monetary policy.

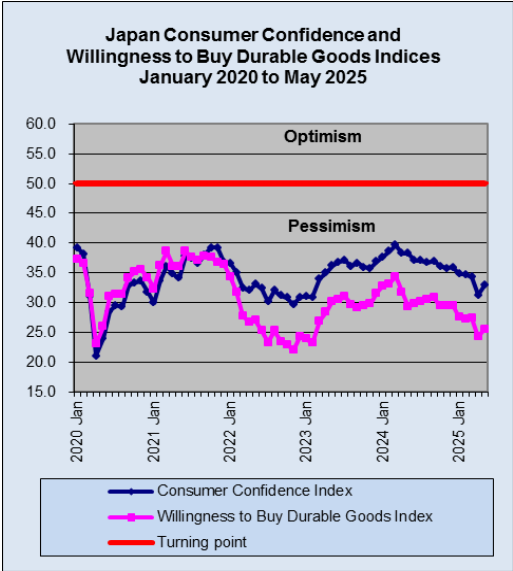
Japan's economy shrank an annualised real 0.2% in the January-March period, the first contraction in a year, underscoring that domestic demand was sluggish even before US tariff threats took full effect.  
Core consumer prices, meanwhile, rose 3.5% from the previous year in April increasing at the fastest pace in more than two years against a backdrop of rising material costs and surging rice prices.

See:  
<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20250617/p2g/00m/0bu/049000c>

**New economic policy focused on wages**  
The Japanese government adopted a policy focused on wage increases which includes a target of approximately 1% ‘real’ pay growth annually over five years to encourage consumer spending. Japan's inflation-adjusted wages have been mostly negative in recent years failed to keep pace with rising prices, particularly for food and energy. The result dampened private spending which accounts for more than half of the country's GDP.

Despite calls from opposition parties for tax cuts to spur consumption the government aims to support disposable income through "pay growth rather than tax reductions" in a bid to avoid a potential decline in state revenues.

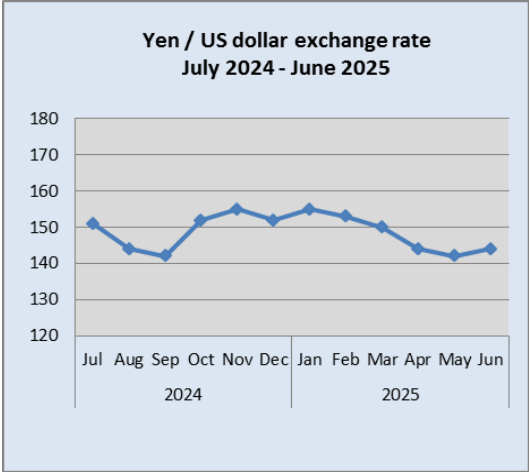
See:  
<https://www.ntv.co.jp/englishnews/articles/2021t12x02i5e64aszil.html>



Data source: Cabinet Office, Japan

**Yen likely to strengthen more**  
Recent discussion at the Bank of Japan's (BOJ) highlighted the debate between caution and those pushing for aggressive rate hikes to combat inflation. If the hawks prevail then investors will rethink their exposure to yen-denominated assets. The yen has already surged 8% year-to-date and is likely to advance further. So far this year consumer prices grew more than 2% for the first time in decades and wage growth was positive. The hawks in the BoJ argue the risk of inflation reversing is small given rising rent, public service costs and food prices such that rate normalisation is possible.

See: <https://www.ainvest.com/news/yen-turn-japan-rate-hikes-signal-golden-opportunity-2506/>



Data source: WSJ

**Property values rising**  
Japan's real estate market is currently experiencing a period of growth, with land prices rising and property values increasing, particularly in urban areas. However, the market also faces challenges, including a high number of vacant homes and a shrinking population.

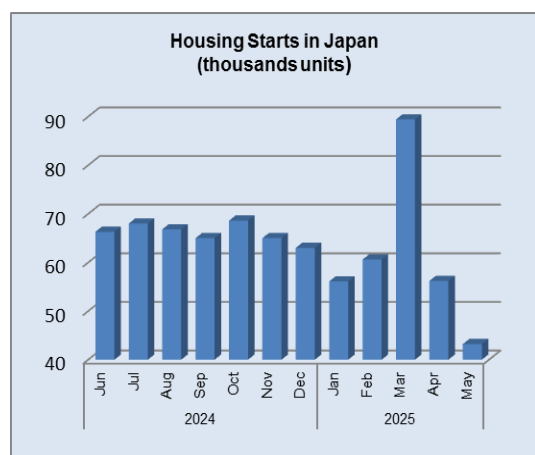
## Japan embraces timber for large structures

Wooden architecture in Japan is evolving. Previously used primarily for low-rise buildings, timber is being used to construct taller and larger structures. As the country aims to cut carbon emissions by 60% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050, wood is re-emerging as a green alternative to steel and concrete.

Kengo Kuma used certified wood from all 47 prefectures in Japan for his iconic National Stadium, the main venue of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. This year, another global event features its own wooden superstructure. The pavilions of the Expo 2025 in Osaka are surrounded by a 20 metre high ring that is two kilometers in circumference. Designed by Sou Fujimoto, the ring incorporates wood from the Fukushima areas hit hardest by the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster.

In Yokohama, Port Plus is Japan's first all-timber fire-resistant high-rise building. The columns are said to be fire resistant for up to 3 hours. Earthquake resistance is also a common point of contention for wooden buildings but Port Plus achieves high seismic performance by incorporating an earthquake isolation technology.

See: <https://metropolisjapan.com/why-wooden-architecture-is-making-a-comeback-in-japan/>

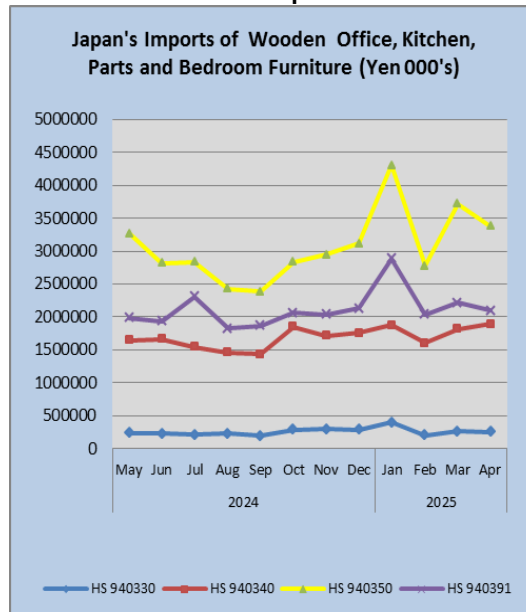


Data source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan

## Wooden furniture import update

In Japanese culture there is a long held appreciation of wooden furniture, valuing its natural beauty, craftsmanship and connection to nature. This appreciation is reflected in both traditional and modern Japanese homes where wooden furniture is often seen as a way to add 'warmth', elegance and a sense of harmony to living spaces. Japanese design philosophy often emphasises harmony with nature and wood embodies this connection.

## Yen value of furniture imports



Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

## April wooden office furniture imports (HS 940330)

In April shippers in China accounted for 83% of Japan's imports of wooden office furniture (HS 940330) the other two significant sources were Poland (5%, up from a month earlier) and Malaysia (3%, down from a month earlier). These three shippers accounted for over 90% of April arrivals. The other source of wooden office furniture imports was EU member countries (around 9%) with the balance coming from Canada and the US.

Year on year, the value of Japan's imports of wooden office furniture in April was down 8% and compared to the value of March arrivals there was little change.

## April 2025 imports (HS 940330)

	Imports Apr 2025 Unit, 000's Yen
China	208,810
Vietnam	384
Thailand	959
Malaysia	8,208
Germany	794
Switzerland	1,707
Portugal	4,189
Spain	5,174
Poland	12,280
Turkey	5,555
Canada	1,440
US	2,034
<b>Total</b>	<b>251,534</b>

Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

**April wooden kitchen furniture imports (HS 940340)**

As in previous months imports of wooden kitchen furniture (HS 940340) were dominated by shippers in the Philippines and Vietnam which together accounted for over 70% of the value of April.

Shippers in the Philippines accounted for around 42% of total arrivals in April, down from a month earlier. Imports from shippers in Viet Nam accounted for a further 29% also down slightly month on month. The other shippers of note in April were Thailand, China and Germany which together accounted for around 24% of the value of HS940340 imports.

**April wooden kitchen furniture imports (HS 940340)**

	Imports Apr 2025 Unit, 000's Yen
S. Korea	1,093
China	136,468
Hong Kong	269
Vietnam	545,023
Thailand	155,056
Malaysia	18,726
Philippines	794,650
Indonesia	23,563
Germany	167,808
Italy	45,069
Canada	1,509
Total	1,889,234

Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

April arrivals from China were around 7% higher than in March. April shipments of wooden kitchen furniture surged, lifting Germany to the third highest monthly shipper. Compared to a year earlier the value of April 2025 imports were up 22%, marking a further increase in the value of arrivals since February this year.

**April wooden bedroom furniture imports (HS 940350)**

From the start of 2025 the comparative monthly values of imports of wooden bedroom furniture have been unusually erratic compared to previous years. The average value of arrivals of HS 940350 in the first four months of 2025 is significantly higher than the average for the last four months of 2024 and was above the average reported in the first four months of 2024.

The top two shippers of (HS 940350) to Japan in April 2025 were China (56%) and Vietnam (36%), both down slightly from a month earlier. Malaysia was the other shippers of note in April accounting for a 3% share of the value of imports. While the value of April arrivals of HS 940350 were at around the same levels as in April 2024 there was a 9% decline compared to a month earlier.

**April wooden bedroom furniture imports (HS 940350)**

	Imports Apr 2025 Unit, 000's Yen
China	1,909,586
Taiwan P.o.C	2,242
Vietnam	1,221,258
Thailand	46,455
Malaysia	103,500
Indonesia	46,231
Sweden	959
France	3,578
Italy	16,848
Poland	24,473
Romania	5,916
Total	3,381,046

Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

**April wooden furniture parts imports (HS 940391)**

After the January surge in the value of wooden furniture parts (HS 940391) the value of monthly shipments has steadied.

	Imports Apr 2025 Unit, 000's Yen
S.Korea	29,158
China	1,052,408
Taiwan P.o.C	31,895
Vietnam	271,253
Thailand	60,978
Malaysia	153,770
Philippines	1,842
Indonesia	364,627
Cambodia	535
Sweden	218
Denmark	7,876
Netherlands	265
France	485
Germany	27,822
Switzerland	2,497
Spain	2,399
Italy	27,993
Finland	21,436
Poland	24,353
Austria	8,052
Hungary	1,106
Romania	331
Turkey	4,128
Slovakia	4,100
Canada	242
USA	634
	2,100,403

Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan



The value of April 2025 imports was almost the same as in April 2024 but compared to a month earlier March 2025 the value of imports dropped around 5%.

Shippers in China, Indonesia and Viet Nam accounted for most of Japan's imports of wooden furniture parts (HS 940391) in April 2025.

Of the total value of HS 940391 imports 50% was delivered from China (48% in March) 17% from Indonesia (unchanged from March), 13% from Viet Nam 11% in March) and Malaysia which captured a 7% share of the value of April imports.

The value of imports of HS 940391 from Italy dropped further in April. In contrast, shippers in Finland, Poland and Austria shipped more in April than seen over the past months.

#### **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://ifpi.jp/japan\\_lumber\\_reports/](https://ifpi.jp/japan_lumber_reports/)

#### **Exports of Japanese cedar structural lumber**

The Japan Wood Products Export Association announced on May 22, 2025 that the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) approved the design strength of Japanese cedar 2x4 structural lumber on April 3, 2025. This marks the second approval, following the certification of Japanese cypress in April last year. The groundwork for exporting key domestic lumber products to the U.S. market is steadily advancing.

Japan has adopted a policy to strengthen export promotion for agricultural, forestry, and fishery products. In the forestry sector, it is laying the groundwork for exporting value-added products such as fencing materials, decking materials, and structural lumber for buildings, alongside other key wood products.

The Forestry Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries launched multiple subsidy programs in fiscal year 2021. The Japan Wood Products Export Association served as the application window, leading to the selection of projects such as strength testing for Japanese cedar and cypress structural lumber.

#### **Sumitomo Forestry to begin producing SAF feedstock**

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. in Tokyo Prefecture and Rengo Co., Ltd. in Osaka Prefecture plan to establish a joint venture by December to produce bioethanol, a feedstock for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), using wood scraps and other construction waste.

The joint venture aims to establish mass production technology early, targeting an annual commercial production of 20,000 kiloliters of wood-based bioethanol by 2027.

The two companies have signed a basic agreement on business and capital partnership for the bioethanol project and will continue discussions. However, details of the joint venture have not yet been disclosed.

The production of bioethanol will utilize technology from Biomaterial in Tokyo Co., Ltd. in Fukuoka Prefecture, a subsidiary of Rengo specializing in research and development of biomass-based chemical products.

The bioethanol production facility will be constructed within the premises of Taiko Paper MFG Ltd. in Shizuoka Prefecture, a subsidiary of Rengo that specializes in packaging paper production and recycling.

Sumitomo Forestry will collect construction waste from its housing construction sites in Shizuoka Prefecture and nearby regions and supply CORSIA-certified waste chips to Taiko Paper MFG.

#### **Plywood**

Domestic softwood plywood lacks strong market movement, particularly through the lumber and construction channels, while demand from precutting plants remains stable.

The rush of orders before the implementation of revised building regulations in April led to an increase in housing starts in March, contributing to a rise in orders at precut factories.

The price of 12 mm 3 x 6 domestic softwood structural plywood increased slightly in May in the Tokyo metropolitan area rising to ¥1,080– 1,100 per sheet, delivered to wholesalers, up ¥10–20 from the previous month.

Major domestic plywood manufacturers argue that production remains unprofitable and have announced plans for another ¥50 increase in June.

Imported South Sea plywood saw a decline in shipments to the Kanto region in May, but the market has yet to experience extreme shortages. Despite the strengthening yen, ongoing price increases in Malaysia— particularly for 12mm plywood— indicate a potential for further price hikes. The price of 12 mm 3 x 6 painted formwork plywood is ¥1,850 per sheet delivered to wholesalers.

Standard formwork plywood is ¥1,550 per sheet. Structural plywood is ¥1,550 per sheet. 2.5 mm plywood is ¥780 per sheet. 4mm plywood is ¥930 per sheet, and 5.5mm plywood is ¥1,100 per sheet.

Malaysian plywood manufacturers in Sarawak continue to push for higher prices due to rising log costs, increased minimum wages, and a stronger local currency.

Some contracts in May saw a price increase of US\$10 per cubic metre (C&F).

Meanwhile, in Indonesia, shortages in falcata and natural wood logs are driving calls for price hikes, though the current price levels remain stable. 12 mm 3 x 6 painted formwork plywood is US\$590–US\$600 per cbm, C&F.

Standard formwork plywood is US\$500-510. Structural plywood is US\$510–520. 2.4 mm plywood is US\$970. 3.7mm plywood is US\$880, and 5.2mm plywood is US\$850, with some lower prices observed.

## China

### Initial anti-dumping ruling on Chinese hardwood plywood

On 11 October 2024 the European Commission initiated an anti-dumping investigation into hardwood plywood originating in China. On 10 June 2025 the European Commission issued a notice making an affirmative preliminary ruling on the anti-dumping investigation of Hardwood Plywood originating from China.

The preliminary ruling was that the provisional anti-dumping duty on Pizhou Jiangshan Wood Co., Ltd. was 25.1%, and that for other enterprises was 62.4%. The effective date of the preliminary ruling was 11 June 2025.

See page 27 for more.

See:  
<https://cacs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/ajycs/ckys/202506/184611.html>  
and  
[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L\\_202501139](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202501139)

### National Standard on hazardous substances in furniture

On 25 June 2024, the Standardisation Administration of the People's Republic of China issued the mandatory national standard GB 18584-2024 *Limits of Hazardous Substances in Furniture*, which will be officially implemented on 1 July 2025.

The release of this new standard aims to regulate harmful substances in various furniture products, enhance the quality and safety level of furniture products, align with international standards and strengthen the competitiveness of China's furniture products in the international market.

The GB 18584-2024 *Limits of Hazardous Substances in Furniture* standard is applicable to all kinds of furniture products, including wooden furniture, plastic furniture, infant furniture and children's furniture.

Compared with the previous standards GB 18584-2001 *Limits of Hazardous Substances in Wooden Furniture* and GB 28481-2012 *Limits of Hazardous Substances in Plastic Furniture*, the new standards have a wider scope of application and cover more types of furniture products.

See:  
[https://www.sqi.com.cn/NCFS/ViewDetail.aspx?ColumnGuid=bw\\_hotNews&NGUID=0966263d703f42a09a9998027c0fb205](https://www.sqi.com.cn/NCFS/ViewDetail.aspx?ColumnGuid=bw_hotNews&NGUID=0966263d703f42a09a9998027c0fb205)

### Rise in particleboard exports

According to China Customs, particleboard exports in the first quarter of 2025 totalled 156,000 tonnes valued at US\$78 million, up 48% in volume and 9% in value over the same period of 2024.

Taiwan P.o.C still was the largest destination for China's particleboard exports in the first quarter of 2025 but exports were down 24% over the same period of 2024.

China's particleboard exports to Chile, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Peru surged over 130%, 1000%, nearly 200% and 400% respectively over the same period of 2024. In addition, China's exports to Mongolia and Nigeria also rose 32% and 63% respectively in the first quarter of 2025.

### China's particleboard exports, first quarter of 2025

Destination	000s tonnes	YoY % change
Total	156	48%
Taiwan P.o.C	24	-24%
Chile	13	138%
South Korea	13	1,039%
Mongolia	12	32%
Saudi Arabia	12	199%
Nigeria	11	63%
Peru	11	400%

Data source: China Customs

The main reasons for the significant increase in China's particleboard exports have been determined as follows:

China has developed a diversified international market for particleboard. In developed countries the market mainly focuses on environmentally certified products and China has integrated into the supply chain of international brands through the ODM model, export high-quality and cost-effective particleboard products to emerging markets such as countries in the Southeast Asia, the Middle East and South America.

In line with the demands of infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative China has set up branch factories or cooperative bases overseas to avoid anti-dumping duties and restrictions on origin, established an overseas warehousing and logistics system and precisely matched the demands of small and medium-sized overseas customers through cross-border e-commerce platforms.

### Decline in particleboard imports from Thailand

According to China Customs, particleboard imports from Thailand dropped 51% in the first quarter of 2025, dropping Thailand from the first place supplier to second place among top suppliers.

China's particleboard imports in the first quarter of 2025 totalled 140,000 tonnes, down 10% over the same period of 2024. 75% of China's particleboard was imported from the top five countries, Brazil, Thailand, Germany, Romania and Poland in the first quarter of 2025.

Brazil has become the largest supplier of China's particleboard imports and China's particleboard imports from Brazil rose 35% in the first quarter of 2025.

The main reasons for China importing a large amount of particleboard from Brazil are as follows: First, Brazilian particleboard is of high quality which makes it highly competitive in the international market. The demand for particleboard in China is strong and Brazil, as a country rich in wood resources, can deliver high-quality particleboard to meet the demands of the Chinese market.

Particleboard imported by China from Brazil is mainly used to make high-quality custom furniture and is the ideal material for China's high-quality furniture manufacturing. Imported panels can be directly faced through fine material laying technology and is widely used in custom furniture such as cabinets and wardrobes.

Particleboard imported by China from Brazil is also used in construction and interior and exterior decoration. In addition, Brazilian particleboard is often used in damp environments such as kitchen and bathroom walls, floor bases and ceilings due to its excellent water and moisture resistance and environmental friendliness.

China's particleboard imports from Germany, Romania and Poland rose 16%, 17% and over 100% respectively in the first quarter of 2025 benefiting from China-Europe freight train transportation.

#### Top suppliers of China's particleboard imports, first quarter of 2025

Supplier	000s tonnes	Yoy % change
Total	140	-10%
Brazil	43	35%
Thailand	26	-51%
Germany	14	16%
Romania	11	17%
Poland	10	103%

Data source: China Customs

#### Growth in fibreboard exports

According to China Customs, China's fibreboard exports to Vietnam, the largest destination country, in the first quarter of 2025 surged over 200% to 198,000 tonnes over the same period of 2024. China's fibreboard exports to Saudi Arabia, as second largest destination country, in the first quarter of 2025 rose 15% largely to 107,000 tonnes from the same period of 2024.

The significant growth in exports to the top two destinations directly led to the substantial 32% increase in the total fibreboard export volumes.

In addition, China's fibreboard exports to UAE, South Korea and Egypt also surged 70%, over 300% and 100% respectively in the first quarter of 2025.

It is worth noting that China's fibreboard exports to USA and Canada in the first quarter of 2025 also rose 3% and 9% over the same period of 2024.

In contrast, China's fibreboard exports to Mexico, Nigeria, Algeria and Australia in the first quarter of 2025 fell 24%, 27%, 42% and 2% respectively over the same period of 2024.

#### Top destinations of fibreboard exports in Q12025

Destination	000s tonnes	YoY % change
Total	801	32%
Vietnam	198	211%
Saudi Arabia	107	15%
Mexico	56	-24%
UAE	43	70%
Nigeria	36	-27%
USA	33	3%
Canada	31	9%
South Korea	16	311%
Algeria	14	-42%
Australia	14	-2%
Uzbekistan	14	34%
Egypt	12	106%

Data source: China Customs

The main reasons for the significant increase in China's fibreboard export volume include the growth of market demand, improvement of product quality and policy support.

Growth of market demand is an important factor driving exports of fibreboard. Previously, the demand for fibreboard in the North American market grew rapidly, especially in the US market, where the import demand for fibreboard increased significantly, far exceeding that of plywood and particleboard.

This change in market demand has prompted China to increase the export volume of fibreboard. Due to the rapid economic development of the countries along the Belt and Road Initiative the demand for fibreboard has increased significantly in recent years leading to a shift in China's fibreboard exports to these countries, for example, Vietnam. Secondly, the improvement of fibreboard product quality is also one of the key factors promoting exports.

The fibreboard industry in China has undergone supply-side structural reform, eliminating low production capacity and enhancing product quality and market competitiveness.

For instance, China's fibreboard has reached the ENF environmental protection level and features advantages such as mold and bacteria resistance, insect resistance, easy cleaning and wear resistance. These characteristics have made it highly popular in the international market and highly recognised, further promoting exports.

Policy support has also played an important role. The Chinese government has introduced a series of policies to support the development of the fibreboard industry. These policies have provided a favorable development environment for the fibreboard industry and promoted an increase in export volumes.

### Surge in fibreboard imports from New Zealand

According to China Customs, China's fibreboard imports from New Zealand in the first quarter of 2025 surged over 130% from the same period of 2024. China's fibreboard imports totalled 14,000 tonnes in the first quarter of 2025, up nearly 50% over the same period of 2024. It is worth noting that China's fibreboard imports from Malaysia in the first quarter of 2025 surged over 1700% over the same period of 2024.

In contrast, China's fibreboard imports from Germany and Thailand in the first quarter of 2025 fell 2% and 8% respectively on the same period of 2024 level.

### Top suppliers of China's fibreboard imports in Q1 2025

Supplier	000s tonnes	YoY % change
Total	14	49%
New Zealand	6	139%
Germany	1.5	-2%
Malaysia	1.3	1,770%
Thailand	1.2	-8%

Data source: China Customs

The main reason for the significant increase in China's imports of fiberboard from New Zealand and Malaysia are assessed as:

China has signed free trade agreements with New Zealand and Malaysia. These trade agreements have reduced tariffs and trade barriers, lowered transaction costs and made the import of fiberboard from New Zealand and Malaysia cost-effective and competitive in the Chinese market.

In addition, China's fiberboard imports from New Zealand and Malaysia are of high quality and stable supply channels have been built.

### China – Global Timber Index

Recently, China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration and the National Development and Reform Commission jointly issued the "National Reserve Forest Development Implementation Plan (2025–2028).

The plan focuses on 14 Provinces, Autonomous Regions and Municipalities including Fujian and Guangxi to promote the afforestation of national reserve forests and the development of related industries and supporting infrastructure as well as to enhance the capacity for cultivating, storing and producing high-quality timber.

From January to April, China's cumulative wood imports amounted to 13.91 million cubic metres a decrease of 11% compared to the same period in 2024 and the import value reached US\$3.9 billion, down 14% year-on-year.

Specifically, imports of logs declined by 12% to 11 million cubic metres with the average price falling by 4% year-on-year. Imports of sawnwood also decreased by 12% to 8.25 million cubic metres with prices remaining essentially flat compared to the same period last year.

During the same period China's cumulative export value of furniture and parts amounted to 155.88 billion yuan, down 78% year-on-year. The top three export destinations were the United States (-9% year-on-year), the United Kingdom (+6%) and Japan (-4%).

Recently, the Wooden Doors & Windows Committee under China Timber & Wood Products Distribution Association released China's 'Wooden Door Industry Report 2024' which indicated that Malaysia had ranked among the top ten export destinations for China's wooden door products for the first time in the past three years.

### Global Timber Index - May

In May 2025, the GTI-China index registered 58.5%, an increase of 4.4 percentage points from the previous month and was above the critical value (50%) for 3 consecutive months indicating that the business prosperity of the timber enterprises represented by the GTI-China index expanded from the previous month.

In May China's timber market was still in the traditional peak season and its timber sector was generally on an upward trend. As for the sub-indices all twelve were above the critical value of 50%.

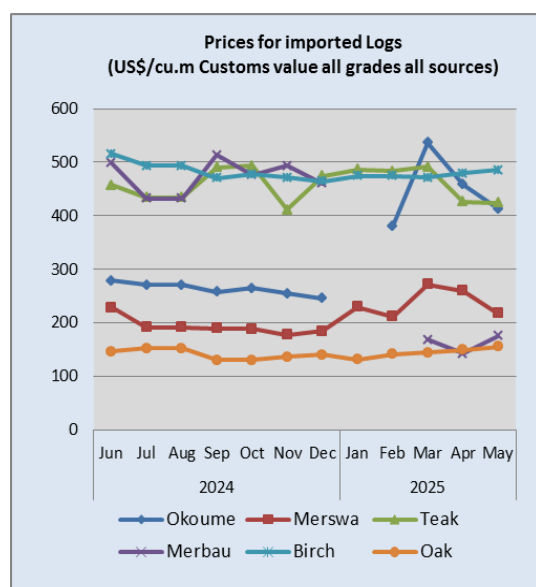
Compared to the previous month, the indices for production, new orders, export orders, existing orders, purchase quantity, purchase price, import, inventory of main raw materials, employees, delivery time and market expectation increased while the index for inventory of finished products declined by 4.4 percentage points.

### Through the eyes of industry

The latest GTI report lists the challenges identified by the private sector in China.

See: <https://www.itto-ggsc.org/static/upload/file/20250616/1750055807148798.pdf>





Data source: Customs, China

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

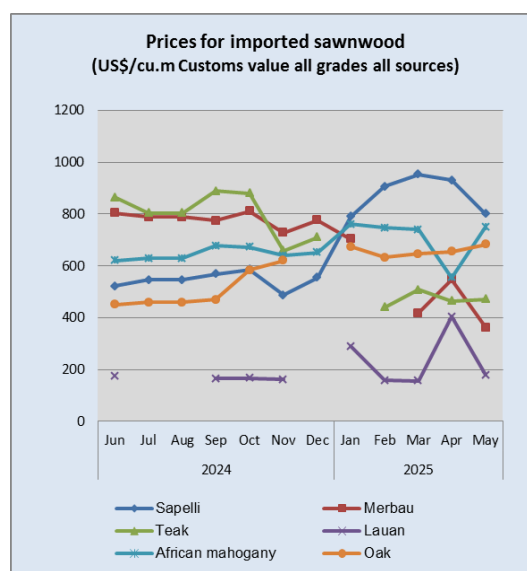
	2025 Apr	2025 May
Okoume	458	413
Merswa	260	218
Teak	426	424
Merbau	142	175
Birch	479	485
Oak	149	155

Data source: Customs, China

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

	2025 Apr	2025 May
Sapelli	930	801
Merbau	548	362
Teak	464	471
Lauan	403	170
African mahogany	554	750
Oak	655	683

Data source: Customs, China



Data source: Customs, China

#### Through the eyes of industry

The latest GTI report lists the challenges identified by the private sector in China.

See: <https://www.itto-ggsc.org/static/upload/file/20250616/1750055807148798.pdf>

## EU

#### Slow recovery in European furniture production

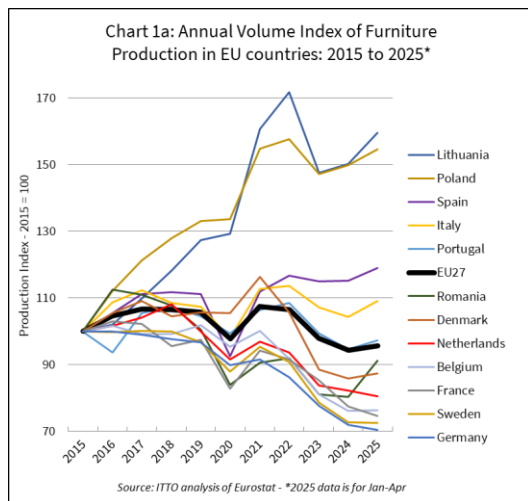
After a two-year period when the value of furniture production in the EU27 fell by over 10%, in 2024 sinking to a level lower even than in 2020 at the height of the pandemic, production was showing some signs of recovery in the opening months of this year.

Eurostat data indicates that seasonally adjusted furniture production in the EU27 during the first four months of 2025 was up by around 1.5% compared to the previous year.

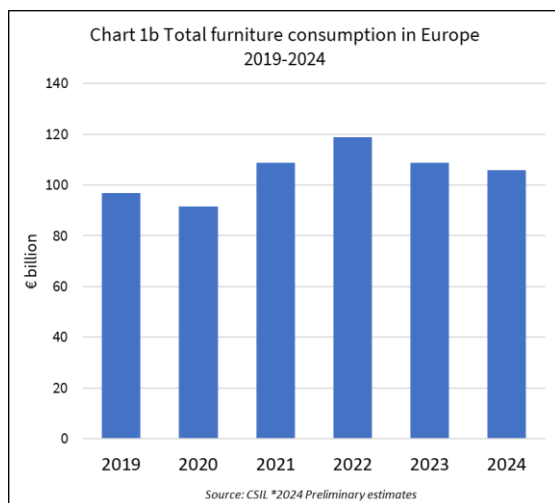
Furniture production was rising in several EU countries in the first four months of this year, notably Lithuania, Poland, Spain, and Italy. Production in all four of these countries, which has been outpacing that in nearly all other EU countries in recent years, is now above the pre-pandemic level.

Production also recovered ground in Portugal, Romania, and Denmark in the opening months of 2025, although in each of these countries production is still well down on the pre-pandemic level. Production in Germany, Sweden, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands continued to stagnate in the first four months of this year (Chart 1a).





In the latest issue of their in-house journal, World Furniture Online ([www.worldfurnitureonline.com](http://www.worldfurnitureonline.com)), the Italy-based market research organisation CSIL reports that total furniture consumption in Europe fell by 3% to €106 billion in 2024. This followed an 8% decline the previous year (Chart 1b).



On market prospects, CSIL observes that in Europe “furniture demand is forecasted to remain almost stagnant in 2025 and slightly improve in the medium term. Some positive factors that could support a recovery include a slight improvement in macroeconomic indicators, an expected easing of inflation and interest rates, and potential wage growth. These factors could boost consumer confidence and encourage spending on furniture”.

CSIL acknowledges that their forecast of European furniture market prospects is “subject to a higher-than-usual degree of uncertainty” and that the “overall economic and geopolitical environment remains volatile, with potential downside risks”. But CSIL also highlight the underlying resilience of the European furniture sector, despite recent global market volatility, underpinned “by major retail chains and manufacturers operating on a European scale” which benefit “from strong internal cohesion and a well-established trade network”.

CSIL note that “this structural strength not only underpins its stability but also drives the substantial concentration of export and import flows within the region”.

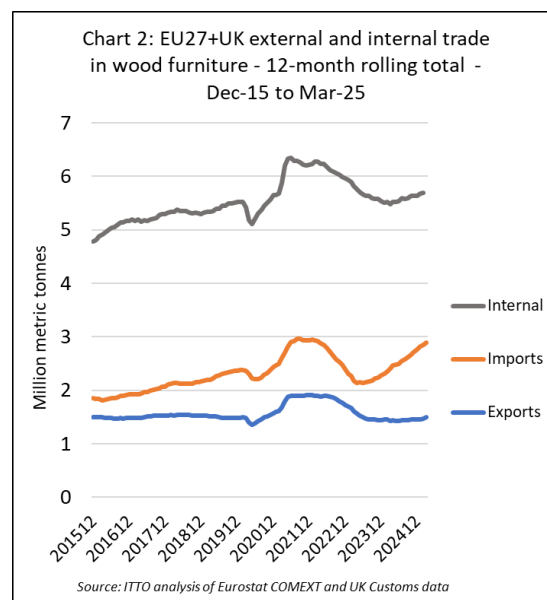
The resilience of this sector was evident at the Interzum show for suppliers to the furniture industry in Cologne during May. A total of 1,616 exhibiting companies from 57 countries on a gross exhibition space of 176,000 square metres and around 60,000 trade visitors from 157 countries took part in the show. Despite the sluggish market, these figures were only marginally down on the previous show in 2023.

### European furniture exports remain flat while imports rise rapidly

The latest Eurostat and UK trade data (Chart 2) shows that European exports of wood furniture to countries outside the region, after rising and then falling rapidly between 2021 and 2022, have remained stable since then at annualised level of just below 1.5 million tonnes.

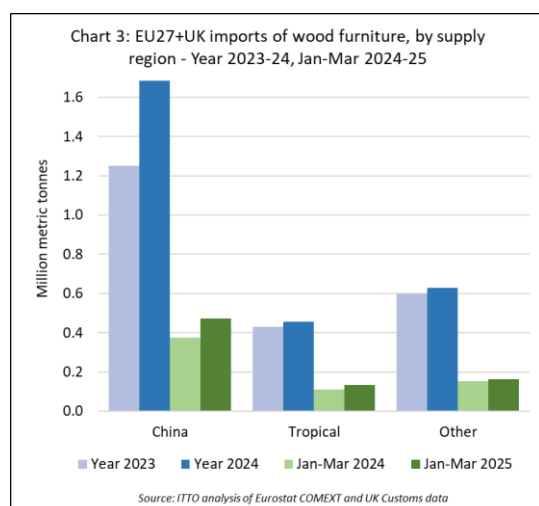
In contrast, European imports of wood furniture from other parts of the world began to increase in the second half of 2023, a trend maintained throughout 2024 and in the opening months of 2025. Imports from outside the region in the 12 months ending March 2025, at 2.9 million tonnes, were close to those at the height of the boom in 2021 and 2022.

Internal European trade in wood furniture, which was slowing in 2023 and the opening months of 2024, has also been rising since the middle of last year.



### China drives rise in European furniture imports

Close analysis of Eurostat data reveals that the recent growth in wood furniture imports into the EU27+UK has been driven almost entirely by China. Imports into Europe from China, after rising 5% in 2023, increased by more 35% to 1.68 million tonnes in 2024 and were up 27% to 470,000 tonnes in the first quarter of this year (Chart 3).



EU27+UK wood furniture imports from tropical countries, after falling by 23% in 2023, were up 6% to 454,000 tonnes in 2024. Imports from all other countries (mainly non-EU European countries and Turkey), after decreasing 8% to 590,000 tonnes in 2023, rebounded by 5% to 630,000 tonnes in 2024 and by another 6% to 160,000 tonnes in the first three months of 2025.

Wood furniture imports from China have increased both into the UK, the largest single wood furniture importing country in Europe, and into the EU. UK imports from China increased 13% to 417,000 tonnes in 2023 and were up another 17% to 488,000 tonnes in 2024. In the first quarter of this year, they were 147,000 tonnes, up 26% compared to the same period in 2024.

EU imports of wood furniture from China were up only 3% in 2023 to 833,000 tonnes but increased 44% to 1,196,000 tonnes in 2024. In the first quarter of this year, EU imports of wood furniture from China were 147,000 tonnes, 27% more than the same period in 2024. Imports of wood furniture from China have been rising rapidly into all EU countries, but the gains have been particularly dramatic in the Netherlands and Spain where they increased by more than 50% in 2024 and have gained a further 50% in the first quarter of this year.

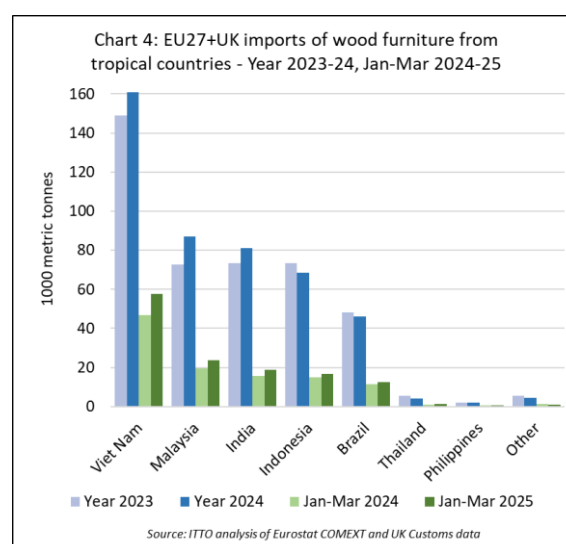
The rise in Chinese wood furniture imports into European countries in 2023 and 2024 is partly explained by the fact that it followed a big decline in 2022 when Chinese exports were seriously impacted by rigorous lockdowns during the pandemic. And while high production costs are impeding the international competitiveness of European furniture products the competitiveness of Chinese products is benefiting from continual improvements in technical performance, manufacturing efficiency and from increasing investment in advertising and marketing.

On-going trade tensions between China and the US, which remains the largest export market for Chinese wood furniture products, is now providing a strong incentive for Chinese manufacturers to diversify their export sales in other parts of the world, with Europe being a natural target.

The accelerating pace of imports from China during 2024 and the first quarter of 2025, at a time when underlying growth in European consumption is stagnant, may also be related to EUDR. European importers may be building stock in advance of that law being enforced, originally scheduled for 30 December 2024 but delayed until 30 December 2025. The full impact of EUDR on EU imports of composite products like furniture remains to be seen but is likely to be very significant given the challenges of meeting the far-reaching traceability requirements.

### European imports of tropical wooden furniture recover lost ground

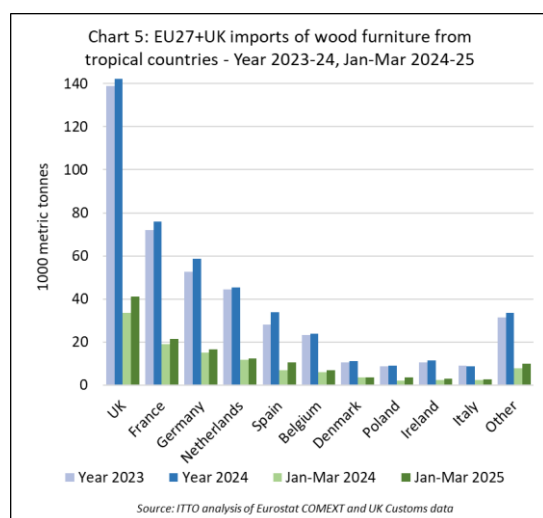
Following a steep decline in 2023, European imports of wood furniture from the three largest tropical supplying countries – Viet Nam, Malaysia, and India - recovered some lost ground in 2024, a trend which continued in the first quarter of 2025 (Chart 4).



EU27+UK imports of wood furniture from Viet Nam increased 8% to 161,000 tonnes in 2024 and were up 23% to 58,000 tonnes in the first quarter of this year. Imports from Malaysia increased 20% to 87,000 tonnes in 2024 and were up 22% to 24,000 tonnes in the first quarter of this year. Imports from India increased 10% to 81,000 tonnes in 2024 and were up 19% to 19,000 tonnes in the first quarter of this year.

EU27+UK imports of wood furniture from both Indonesia and Brazil declined last year, respectively by 7% to 68,000 tonnes and by 5% to 46,000 tonnes. However, imports from both countries started this year more strongly. Imports of 17,000 tonnes from Indonesia in the first quarter of 2025 were 11% more than the same period last year. Imports from Brazil of 13,000 tonnes were 13% more than the same period last year.

After most European destinations for tropical wood furniture recorded a large downturn in 2023, there was slow recovery in all the main markets in 2024, a trend which continued in the first quarter of 2025 (Chart 5).



During the first three months of this year, imports of tropical wood furniture increased in the UK (+23% to 41,200 tonnes), France (+13% to 21,300 tonnes), Germany (+11% to 16,800 tonnes), Netherlands (+5% to 12,400 tonnes), Spain (+48% to 10,400 tonnes), Belgium (+13% to 6,800 tonnes), Poland (+59% to 3,500 tonnes), Ireland (+28% to 3,000 tonnes), and Italy (+22% to 2,800 tonnes). Imports in Denmark were stable at 3,600 tonnes.

### Slowdown in internal EU furniture market dampens global trade

Despite recent challenging market conditions, Europe continues to hold a crucial position in the global furniture industry, acting as a pivotal hub for production, consumption and world trade. Valued at nearly US\$ 125 billion in 2024, the European market accounts for more than one-quarter of the global world furniture market.

**Table 1: Value of global wood furniture trade**

Billion US\$	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change	
							23-24	19-24
<b>World trade</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>72.9</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>62.7</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>
<b>EU trade</b>								
Total trade	19.1	18.8	23.9	23.0	21.5	22.0	2.2%	15.1%
Internal trade	13.9	13.5	16.6	16.1	15.8	15.3	-3.2%	10.3%
External trade	5.2	5.3	7.3	6.9	5.7	6.6	17.4%	28.0%
<b>Top 10 global importers</b>								
US	18.5	18.9	23.9	25.4	19.9	21.3	7.1%	15.0%
Germany	5.1	5.2	6.1	5.6	5.2	5.3	1.5%	4.5%
UK	3.9	3.5	4.7	5.1	4.2	4.4	5.3%	13.5%
France	3.2	3.1	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.5	0.3%	7.6%
Netherlands	2.1	2.2	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4	1.0%	14.8%
Canada	2.1	2.0	2.5	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.3%	10.4%
Switzerland	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	-2.5%	10.4%
Japan	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	1.9	1.9	-1.9%	-17.3%
Australia	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.7	15.2%	11.1%
Spain	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	16.2%	39.4%
<b>Top 10 global exporters</b>								
China	16.5	14.5	18.7	16.5	13.4	15.6	16.8%	-5.5%
Vietnam	7.9	9.5	11.4	12.2	9.5	11.2	17.9%	41.1%
Poland	5.9	5.7	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	-1.0%	14.7%
Italy	4.2	3.8	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.7	0.4%	12.8%
Germany	3.3	3.2	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.1	-11.3%	-5.2%
Malaysia	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.6	1.8	2.0	7.7%	-0.8%
Lithuania	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.8	0.8%	50.1%
Mexico	1.1	1.1	1.8	2.2	1.8	1.7	-4.8%	54.4%
Canada	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.6	-3.8%	6.7%
Indonesia	1.4	1.5	2.0	2.3	1.6	1.6	-0.8%	11.1%

Source: ITTO analysis of [www.stix.global](http://www.stix.global)  
Based on imports into 46 leading economies

A key feature of the European furniture sector is that it is characterised by an exceptionally high level of business-to-business trade concentration and integration. Unlike in the U.S. where a large share of furniture production has been relocated to China, Southeast Asia and Mexico, 80% of current demand in Europe continues to be met by European manufacturers.

Considering just wood furniture, around 33% (US\$ 22.0 billion) of the total value of world trade in 2024 (US\$ 65.8 billion) involved EU countries where there is a robust intra-regional trade network.

Analysis of wood furniture trade data shows that the sluggish pace of EU internal trade in 2024 had a dampening effect on global trade. The total value of world trade in wood furniture increased 5% from US\$ 62.7 billion in 2023 to 65.8 billion in 2024. However, if internal EU trade is excluded, the rise in the total value of global trade was closer to 8% last year.

The value of wood furniture imports into the EU from outside the region increased by 17% to US\$ 6.64 billion in 2024. Imports of wood furniture products into four other major global markets also rebounded last year: the U.S. (+7% to US\$ 21.3 billion), the UK (+5% to US\$ 4.4 billion), Australia (+15% to US\$ 1.7 billion), and Canada (+2% to US\$ 2.3 billion).

These positive trends were partly offset by a 3.2% fall in the value of the EU internal wood furniture trade to US\$ 15.3 billion, alongside a 2% fall in Japan's imports to US\$ 1.9 billion, and a 3% fall in Swiss imports to US\$ 1.9 billion.

China and Viet Nam, and to a lesser extent Malaysia, were the principal beneficiaries of the overall recovery in global wood furniture trade in 2024. The value of China's exports increased by nearly 17% to US\$ 15.6 billion, while exports from Viet Nam increased by nearly 18% to US\$ 11.2 billion. Exports from Malaysia increased by nearly 8% to US\$ 2.0 billion during the period.

Considering longer term trends, the clear winner in the global wood furniture trade is Viet Nam for which the value of exports increased by over 40% between 2019 and 2024. This gain was largely at the expense of China for which the value of wood furniture exports declined 6% during the same period.

Nevertheless, last year China was still the world's leading exporter of wood furniture by a significant margin. Overall, the data implies that the widely anticipated trend towards "reshoring" of production back to historic production centres such as the US, Europe, and Japan, has yet to gain any real momentum, at least in the wood furniture manufacturing sector.

This trend is expected to be driven by the closing gap between Chinese and US/European production costs, the reduction of labour intensity due to the progressive advent of technology, the development of regional value chains, and increasing demand for product customization and shorter time to market favouring proximity of manufacturers to clients.

It should be said though that in Europe the furniture manufacturing industry never really left. For Europe, the massive shift to lower-cost manufacturing locations that characterised the global industry between 2000 and 2020 mainly took place inside the continent – from western to Eastern Europe - rather than involving any large-scale move further afield.

Furthermore, the rapidly changing geopolitical environment this year, particularly the US administration's enthusiasm for tariffs to boost domestic manufacturing and the EU's imposition of tougher traceability requirements through EUDR - which create particular challenges for SMEs and for products based on composite panels and wood from small plantations or that is imported from third countries - could yet add impetus to the reshoring trend in the wood furniture sector in the next few years.

### **EU imposes anti-dumping duties on Chinese hardwood plywood**

The EU Commission has announced it is imposing provisional duties of up to 62.4% on hardwood plywood imports from China, as part of its Anti-Dumping investigation on hardwood-faced Plywood.

The investigation began following a complaint by the Greenwood Consortium, which represents the EU's hardwood plywood industry. The Consortium's complaint alleged that Chinese plywood was being 'dumped' onto the EU market and sold below market value.

While the investigation is ongoing, and due to be completed within six months, the EU has taken the following actions entering into force on 11 June, 2025:

- Interim levels of additional duty of 62.4% for all hardwood plywood from China except products from a single identified Chinese manufacturer for which a 25.1% rate will apply.
- A new requirement for customs authorities in each EU member state to keep records of coniferous-faced Chinese Plywood arriving at EU borders. This action is designed to help prevent circumvention of the new anti-dumping duties through modification of the Chinese plywood products.

Definitive duties are expected to be published in December.

Full details of the EU anti-dumping measures are available at: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L\\_202501139](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202501139)

## **North America**

### **Housing starts plummet to a 5-year low**

Construction of new homes fell 9.8% in May as builders pulled back amid waning demand from home buyers. Housing starts fell to a 1.26 million annual pace from 1.39 million the previous month. The annual pace refers to how many houses would be built over an entire year if May's rate of construction were to continue.

The pace of home building is down to the lowest level since May 2020 during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

New-home construction is down 4-5% from the same period a year ago. Building permits, a sign of future construction, also fell 2% from the previous month to a 1.39 million rate.

Builders have slowed construction of new homes primarily due to a pullback in buyer demand. Rising inventory levels and weak buyer demand have resulted in homes sitting longer on the market. At the same time, "builders are operating in a very challenging environment and it showed up in the May construction data," said Danielle Hale, Chief Economist at Realtor.com.

"With tariffs raising materials costs and immigration policy likely worsening labour shortages the supply side of the equation is difficult and coupled with an environment where demand for new construction homes is weakening as the number of existing homes for sale grows," she added.

The pace of construction was uneven across the US. New-home construction grew in the West by 15.1% but fell across the rest of the nation. The sharpest fall in new home construction was in the Northeast, which saw a 40% drop.

Housing starts across Canada came in at a seasonally adjusted annualised rate of 279,510 units, representing a slight decline from the month before the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reported. That was stronger than the 255,000 residential housing projects the market was expecting to have started for the month, according to economists at TD Securities.

See: <https://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/current/index.html>

### **Builder confidence continues to fall**

Home builder confidence in the market for newly built single-family homes was 32 in June, down two points from May, according to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI) released in June.

The index has only posted a lower reading twice since 2012 – in December 2022 when it hit 31 and in April 2020 at the start of the pandemic when it plunged more than 40 points to 30.



"Buyers are increasingly moving to the sidelines due to elevated mortgage rates and tariff and economic uncertainty," said NAHB Chairman Buddy Hughes, a home builder and developer from Lexington, North Carolina. "To help address affordability concerns and bring hesitant buyers off the fence, a growing number of builders are moving to cut prices."

In a further sign of declining builder sentiment the use of price incentives increased sharply in June as the housing market continues to soften.

See: <https://www.nahb.org/news-and-economics/housing-economics/indices/housing-market-index>

### **US employers added 139,000 jobs in May**

US payroll growth slowed modestly in May as employers added 139,000 jobs amid uncertainty on the government's sweeping import tariffs, federal government layoffs and immigration crackdown. The unemployment rate held steady at 4.2%, the US Department of Labor said.

Before the jobs report's release economists surveyed by Bloomberg estimated 125,000 jobs were added in May. Job gains for March and April were revised down by a combined 95,000, portraying a weaker labour market than believed in late winter and early spring. March's total was downgraded from 185,000 to 120,000 and April's from 177,000 to 147,000.

"Employment gains are moderating as many companies remain in a holding pattern and are hesitant to hire new workers amid heightened uncertainty about the impact of tariff policies on economic growth," Nationwide Chief Economist Kathy Bostjancic wrote in a note to clients. "At the same time, they are not laying off workers in a large way."

Last month, a sharp drop in employment in the household survey was offset by a big decline in the labour force - the pool of Americans working or looking for jobs - that can be partly traced to immigration curbs.

Healthcare, a reliable job generator for the past couple of years, again led the employment gains with 62,000. Leisure and hospitality added 48,000 positions. Employment showed little change over the month in other major industries, including construction and manufacturing.

See: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm> and <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/may-jobs-report-released-employers-added-139k-jobs-unemployment-held-steady/ar-AA1Gdfrx?ocid=BingNewsVerp>

### **Consumer sentiment rebounds as people get over tariff shock**

US consumers in the early part of June took a considerably less pessimistic view about the economy and potential surges in inflation as progress appeared possible in the global trade war, according to a University of Michigan survey.

The closely watched Surveys of Consumers showed across-the-board rebounds from previously dour readings, while respondents also sharply cut back their outlook for near-term inflation.

For the headline index of consumer sentiment, the gauge was at 60.5, well ahead of the Dow Jones estimate for 54 and a 16% increase from a month ago.

The moves coincided with a softening in the heated rhetoric that has surrounded President Donald Trump's tariffs. After releasing his April 2 "liberation day" announcement, Trump has eased off the threats and instituted a 90-day negotiation period that appears to be showing progress, particularly with top trade rival China.

"Consumers appear to have settled somewhat from the shock of the extremely high tariffs announced in April and the policy volatility seen in the weeks that followed," Joanne Hsu, survey director, said in a statement. "However, consumers still perceive wide-ranging downside risks to the economy."

See: <http://www.sca.isr.umich.edu/>

### **Manufacturing slipped further in May**

Economic activity in the manufacturing sector contracted in May for the third consecutive month, say the nation's supply executives in the latest Manufacturing ISM Report On Business.

The ISM manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) came in at 48.5 in May, down from 48.7 in April. A reading below 50 indicates contraction.

"In May, US manufacturing activity slipped further into contraction after expanding only marginally in February," reported Susan Spence, Chair of the ISM Manufacturing Business Survey Committee. "Contraction in most of the indexes that measure demand and output have slowed, while inputs have started to weaken."

Of the 18 industry categories surveyed by ISM, seven reported growth in May, including the Furniture & Related Products industry. Seven industries reported contraction, including the Wood Products industry.

See: <https://www.ismworld.org/supply-management-news-and-reports/reports/ism-report-on-business/>

### **Cabinet sales continued down in April**

Cabinet manufacturers reported a 7% monthly drop in sales in April according to the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association's April Trend of Business report. At US\$195.8 million, sales were 9% lower than that of April 2024. Custom Sales fell 8% from the previous month while Semi-Custom Sales fell 10%. Stock Sales rose by 8%. Through the first four months of the year, sales were down 6% from this point last year with the number of units sold down 156%.

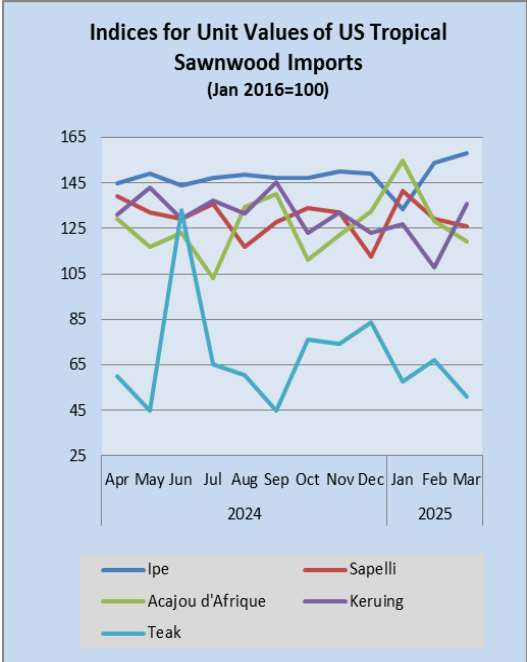
See: <https://www.kcma.org/insights>



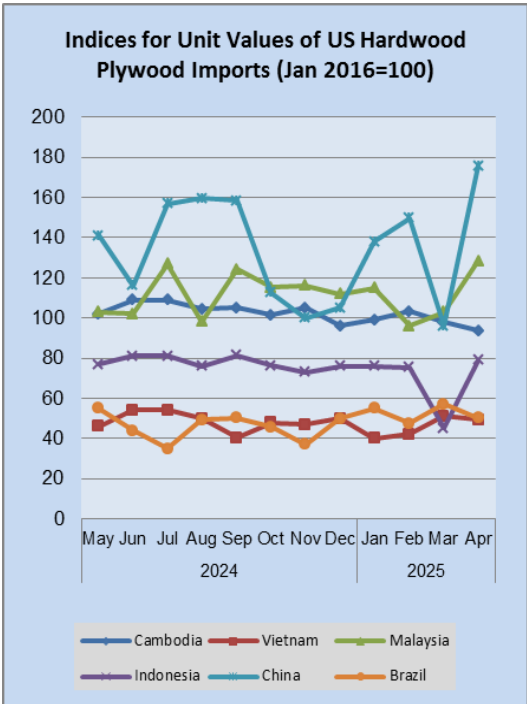
**North American plywood market expected to grow at 5-6% through 2033**

The business research and consulting firm Market Data Forecast projects that the North America plywood market will grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.62% from 2025 to 2033 and be worth US\$34.22 billion by 2033 from US\$22.10 billion in 2025. The market was worth US\$20.92 billion in 2024. The Market Data Forecast report cited market opportunities in the areas of prefabricated and modular construction and in the development and adoption of high-performance plywood variants.

See: <https://www.marketdataforecast.com/about-us>



Data source: US Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics



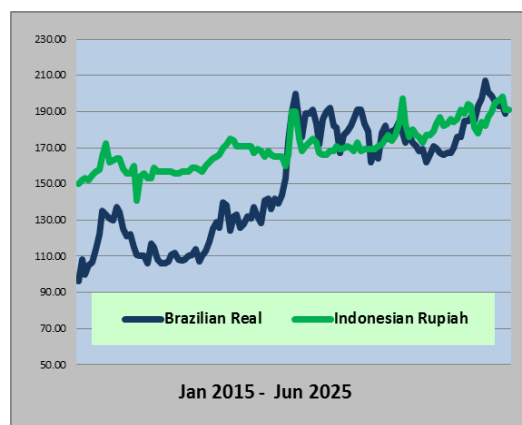
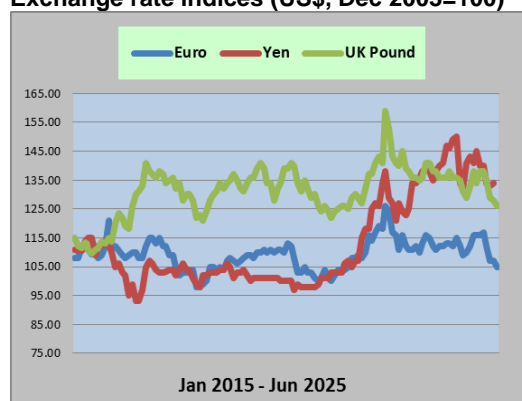
Data source: US Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics

## US Dollar Exchange Rates

As of 25 June 2025

Brazil	Real	5.565
CFA countries	CFA Franc	565.68
China	Yuan	7.18
Euro area	Euro	0.86
India	Rupee	85.65
Indonesia	Rupiah	16,203
Japan	Yen	144.40
Malaysia	Ringgit	4.23
Peru	Sol	3.61
UK	Pound	0.73
South Korea	Won	1,357.86

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



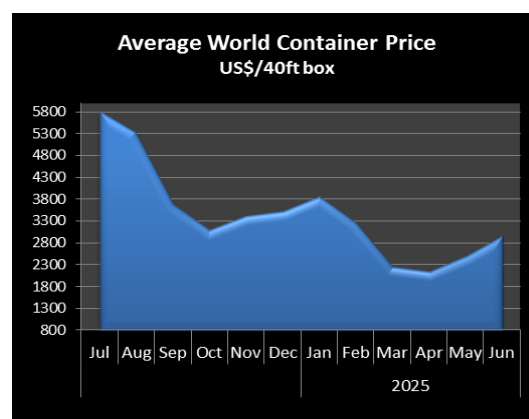
**Disclaimer:** Though efforts have been made to ensure prices are accurate, these are published as a guide only. ITTO does not take responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

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

## 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

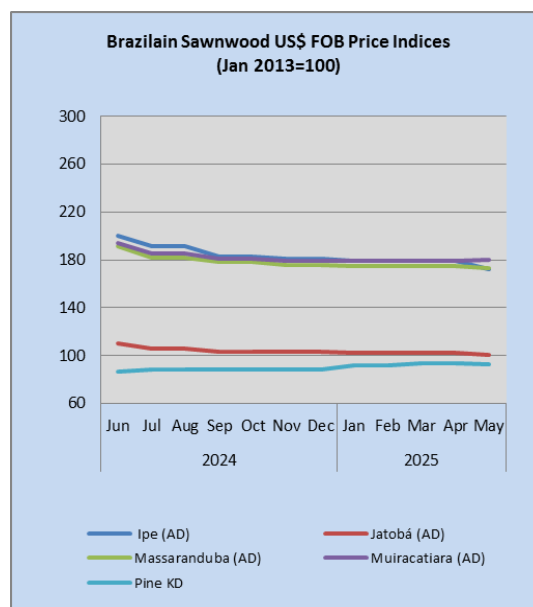
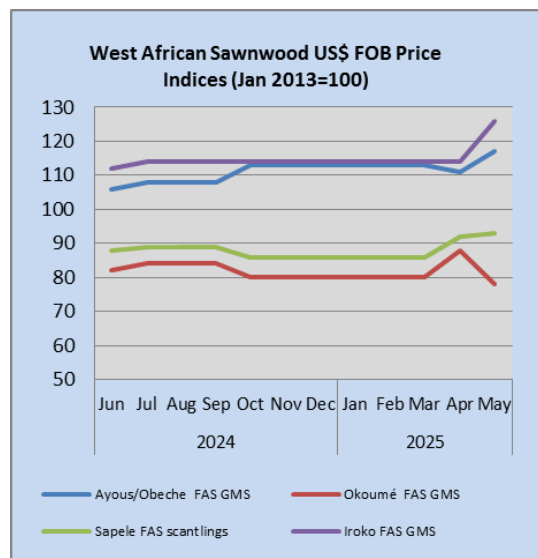
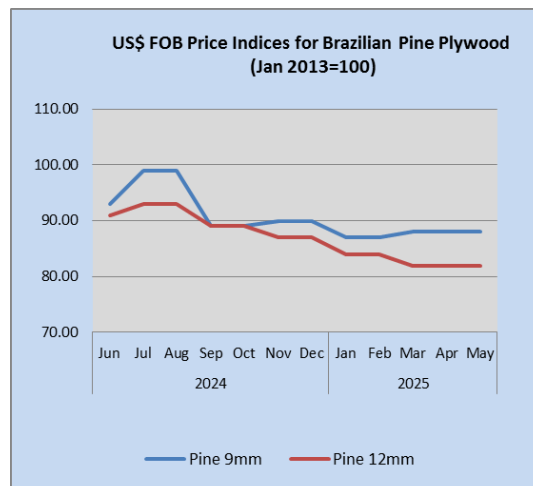
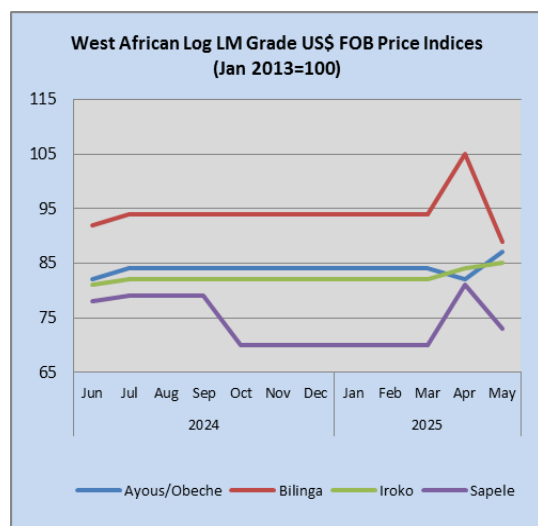


Data source: Drewry World Container Index

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.

To have a free copy of this twice-monthly ITTO Market Information Service bulletin emailed to you on the day of production, please register at:

[http://www.itto.int/en/mis\\_registration](http://www.itto.int/en/mis_registration)