Tropical Timber Market Report

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Top story

Republic of Congo approves plan for new timber export-control agency

An important regulatory development was announced following the Congolese Council of Ministers meeting on 14 October 2026. The government approved a draft law establishing a new agency responsible for controlling the import and export of forest products.

The proposed 'Agence de contrôle des produits forestiers à l'exportation et à l'importation' (ACPFEI) would replace the existing forestry export-control service, which was established under the country's earlier forestry legislation.

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The September Global Timber Index (GTI) report is now available.

See: https://www.itto.int/gti/
and
https://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics_pdf_download/topics_id=797900&no=1

The monthly GTI Report is compiled based on information obtained from leading timber enterprises in participating pilot tropical-timber-producing countries and in China.

Central and West Africa

Latest developments

The Central African timber trade remained quiet at the end of October with economic conditions in the principal producing countries continuing to deteriorate. Businesses and consumers are facing increasing financial pressure from taxation, higher operating costs and rising fuel prices. For forestry operators, these pressures are particularly difficult to absorb because international timber markets remain weak and opportunities to pass additional costs on to customers are limited.

The combination of higher production costs and very low international demand is creating the risk that some operators may temporarily reduce or suspend operations.

Fuel costs increasing pressure on producers

Fuel prices have become a significant concern for forestry and transport companies. Trucks purchasing diesel directly from filling stations are reportedly paying around FCFA575 per litre. However, industrial operators requiring bulk deliveries to forest concessions and production sites are reportedly facing prices as high as FCFA 1,200 per litre.

This substantial difference is creating serious difficulties for forestry companies, which depend heavily on diesel for harvesting equipment, generators and long-distance timber transportation. If these higher industrial fuel costs continue while timber prices remain under pressure, production margins will become increasingly difficult to sustain.

China – major weakness in demand for Okoumé

The weakening demand in China remains the greatest concern for producers in Gabon and the Republic of the Congo. The Okoumé trade has fallen to an exceptionally low level, creating serious difficulties for both harvesting companies and processing mills. China has historically provided one of the largest outlets for Okoumé so the current low level of demand is having a particularly severe impact in Gabon and southern Congo.

European demand not compensating

European demand is not strong enough to compensate for the deterioration in the Chinese market. Purchasing remains cautious, while producers continue to face increasingly demanding documentation, traceability and regulatory requirements when supplying European destinations. As a result, Europe is currently not in a position to absorb the volumes previously directed to China. This is forcing producers to reconsider both production levels and their choice of export destinations.

New export destinations

With China, Europe and the Middle East offering limited opportunities, timber companies are accelerating their search for alternative markets. Operators are developing contracts in South America, while interest is also emerging in Pacific Island destinations.

Some products are also being exported to the United States which is beginning to provide opportunities for specialised products rather than simply conventional sawn timber. This diversification is becoming increasingly important for the industry.

United States – market for timber mats

An interesting development is emerging in the US market for heavy-duty timber mats. A Chinese-operated sawmill in the region is currently investing in production capacity specifically for this market. The products include large industrial mats manufactured from heavy tropical hardwood species such as Azobé, Okan and Dabema.

These mats are used as temporary working platforms and access surfaces for heavy machinery, including dragline equipment and operations associated with oilfield development and wind-energy installations.The United States is reportedly developing into an increasingly important market for these products.

For producers, this represents an attractive example of higher-value processing and market diversification at a time when conventional tropical hardwood demand remains weak.

The growth in demand for industrial mats demonstrates how producers are beginning to adapt to changing international markets. Rather than relying exclusively on traditional sawn timber, veneer and peeling markets, mills are increasingly exploring specialised products that make use of the strength and durability of African hardwoods.

Species such as Azobé, Okan and Dabema are particularly suitable for heavy industrial applications because of their density, strength and durability. If US demand continues to expand, this could provide an increasingly important outlet for species that are facing weaker demand elsewhere.

Gabon

Harvesting and log supply deteriorates as heavy rainfall returns

Forestry operations in Gabon are facing renewed difficulties following a further period of heavy rainfall across the country. The brief improvement in forest access reported earlier in October has proved temporary, with deteriorating bush roads once again restricting the extraction and transportation of logs.

The situation is particularly difficult in the Okondja and Makokou regions, where operators are struggling to move felled timber from forest concessions to sawmills. Azobé supplies remain especially affected.

Industry contacts indicate that the renewed rainfall has brought some extraction operations close to a standstill. In the Makokou region, four Chinese-operated sawmills are reportedly at risk of closure by December if log availability and market conditions fail to improve (not yet independently confirmed).

The difficult trading environment is consistent with concerns raised by Gabon's government about weakening demand in international markets, particularly Asia. In August, the presidency held discussions with forestry operators on measures to support recovery in the industry and has recently provided details of the discussion in a press release, some key points are provided below.

During the discussions, the Head of State focused specifically on the conditions required for the sustainable revitalisation of this strategic sector of the national economy. Key topics included improving the business climate, safeguarding jobs, strengthening local processing and consumption and diversifying commercial outlets.

In this regard, the President issued instructions to settle a significant portion of the VAT-related claims owed to operators in the sector—totaling 20 billion CFA francs—as part of a broader effort to clear a portion of the State's domestic debt. The Head of State subscribes to the adage that "he who pays his debts, enriches himself." This measure is intended to help the affected companies restore their financial capacity and secure the resources necessary to resume and expand their operations.

As a major pillar of the national economy, the forestry and timber sector accounts for over 15,000 direct and indirect jobs and serves as a key driver for the diversification of the Gabonese economy. It stands as the largest private-sector employer in Gabon. Consequently, its revitalisation is of critical importance for economic growth, job preservation and the development of new value chains.

See: https://presidence.ga/2026/08/10/le-president-oligui-nguema-donne-des-orientations-pour-la-relance-de-la-filiere-foret-bois-et-ordonne-le-reglement-de-la-dette-a-hauteur-20-milliards-de-fcfa/

Rising diesel costs add further pressure to sawmills

Operating costs have become an increasingly serious concern for timber producers. According to local industry information, diesel supplied to commercial operators is now being charged at approximately FCFA1,200 per litre. This reported commercial rate has not been independently verified and should not be confused with regulated retail pump prices.

The higher costs come at a particularly difficult time, as weak export demand limits the ability of producers to pass additional expenditure on to customers.

See: https://gouvernement.ga/2026/10/08/communique-du-ministere-du-petrole-et-du-gaz-relatif-a-lapprovisionnement-en-carburant-dans-le-grand-libreville/
and
https://gabonmediatime.com/gabon-le-gouvernement-table-sur-un-plan-strategique-pour-securiser-lapprovisionnement-en-carburant/

CITES administration said to be creating extended delays

Timber exporters are reporting a significant deterioration in the processing of CITES documentation required for certain regulated species entering European markets. In early October, operators indicated that European CITES approvals were generally being processed within approximately two weeks. The latest industry information suggests that processing times have increased to as much as two months. If sustained, these delays could restrict shipments, extend the period during which timber remains in storage and increase working-capital requirements for exporters.

Industrial production continues to face power disruptions

Despite the return of the rains which should boost water levels in hydroelectric reservoirs significant electricity disruptions continue to affect Gabon's industrial environment. The problem is compounded by weaknesses in electricity transmission infrastructure and fuel supply for thermal generation. Earlier in October, the national electricity and water utility SEEG confirmed that diesel shortages were affecting power generation resulting in rotating power cuts in several areas.

See: https://gabonactu.com/blog/2026/10/02/penurie-de-gasoil-la-seeg-annonce-des-perturbations-dans-la-fourniture-delectricite-et-deau-potable/

Nkok Special Economic Zone – government clarifies tax exemptions

Following concerns raised by investors over the government's earlier decision to suspend certain fiscal concessions, correspondence dated 9 October 2026 from the Ministry of Economy and Finance, reference 7613, reportedly provides clarification on the legal position of exemptions established under Gabonese legislation.

According to the correspondence, fiscal and customs advantages granted under Law No. 10/2011 and Law No. 036/2018 cannot be withdrawn, suspended or repealed through an administrative or regulatory decision. Any amendment to benefits established by legislation must follow the appropriate legislative procedures.

The clarification offers some reassurance that existing statutory benefits cannot automatically be cancelled by an administrative announcement. However, it does not represent a complete reversal of the government's wider review of tax concessions. An audit of previously granted exemptions and the associated investment commitments remains underway. At the same time, the government's proposed fiscal reforms include minimum taxation requirements and a reassessment of incentives through the legislative process.

For timber processors, the distinction between statutory exemptions and individually negotiated concessions is particularly important. Operators are already facing weak international demand, rising production costs and reduced profitability.

They point out that additional tax liabilities could further weaken the competitiveness of Gabonese timber products against supplies from neighbouring countries.

The clarification from the authorities will help restore confidence among existing investors but the longer-term position will depend on the outcome of the government's review and any subsequent legislative changes.

See: https://journal-officiel.ga/4917-036-2018/
and
https://presidence.ga/2026/09/19/communique-final-du-conseil-des-ministres-du-18-septembre-2026/
and
https://www.union.sonapresse.com/index.php/fr/exonerations-fiscales-nkok-des-entreprises-veulent-des-eclaircissements

Trade outlook
The immediate outlook for Gabon's tropical timber sector has weakened further during the second half of October. The most significant deterioration concerns Okoumé demand from China, where purchasing activity has reportedly fallen sharply. At the same time, heavy rainfall is once again restricting access to forest concessions, while higher industrial diesel costs and continuing electricity disruptions are reducing operating margins.

The reported increase in European CITES processing times introduces another potential obstacle for exporters already facing subdued international demand.

Within the Nkok Special Economic Zone, the government's reported clarification concerning legally established tax exemptions provides some reassurance for existing investors. Nevertheless, the continuing review of fiscal incentives and the prospect of future legislative changes leave uncertainty surrounding operating costs and investment conditions.

With limited prospects for a significant recovery in Chinese purchasing before the end of the year, sawmills are expected to remain cautious, concentrating production on confirmed orders and species for which viable export markets remain available.

Overall, the combination of weakening demand, reduced log availability and increasing production costs is placing further pressure on Gabon's sawmilling industry. The sector continues to face considerable commercial and operational challenges, with the risk of additional temporary closures if conditions do not improve.

Cameroon

Chinese operated sawmills seek alternative export markets
Cameroon's timber-processing industry is showing further signs of adapting to weak demand in traditional Asian destinations, with Chinese-operated sawmills increasingly seeking business outside their established markets.

According to Cameroon industry contacts, Chinese operators are now pursuing contracts in South America, while also identifying opportunities for heavier tropical hardwood species in major port and infrastructure developments in Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

This development represents a further stage in the diversification of Cameroon's export markets. Rather than relying primarily on China and established European buyers, producers are increasingly examining destinations where demand for durable construction hardwoods may provide additional opportunities. However, the extent to which these enquiries are translating into confirmed orders and shipments remains unclear. Competition from alternative timber-producing regions and rising container freight costs may also limit the commercial attractiveness of more distant markets.

Kribi Port – timber handling facilities approaching completion
Progress has been reported on the development of additional timber-handling facilities at Kribi Port. Earlier information indicated that plans were being developed to establish a dedicated log storage area and additional facilities for sawn timber. The latest industry reports suggest that these works are now approaching completion.

If confirmed, this would represent an important development for Cameroon's timber-export infrastructure, potentially allowing a greater proportion of conventional timber cargo to be handled through Kribi rather than relying on Douala. The expansion of timber-handling capacity would be particularly beneficial for producers in southern Cameroon and northern Congo, where access to Kribi could provide an alternative route for export shipments.

Separately, Kribi Container Terminal has commenced an eight-hectare expansion of its handling facilities, representing an investment of approximately FCFA21.5 billion. The project is expected to increase container capacity by approximately 30%, with completion currently scheduled for the final quarter of 2027. The continued expansion of Kribi strengthens its longer-term position as an alternative export gateway for timber producers operating in Cameroon and neighbouring countries.

See: https://www.investiraucameroun.com/infrastructures/0810-23934-port-de-kribi-21-5-milliards-de-fcfa-pour-accroitre-de-30-les-capacites-du-terminal-a-conteneurs

International container freight costs increase further
International shipping costs are becoming an increasingly important concern for timber exporters. The latest industry information indicates that freight charges have risen considerably on routes serving Europe, Asia and the Middle East, adding further pressure to export competitiveness.

The increase is particularly problematic for lower-value sawn timber where transport costs represent a significant proportion of the delivered price.

With international buyers remaining cautious, exporters have limited scope to recover higher shipping costs through increased selling prices.

Recent announcements by major container carriers provide further evidence of increasing freight-related charges on African trade routes. CMA CGM announced that its peak season surcharge on shipments from China to Cameroon and other southern West African destinations would increase from US$400 to US$550 per twenty-foot equivalent unit, effective 22 October 2026 for relevant short-term contracts.

Hapag-Lloyd has also announced a surcharge of US$800 per twenty-foot equivalent unit for shipments from Asia and Oceania to several Southwest African destinations, including Douala and Kribi, applicable from 25 October 2026.

For producers already facing weak demand and restricted operating margins, sustained high freight costs could make certain export destinations increasingly difficult to serve profitably.

See: https://monitor.cma-cgm.com/news/5629/pss-from-china-to-west-africa
and
https://www.hapag-lloyd.com/de/services-information/news/2026/10/shipping-from-asia-and-oceania-to-southwest-africa--a-pss-update.html

Government plans further restrictions on log exports

A further development has emerged concerning Cameroon's policy of restricting unprocessed timber exports. In a circular issued on 12 October concerning preparation of the 2027 national budget, President Paul Biya instructed the government to continue expanding the list of timber species prohibited from export in log form.

Cameroon already restricts the export of 91 timber species, following an April 2026 decision which added another 15 species to the previous list of 76.

A further 23 species classified as promotion species remain eligible for export as unprocessed logs, subject to additional export taxation. The latest instruction indicates the government's continued intention to encourage greater domestic processing before timber is exported. However, no details have yet been provided regarding the additional species that may be affected, the number to be included or the timetable for implementation.

The proposed expansion could have important consequences for operators whose existing export business depends on species that remain eligible for shipment as logs. While the policy is intended to strengthen domestic timber processing and encourage investment in sawmills and secondary transformation, the immediate commercial environment remains difficult.

Restrictions on additional log exports may increase the requirement for local processing capacity at a time when many producers are already operating below full production levels because of weak international demand. The effect on export volumes, investment and government revenue will therefore depend on both the scope of any future restrictions and the ability of domestic processors to secure additional orders.

See: https://www.businessincameroon.com/public-management/1310-16967-cameroon-plans-more-log-export-bans-after-restricting-91-timber-species

Cameroon and Viet Nam strengthen cooperation on legal timber trade

According to information published by TRAFFIC, representatives from Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife met their Vietnamese counterparts in Hanoi to strengthen cooperation on the legal and sustainable timber trade. Discussions included the development of a bilateral memorandum of understanding designed to improve information sharing, timber legality verification and cooperation against illegal timber trafficking.

For Cameroonian producers, closer cooperation between the authorities in the country of origin and the country of destination could lead to more consistent documentation and traceability requirements. The proposed arrangement could also help legitimate exporters demonstrate the legality of their timber supplies, particularly as international scrutiny of tropical timber sourcing continues to increase.

See: https://www.traffic.org/news/traffic-brings-cameroon-and-viet-nam-together-to-build-a-shared-approach-to-legal-timber-trade/

Trade outlook

The latest developments suggest that Cameroon's timber sector is increasingly concentrating on market diversification and improvements in export infrastructure rather than expecting a rapid recovery in traditional destinations.

Chinese-operated sawmills are examining opportunities in South America and major Middle Eastern infrastructure projects, reflecting the need to secure additional orders outside the established Asian market. At the same time, reported progress in timber-handling facilities at Kribi could provide greater logistical flexibility, although the status of these facilities requires confirmation.

The outlook is complicated by increasing international freight costs, which may offset some of the commercial benefits associated with entering new export markets. Government plans to expand restrictions on raw log exports introduce another consideration for producers, particularly those dependent on species that may become subject to additional controls.

Closer cooperation with Vietnam on timber legality provides a potentially positive development for longer-term trade relations but will require practical implementation before its commercial benefits become clear.

Overall, the end-of-October picture is one of continued market weakness accompanied by a more active search for alternative export destinations. Kribi's infrastructure development and potential new business in South America and the Middle East offer opportunities but higher freight costs and further regulatory restrictions remain important challenges for Cameroon's timber industry.

Republic of the Congo

Harvesting declines as international demand weakens
Forestry activity in the Republic of the Congo slowed further during the second half of October, with information from local forestry sources indicating that harvesting volumes have fallen by approximately 30%. This represents a significant change from the relatively stable operating levels reported earlier in the month, when producers were maintaining harvesting activities despite subdued demand from international markets.

The combination of reduced international purchasing and deteriorating forest accessibility is increasing pressure on sawmills, particularly those dependent on regular log deliveries from remote concessions.

Government approves plan for new timber export control agency
An important regulatory development emerged following the Congolese Council of Ministers meeting on 14 October 2026. The government approved a draft law establishing a new agency responsible for controlling the import and export of forest products.

The proposed 'Agence de contrôle des produits forestiers à l'exportation et à l'importation' (ACPFEI) would replace the existing forestry export-control service, which was established under the country's earlier forestry legislation.

The government considers the existing arrangements insufficient to meet the requirements introduced under the 2020 Forestry Code, particularly regarding timber legality, traceability, sustainable forest management and restrictions on unprocessed log exports. The new agency is intended to strengthen oversight of timber movements and improve compliance with national forestry legislation and international forest governance commitments.

For timber operators, the proposed reforms could lead to closer examination of export documentation, product classification and the legal origin of timber presented for shipment. The changes may be particularly important for exporters operating under special authorisations to ship unprocessed logs, as the government continues to emphasise its policy of encouraging domestic timber transformation.

The draft law must still be examined and adopted by Parliament before the new agency can be formally established. Consequently, no immediate change in export procedures has yet been confirmed. Nevertheless, the proposal represents a significant indication of the government's intention to strengthen control over the international timber trade.

See: https://www.aci.cg/compte-rendu-du-conseil-des-ministres-du-mercredi-14-octobre-2026/

New forestry concession rules strengthen government oversight
At the Council of Ministers meeting mentioned above, the government adopted a decree establishing revised requirements for the allocation and management of forestry concessions and operating permits.

The decree is intended to implement provisions of the 2020 Forestry Code by introducing more formal procedures for awarding forestry agreements and assessing the financial, technical and environmental capabilities of applicants.

Under the arrangements outlined by the government, forestry concessions are to be awarded through publicly advertised competitive procedures. Applicants will generally have three months to submit their proposals, which will then be examined by a forestry commission chaired by the minister responsible for forests. The requirements also place greater emphasis on forest management plans, environmental protection, sustainable harvesting and contributions to local community development.

For existing operators and companies considering new forestry investments, the changes could increase the importance of demonstrating financial capacity, operational compliance and long-term commitments to responsible forest management.

The revised arrangements may also influence how new forestry areas are allocated and how agreements are renewed or renegotiated. Although the measures are intended to improve transparency and strengthen forest governance, their practical effect will depend on how consistently the new requirements are implemented and whether administrative procedures can operate without creating additional delays for legitimate businesses.

See: https://www.aci.cg/compte-rendu-du-conseil-des-ministres-du-mercredi-14-octobre-2026/

Continued log exports attract scrutiny
The proposed creation of the new forestry export-control agency has renewed attention to the continued shipment of unprocessed logs from Congo. Although the government introduced a prohibition on raw log exports from January 2023, shipments have continued under existing authorisation arrangements and other provisions applied by the forestry authorities.

Official export statistics for 2025 indicate that approximately 445,718 cubic metres of unprocessed logs were exported, representing 58% of the country's recorded timber export volume. This highlights the continuing importance of raw log exports despite the government's objective of increasing domestic timber processing.

The issue attracted further attention on 19 October when the Congolese civil society organisation 'Centre d'Actions pour le Développement' welcomed the proposed creation of the new agency but called for the existing restrictions on raw log exports to be enforced arguing that establishing another administrative body should not become a reason to postpone the implementation of forestry legislation already in force.

For timber companies, the distinction between the official restrictions and the authorisations currently permitting some exports remains commercially important.

A significant tightening of enforcement could affect operators supplying raw logs to Asian markets, particularly those whose existing business models depend on exports through Douala or Pointe-Noire. Conversely, greater emphasis on domestic processing could provide additional opportunities for sawmills and timber transformation businesses, provided sufficient investment and international demand are available.

The situation will require careful observation as the new legislation progresses and the government clarifies its approach to existing export authorisations.

See: https://www.cad-cg.org/principal/interdiction-dexportation-de-grumes-une-reforme-a-saluer-mais-la-loi-doit-sappliquer-sans-attendre/
and
https://fliphtml5.com/ccdte/Bulletin-Statistique-2025_IA/

Trade outlook

The outlook for the Republic of the Congo's timber industry bacame more challenging during the second half of October. The most significant immediate development is the reported 30% reduction in harvesting activity, reflecting the combined effects of weakening international demand and increasingly difficult operating conditions during the rainy season.

At the same time, the government is moving towards tighter regulation of forestry concessions and greater control over timber exports. The proposed creation of a new import/export control agency, together with revised forestry concession requirements, could represent an important change in how timber production and international trade are administered.

However, greater regulatory oversight is emerging at a difficult time for the industry, when many producers are already struggling with subdued purchasing, high operating costs and limited opportunities to increase production.

The continuation of raw log exports despite existing restrictions is likely to remain an important issue, particularly as the government seeks to encourage domestic transformation and increase the value generated from its forest resources.

Overall, Congo's timber industry is facing a difficult commercial environment, with falling harvesting activity now accompanied by the prospect of tighter forestry regulation. The immediate priority for producers remains securing sufficient export orders while maintaining operating capacity, with future investment increasingly dependent on predictable forestry rules and improved international market conditions.

Log export prices

West African logs	FOB Euro per cu.m		
Asian market	LM	B	BC/C
Acajou/ Khaya/N"Gollon	220	220	175
Ayous/Obeche/Wawa	220	220	200
Azobe & ekki	250	250	175
Belli	260	260	-
Bibolo/Dibétou	200	200	-
Bilinga	240	240	-
Iroko	270	250	225
Okoume (60% CI, 40% CE, 20% CS) (China only)	195⬇	195⬇	220
Moabi	260	260	220
Movingui	180	180	-
Niove	160	160	-
Okan	240	240	-
Padouk	300	280	200
Sapele	250	250	220
Sipo/Utile	250	250	200
Tali	270	270	-

Sawnwood export prices

West African sawnwood	FOB Euro per cu.m
Ayous FAS GMS	440
Bilinga FAS GMS	700
Okoumé FAS GMS	430⬇
Merchantable KD	400⬇
Std/Btr GMS	400⬇
Sipo FAS GMS	540
FAS fixed sizes	-
FAS scantlings	560
Padouk FAS GMS	900
FAS scantlings	1,050
Strips	500⬆
Sapele FAS Spanish sizes	550
FAS scantlings	580
Iroko FAS GMS	870
Scantlings	920
Strips	410
Khaya FAS GMS	420
FAS fixed	440
Moabi FAS GMS	580
Scantlings	620
Movingui FAS GMS	460
Okoume Merch	380
Assamela FAS GMS	1,400
Gheombi	450

Ghana

Galamsey fight – military to stay in forests reserves

President John Dramani Mahama has instructed that soldiers remain stationed in those forest reserves once cleared of illegal mining to prevent operators from returning to the sites.

'Galamsey' is illegal, small-scale gold mining in Ghana, a term derived from the phrase "gather them and sell"

The decision was to ensure all nine forest reserves previously cleared of illegal mining operators and classified as red zones will now have the military stationed there to protect the areas. He said previous attempts to clear some forest reserves had failed because illegal miners returned shortly after soldiers withdrew and forest guards resumed responsibility for protecting the areas.

President Mahama has called on Chiefs to back government's anti-galamsey efforts, especially where youth and some traditional leaders resisted operations of the National Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee on Illegal Mining (NAIMOS operations). He tasked the local Chiefs as custodians of the communities to curb illegal mining to protect the country's forests and water bodies.

President commended Ghana Gold Board plan to partner with the military to reclaim degraded mining lands using bulldozers and replant economic trees. He said the Forestry Commission will collaborate with the military on levelling, reclamation and reforestation to restore degraded areas.

The President also announced that the Finance Minister had provided GH¢400 million in the 2027 Budget to intensify efforts to eliminate illegal mining activities, stressing that the government's response must go beyond enforcement to addressing the economic circumstances pushing young people into illegal mining.

See: https://www.citinewsroom.com/2026/10/galamsey-soldiers-to-remain-in-nine-cleared-forest-reserves-mahama/
and
https://goldbod.gov.gh/news/president-mahama-commends-goldbod-for-engaging-ghana-armed-forces-to-reclaim-253-acres-of-tano-nimri-forest

Primary product export decline

Ghana exported a total of about 116,355 cu.m of wood products between January and July 2026 according to data from the Research and Statistic unit of the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) of the Forestry Commission (FC).

The figure was composed of primary products (6), secondary wood products (9) and tertiary wood products (4).

Wood product export categories: Jan-Jul.2025/2026

Product Category	Jan-Jul.2025 cu.m	Jan-Jul.2026 cu.m	YoY % Change
Primary	86,650	63,872	-26%
Secondary	37,126	49,491	32%
Tertiary	3,205	2,992	-6%
Total	126,981	116,355	-9%

Data source: TIDD

The above analysis shows that for the period January to July 2026 there were declines in the volumes of the primary (-26%) and tertiary (-8%) wood products categories except the secondary wood product (+32%) during the quarter under review when compared to the same period in 2025.

Primary products such as AD sawnwood, billets, kindling and AD boules decreased. However, pole exports recorded a 31% increase in volume in the first 7 months compared to the same period in 2025. These declines contributed to the sharp drop in exports from 86,650cu.m, valued at Eur32.48 million in 2025 to 63,872cu.m valued at Eur21.18 million 2026.

Secondary wood products, which included plywood to the neighbouring countries (Togo, Burkina Faso and Bennin) topped the list, increasing by 32% as compared to the previous year's figure to achieve a volume of 12,623 cu.m.

Overseas plywood export also increased to 13,263 cu.m. in 2026 while briquettes and KD boule exports also recorded increased volumes. Exports of this category of products were valued at Eur27.01 million, representing 53% of total export value (Eur50.95 million) to become the highest foreign exchange earner contributing over half of all wood export revenue.

Of the tertiary wood products, there were no exports of furniture parts or flooring in the previous year but this year some small volumes were reported. Notwithstanding, the overall total export volume dropped from 3,205cu.m (Eur2.89 million) in 2025 to 2,992cu.m. (Eur2.78 million) in 2026.

The TIDD report revealed that Ghana is moving away from exporting raw/low-processed wood, as primary products. Major destinations for primary products were India and Vietnam. Secondary and tertiary wood products were shipped to Italy, Germany, Belgium, United Kingdom and the US.

ISSER calls on government to focus on manufacturing for economic growth

The Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), has called for the government to put manufacturing, agriculture productivity and better financing options for the private sector at the centre of economic policy if growth is to improve jobs and living standards. The Director of ISSER, Professor Robert Darko Osei, said Ghana must focus on economic growth that generates employment and delivers tangible benefits to households.

Speaking at the launch of the 2025 State of the Ghanaian Economy Report at the University of Ghana, he noted that stronger and well-directed growth could translate faster into higher incomes and more economic opportunities for Ghanaians.

See: https://thebftonline.com/article/turn-economic-stability-into-jobs-and-industrial-growth-isser
and
https://www.citinewsroom.com/2026/10/ghana-reference-rate-falls-to-10-04-set-to-ease-borrowing-costs/

Ghana re-establishes ECOWAS National Office to boost regional integration

Ghana has re-established its ECOWAS National Office within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in line with Community Regulation C/REG.11/21 and Article 6.1 of the ECOWAS Operational Manual.

Speaking at the inauguration of the ECOWAS Community Levy and Finance Committee in Accra, the Chief Director of the Ministry, Ambassador Khadija Iddrisu, said the move will help Ghana meet its ECOWAS obligations and improve coordination of regional integration programmes.

The Head of the Office, Ahmed Abubakari Tijani, expressed confidence in his team, adding that two more committees will be inaugurated to deepen Ghana's engagement with ECOWAS. He said the office will address longstanding gaps in coordinating regional integration activities, as part of broader efforts to strengthen Ghana's institutional framework for implementing ECOWAS programmes.

Ghana is the Secretariat for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), providing a platform for negotiating trade protocols across 54 African nations to a market of 1.4 billion people with 400 million ECOWAS single market.

See: https://www.citinewsroom.com/2026/10/ghana-re-establishes-ecowas-national-office-to-boost-regional-integration/
and
https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/NGDPD@WEO/GHA

Sawnwood export prices

Ghana sawnwood, FOB	Euro per cu.m	
FAS 25-100mmx150mm up x 2.4m up	Air-dried	Kiln-dried
Afrormosia	860	925
Asanfina	465	1,016
Ceiba	425	465
Dahoma	488	558
Edinam (mixed redwood)	640	700
Emeri	690	755
African mahogany (Ivorensis)	783	927
Makore	647	870
Niangon	744	870
Odum	1.024	1,148
Sapele	742	825
Wawa 1C & Select	455	476

Boule export prices

	Euro per cu.m FOB
Black Ofram	330
Black Ofram Kiln dry	420
Niangon	780
Niangon Kiln dry	820

Rotary veneer export prices

Rotary Veneer, FOB	Euro per cu.m	
	CORE (1-1.9 mm)	FACE (>2mm)
Ceiba	370	472
Chenchen	431	612
Ogea	345	590
Essa	553	603
Ofram	350	435

Plywood export prices

Plywood, FOB	Euro per cu.m		
BB/CC	Ceiba	Ofram	Asanfina
4mm	322	580	641
6mm	392	536	604
9mm	413	504	560
12mm	350	489	480
15mm	389	332	430
18mm	452	437	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,,218
Avodire	2,412
Chenchen	864
Mahogany	1,762
Makore	929
Odum	1,648
Sapele	1,836

Malaysia

Logging companies required to restore forest

Deputy Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister, Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh, said the government requires logging companies to provide bonds or deposits to ensure they fulfil their obligations to restore licensed forest areas. This measure is intended to ensure compliance with forest conservation requirements.

On the selection of tree species, the Deputy Minister said replanting is carried out based on the suitability of the forest ecosystem with the involvement of local communities, including the Orang Asli.

Among the high-value forest tree species planted are kapur, merawan kancing, kelat, tembusu and merbau. Syed Ibrahim said forest restoration initiatives had also helped improve the livelihoods of Orang Asli communities by creating employment and income-generating opportunities.

In Pahang, there is a buy-back guarantee scheme for seedlings involving Orang Asli and communities in Tasik Chini, Cameron Highlands, Janda Baik, Pekan and Rompin.

See:
https://theborneopost.pressreader.com/article/281646787100905

PEFC trademark rules update

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) has informed stakeholders of recent updates from PEFC International concerning the PEFC Trademarks Rules.

New requirements under the EU Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive (EmpCo) strengthen the rules governing environmental claims and sustainability labels. Environmental claims are required to be specific and substantiated, while sustainability labels must meet defined requirements.

In response, PEFC has updated its Trademarks Rules and is introducing additional guidance and resources to support PEFC-related communications that are clear, specific and closely aligned with what can be substantiated.

For Malaysian organisations using PEFC trademarks in communications relating to the EU market, the changes may require close attention on how environmental claims, labels and sustainability messages are presented. Relevant claims and marketing materials should remain clear, verifiable and consistent with the updated PEFC Trademarks Rules.

See: https://pefc.org/news/amended-pefc-trademarks-rules-published-to-align-with-empco
and
https://mtcc.com.my/announcements-pefc-trademarks-rules-update-and-upcoming-webinars-on-empco-and-eudr/

Trade pact with EU

It is reported that Johari Abdul Ghani, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister, said negotiations between Malaysia and the European Union on a free trade agreement will likely be finalised by June next year as there are still "a few unresolved issues" requiring further discussion.

The Malaysia-EU Free Trade Agreement (MEUFTA) is a proposed trade pact between Malaysia and the EU's 27 member states, designed to streamline trade, investment and market access for businesses on both sides.

See: https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2026/10/14/june-target-to-seal-free-trade-pact

Trade surplus doubles

Malaysia's total trade rose 30% year-on-year to RM2.91 trillion in the first nine months of 2026, with exports, imports and the trade surplus all recording their highest levels. The Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) said exports increased 34% to RM1.571 trillion, while imports grew 26%t to RM1.339 trillion. The trade surplus more than doubled compared with the corresponding period last year.

MITI said export growth in the first nine months was supported by broad-based gains in the manufacturing and mining sectors, both of which recorded double-digit growth. Electrical and electronic (E&E) products remained a key contributor, with exports increasing by almost RM254 billion amid sustained global semiconductor demand, rising investment in artificial intelligence (AI) and wider adoption of digital technologies.

See:
https://theborneopost.pressreader.com/article/282243787573554

Carbon projects can deliver incentives for conservation

Sarawak has issued two new Forest Carbon Licences (FCL) covering a total area of 31,141.2 hectares in Tanjung Manis, Kuala Rajang and Ulu Baram as part of efforts to strengthen forest conservation and the state's green economy development. To date, 11 entities have received approval to carry out forest carbon activities in Sarawak, covering a total area of 278,280 hectares, with three entities holding Forest Carbon Licences involving a combined area of 56,816.2 hectares.

Forest carbon projects could provide additional incentives for forest conservation and restoration, protect biodiversity and ecosystem services, attract green investment and create opportunities for local communities. He said the issuance of the licences allows the holders to develop and implement their approved projects, subject to the relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

However, licences do not automatically entitle the projects to issue or trade carbon credits, as they must first meet the stipulated carbon standards, including undergoing validation and verification by recognised validation and verification bodies.

See:
https://theborneopost.pressreader.com/article/281612427372134

Maximising the value of biomass resources

With increasing global emphasis on decarbonisation and the circular economy, researchers and industries are exploring innovative bio-refinery technologies that maximise the value of biomass resources while minimising waste.

Bamboo has emerged as a promising feedstock, capable of supporting the production of renewable solid, liquid and gaseous fuels as well as carbon based materials and other high value products. Its unique characteristics position bamboo as a strategic resource for driving sustainable development, enhancing resource efficiency and contributing to a low-carbon future.

See:
https://theborneopost.pressreader.com/article/281904485153000

Indonesia

A stronger furniture and craft sector will boost value

The Industry Minister, Muhammad Sarmuji, has called for stronger support and protection for Indonesia's furniture and handicraft industry, particularly rattan-based businesses to increase the added value of natural resources and improve global competitiveness.

He noted that Indonesia supplies approximately 85% of the world's raw rattan, giving the country a significant comparative advantage. He stressed that this resource potential should be leveraged to develop domestic processing industries, enabling Indonesia to move beyond exporting raw materials and become a producer of high-value furniture and handicraft products.

Indonesian Furniture Industry and Craft Association (HIMKI) Chairman Abdul Sobur emphasised the need for integrated government policies to develop the rattan industry through stronger manufacturing capabilities, design, branding and international market access.

The furniture and handicraft sectors play an important role in supporting local resource-based businesses, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), artisans and employment, he said.

See: https://en.antaranews.com/amp/news/436117/minister-seeks-stronger-furniture-craft-industry-to-boost-value

Rupiah weakness a concern for furniture industries dependent on imports

The weakening of the rupiah against the US dollar is increasing cost pressures on Indonesia's furniture and handicraft industry, particularly for businesses that rely on imported raw materials, components and machinery.

Indonesian Furniture Industry and Craft Association (HIMKI) Chairman, Abdul Sobur, said the impact varies depending on each company's import dependence, inventory, purchasing contracts and ability to manage foreign exchange risks. Higher import costs can squeeze profit margins when selling prices have already been agreed upon with buyers, especially for products requiring imported furniture hardware, finishing materials, adhesives and production equipment.

However, the rupiah depreciation may benefit exporters whose US dollar earnings exceed their dollar-denominated expenses, particularly companies that use a high proportion of locally sourced materials.

To maintain profitability, businesses should reassess costs for each order, improve production efficiency and reduce reliance on imported inputs. In the medium term, expanding the use of sustainably supplied domestic raw materials could help minimise exposure to exchange rate volatility, strengthen local supply chains and improve the furniture industry's resilience and competitiveness.

In related news, the Indonesian Furniture Industry and Craft Association (HIMKI) is seeking to expand Indonesia's furniture and handicraft exports to the United States by improving product competitiveness, strengthening long-term trade relationships and enhancing logistics efficiency.

HIMKI Chairman, Abdul Sobur, said the US remains a strategic market but greater market penetration depends on consistent product quality, attractive designs, reliable deliveries, compliance with market regulations and competitive logistics costs.

He emphasised that stronger supply chains, improved trade connectivity, predictable costs and timely shipments are essential to making Indonesian products more competitive internationally.

The HIMKI is encouraging the furniture and handicraft industry to improve design capabilities, adopt more advanced technologies and use responsibly sourced raw materials. The Association is also seeking to strengthen the capacity of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to help them compete more effectively in international markets, particularly in the United States.

See:
https://money.kompas.com/read/2026/10/19/130403426/rupiah-melemah-pengusaha-mebel-dampaknya-terasa-jika-bahan-baku-masih-impor.
and
berita/5804797/himki-pacu-pasar-industri-kerajinan-ri-ke-as-lewat-efisiensi-logistik
and
See: https://investor.id/business/459071/himki-bidik-pasar-as-efisiensi-logistik-jadi-kunci

Calls to strengthen research and innovation in the furniture and craft industries

HIMKI has partnered with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Malaysia to strengthen research, innovation and talent development to improve the competitiveness of the furniture and handicraft industry. Formalised through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed at Trade Expo Indonesia 2026 in Tangerang on 15 October, the partnership aims to connect academic expertise with industry needs, particularly in value-added product development, design innovation, technological advancement and workforce competency improvement.

Potential initiatives include applied research, training, student internships, industrial visits and joint research and development in materials, production processes, design, circular economy, sustainability, digital technology and market development.

See:
https://money.kompas.com/read/2026/10/16/094540026/himki-buka-kolaborasi-kembangkan-industri-mebel-indonesia-malaysia.

Trade deals to boost exports

Indonesia is targeting approximately US$15 billion in additional exports through three international trade agreements: the Indonesia-European Union CEPA, Indonesia-Canada CEPA and Indonesia-Eurasian Economic Union FTA.

Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Airlangga Hartarto, estimates that the Agreements could generate up to US$10 billion in additional exports to the EU, US$1.6 billion to Canada and US$2-3 billion to the EU by expanding market access, reducing or eliminating tariffs and improving trade reliability.

The government has identified export opportunities in commodities including palm oil and its derivatives, motor vehicles, coffee, cocoa, rubber products, iron and steel, wood products, fishery products, chemicals, minerals, machinery, electronics, footwear and handicrafts. It plans to prioritise products with strong domestic production capacity and significant demand in target markets to maximise the benefits of these Agreements and strengthen Indonesia's export performance.

See: https://www.cnbcindonesia.com/news/20261014074904-4-775911/ri-bidik-tambahan-ekspor-us-154-miliar-dari-3-perjanjian-dagang/amp

Boosting investment through Multi-Business models

The Association of Indonesian Forest Concession Holders (APHI) is promoting multi-business forestry (MUK) to expand investment and export opportunities by optimising timber, non-timber forest products and environmental services. APHI emphasised that policy support, incentives and business certainty are essential to encouraging holders of Forest Utilization Business Licenses (PBPH) to integrate MUK into their core operations.

Through collaboration with various stakeholders, including the Kadin Regenerative Forestry Business (Kadin RFB) programme, APHI is facilitating knowledge-sharing, dialogue, business-matching meetings and pilot projects to identify potential commodities, market opportunities and partnerships across the forestry value chain.

APHI identified five key prerequisites for successful MUK implementation: policy discretion, regulatory flexibility, recognition and appreciation, policy incentives and government facilitation.

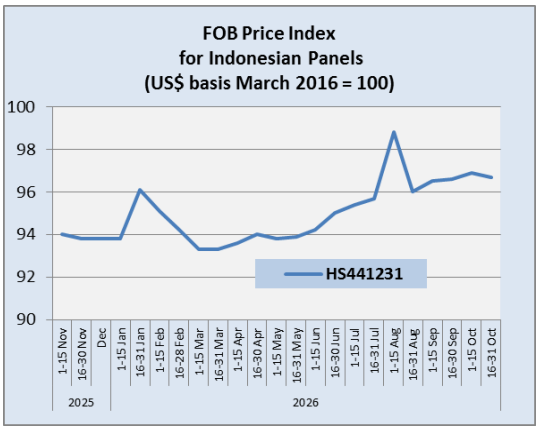
Addressing these requirements is expected to increase the economic value of forest resources, boost forest-product exports, create employment opportunities and improve incomes for communities around forest areas while maintaining ecological sustainability.

See: https://forestinsights.id/aphi-dorong-investasi-dan-ekspor-melalui-multiusaha-kehutanan/

Companies sanctioned over forest fires

Indonesia's Forestry Ministry has imposed administrative sanctions on 32 companies linked to forest and land fires that burned 12,926.74 hectares across seven provinces. The measures include suspending permits for 19 companies, which must restore forest ecosystems across 9,546.42 hectares of burned land; requiring eight other entities to restore 2,211.19 hectares and revoking the permits of the remaining five companies.

See: https://en.antaranews.com/news/436581/indonesia-sanctions-32-companies-for-forest-fires



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

Myanmar

Review of teak plantations

Recent official inspections in Mandalay Region reviewed 229 acres of young commercial teak plantations established in 2024 and 2026, together with a 21-acre seed production area. While the inspections reflect continued efforts toward plantation development, the commercial potential of these young stands remains dependent on survival rates, stocking density, growth performance, silvicultural management, and rotation planning.

Detailed performance data have not yet been publicly verified, making it premature to assess their future contribution to industrial timber supply. Private plantation development also faces challenges involving regulatory procedures, investment conditions, timber traceability and access to international markets.

International sanctions targeting the state-owned Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE) continue to restrict Myanmar timber trade with major western markets. Timber originating from independently operated private plantations is not automatically subject to the same entity-based sanctions, although individual transactions remain subject to applicable sanctions rules, ownership checks and other regulatory requirements.

In practice, private-sector exporters continue to face difficulties, not only in the area of market penetration for the products from the plantation forest but also in demonstrating independently verifiable supply-chain documentation.

Timber legality, traceability, Chain of Custody (CoC) and buyer due diligence requirements remain important considerations for international trade.

See- https://www.myanmaritv.com/news/greening-activities-deputy-minister-makes-inspections-yamethin-and-meiktila?utm_source

Macroeconomic pressures and overseas inward remittance flows

Myanmar's economic environment remains fragile amid persistent financial and operational challenges. According to World Bank assessments, the economy contracted by approximately 2% in FY2025/26, while year-on-year inflation reached 24.6% in April 2026. Although growth of 2% is projected for FY2026/27, ongoing conflict, electricity shortages, rising fuel costs and weak household purchasing power continue to constrain economic activity.

Migrant worker remittances remain an important source of foreign exchange and household income. Bloomberg reported inflows of approximately US$5.6 billion in 2025, while official statements indicate similarly substantial volumes in 2026.

Under Notification No. 108/2024, overseas workers are required to remit at least 25% of their earnings through official channels. However, substantial remittance inflows do not necessarily translate into readily available foreign exchange for commercial banks and importers, leaving persistent pressures on Myanmar's financial system.

See- : https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/macro-poverty-outlook,
and
https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/myanmar/publication/myanmar-economic-monitor

UNDP reports forest loss near Yangon

A recent UNDP satellite-based assessment reports substantial forest-cover loss in the northern Yangon Region, particularly in Hlegu, Taikkyi, and Hmawbi townships. The study indicates that approximately 464 square kilometres of forest cover, representing 87% of the assessed baseline, have been lost since 2000.

The annual rate of forest loss reportedly tripled after 2021 compared with the preceding two decades. Identified pressures include agricultural expansion, settlement development, and fuelwood demand. The assessment also reports localized temperature increases of up to 1.7°C and growing concerns over water security.

The findings highlight mounting pressures on forest resources and the importance of forest monitoring, land-use management, and effective forest governance.

See- https://myanmar.un.org/en/324021-yangon-expands-its-forests-are-disappearing?utm_source

India

New Zealand eliminates import tariffs on Indian merchandise exports

The India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) entered into force on 20 October 2026. Under the deal New Zealand eliminated 100% of import tariffs on all Indian merchandise exports. India offered tariff reductions or elimination on 95% of New Zealand's exports (immediate duty-free access for 57% of exports including sheep meat, wool, coal and most forest products) rising to over 82% over time.

The deal removes a 5% tariff on logs and pulp and the 10% tariff on processed wood products. This is expected to generate over NZ$10 million annually in immediate cost savings and new revenue streams. Tariffs on almost all remaining wood trade will be completely phased out over the next seven years.

Indian Customs are required to release imported goods within 48 hours of arrival, dramatically improving supply chain efficiency. Industry bodies point out that gaining a stronger foothold in one of the world's fastest-growing economies will help New Zealand diversify its market dependency, which has heavily leaned toward China in recent years, according to Wood Central.

New Zealand's private sector has pledged US$20 billion in investment into India over the next 15 years. According to the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association of New Zealand (WPMA) and industry representatives, the Agreement delivers immediate and long-term financial opportunities.

See: https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-agreements/NZ-India-FTA/New-Zealand-India-Free-Trade-Agreement-Summary.pdf

India/US trade agreement close

India and the United States have been negotiating a bilateral trade arrangement aimed at expanding market access and addressing longstanding differences over tariffs, agricultural products, industrial goods and regulatory barriers.

A trade agreement between India and the United States which has been under negotiation for more than a year and a half is “pretty close“ to conclusion and the US President indicated the final arrangement between the two nations could differ significantly from any earlier trade Agreements.

The US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, recently visited India and held discussions with Foreign Minister, S. Jaishankar, on further strengthening bilateral relations focusing on sectors such as trade, energy, technology, defence and people-to-people ties.

For India, the negotiations carry implications for major export sectors, including pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, textiles, electronics and information technology-related services.

American companies have also sought greater opportunities in India's expanding consumer market and manufacturing sectors.

See: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/short-videos/india-us-trade-deal-pretty-close-will-be-very-different-from-earlier-pacts-trump/videoshow/135087626.cms?from=mdr

Jodhpur's exporters 'Furniture Express'

Exporters in Rajasthan are benefitting from a 'Furniture Express', a dedicated rail service for handicraft and furniture export transport. Reports state the freight service connecting Jodhpur to Mundra Port has moved over 2,100 containers as of september.

This initiative plays an important role in providing more accessible, reliable and competitive export logistics facilities, particularly for Jodhpur's furniture, handicraft, guar gum and other export industries.

This helps Jodhpur-based wooden furniture exporters minimise delays caused by container shortages and reduce additional logistical costs. The availability of empty containers at Jodhpur and the subsequent movement of loaded containers to Mundra Port via regular rail services provide exporters with integrated logistics solutions.

The "Furniture Express" was launched on in February this year by the State government-owned enterprise, Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Limited (RAJSICO) in collaboration with Doon Logistics Limited.

This service is being operated in collaboration with major shipping partners and enables Jodhpur-based exporters to access a wide range of shipping options and provides them with greater flexibility regarding container availability.

See: https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/jodhpur-s-export-logistics-gains-speed-with-furniture-express-126092100872_1.html

Surge in domestic log prices

Log prices in the southern region of the country have jumped notably over the last couple of months according to Plyreporter. The surge in prices is reportedly due to limited availability during the monsoon season and this has impacted plywood manufacturers in the State of Karnataka and Kerala.

Commenting on the rise in the log prices a plywood factory owner is reported as saying, the price of rubber wood and silver oak has increased by 10% and 20% respectively and prices for other logs has jumped by 15-20% in Perumbavoor, Kannur and also in Karnataka. The disruptoig to log supplies is a feature of the monsoon season but high log costs combined with the rise in other production inputs could drive manufacturers to source alternative species such as Melia dubia from neighbouring states or imported logs.

See: https://www.plyreporter.com/article/154383/timber-prices-rise-in-southern-india-takes-its-toll-on-panel-sector

Cost C&F Indian ports in US$ Hoppus measure

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

	US$ C&F
Brazil	565
Colombia	509
Costa Rica	410
Nigeria	-
Benin	-
Tanzania	520
Laos	-
South Sudan	730
Guatemala	435
Venezuela	-

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

	US$ C&F
Benin	695
Brazil	640
Colombia	-
Costa Rica	575
Ecuador	-
Ghana	460
Ivory Coast	820
Nigeria	475
South Sudan	60
Tanzania	-
Togo	555
Panama	550

Locally milled sawnwood prices

Sawnwood Ex-mill	Rs per cu.ft.
Merbau	4,600 - 5,000
Balau	3,200 - 3,500
Resak	-
Kapur	-
Kempas	1,900 - 2,200
Red meranti	2,000 - 2,300
Radiata pine	1.000 - 1,300
Whitewood	1,050 - 1,250

Price range depends mainly on lengths and cross-section

Locally sawn hardwood prices

Sawnwood (Ex-warehouse) (KD 12%)	Rs per cu.ft.
Beech	2,100 - 2,450
Sycamore	2,600 - 3,000
Red Oak	3,100 - 3,600
White Oak	3,600 - 4,000
American Walnut	5,600 - 6,100
Hemlock STD grade	2,100 - 2,400
Western Red Cedar	3,100 - 3,550
Douglas Fir	2,600 - 2,800

Price range depends mainly on lengths and cross-section

Plywood

Domestic ex-warehouse average prices for locally manufactured WBP plywood

Plywood Ex-warehouse	Rs. per sq.ft
4mm	89.75
6mm	104.00
9mm	123.50
12mm	147.00
15mm	190.50
18mm	210.50

Domestic ex-warehouse prices for locally manufactured MR plywood

Plywood Ex-warehouse	Rs. per sq.ft
4mm	61.00
6mm	78.25
9mm	90.00
12mm	106.00
15mm	143.50
19mm	153.00
5mm Flexible ply	91.00

Viet Nam

According to statistics from the Customs Department the exports of wood and wood products in September 2026 will reach US$1.5 billion, down 5% compared to August 2026 but up 9.5% compared to September 2025. In the first 9 months of 2026, exports of wood and wood products could reach US$13.43 billion, up 6% over the same period in 2025 of which exports of wood products could reach US$8.6 billion, up 1% over the same period in 2025.

Exports of living and dining room furniture in September 2026 totalled US231.0 million, up 16% compared to September 2025. In the first 9 months of 2026, exports of living and dining room furniture is estimated at US$1.9 billion, down 0.2% over the same period in 2025.

Imports of raw wood (logs and sawnwood) from the European Union in September 2026 are estimated at 85,000 cu.m, with a value of US$25.7 million, down 6% in volume and 3% in value compared to August 2026 but up 10% in volume and 14% in value over the same period in 2025. In the first 9 months of 2026, imports of raw wood from the EU are estimated at 786,800 cu.m, with a value of US$237.8 million, up 12% in volume and 14% in value over the same period in 2025.

According to preliminary statistics, exports of wood and wood products to the EU in September 2026 will reach US$70.3 million, down 6% compared to August 2026 but up 36% compared to September 2025. In the first 9 months of 2026, exports of wood and wood products to the EU may reach US$689 million, up 54% over the same period in 2025.

According to statistics from the Customs Department, exports of wood and wood products to Canada in September 2026 will reach US$26.6 million, down 14% compared to August 2026 but up 11% compared to September 2025. In the first 9 months of 2026, exports of wood and wood products to Canada will reach US$233.7 million, up 12% over the same period in 2025.

According to preliminary statistics, Vietnam's kitchen furniture exports in September 2026 will reach US$105 million, down 5% compared to September 2025. In the first 9 months of 2026, exports of kitchen furniture will reach US$919 million, down 14% over the same period in 2025.

Wood industry urged to seek stronger foothold in domestic market

While export markets have helped Viet Nam’s wood industry build its production capacity and establish a global position, a stronger domestic market could provide an important foundation for more stable and sustainable long-term growth, industry representatives have said.

Speaking at a seminar on building a legal, quality-driven and sustainable domestic wood market, Nguyễn Hoài Bảo, vice chairman and general secretary of the Handicraft and Wood Industry Association of HCM City (HAWA), said that in 2025, Viet Nam’s exports of wood and wood products were worth US$17.2 billion, with exports to the US accounting for nearly US$9.5 billion.

The figures demonstrate Vietnamese wood and furniture enterprises possess robust manufacturing capabilities, effective corporate governance and the ability to meet strict requirements in high-standard international markets, he said.

But having developed the ability to take its products to global markets, the industry should also focus on building a sufficiently strong market at home, he said.

"With a population of more than 100 million, rapid urbanisation and growing demand for housing, construction and living spaces, the domestic market is a fertile space that the wood industry needs to take seriously and approach with a long-term strategy.

"However, sustainable development requires not only good products but also clear standards on timber origin, legality, quality and product safety."

Echoing this view, Ngô Sỹ Hoài, secretary general of the Việt Nam Timber and Forest Products Association (VIFOREST), said the country's population of more than 100 million and growing by around 1% annually, offers considerable potential for the domestic wood market.

For years, however, the domestic market had largely been regarded as a supplementary sales channel or a "lifeline" when exports faced difficulties, while most businesses continued to focus their resources on overseas markets.

Hoài said: "This approach needs to change. The domestic market is large enough to become a genuine growth driver, rather than merely a supplementary sales channel."
He said if the economy maintains steady growth of more than 10% annually, domestic demand for wood products could expand by 7–9% annually, surpassing the global average growth rate of around 6%.

Then it could grow from its current US$5 billion valuation to nearly US$8 billion by 2030.

This domestic demand spans far beyond residential furniture, encompassing housing, public works, hospitality services, e-commerce packaging, paper, logistics and biomass energy.

Hoài particularly highlighted the transformative potential of public procurement.

If government projects and public facilities strictly mandate the use of legal, traceable timber sourced from sustainably managed forests, the public sector could establish benchmark standards for the broader consumer market.

Market lacks common standards

Its potential notwithstanding, the domestic wood and furniture market faces several constraints, including fragmented supply chains and a lack of common standards and transparent product information, according to Hoài and businesses at the seminar.

Market data is another weakness. While import and export statistics are relatively comprehensive, information on the size, structure and consumption trends of the domestic wood market remains limited.

This makes it difficult for businesses to forecast demand or develop appropriate market strategies. Businesses attending the seminar also pointed to the lack of standards and technical regulations specifically applicable to the domestic wood market, calling for clearer Government frameworks to help protect consumers and establish a more transparent market.

Competition is also intensifying as a large and diverse range of Chinese products reaches Vietnamese consumers through online sales and domestic distribution channels. Vietnamese businesses therefore need to take a more proactive approach to developing the domestic market, said Nguyễn Vĩnh Nam, vice president of operations of USofa.

He said this requires stronger collaboration among relevant associations and organisations to create opportunities for businesses to network, share best practices and build partnerships. The Government should also play a leading role by developing common standards and establishing a transparent framework for product quality and origin. This would help businesses improve quality while giving consumers more information when making purchasing decisions.

Hoài said a transparent market ecosystem based on clear standards is needed.

Legal timber, traceability and sustainable forest management should become minimum requirements not only for export products but also for the domestic market.

Businesses should also develop dedicated models for the domestic market rather than treat it as an outlet for surplus products.

Nguyễn Minh Cương, general director of Minh Long Wood Joint Stock Company and chairman of the HAWA Northern Club, said firms should make greater use of Việt Nam's cultural identity and heritage when developing products for domestic consumers, creating designs that reflect local tastes and values.

Võ Quang Hà, chairman of the HCM City Structure Architecture Wood Association (SAWA) and chairman of Tavico Group, said: "We have the capacity to produce high-quality products for demanding international markets. The same standards should also be applied to products serving Vietnamese consumers."

The seminar was organised by HAWA as part of the Vietnam Interior and Build Expo being held at the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Centre in HCM City.

See: https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1801144/wood-industry-urged-to-seek-stronger-foothold-in-domestic-market.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Viet Nam advances forest restoration towards higher quality and value - a journey to restore forest cover

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Viet Nam had about 14.3 million hectares of forest in 1943, with forest cover standing at 43%. By 1995, the figure had fallen to just over 9.3 million hectares, while forest cover dropped to 28%.

The loss of 5 million hectares of forest over five decades posed serious risks to the environment, natural disaster resilience and people's quality of life.

During years of economic hardship, timber exploitation for domestic use and economic development severely damaged primary forests and valuable timber forests. Forest clearing for shifting cultivation, natural disasters and unexploded ordnance left over from wartime also contributed to the rapid decline in forest area.

Following the launch of the Doi Moi (Renewal) process, a shift in management thinking and the approach to forests from exploitation towards conservation and development gradually halted the decline. Forests were no longer viewed simply as resources to be exploited but increasingly as strategic assets for socio-economic development, national defense and security and environmental protection.

The loss of 5 million hectares of forest over five decades posed serious risks to the environment, natural disaster resilience and people's quality of life. In 1992, Decision No. 327-CT, issued by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers (now the Prime Minister) on September 15, laid the foundation for restoring forests and rehabilitating barren land, degraded hills, coastal alluvial areas and water surfaces.

Decision No. 661/QD-TTg, issued by the Prime Minister on July 29, 1998, on the objectives, tasks and implementation of the five-million-hectare forest restoration project, became the country's largest forestry programme. It set out comprehensive goals, including restoring protective forests, rehabilitating and protecting special-use forests, developing production forests and creating jobs for local people.

These decisions also changed the way land and forest users viewed their responsibilities. Instead of exploiting forests, local people shifted towards planting, caring for and benefiting from forest protection and development activities, including payments from the State under the payment for forest environmental services (PFES) scheme. Meanwhile, businesses that affect or benefit from forests are required to pay forest environmental service fees.

For natural and primary forests, the Government introduced a logging ban and stepped up protection of remaining forest areas. Following Decision No. 1976/QD-TTg, issued by the Prime Minister on October 30, 2013, Viet Nam planned 167 special-use forest areas nationwide, including dozens of national parks and nature reserves for habitat protection, forestry and biological research. Special-use forests now cover nearly 2.4 million hectares.

More than three decades after the implementation of comprehensive and decisive measures, Viet Nam's forest area has recovered to more than 14 million hectares. Of this, more than 1 million hectares comprise scattered trees and degraded forests not included in the forest-cover calculation, bringing overall forest cover to 42%.

At the same time, the wood processing and export industry generates tens of billions of US dollars in annual revenue, while forest carbon credits are expected to provide a new source of income and resources for forest restoration and rehabilitation.

Towards a greener, more sustainable future

Despite these notable achievements, Viet Nam's forest restoration journey still faces considerable challenges. According to the Department of Forestry and Forest Protection under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, primary forests account for only 0.25% of the country's total forest area, while natural forests cover nearly 4 million hectares.

Notably, the quality of natural forests, measured by timber volume per hectare, is only about one-tenth that of primary forests and one-third of the level recorded in natural forests in the past.

These figures show that an increase in forest area does not necessarily mean a full recovery in forest quality.

A large proportion of the additional forest area consists of production plantations, mainly acacia and eucalyptus, as well as shrubs and naturally regenerated trees.

This also highlights the difficulty of restoring primary forests and natural forests with high timber reserves. The Central Highlands, central Viet Nam and several northern mountainous localities continue to face pressure from forest loss and biodiversity decline. Climate change, natural disasters, forest fires and infrastructure development projects are creating further challenges for forest protection and quality improvement.

These figures show that an increase in forest area does not necessarily mean a full recovery in forest quality. A large proportion of the additional forest area consists of production plantations, mainly acacia and eucalyptus, as well as shrubs and naturally regenerated trees.

If the task for 1990–2025 was to preserve the country's green cover, the focus for 2025–2045 will be on implementing stronger measures to improve forest quality. This is not only essential for environmental protection but will also increase the value of the country's "green assets" through the forest carbon market.

According to Pham Hong Luong, Deputy Director of the Department of Forestry and Forest Protection, Viet Nam has significant potential for forest carbon absorption and storage services.

This potential is the result of years of implementing policies on forest protection and development. Most recently, the Government's Decree No. 180/2026/ND-CP, issued on May 21, 2026, concretised the Party and State's policies on carbon credit development, creating an important resource for economic development and future forest protection and development.

To put these policies into practice, the forestry sector is stepping up efforts to develop the carbon credit market and increase the economic value of forest environmental services. It is also implementing measures to strictly protect natural forests, develop large-timber forests, expand coastal and mangrove forests and restore natural ecosystems, thereby strengthening forest resources and laying the foundations for a greener and more sustainable future.

See: https://en.nhandan.vn/viet-nam-advances-forest-restoration-towards-higher-quality-and-value-post167351.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Acacia growers need long-term incentives to produce higher-value timber

The forestry sector must stop prioritising the expansion of acacia plantations and instead focus on raising their productivity, quality and resilience a senior official said on Thursday as Viet Nam seeks to improve returns for about 1.5 million households that depend on the crop.

Speaking at a forum in Hanoi on sustainable acacia plantations and high-value timber, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Environment Nguyễn Quốc Trị said the industry needed to move from chasing volume to improving value and efficiency across the whole supply chain.

"Developing acacia plantations requires a fundamental shift in thinking, from expanding area and output to raising productivity, quality, added value, resilience and sustainability," Trị said.

Acacia covers about 2.5 million hectares in Việt Nam, roughly 60% of the country's productive plantation forest and about 70% of the world's estimated 3.5 million hectares of the tree.

Over three decades, it has become the backbone of the timber industry, supplying processors and exporters and providing income for rural families, most with small plots.

Yet the value it generates falls short of its potential. About 80% of acacia timber is used to make woodchips and wood pellets, while the share of large logs destined for furniture, deep processing and other premium segments remains limited.

Trị said the ministry would put science and innovation at the centre of efforts to make acacia more valuable. Priorities include breeding and rolling out varieties with higher yields, better wood quality and stronger resistance to disease and extreme weather and refining methods for growing large-diametre timber.

The ministry also plans to expand technical support for small forest owners, strengthen traceability and compliance with legal-timber rules, promote sustainable forest management certification and forge closer links between growers and processors.

Nguyễn Quốc Khanh, chairman of the Vietnam Timber and Forest Product Association (VIFOREST), said the country faces a paradox: abundant plantation resources but too little value drawn from them.

Households manage about 80% of acacia land, he said, so the question is not simply how to grow the trees but how to make each hectare and each cubic metre of wood earn more, sustainably.

Khanh argued that persuading growers to hold trees longer to produce large timber will take more than appeals.

"They need an economic model attractive enough to justify the wait," he said. He listed credit suited to long growing cycles, forest insurance, long-term contracts between companies and forest owners, certification, carbon schemes and markets that pay a fair price for large timber.

"The highest value of acacia is created at the end of the supply chain, not in the forest," Khanh said.

He called for a strategy linking every stage from seedlings to marketing and a faster shift from woodchips to veneer, plywood, fiberboard, engineered wood and design-led furniture.

VIFOREST also proposed gradually building a 'Vietnamese Acacia' brand, positioning the wood as a renewable, responsibly managed material with clear origins.

The risks for growers are considerable, said Trần Lâm Đồng, Deputy Director of the Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences, citing pests and disease, climate change, soil degradation and natural disasters.

Leaf pests, stem rot, wilt and leaf-spot diseases are appearing more frequently and causing greater damage. Breeding for disease resistance, combined with better silviculture, could reduce losses, he said, calling for faster commercialisation of resistant varieties and wider use of biological pest control.

Cost and risk have kept many households from switching to large timber even though they increasingly recognise the long-term benefits, he said. Forest insurance and financial support were needed to give growers the confidence to extend harvest cycles.

The academy has set research priorities through 2035 that include breeding resilient varieties, diversifying species by region, intensive cultivation of large timber and forest health.

Research will also cover deep processing, new materials, circular-economy approaches and the economics, policy and carbon issues surrounding plantations. The academy's report said storms and floods can directly disrupt production cycles and returns and that longer rotations demand better soil management, forest health and pest control. It also noted that acacia's relatively narrow genetic base complicates breeding.

Nicholas Hogarth, who leads the forestry programme at the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), said he was impressed by a field visit to the northern province of Tuyên Quang during the forum.

Tracing the chain from plantations to processing plants to export products, he praised the involvement of both companies and smallholders, including some who have won Forest Stewardship Council certification.

The results, he said, showed Viet Nam's plantation sector gradually moving toward a model that generates higher, more sustainable value for rural areas.

ACIAR has invested about AU$28 million (US$19.5 million) in Vietnamese forestry research over more than three decades, funding 16 projects as well as infrastructure and training.

The work has ranged from genetics and silviculture to processing and more recently, policy. Hogarth said that groundwork should underpin continued cooperation among scientists, regulators, businesses and growers on research, technology, financing mechanisms and markets.

Speakers broadly agreed that breeding, forest management, forest health, risk management, processing and markets must be tackled together if acacia is to evolve from a source of woodchips into raw material for higher-value products.

See: https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1801571/acacia-growers-need-long-term-incentives-to-produce-higher-value-timber.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Brazil

Amapá launches forest concession tender to boost the local economy

The Government of the State of Amapá (GEA), in partnership with the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES), has launched a tender for sustainable forest management concessions covering 603,000 hectares, divided into ten lots across six municipalities in the State.

The project provides for selective timber harvesting under sustainability criteria and environmental controls seeking to reconcile economic development with forest conservation. The initiative took more than three years to structure and included technical studies and five in-person public hearings held in the municipalities concerned.

According to GEA, the tender provides for more than BRL1 billion in investments in local infrastructure and social projects. The forest concessions are expected to stimulate the State's economy by encouraging local timber processing in Amapá State, creating jobs and income and strengthening the municipalities involved. With the publication of the tender the qualification and proposal submission phase for Brazilian companies begins. Forest management operations and the creation of the first jobs are expected to start in 2027.

See: https://www.diariodoamapa.com.br/cadernos/politica/gea-e-bndes-lancam-edital-de-concessao-florestal-para-impulsionar-desenvolvimento-sustentavel/

Mato Grosso leads Brazil in native timber fuelwood production

In 2025, the State of Mato Grosso recorded BRL705.3 million in output value from the extraction of native forest resources, a 32% decrease compared with 2024.

According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) survey of the Production of Plant Extraction and Forestry (Produção da Extração Vegetal e da Silvicultura - PEVS), the State ranked second nationwide in extractive production value, behind only the State of Pará.

The highlight from the survey was native fuelwood production in which the State of Mato Grosso ranked first nationally, with 4.5 million cubic metres extracted, an increase of 23% compared with the previous year. This performance was driven by growing demand for biomass in the agribusiness sector, particularly for grain drying and supplying corn ethanol plants.

Brazil's three largest municipalities in terms of native fuelwood production are located in Mato Grosso State., Nova Maringá ranked first, with 853,500 cubic metres, followed by Nova Ubiratã, with 443,900 cubic metres and Porto dos Gaúchos, with 420,300 cubic metres. In contrast, fuelwood production from planted forests declined to 3.5 million cubic metres, placing Mato Grosso seventh nationwide in this segment.

In native roundwood production, Mato Grosso ranked second nationally with 2.2 million cubic metres in 2025, despite a 15% decrease compared with 2024.

Together, Mato Grosso and Pará accounted for 61% of national production volume and 77% of the total production value for this product. The extraction of non-wood forest products generated BRL19.7 million, with Brazil nuts accounting for BRL16.2 million, placing Mato Grosso fourth nationwide in the national ranking.

See: https://maisfloresta.com.br/mato-grosso-lidera-producao-de-lenha-nativa-no-pais/

Export update

In September 2026 Brazilian exports of wood-based products (except pulp and paper) increased 13% in value compared to September 2025, from US$217.9 million to US$246.6 million.

Pine sawnwood exports increased 2% in value between September 2025 (US$45.4 million) and September 2026 (US$46.5 million). In volume, exports decreased 10% over the same period, from 207,700 cu.m to 187,300 cu.m.

Tropical sawnwood exports decreased 28% in volume, from 28,600 cu.m in September 2025 to 20,600 cu.m in September 2026. In value, exports decreased 17% from US$12.1 million to US$10.1 million over the same period.

Pine plywood exports increased 39% in value between September 2025 (US$ 1.1 million) and September 2026 (US$57.0 million). In volume, exports increased 37% over the same period, from 130,700 cu.m to 178,800 cu.m.

Tropical plywood exports increased 39% in volume, from 2,800 cu.m in September 2025 to 3,900 cu.m in September 2026. In value, exports increased 29% from US$1.7 million in September 2025 to US$2.2 million in September 2026.

As for wooden furniture, exports increased 3% in value, from US$46.9 million in September 2025 to US$48.4 million in September 2026.

Embrapa Florestas Designated - World reference centre for planted forests

The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), through its Embrapa Florestas research unit, has been designated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as the world's first Reference Center for planted forests.

The announcement was made in early October 2026, during the 10th World Forest Week and the 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry, in Rome. The centre will promote science, innovation and international cooperation to develop productive, resilient and low-carbon planted forests. Its work will focus on six thematic areas, including sustainable forest management, integrated systems, genetic improvement, forest health, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions mitigation and forest bioeconomy.

Its responsibilities include supporting public policies, technical capacity-building, technology transfer and developing research and cooperation projects, with an emphasis on South-South and triangular cooperation.

The designation recognises Embrapa's scientific and technical expertise, based on the work of 16 of its research units during the three years preceding the application. During this period, the institution had 55 specialised researchers and produced 203 scientific articles, 37 technical publications, 34 books and book chapters.

Its achievement also included 115 technological assets, 65 research projects, 6,104 training events, and more than 3,500 contracts and formal cooperation agreements. The assessment also considered Embrapa's research infrastructure and its track record of participation in international cooperation networks.

According to FAO data from 2025, planted forests cover approximately 304 million hectares worldwide, of which 157 million hectares consist of intensively managed forest plantations, primarily intended for the production of sawnwood, pulp, paper and biomass. China has the largest planted forest area, followed by the United States, Russia, Canada, India, Brazil, Japan and Sweden.

In Brazil, planted forests cover an estimated 10.4 million hectares according to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), with eucalyptus and pine being the predominant species. According to the Brazilian Tree Industry (Ibá), the sector provides more than 700,000 direct jobs and maintains over 7 million hectares of conserved natural areas.

See: https://www.embrapa.br/web/florestas/busca-de-noticias/-/noticia/148472542/embrapa-florestas-e-designada-como-centro-de-referencia-da-fao-para-florestas-plantadas

Platform maps public policies and financing mechanisms for the bio-economy

The Pan-Amazon Bioeconomy Network launched the Radar Bioecon platform in October 2026. The platform brings together 232 public policies, programmes and government instruments promoting the bio-economy across nine countries and territories in the Pan-Amazon region: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, French Guiana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

The platform allows users to explore and compare initiatives related to financing, public procurement, production incentives and support for community-based enterprises, fostering the exchange of experiences and regional cooperation.

In Brazil, the identified instruments include the National School Feeding Program (PNAE), the Food Acquisition Program (PAA) and the Minimum Price Guarantee Policy for Sociobio-diversity Products (PGPMBio). The survey also identified 141 financing mechanisms for the bio-economy in the region, of which 8% specifically address socio-biodiversity.

Collateral requirements and bureaucratic obstacles have been identified as preventing cooperatives, associations and community-based enterprises from accessing these resources.

See: https://www.canalrural.com.br/politica/plataforma-reune-232-politicas-publicas-para-a-bioeconomia-na-pan-amazonia/

Domestic log prices

Brazilian logs, mill yard, domestic	US$ per cu.m
Ipê	472⬆
Jatoba	210⬆
Massaranduba	189⬆
Miiracatiara	182⬆
Angelim Vermelho	190⬆
Mixed redwood and white woods	140

Prices do not include taxes. Source STCP Data Bank

Brazil sawnwood, domestic (Green ex-mill)	US$ per cu.m
Ipé	2,114⬆
Jatoba	1,037⬆
Massaranduba	906⬆
Muiracatiara	975⬆
Angelim Vermelho	942⬆
Mixed red and white	617⬆
Eucalyptus (AD)	329⬆
Pine (AD)	286⬆
Pine (KD)	344⬆

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

Domestic plywood prices

Parica ex-mill	US$ per cu.m
4mm WBP	647⬆
10mm WBP	492⬆
15mm WBP	450⬆
4mm MR.	592⬆
10mm MR.	441⬆
15mm MR.	394⬆

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

Prices for other panel products

Domestic ex-mill prices	US$ per cu.m
15mm MDParticleboard	292⬆
15mm MDFibreboard	340⬆

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

Export prices

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

Export sawnwood prices

Sawnwood	US$ per cu.m
Ipe	2,900
Jatoba	1,225
Massaranduba	1,250
Muiracatiara	1,300
Pine (KD)	225

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

Plywood export prices

Pine plywood	US$ per cu.m
9mm C/CC (WBP)	318
12mm C/CC (WBP)	293
15mm C/CC (WBP)	278
18mm C/CC (WBP)	273

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	4,763
	Jatoba	1,733

Prices do not include taxes. Source: STCP Data Bank

Peru

Increased exports in August

In August 2026, wood product exports reached a FOB value of US$45.9 million, an increase from the US$42.6 million recorded during the same period in 2025. This represents a positive percentage change of around 8% according to the Center for Research on Global Economy and Business at the Association of Exporters (CIEN-ADEX).

The export portfolio included several product categories: semi-manufactured goods (US$17.4 million), sawnwood (US$15.1 million), fuelwood and charcoal (US$4.2 million), furniture and furniture components (US$2.9 million) and construction products (US$2.6 million).

France was the leading destination, with shipments totalling US$7.7 million. France was followed by the United States (US$6.4 million), the Dominican Republic (US$6.1 million), China (US$5.7 million) and Vietnam (US$5.1 million) rounding out the top five markets.

Semi-manufactured products stood out among exports in August

According to data from the ADEX Services and Extractive Industries Department, exports of semi-manufactured products reached a FOB value of US$17.4 million in August 2026, a 23% increase compared to the same month the previous year. France led imports in this subsector, accounting for 41% of the total exported value and recording a 23% increase compared to August 2025. Denmark ranked second with a 17% share and a notable doubling of value.

The United States held the third position with a 9.5% share, though it recorded a 22% decline compared to the same period in the previous year. Belgium ranked fourth with a 7% share and a contraction of 37%.

Mexico rounded out the top five destinations, accounting for 5% of exports and showing significant doubling of growthcompared to August 2025. These results point to a noteworthy recovery in the foreign trade of Peruvian wood products, driven primarily by the dynamism of the semi-manufactured products subsector.

Expo Forestal Perú 2026 generated over US$1.4 million in projected business

Expo Forestal Perú 2026, a platform that brought together producers, MSMEs, investors, buyers, academia and the public sector to promote the sustainable use of forests, generated approximately US$1.4 million in projected business for the next twelve months for eight timber and bamboo-producing companies from six regions of the country.

The event, organised by the National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR), took place in Lima on 15-16 October this year.

Among the group were six companies specialise in processed products and sawnwood from species such as tornillo, cedro, copaiba, teak and pine and are based in the Departments of Ucayali, Madre de Dios, Pasco, and Huánuco Another two produce bamboo poles and are located in the Departments of Piura and Amazonas. The organizer noted that more than fifty business meetings took place during the event's business matchmaking session.

See: https://www.gob.pe/institucion/serfor/noticias/1460503-expo-forestal-peru-2026-genero-mas-de-s-4-8-millones-en-expectativas-comerciales-para-empresas-de-madera-y-bambu

Eight Amazonian countries strengthen regional forestry cooperation

The National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) led the Second Regional Meeting of the Amazonian Network of Forestry Authorities (RAFO), held from 13-16 October in the Amazonian City of Iquitos. The event included representatives from the eight member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

The meeting, which took place under Peru's pro tempore presidency and provided an opportunity to assess progress on the RAFO 2025–2027 Work Plan, identify priorities and bolster regional cooperation in areas such as forest monitoring, traceability, community forest management, the bio-economy, financing and the fight against deforestation and forest degradation.

The event included field visits to the Allpahuayo Mishana National Reserve, the Maynas Forestry Center for Productive Innovation and Technology Transfer (CITE) and the facilities of a secondary wood-processing company.

During these visits, the delegations highlighted the efforts made by member countries to link research and innovation with the needs of the productive sector, as well as their experiences in the efficient utilisation of timber and wood residues.

See: https://www.gob.pe/institucion/serfor/noticias/1458725-serfor-lidero-el-encuentro-de-los-ocho-paises-amazonicos-para-fortalecer-la-cooperacion-forestal-regional

Log and sawnwood price update

Domestic logs	US$/cu.m, mill gate
Cumaru	198-220
Ipe	196-218
Grapa	152-161
Virola	93-106
Jequitiba	135-143
Cerjeira	169-182⬆
Mashonaste	104-119
Balsamo	202-215
Azucar huayo	128-143

Domestic sawnwood (green, exmill)	US$/cu.m
Cumaru	1,000-1,100
Ipe	1,320-1,400
Grapa	800-900
Jequitiba	580-600
Mashonaste	480-500

Export sawnwood	US$/cu.m FOB
Cumaru KD	1,980-2,350
Virola KD	640-890
Jequitiba KD	755-780
Cerjeira KD	1,280-1,345
Mashonaste block AD	559-590
Esoraque block AD	810-845
Azucar huayo block AD	580-620

Japan

Can stable inflation support the Yen?

Expectations of additional interest rate tightening are underpinned by the latest inflation figures in the United States and Japan. Japanese inflation, excluding fresh food, climbed from 1.7% to 2.1%, exceeding the Bank of Japan's (BoJ) 2% target. Excluding both fresh food and energy the measure advanced from 1.9% to 2.4%.

The BoJ, say analysts, is "widely expected to keep rates on hold at 1.25% and assess September's 25 basis point raise before tightening again." In September the BoJ governor warned that rapid rate hikes could unsettle asset prices and cautioned that "it could take some time to confirm that 2% inflation is entrenched."

However, The BoJ governor is reported as saying "I cannot tolerate underlying inflation rising further above 2%", reinforcing expectations for policymakers to raise interest rates further in coming months. He added that the bank will consider the timing and pace of hike while monitoring developments in the Middle East, AI-related demand and exchange rates and assessing the risks surrounding them.

"The policy phase has recently shifted toward making sure inflation settles at around 2% as a key objective," he said after attending annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

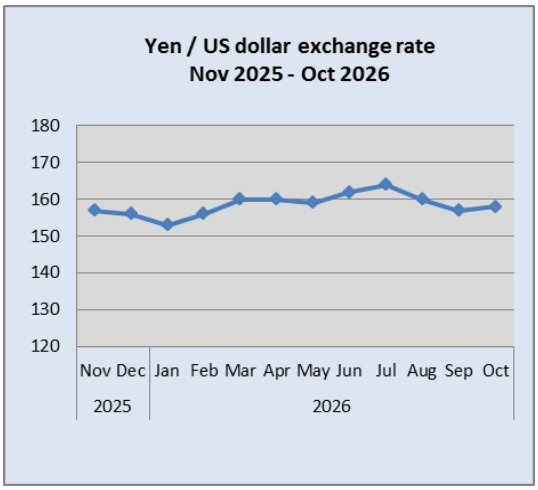
The Japanese yen is trading steadily around 157.80 per US dollar as the BoJ prepares for its upcoming policy decision.

The yen has been sliding for years, driven down largely by near-zero Japanese interest rates that turned the currency into the world's cheapest source of funding. In late July, the U.S. joined Japan in a historic intervention to strengthen the yen but it is again losing ground.

The yen traded at around 163 per dollar in July 2026 before strengthening about 5% to reach 155 to the US dollar following the intervention but by August it had weakened 2.5% to around 159 per dollar. That left the currency close to its weakest level. Intervention briefly changed the market sentiment but not the key drivers of the currency's standing. It is widely considered that strengthening the yen requires lower US interest rates and/or faster tightening by the BoJ.

The key question is whether the forces behind the yen weakness are starting to reverse. Morgan Stanley Global Chief Economist and Head of Macro Research has commented "For the yen, the outlook depends much more on the US Federal Reserve than on the intervention or the Bank of Japan."

See: https://www.tmgm.com/en-in/analysis/market-news/article/japanese-yen-weakens-with-fed-and-boj-monetary-policy-meetings-in-focus-202610261812
and
https://www.japantimes.co.jp/business/2026/10/17/economy/boj-2-percent-inflation/



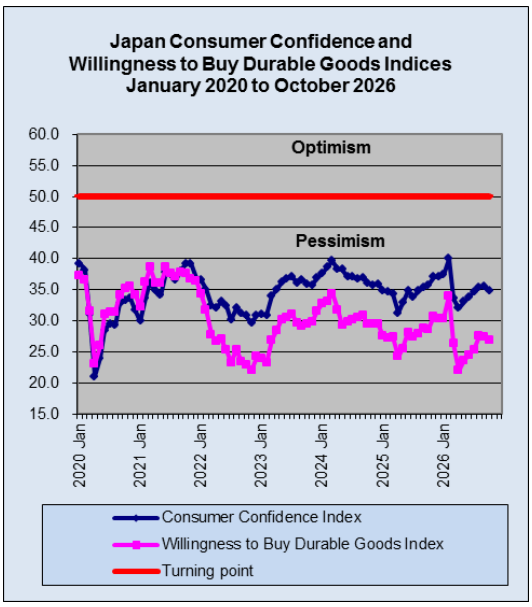
Data source: WSJ

Rising prices weigh on household sentiment

The October Consumer Sentiment Survey released by Japan's Cabinet Office reports the Consumer Confidence Index fell from the previous month, deteriorating for a second consecutive month. All four components declined, with livelihood and employment conditions each dropping.

Rising prices for food and beverages weighed on household sentiment. The Cabinet Office kept its baseline assessment unchanged at "signs of a pickup are seen."
The share of respondents expecting prices to rise a year from now climbed to 91%, underscoring persistent inflation vigilance.

See: https://www.esri.cao.go.jp/en/stat/shouhi/shouhi-e.html



Data source: Cabinet Office, Japan

Labour Federation calls for 6% wage hike in 2027

Japan's largest labour union Federation (Rengo) has indicated in its draft policy framework it will seek wage increases of around 6% in next year's pay negotiations, seeking to build on recent gains as the government targets sustained pay rises to help drive consumer spending and boost growth.

Rengo Chair, Tomoko Yoshino, said we have achieved wage increases of at least 5% for three consecutive years and a norm of rising pay is beginning to take hold but that 'real' wage growth of at least 1% needs to be established. Member unions typically submit their wage demands by around February, with companies responding from March onward.

Workers affiliated with Rengo secured an average wage increase of 5% in negotiations earlier this year. Along with easing inflationary pressures, the pay increases helped lift Japanese workers' real wages for an eighth straight month in August, the longest streak of gains in almost a decade.

See:
https://www.japantimes.co.jp/business/2026/10/22/economy/japan-rengo-union-wage-hike-demand/

5-year ban on condo resales

Chiyoda Ward in Tokyo is exploring ways to slow soaring property prices fueled in part by speculative buying. The authorities in Chiyoda have urged condominium developers to include a clause in contracts explicitly banning reselling units for five years after purchase. It also urged developers to prohibit buyers from purchasing multiple units in the same building under the same name.

According to the Ward, 'scalping' has driven up the prices of new condominiums, which in turn has pushed up prices in the used home market and apartment rents.

The ward also said that the quick profit 'scalping' could increase the number of unoccupied units. The ward made a similar request to the real estate industry July last year but nothing appears to have changed.

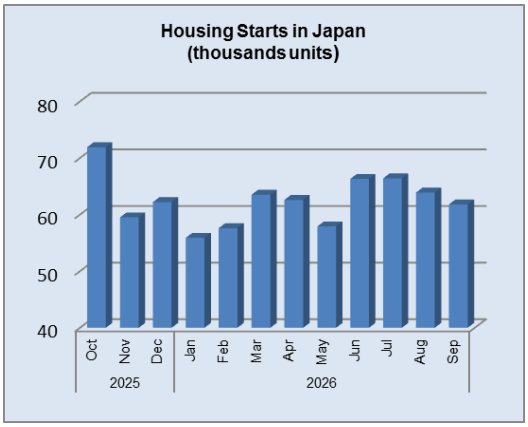
See:
https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20261028/p2g/00m/0bu/012000c

Government considers curbs on speculative condo trading

A project team of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party has submitted a proposal for measures to restrict speculative trading of condominiums. In the proposal, the team cited an increase in short-term transactions as a reason for recent surge in prices. It also said that residential properties in urban areas bought for speculative purposes are fueling concerns among local residents.

The team called on the government to take action, including tax measures, as soon as possible, saying that speculative transactions that are not based on actual demand should be restricted, regardless of whether they are conducted by Japanese or foreign nationals.

See:
https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2026/10/01/japan/politics/ldp-condo-speculative-trading/



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

Foreign residents reach 4 million as regional housing demand evolves

Japan's foreign resident population reached a record 4.28 million in June 2026 even as the country's overall population continues to decline. For Japan's housing market, the more interesting development is where these residents are settling and how their accommodation needs differ.

See: https://www.patiencerealty.com/post/japan-foreign-residents-reach-4-million-as-regional-housing-demand-evolves

Import update –assembled wooden flooring and plywood

China accounts for roughly 55–60% of Japan's multi-layer and assembled wood flooring imports, heavily driven by the HS441875 product category. Southeast Asian nations including Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia supply the remaining share.

Japanese brands frequently use outsourced manufacturing or joint-venture production hubs in China and Southeast Asia to blend low-cost processing with strict Japanese quality and low-VOC standards. The Japanese market favours multi-layer engineered wood flooring and light-colored timber species over heavy solid wood.

Japan's transition from imported Southeast Asian Meranti to domestic logs for plywood production represents one of the most significant structural shifts in the global timber industry over the last few decades.

Historically, Japanese end-users strongly favored tropical hardwoods, collectively known as lauan or South Sea logs, dominated by Meranti (Shorea spp.) These logs yielded clear, knot-free, uniform veneers that were ideal for concrete formwork and premium panels. However, a combination of resource depletion, environmental concerns, and strict government policies fundamentally reshaped the market

Assembled wooden flooring

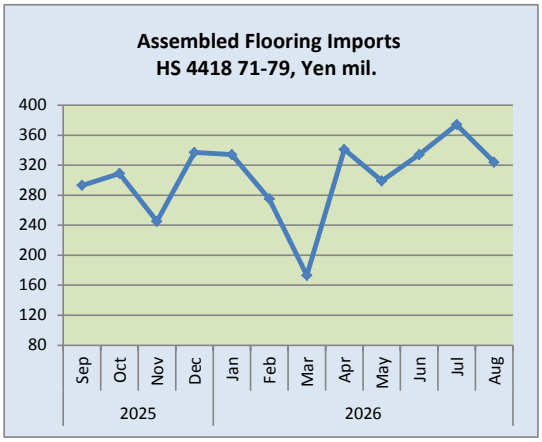
Year on year, in August 2026 the value imports of assembled flooring (HS441871-79) declined 23% and compared to July 2026 August imports were down 13%.

Of the various categories of assembled flooring imports, HS441875 was the largest accounting for 57% of all assembled flooring imports (63% in July). In August, arrivals were from the main shipper in China and shippers in SE Asia. The only EU shipper of HS441875 in August was Denmark.

In August 2026, shippers in China accounted for the total value of HS4418-73 imports the value of which was down month on month by more than half.

The value of August imports of HS4418-73 accounted for 28% of total assembled flooring imports (23% in July). The value of HS4418-74 imports in August 2026 was down by a factor of 4 from a month earlier extending the decline seen in July. China was the main shipper accounting for over 90% of the value of arrivals.

HS4418-79 accounted for 13% of total value of imports in August (8% in July) with Belgium and China being the top shippers. The value of HS4418-79 imports was more than 30% below that of the previous month.



Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

Assembled flooring imports

	2026 Aug 000s Yen
HS441873	
China	89,401
Total	89,401
HS441874	
China	6,968
Viet Nam	607
Total	7,575
HS441875	
China	107,739
Viet Nam	29,667
Thailand	14,690
Indonesia	21,104
Denmark	12,880
Total	186,080
HS441879	
China	15,191
Viet Nam	667
Indonesia	3,257
Belgium	21,665
Total	40,780

Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

Plywood imports

Over the past few years Japan's plywood sector has shifted to increased domestic log utilisation for plywood manufacturing at a time when supply from traditional SE Asian exporters has declined. Japan's plan for the forestry sector prioritises domestic roundwood, targeting an increase in deliveries to processing and plywood mills (aiming for 21 million cubic metres by 2030).

Japan’s plywood imports rose in the first half (including Q2) of 2026, climbing 6% year-on-year to over 1.09 million cubic metres.

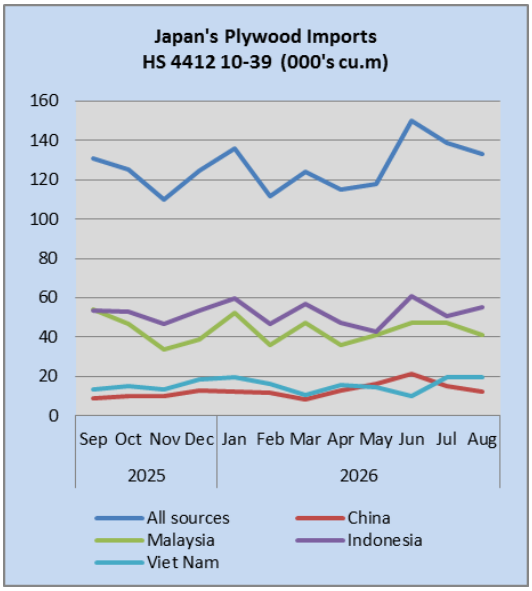
It has been suggested that this was driven by speculative advance procurement, domestic adhesive shortages and geopolitical/logistics disruptions.

See:
https://www.globalwood.org/news/2026/news_20260518.htm

The volume of plywood imports in August rose around 20% year on year clawing back some of the year on year losses report in July. However, August 2026 import volumes were reported at around the same level as in July.

Month on month, there was a decline in the volume of August arrivals from China and Malaysia while imports from Indonesia increased. The volume of plywood imports from Viet Nam is not large (19,700 cu.m in August) and in August import volumes were at around the same level as in the previous month.

In August arrivals of HS441210-39 were reported at 133,163 cu.m (138,681 cu.m in July). As in previous months, of the various categories of plywood imported in August 2026, HS4412-31 accounted for 81% (80% in July) followed by HS4412-33, 7% (7% in July), HS4412-34 and HS4412-39 each at 6% (6% in July) with the balance being HS4412-10.



Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

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

		China	Malaysia	Indonesia	Viet Nam
2024	Jan	13.3	50.2	52.3	20.5
	Feb	11.5	45.4	55.3	17.1
	Mar	9.4	50.1	48.8	12.2
	Apr	13.2	43.2	49.0	17.0
	May	8.4	48.3	36.5	14.3
	Jun	10.1	51.0	46.1	13.7
	Jul	12.1	49.8	49.7	15.8
	Aug	9.3	56.8	47.9	14.7
	Sep	8.1	54.5	54.2	13.1
	Oct	10.3	40.9	54.0	16.4
	Nov	9.1	51.5	48.2	16.1
	Dec	8.1	46.0	45.6	19.2
2025	Jan	9.2	47.2	43.3	20.1
	Feb	11.5	45.4	55.3	17.1
	Mar	6.1	43.3	49.4	14.8
	Apr	8.7	57.6	49.0	17.0
	May	8.6	49.1	46.3	15.1
	Jun	9.8	46.2	52.3	11.8
	Jul	9.2	68.7	44.7	14.4
	Aug	7.2	43.4	48.7	11.2
	Sep	9.0	54.2	53.6	13.6
	Oct	10.0	46.6	53.1	15.3
	Nov	9.99	33.9	46.9	13.4
	Dec	12.7	39.0	53.6	18.7
2026	Jan	12.2	52.3	59.9	19.7
	Feb	11.7	36.0	46.5	16.3
	Mar	8.4	47.1	57.0	10.5
	Apr	13.1	35.9	47.2	15.5
	May	16.1	41.0	43.0	14.3
	Jun	21.1	47.1	61.1	10.0
	Jul	15.3	47.2	50.7	19.4
	Aug	12.0	40.8	55.3	19.7

Data source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

Trade news from the Japan Lumber Reports (JLR)

The Japan Lumber Reports (JLR), a subscription trade journal published every two weeks in English, is generously allowing the ITTO Tropical Timber Market Report to reproduce news on the Japanese market precisely as it appears in the JLR. For the JLR report please see: https://jfpj.jp/japan_lumber_reports/

Laying the groundwork for cedar and cypress exports

The Japan Wood Products Export Association announced on September 24 that Japanese cypress timber had been approved for design values by the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) on July 14. The approval covers "timbers, defined as structural lumber with a cross-sectional dimension exceeding 4 inches on the shorter side.

Design values have already been approved for Japanese cedar and cypress 2×4 structural lumber dimension lumber), as well as Japanese cedar timbers. This latest approval covers cypress timbers.

As in previous cases, the project was carried out by the Japan Lumber Inspection and Research Association as a commissioned project, with the cooperation of Oregon State University in the United States and the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute of Japan.

According to the association, efforts are now underway to obtain design value approval for todomatsu (Sakhalin fir) from Hokkaido for use as 2×4 structural lumber, following Japanese cedar and cypress. However, full-scale testing is not expected to begin until the next fiscal year or later.

To export structural lumber made from Japanese domestic timber to the United States, the lumber must be graded for structural use by the Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau (PLIB), a U.S. inspection agency. To support this process, the Japan Wood Products Export Association is also working to train personnel, including lumber graders.

South Sea logs and Lumber

Demand for tropical hardwood logs remains firm, particularly for blocking materials used in the steel and shipbuilding industries, as well as heavy-duty pallet stock. Domestic sawmills have sufficient inventories but shipments of Papua New Guinea logs scheduled for year-end may be delayed by unfavorable weather in the producing region, raising concerns over future supply.

Prices for tropical hardwood and Chinese-made products remain high due to limited log supplies, low procurement by plywood mills in producing countries and higher import costs caused by the weak yen. Market participants see little prospect of price relief in the near term.

Laminated edge-glued panel prices also remain elevated. Indonesian merkus pine products are expensive, discouraging distributors from making large purchases, while Chinese red pine and radiata pine products continue to trade near recent highs.

SE Asian plywood Industry raffirms commitment to shared growth

A trilateral plywood conference involving Japan, Indonesia and Malaysia was held in Jakarta in September, bringing together 48 industry representatives. Participants exchanged views on market conditions and agreed on the importance of sustainable growth in the Asian plywood industry, while confirming that the next meeting will be held in Tokyo in September 2027.

Indonesia reported that high U.S. tariffs, including antidumping and countervailing duties, have significantly reduced plywood exports to its largest market, forcing some producers to scale back or withdraw from the United States.

As a result, Japan has become an increasingly important export destination. Malaysia said market conditions remain challenging but less severe than those facing Indonesia.

The Japanese side said the domestic plywood industry continues to struggle with weak demand caused by falling housing starts and rising costs linked to labor shortages and the weak yen. Nevertheless, the industry intends to strengthen its foundations through market development and greater efficiency.

During the discussion, Indonesian participants expressed concern over rising imports of Russian plywood into Japan. Japan responded that Russian plywood mainly serves project-based demand and does not directly compete with tropical hardwood plywood. Indonesia also noted that plywood exports to India have been limited by BIS regulations, which restrict transactions to approved companies despite expectations for market growth.

Cumulative CLT Building Completions to Exceed 2,000

The cumulative number of completed buildings utilizing cross-laminated timber (CLT) is expected to exceed 2,200 in fiscal 2026, according to data compiled by the Cabinet Secretariat. The total stood at 1,850 projects in iscal 2025, meaning the cumulative figure is set to surpass the 2,000 mark for the first time.

By application, the housing sector, particularly detached houses, is expected to record another substantial increase in the number of CLT projects in fiscal 2026 following strong growth in fiscal 2025.

In addition, CLT has been selected for use in the Thematic Pavilion (Atrium Building) being developed by the City of Yokohama and the Japan Government Garden (East Building) being developed by the national government for Green × Expo 2027, the International Horticultural Expo scheduled to open in Yokohama next March.

Wood calms the brain

A study by Chiba University has foound that touching wooden surfaces can promote relaxation, providing evidence for the wellbeing benefits of wood interiors. The research was conducted for the Tokyo Timber Wholesalers Cooperative Association to explore wood's effects on human wellbeing in everyday settings.

In the experiment, 25 healthy male university students touched either a wooden or melamine-faced conference table while blindfolded. Results showed that touching the wooden table reduced activity in both sides of the prefrontal cortex, while participants reported greater comfort and relaxation.
A separate experiment at Mokuzai Kaikan also found that viewing wooden walls reduced prefrontal cortex activity, suggesting that wood interiors can have calming effects on both the body and mind.

See: https://www.chiba-u.jp/news/research-collab

China

Guangxi promotes upgrading of wood processing sector

Recently, Guangxi officially released the *15th Five-Year Plan for the Development of Forestry and Grassland in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region*, stating that by 2030 the total output value of the forestry and grassland industry will reach RMB1.5 trillion and it will promote the upgrading of the wood industry chain with a focus on building two major industrial clusters in the Xijiang River Basin and the Beibu Gulf.

The core objective is that by 2030 the forest cover of the entire region will reach 60.78%, the forest stock volume will reach 1.13 billion cubic metres and the total output value of the forestry and grassland industry will reach RMB1.5 trillion.

Upgrading direction of the wood industry chain

- Wood processing and furniture home furnishing goods

Centered on Guigang City, a wood processing and furniture/home goods cluster will be built in the Xijiang River Basin, promoting the green transformation of wood-based panel, developing non-formaldehyde eco-friendly building materials and custom furniture and make up for the shortcomings in adhesives and hardware, etc. as supporting industries.

- Forest pulp and paper industry

Forest pulp and paper clusters in Beihai city, Qinzhou city and Nanning city will be established, focus on developing high-end packaging paperboard, household paper, special paper, paper-based new materials and lyocell fibers etc. as high value-added products.

- Raw material guarantee

The construction of industrial raw material forests, precious tree species and large-diameter timber forests bases, as well as the fastest plus most expensive mixed planting model of fast-growing tree species and precious tree species will be promoted. During the 15th Five-Year Plan period, the annual logging quota of forests will not exceed 66 million cubic meters.

During the *15th Five-Year Plan* period, the industrial goals of Guangxi are as follows.

- The annual output value of wood and bamboo material processing and furniture and home furnishing industries will reach RMB500 billion.
- The annual output value of forest pulp and paper industry will reach RMB180 billion.
- The annual output value of bamboo industry will reach RMB15 billion.

See:
https://www.forestry.gov.cn/lyj/1/dfdt/20261022/693029.html

Home furnishing and building material enterprises at a policy crossroad

China's home and building materials exports to the United States are currently at a crossroads between an exemption bill and an increase in actual tariffs. The Housing Tariff Exemption Bill (H.R. 10416) proposed by the US House of Representatives in September 2026 is still in the committee review stage.

The probability of its passage is only about 1%, while the actual tariff environment is continuously tightening, starting from July 24, 2026, the United States imposed new Section 301 tariffs on 60 economic entities including China. China is subject to a 12.5% rate and after adding the original tax rat,e the combined tax rate for some home products can reach up to 42.5%.

At the end of September 2026, the US announced an additional 10% tariff on imported softwood logs and wood products, which took effect on 14 October 2026. The gap between the exemption proposal and the actual imposition means that the current tariff cost calculation for exports to the United States should still be based on the currently effective tax rate.

Local experts analysed the actual impact on Chinese enterprises as follows:

- The cost pressure on export-oriented enterprises has risen sharply. The home furnishing industry is a labour intensive sector. Most small and medium-sized OEM export-oriented enterprises maintain a gross profit margin of only 3% to 8%. The combined tax burden of 42.5% has brought about a disruptive cost shock. Enterprises either have to bear the tariffs and reduce profits or raise their prices and lose their price competitiveness.

- The transshipment arbitrage model has failed. The new 301 tariffs have simultaneously included Vietnam and Thailand on the list for additional 12.5% tariffs, while Malaysia, Indonesia and Cambodia are subject to the 10% rate. However, the small differences are not sufficient to support another large-scale factory relocation. At the same time, the US Customs have significantly strengthened the verification efforts for fake origin and simple transshipment trade. The tax avoidance model of domestic semi-finished product export plus simple assembly in Southeast Asia has basically become unfeasible.

- Some product categories in China are under heavy pressure from anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations from USA. Wooden cabinets and bathroom cabinets are subject to a sunset review final ruling of anti-dumping duties of 262.18% and anti-subsidy duties ranging from 13.33% to 293.45%. Hardwood plywood has combined anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties exceeding 270%. These product categories are not included in the exemption list.

Experts have suggested the following strategies for Chinese enterprises:

- Deepening the overseas local supply chain. For enterprises that have set up factories in Vietnam, Mexico and other countries need to reduce their excessive reliance on semi-finished products from China and accelerate the localisation of procurement of upstream components such as hardware, sponge, fabric and packaging to meet the USMCA and regional origin compliance standards.

- Expanding into diversified markets. Over-reliance on the single North American market has long been exposed to risks from policy fluctuations. The Middle East (such as the infrastructure and home furnishing boom in Saudi Arabia), the local consumer markets in Southeast Asia, the European and Latin American markets are now emerging as new choices for Chinese home furnishing enterprises to expand overseas.

- Shifting towards brand and high value-added products. The path of low-price competition is becoming increasingly narrow. Enterprises need to enhance the premium value of their products through industrial design, intelligent product research and development (such as smart mattresses, functional sofas), as well as the establishment of their own overseas brands. This will help increase the comprehensive risk-resistance ability to cope with fluctuations in tariffs and supply chain risks.

See:
https://www.chinatimber.org/index.php/news/detail.html?id=86561

Guangdong promotes development of the bamboo industry

Recently, the seven departments of the Guangdong Provincial Government jointly issued a *Five-Year Action Plan for Accelerating the High-Quality Development of Provincial Bamboo Industry (2026-2030)*, stating that by 2030 the total area of bamboo forests in Guangdong Province will remain stable at over 533,000 hectares and the total output value of the bamboo industry will reach RMB50 billion.

The plan includes 15 key tasks in four aspects, expanding bamboo resource cultivation, strengthening bamboo processing, optimising bamboo services and exploring new bamboo business models to accelerate the construction of a modernised bamboo industry system in Guangdong that integrates advanced technology, competitiveness and is green and low-carbon.

Guangdong has abundant bamboo resources and a solid foundation for developing the bamboo industry. The province currently has 528,000 hectares of bamboo forests, ranking sixth in China. Of the total, there are 190,666 hectares of Moso bamboo, 65,333 hectares of Bamboo grass, 60,000 hectares of Green skin bamboo, 50,666 hectares of Tea pole bamboo, 46,000 hectares of Powdered single bamboo and 115,333 hectares of other types of bamboo.

There are 1,333 bamboo-related enterprises in Guangdong Province. In 2026 the value of the bamboo industry in the Province will exceed RMB25 billion, ranking seventh in China.

Of the total, there are four cities with annual output value exceeding RMB10 billion, namely RMB8.76 billion in Zhaoqing City, RMB6.7 billion in Qingyuan City, RMB5.2 billion in Shaoguan City and RMB1.5 billion in Maoming City. The bamboo industry has become an important industry for promoting rural revitalisation and stabilising agricultural incomes in Guangdong Province.

The ecological, economic and social benefits of the bamboo forests will be enhanced in a coordinated manner. The bamboo industry will be developed into an important industry in Guangdong Province promoting the transformation of small bamboo into a big industry and fully leveraging the benefits of ecological construction in a green Guangdong Province.

See: https://lyj.gd.gov.cn/lmgd/dtzx/content/post_4963829.html

Canada issues anti-dumping and anti-subsidy rulings

In August 2026 the Canadian International Trade Tribunal initiated an inquiry (NQ-2026-004) to determine whether the dumping and subsidising of decorative and other non-structural plywood originating in or exported from China has caused injury or retardation or are threatening to cause injury to the domestic industry. This final injury inquiry was initiated in response to a notice received from the Canada Border Services Agency stating that preliminary determinations had been made respecting the dumping and subsidiszing of the goods.

The customs codes of the involved products have been reported as
4412.10.00.00, 4412.31.00.00, 4412.33.00.10, 4412.33.00.20, 4412.33.00.30, 4412.33.00.90, 4412.34.00.00, 4412.39.00.10, 4412.39.00.21, 4412.39.00.22, 4412.39.00.23, 4412.39.00.90, 4412.91.00.00, 4412.92.00.00 and 4412.99.00.00.

The tax rates for 11 responding enterprises range from 0.0% to 173.6%. Among them, only one enterprise with both the dumping margin and subsidy amount being negligible but Shandong Hengjia has a minimum positive tax rate of 6.1% and Linyi Jiahe has a rate of 8.4%. The tax rate for all other enterprises exporting this type of plywood to Canada is 227.5%.

The Canada Border Services Agency stated that although some enterprises are exempt from paying the corresponding temporary tariffs, anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations for all related products of these enterprises will still continue.

On 22 December 2026, the Tribunal will determine whether the dumping and subsidising have caused injury or retardation or are threatening to cause injury to the domestic industry.

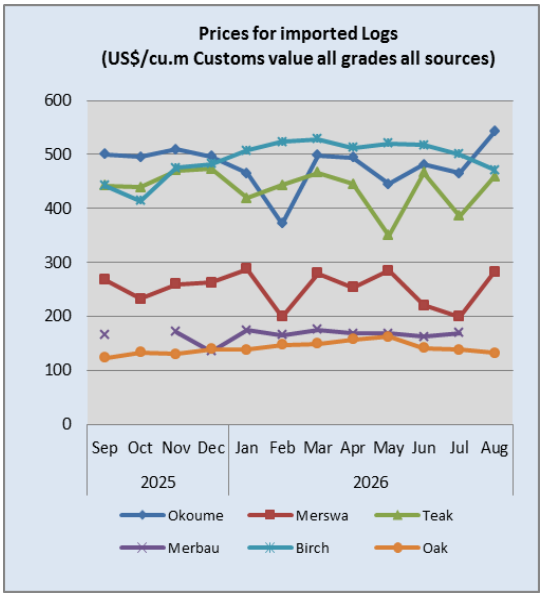
See: https://www.canada.ca/en/international-trade-tribunal/news/2026/08/tribunal-initiates-final-injury-inquirydecorative-and-other-non-structural-plywood-from-china.html
and
http://www.cnfpia.org/sf_EE0571C733DE49EEBE948E09ECE187FD_297_9E5BA0FB363.html
and
https://cacs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/ajycs/ckys/202604/187764.html

Price trends

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

	2026 Jul	2026 Aug
Okoume	465	452
Merswa	200	283
Teak	386	459
Merbau	169	
Birch	500	471
Oak	138	132

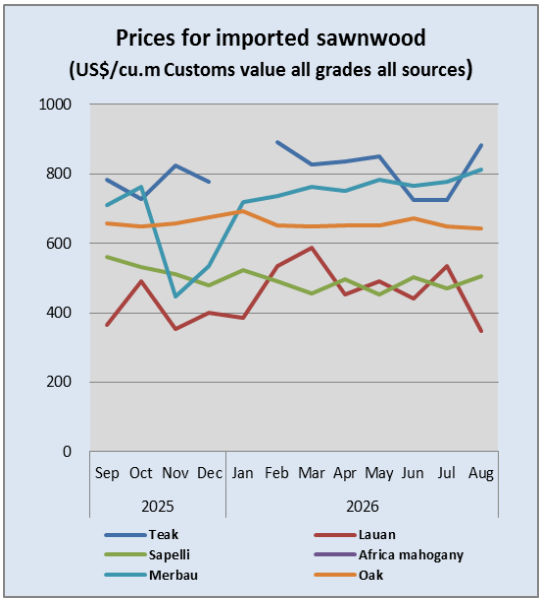
Data source: Customs, China



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

	2026 Jul	2026 Aug
Teak	724	883
Lauan	534	348
Sapelli	472	505
African mahogany		
Merbau	776	812
Oak	672	642

Data source: Customs, China

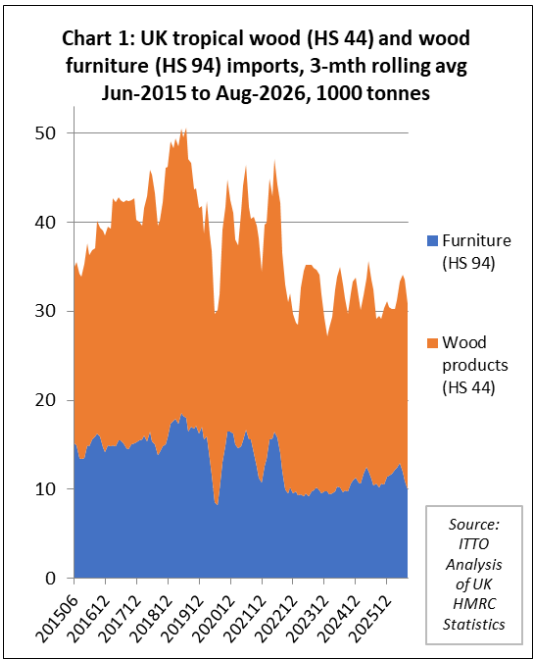


UK

Uneven recovery in UK tropical wood imports as balsa shipments from Spain surge

UK imports of tropical wood and wooden furniture products recovered some ground after a slow start to 2026 but the improvement remains uneven. Import value increased while overall tonnage declined slightly in the first eight months. Growth was concentrated in furniture from Vietnam, several smaller product groups and tropical sawnwood shipped through Spain. Imports of tropical plywood continued to contract, while weak construction activity constrained prospects for a broader recovery.

In the first eight months of this year, UK imports of tropical wood and wooden furniture products totalled 252,000 tonnes, 1% less than in the same period in 2025.



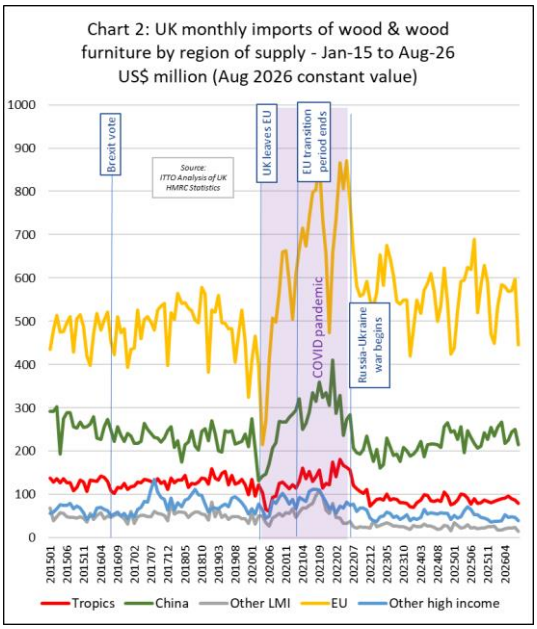
Import value increased 3% to US$704 million in nominal terms. The tonnage decline eased compared with the first quarter, when imports were around 5% below a year earlier. Second-quarter tonnage was around 1% higher than in the same quarter last year (Chart 1).

Furniture imports increased 2% to 91,600 tonnes in the first eight months. There were stronger percentage gains in mouldings and decking, up 18% to 7,300 tonnes, flooring, up 29% to 2,700 tonnes and kitchenware, up 39% to 2,200 tonnes. These gains were offset by lower imports of plywood, down 13% to 50,800 tonnes and joinery, down 3% to 47,500 tonnes. Sawnwood tonnage was almost unchanged at 39,400 tonnes.

Tropical imports remain well below their pre pandemic level

Chart 2 sets tropical imports in the wider context of UK wood and wooden furniture trade. In constant August 2026 dollar terms, the value of tropical imports was almost unchanged in the first eight months compared with the same period last year, at around US$710 million. It remained 37% below the equivalent period in 2019. Import tonnage was also 36% below the first eight months of 2019, indicating the scale of the longer-term contraction in this market.

The inflation-adjusted value of UK wood and wooden furniture imports from all supply regions fell 4% to US$7.47 billion in the first eight months. Imports from the EU declined 6% to US$4.33 billion, while imports from China increased 4% to US$1.91 billion. The EU nevertheless remained by far the largest supplier, accounting for 58% of the total, followed by China with 26% and tropical suppliers with 9.5%. Tropical suppliers accounted for 9.1% in the same period in 2025 and 14.0% in 2019.



Construction remains a constraint despite stronger GDP growth

The wider UK economy has performed better than the construction sector. According to the Office for National Statistics, UK GDP increased 0.7% in the three months to August 2026 compared with the previous three months, led by growth in services. Construction output, however, fell 1.0% over the same period, its second consecutive three-month decline.

Both new work and repair and maintenance contracted in the three months to August, by 1.4% and 0.3% respectively. Private new housing was the main drag, falling 3.2%. Construction output also declined 0.2% in August alone, the fourth successive monthly fall. Repair and maintenance provided some relief in August, rising 0.4% but new work fell 0.7%.

These conditions provide little support for a rapid, broadly based recovery in timber demand. Timber Development UK reports that import volumes of the main timber and panel products fell 3.9% in the first half of 2026. Overall hardwood imports declined 1.5%, although tropical hardwood volume increased 3.5%. TDUK also cites a Construction Products Association forecast of a 9% reduction in UK housing starts this year.

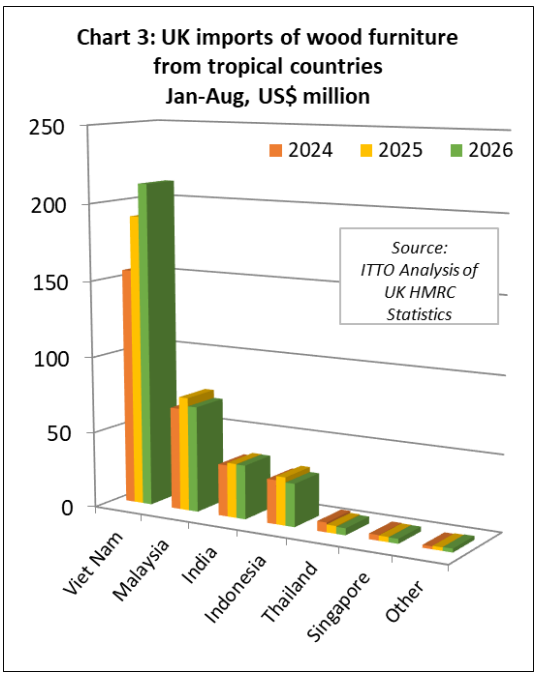
Builders' merchants' sales provide further evidence of the pressure on physical demand. According to the Builders Merchant Building Index, total sales volumes fell 6.6% in the second quarter compared with the same period in 2025, while average prices increased 5.8%, limiting the decline in sales value to 1.2%. Timber and joinery sales value was unchanged, performing better than the wider market.

This suggests some resilience in timber-related expenditure, although the published summary does not give a separate volume change for timber and joinery.

Vietnam drives growth in UK imports of tropical wooden furniture

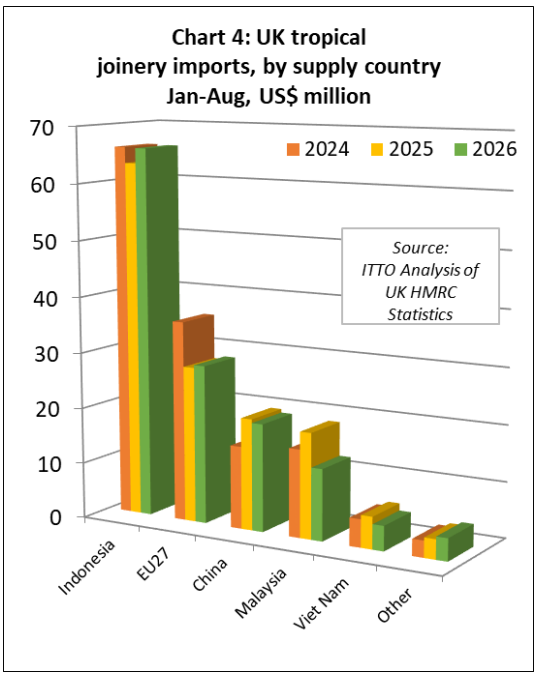
UK import value of wooden furniture from tropical countries increased 4% to US$355 million in the first eight months of 2026, while tonnage increased 2% to 91,600 tonnes. Vietnam accounted for all the net value growth and more, with shipments rising 11% to US$212 million. Its share of the total increased from 56% to 60% (Chart 3).

Imports declined from all the other leading suppliers of wooden furniture in the first eight months of this year. Import value from Malaysia fell 7% to US$69.5 million, while imports from India were almost unchanged at US$35.4 million. Imports from Indonesia decreased 10% to US$28.2 million, Thailand fell 11% to US$4.5 million and Singapore declined 5% to US$3.2 million. Furniture from tropical countries continued to enter the UK at a much lower level than before the pandemic, with tonnage 36% below the first eight months of 2019.



Indonesian joinery shipments recover while Malaysia loses ground

UK imports of tropical wood joinery declined 3% in both value and tonnage in the first eight months, to US$135 million and 47,500 tonnes. The aggregate decline concealed a recovery in shipments from Indonesia, the largest supplier, which increased 4% to US$66.0 million. Indonesia accounted for nearly half the total import value (Chart 4).

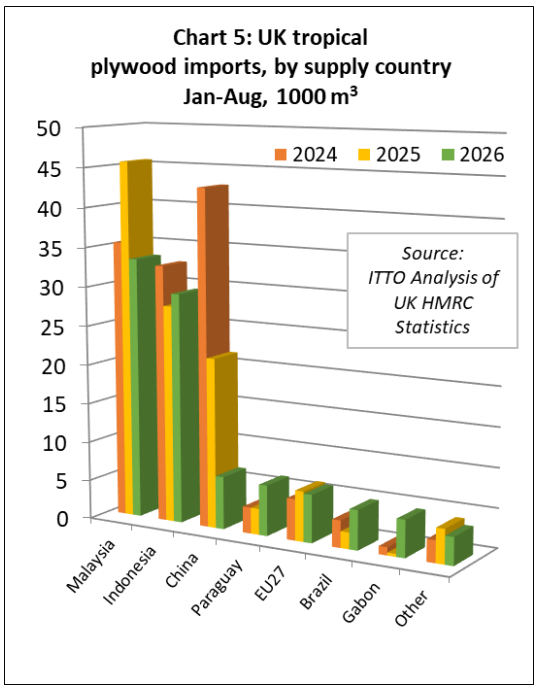


UK imports of tropical joinery products from the EU27 increased 2% to US$28.4 million in the first eight months this year, supported by a 31% rise in shipments from Poland to US$11.5 million. Imports from Ireland increased 1% to US$8.9 million.

In contrast, imports from Malaysia fell 32% to US$12.8 million and Vietnam declined 22% to US$4.4 million. Imports from China decreased 3% to US$19.3 million.

Tropical plywood supply shifts as Chinese shipments contract

UK imports of tropical plywood fell 15% to 95,300 cu.m in the first eight months of 2026. Shipments from China declined 69% to 6,700 cu.m, continuing the sharp contraction already evident earlier in the year. Imports from Malaysia, still the largest supplier, fell 27% to 33,400 cu.m. Together these two suppliers lost around 27,200 cu.m compared with the first eight months last year (Chart 5).



Other suppliers of tropical plywood gained ground in the UK during the eight month period. Imports from Indonesia increased 6% to 29,400 cu.m, while Paraguay rose 93% to 6,400 cu.m and Brazil increased 140% to 5,100 cu.m. Shipments from Gabon rose from only 400 cu.m to 4,700 cu.m. Imports from the EU27 decreased 4% to 6,100 cu.m. Direct shipments from tropical countries were down only 2% to 81,500 cu.m, highlighting the extent to which the overall decline was concentrated in tropical plywood supplied from China.

TDUK reports a 7.4% decline in the much broader hardwood plywood category in the first half of this year, to 477,000 cu.m. Most of that reduction came from China and Malaysia, partly offset by gains from Latvia, Finland and Paraguay.

Increased competition from European birch plywood in the UK market

European birch plywood producers are increasing supply, adding to competition for tropical plywood in the UK. UPM's total plywood deliveries across all markets rose 23% to 269,000 cu.m in the first half of 2026.

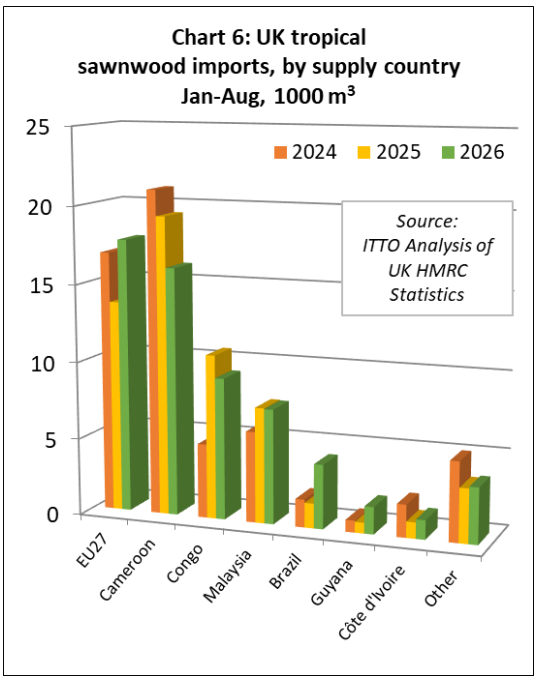
These figures include both hardwood and softwood plywood and the comparison reflects recovery from strikes that disrupted production last year. However, UPM also reported good demand for birch plywood in panel trading and industrial applications.

Latvijas Finieris opened its €100 million VEREMS mill expansion in Latvia in April. The investment is intended to increase capacity to 85,000 cu.m, compared with existing production of around 45,000 cu.m, with output rising gradually and an emphasis on large-format plywood.

Competition with tropical plywood is particularly direct in smooth phenolic-film-faced panels for concrete formwork, where European birch competes with Indonesian and other Asian products. Buyers assess strength, concrete finish, expected reuse and cost per pour, allowing higher-priced panels to compete where they provide longer service life. There is additional overlap in selected transport flooring, industrial and general construction applications, although substitution depends on product specifications.

Spanish shipments account for the increase in tropical sawnwood imports

UK imports of tropical sawnwood increased 6% to 61,200 cu.m in the first eight months of 2026. Imports from the EU27 rose 30% to 17,700 cu.m, maintaining its position as the largest supply region ahead of Cameroon. The EU increase was entirely attributable to Spain, where shipments rose nearly sixfold from 1,169 to 6,781 cu.m. Excluding Spain, imports from the EU fell 13% (Chart 6).



The increase in UK tropical sawnwood imports from Spain also exceeded the net gain in UK tropical sawnwood imports from all sources. Excluding Spain, total imports fell 4% to 54,400 cu.m. The headline growth therefore provides limited evidence of a general improvement in demand for tropical hardwoods traditionally used in UK joinery and construction.

Imports from Cameroon fell 17% to 16,100 cu.m and the Republic of Congo declined 14% to 9,200 cu.m. Shipments from Malaysia were almost unchanged at 7,400 cu.m. There were strong gains from Brazil, up 159% to 4,200 cu.m and Guyana, up 151% to 1,800 cu.m. Imports from Côte d'Ivoire increased 19% to 1,200 cu.m. Within the EU, the Netherlands supplied 5,000 cu.m, down 7%, while Belgium increased 32% to 3,800 cu.m.

Weak demand explains part of the decline in imports from African suppliers but availability and production costs are also influencing trade. UK importers interviewed by the Timber Trades Journal, as reported in the September MIS, identified gaps in availability at individual African suppliers. Fuel costs were a particular concern, affecting kiln drying, power generation and freight, although selling prices were described as stable.

Traders also reported growing supply of engineered products, particularly sapele scantlings, indicating that changes in conventional sawnwood imports may partly reflect a shift towards products with more processing at origin.

Balsa highlights the role of wind energy supply chains

The rapid increase in UK tropical sawnwood imports from Spain is understood to consist primarily of balsa for wind turbine blades. Balsa provides a light but strong core within composite blade structures. Spain's role in this trade reflects processing and distribution within the wind energy supply chain, rather than the origin of the timber.

This specialised trade is subject to different demand drivers from decorative and construction hardwoods. It also faces growing competition from synthetic core materials, particularly recycled PET foam. Research published in Composite Structures in June 2026 examined blade designs incorporating PET in place of balsa. It demonstrated that suitable structural designs could meet performance requirements, while also explaining why substitution requires changes in blade design rather than a simple exchange of materials.

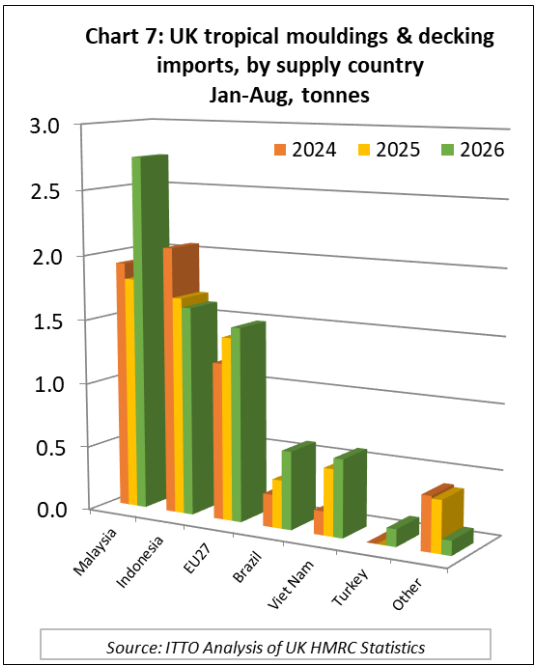
EUDR may add to the incentive to substitute where balsa sourcing involves costly or difficult collection of origin data. That is a potential additional pressure alongside material cost, supply reliability and technical performance. Some suppliers are responding by improving their data provision.

In November 2025, 3A Composites announced EUDR readiness for its BALTEK balsa materials, including access to geolocation and supporting documentation. The effect of regulation on material choices will therefore depend partly on the sourcing arrangements available to individual manufacturers.

Malaysia leads continued growth in tropical decking and mouldings

UK imports of tropical decking and mouldings increased 18% to 7,300 tonnes in the first eight months of 2026. Malaysia accounted for most of the increase, with shipments rising 52% to 2,700 tonnes.

Imports from Brazil increased 62% to 600 tonnes and Vietnam rose 16% to 600 tonnes. Imports from Indonesia fell 4% to 1,600 tonnes (Chart 7).



UK imports of tropical decking/mouldings from the EU27 increased 6% to 1,500 tonnes in the first eight months of this year. The Netherlands remained the dominant EU supplier, although its shipments declined 3% to 1,300 tonnes. Denmark supplied around 100 tonnes after negligible trade last year. Imports from Turkey also emerged from a zero base to reach 134 tonnes.

Awaiting detailed deforestation policy proposals

The UK government's plans to strengthen timber due diligence remain a source of uncertainty for tropical suppliers. Defra's policy paper, updated on 2 September 2026, confirms the intention to require businesses in Great Britain with annual turnover above £1 million using wood and other forest-risk commodities to undertake due diligence, report on their activity and collect origin geolocation information. These remain proposals subject to consultation. Legislation is expected in 2027.

The government aims for commodity coverage and the information businesses must hold to be broadly consistent with EUDR, supporting trade between Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the EU.

However, the proposed GB regime would initially focus on compliance with relevant producer-country laws. A subsequent move towards a deforestation-free standard remains an ambition, without a specified timetable.

The legislative approach is anticipated to combine regulations, including under the Environment Act 2021, with legislation strengthening the existing UK Timber Regulation. The government's June statement promised consultation later in 2026.

As of 21 October, no published launch of that consultation was identified, leaving the detailed requirements and transition arrangements unsettled.

For tropical timber suppliers, the commercial implication is that Great Britain could retain a legality-based market-access standard while adopting much of the origin information burden associated with EUDR. This could reduce the practical distinction between the two markets, even before any change to a deforestation-free standard.

The extent of that convergence will depend on the detailed proposals and the arrangements ultimately adopted. Some larger UK hardwood importers are already aligning with EUDR, particularly as they prepare for the 30 December start to enforcement in Northern Ireland, that part of the UK that remains inside the EU single market.

North America

US housing starts down and building permits hit 42-month low

US single-family homebuilding fell sharply in September and permits for future construction tumbled to a three and a half year low as higher mortgage rates suppressed demand, suggesting residential investment returned to its declining trend in the third quarter.

Overall housing starts decreased 5.2% to a pace of 1.221 million units, the US Department of Commerce reported, a level 7.4% lower than last September. Single-family housing starts, which account for the bulk of homebuilding, dropped 4.6% from the previous month but were 2.6% higher than last September. Homebuilding fell over the month in the South, Midwest and West regions but increased in the Northeast.

The report from the Commerce Department followed on the heels of a National Association of Home Builders survey showing sentiment among single-family homebuilders plunged in October to the lowest level since June 2012.

Mortgage rates have surged in recent weeks, with the 30-year fixed rate averaging 7.40% in mid-October, the highest level in nearly three years. Slumping sales have led to a glut of unsold houses on the market, further reducing the incentive for developers to break ground on new single-family housing projects. Despite the overhang of new single-family homes, there is a national housing shortage, which is keeping home prices elevated.

"The weakness in housing starts is not surprising. Even if homebuilders were putting up new houses, who could afford to buy them?" said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at FWDBONDS.

In Canada, housing starts picked up last month though the pace remains soft as the broader market shows signs of cooling into the end of the year.

Housing starts across Canada came in at a seasonally adjusted annualized rate in September of 248,896 units, a 2.8% rise from the month before, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. (CMHC) said.

Monthly housing starts were down 11% year-over-year in centers with a population of 10,000 or more, with 19,984 units recorded in September. That took the year-to-date total of actual starts in these areas to 170,964, down roughly 4% from the same period in 2025.

“A key risk for Canada now is not building enough during this period of softening housing markets across the country,” said Aled ab Iorwerth, deputy chief economist at CMHC.

US home sales show surprising rise in September

US existing home sales unexpectedly increased in September but the trend stayed subdued against the backdrop of rising mortgage rates and still higher prices, which have made the dream of owning a house unattainable for many young Americans.

The rise in sales reported by the National Association of Realtors mostly reflected a downward revision to August's sales pace. Housing supply increased to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels, highlighting weak demand.

"The unexpected increase in existing home sales likely reflected delayed closings and improved inventory," said Priscilla Thiagamoorthy, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. "But, with 30-year mortgage rates nearing 7.5%, prices still climbing and affordability deteriorating, the housing market is likely to remain subdued for some time."

Home sales advanced 1.5% last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.99 million units. August's sales were revised down to show a 3.2% drop instead of the previously reported 2.0%.
Sales fell 2.2% on a year-over-year basis in September.

"This low sales activity that we are experiencing is clearly due to the lack of demand, not due to limited supply," said Lawrence Yun, the NAR's chief economist. "Higher mortgage rates are the big reason for that." Regionally, sales in the Northeast declined 2.1% month-over-month to an annual rate of 470,000.

Sales were down 4.1% from September 2025. In the Midwest, sales were unchanged month on month at an annual rate of 930,000 down 2.1% year on year. Sales increased in the South by 2.8% month-over-month to an annual rate of 1.86 million. Sales in the South were down 0.5% from September 2025.

In the West, sales increased 2.8% month-over-month to an annual rate of 730,000, which was 5.2% down from a year ago.

See: https://www.nar.realtor/newsroom/existing-home-sales-increased-1-5-in-september-according-to-nar-report

September jobs report shows slowdown in hiring

The US Department of Labour reported that employers added 29,000 jobs in September, a month when Federal Reserve officials viewed the labor market as stable even as economists said it remained challenging for unemployed workers to break in.

Payroll gains for past months were revised down, reflecting fewer summer hires than previously reported. The department now estimates US employers added 133,000 jobs in August, some 29,000 fewer than reported last month. The estimate for July was revised to show a loss of 10,000 jobs in July.

Employment in both construction and manufacturing ticked up slightly in September. Employment in construction gained 11,000 positions. The industry has added an average of 10,000 jobs per month over the prior 12 months. Manufacturing employment gained 9,000 jobs and is up by 72,000 since a
recent low in December 2025.

"Even after payrolls' disappointment, job growth's pace in the last three months is around the top of economists' estimates of the rate needed to hold the unemployment rate steady," said Bill Adams, Fifth Third Commercial Bank's chief US economist. "But slowing wage growth even as inflation accelerates is a sign that workers are having a hard time moving up to better paying jobs, even if outright unemployment is low."

See: https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm

US consumer sentiment dips further

The mood of US consumers has darkened in October, according to the University of Michigan's monthly survey. The survey's headline index fell to 46.3 in its preliminary October reading, versus 48.1 in September. The drop returns sentiment closer to its record-low reading of 44.8, set in May. Inflation, geopolitical uncertainty and a stable but staid job market have been weighing on consumer spirits over the past 18 months.

"Frustration over cost-of-living continues to mount, as consumers across the political spectrum believe that the trajectory of the economy has weakened since the beginning of the year," said Joanne Hsu, the survey's director.

Shoppers' feelings about the economy have been battered by high prices and persistent inflation. The latest frustration: soaring fuel costs, lifted by fallout from the war with Iran. But consumers' actual spending has remained buoyant, supported by wealth gains from a roaring stock market and by a stable employment backdrop.
Wage growth has cooled but unemployment remained at a relatively modest 4.2% in September and layoffs have been scant.

See: https://www.sca.isr.umich.edu/
and
https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/other/consumer-sentiment-drops-per-michigan-survey/ar-AA2dTtvI?ocid=BingNewsVerp

GDP revised upward to 2.2% for Q2

Second quarter gross domestic product (GDP) for the US increased at an annual rate of 2.2%, an upward revision of 0.7% as the Bureau of Economic Analysis released its third and final estimate. The change primarily reflects upward revisions to investment, consumer spending and government spending.

Economists expect the third quarter GDP report to reflect even stronger growth. Output is projected to increase at an annualized 3.2% rate in Q3, based on the median estimate for a set of projections compiled by the Capital Spectator. Recent US economic growth appears to have been fueled by a powerful combination of resilient consumer spending and a surge in business investment.

Households continue to spend at a healthy pace, while companies are ramping up capital expenditures, particularly in AI-related infrastructure such as data centers and semiconductor projects.

See: https://www.bea.gov/news/2026/gdp-third-estimate-industries-corporate-profits-state-gdp-and-state-personal-income-2nd

Construction material prices see large year on year increase

Construction input prices increased 2.2% in September compared to the previous month, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors analysis of US Bureau of Labor Statistics' Producer Price Index data. Nonresidential construction input prices increased 2.3% for the month.

Both overall and nonresidential construction input prices rose 11.2% between September 2025 and September 2026. Crude petroleum and unprocessed energy materials prices increased 28.3% and 22.2%, respectively, while natural gas prices increased 5.1% for the month

"Construction input prices have risen more than 11% over the past 12 months, the largest year-over-year increase in nearly four years," said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. "While higher fuel prices brought about by the conflict in Iran have driven a substantial portion of the increase, prices for tariffed materials like iron, copper and other metal products continue to rise rapidly.

"In light of this precipitous and ongoing increase in materials prices, it is unsurprising that more than 1 in 4 ABC contractors expect their profit margins to contract over the next six months, according to ABC's Construction Confidence Index."

See:
https://www.woodworkingnetwork.com/news/woodworking-industry-news/construction-materials-prices-increased-112-year-over-year-september

US manufacturing growth stays steady

Economic activity in the manufacturing sector expanded in September for the ninth consecutive month, say the nation's supply executives in the latest ISM Manufacturing PMI Report. "The Manufacturing PMI registered 54.5% in September, 0.1 percentage point below the August figure of 54.6%. A reading above 50% signifies growth.

The manufacturing sector showed several signs of robust factory activity in September. New orders grew for a ninth straight month, the Backlog of Orders Index rose 4.6 percentage points to 56.4 and the Employment Index gained 1.5 points to 52.7, suggesting continued growth in manufacturing payrolls.

Of the 18 manufacturing industries surveyed by ISM, 12 reported growth in September and two reported contraction. The Furniture & Related Products industry reported growth for the month while the Wood Products industry reported neither growth or loss for the month.

See: https://www.ismworld.org/supply-management-news-and-reports/reports/ism-pmi-reports/pmi/september/

US sets tariff total for Canadian sawn softwood sawnwood exports at almost 35%

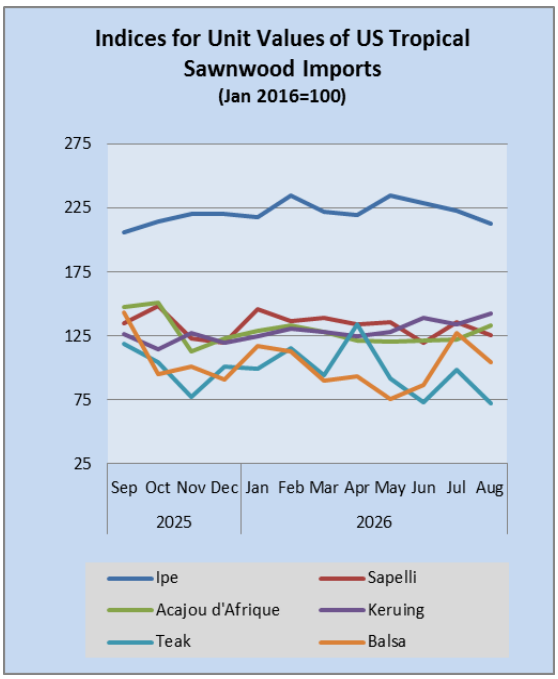
The US Department of Commerce has set the countervailing duty rate at 14.11% and the anti-dumping rate at 10.64%, for a combined rate of 24.75%. With the additional 10% tariff imposed under Section 232, Canadian softwood sawnwood faces import taxes of 34.75% when entering the United States.

The British Columbia Sawnwood Trade Council (BCLTC) said it is "disappointed" that Canadian sawnwood producers face "unjustified and punitive" trade measures.

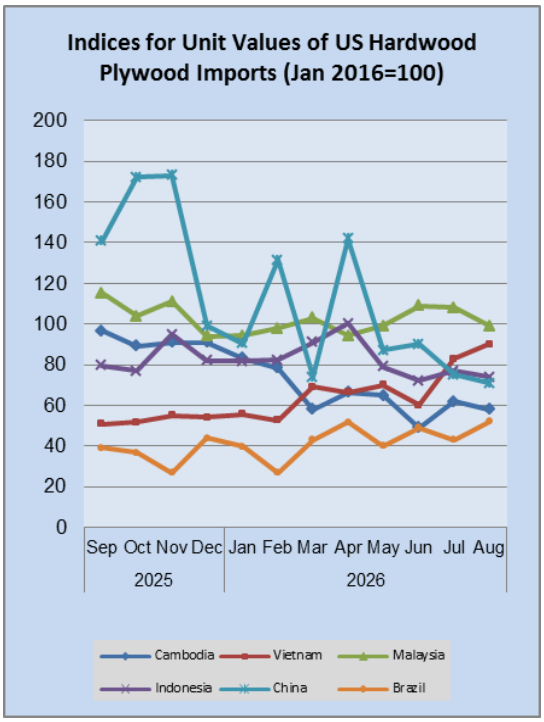
The seventh annual review of Canadian softwood sawnwood imports into the United States, which covers sawnwood imported in calendar year 2024, was met favorably by the U.S. sawnwood industry.

"We applaud the Commerce Department's continued commitment to enforcing the US trade laws against subsidized and unfairly traded Canadian sawnwood imports," stated Zoltan van Heyningen, Executive Director of the US Sawnwood Coalition.

See: https://bclumbertrade.com/archivenewsroom/statement-by-the-bc-lumber-trade-council-on-the-outcome-of-u-s-department-of-commerces-seventh-administrative-review/
and
https://www.woodworkingnetwork.com/news/woodworking-industry-news/us-sets-tax-total-canadian-softwood-lumber-exports-almost-35-percent



Data source: US Department of Agriculture, Foreign Trade Statistics



Data source: US Department of Agriculture, Foreign Trade Statistics

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

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

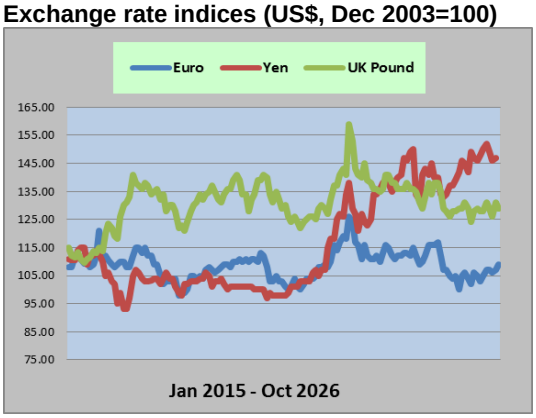
US Dollar Exchange Rates

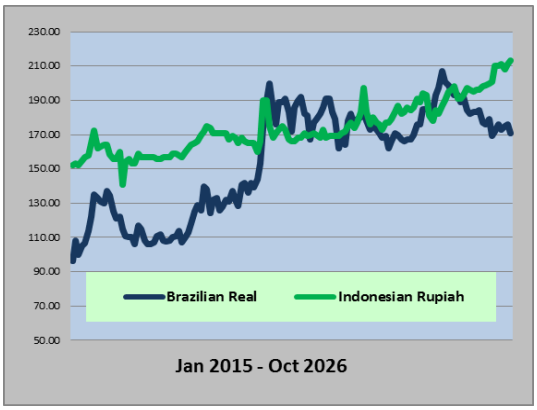
As of 25 Oct 2026

Brazil	Real	5.04
CFA countries	CFA Franc	586.04
China	Yuan	6.68
Euro area	Euro	0.89
India	Rupee	94.70
Indonesia	Rupiah	18.089
Japan	Yen	157.86
Malaysia	Ringgit	4.09
Peru	Sol	3.43
UK	Pound	0.75
South Korea	Won	1,323.64
Viet Nam	Dong	25,843

Data source: WSJ

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

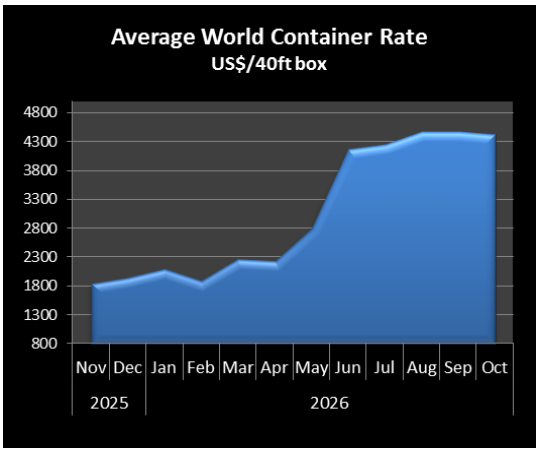




Abbreviations and Equivalences

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

Ocean Container Freight Index

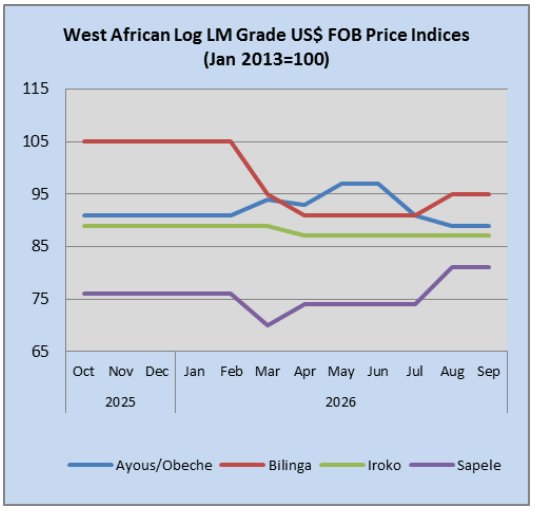


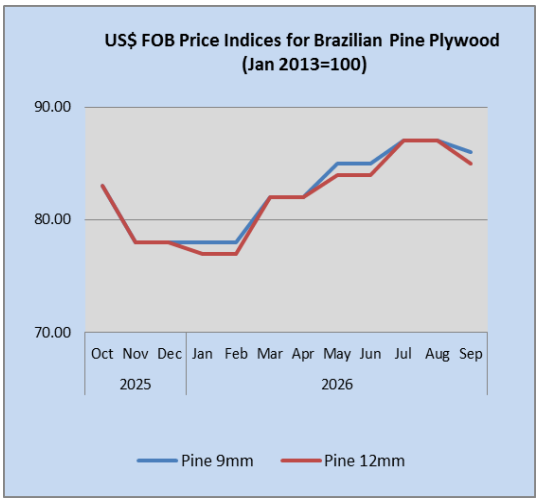
Data source: Drewry World Container Index

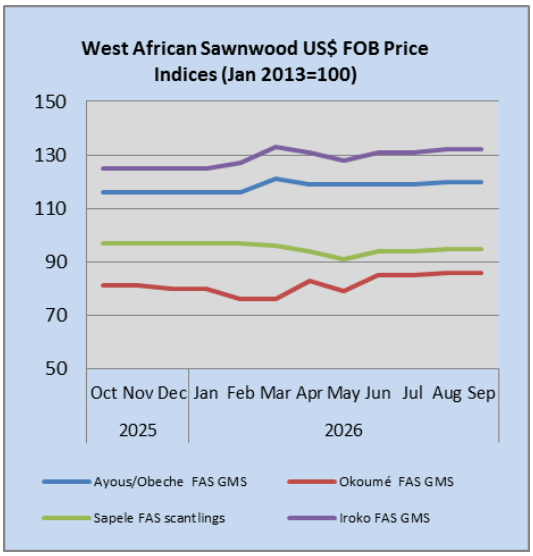
See: https://www.drewry.co.uk/supply-chain-advisors/supply-chain-expertise/world-container-index-assessed-by-drewry

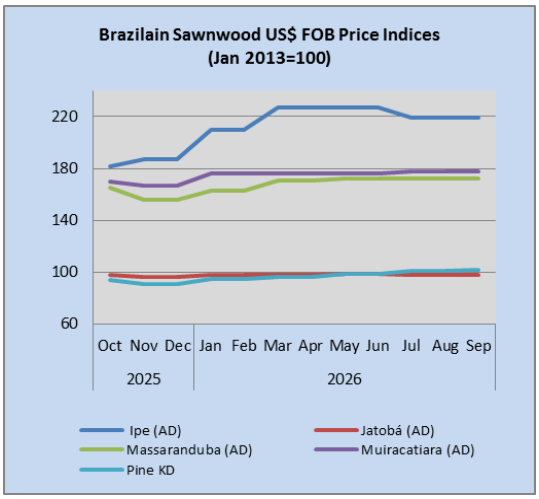
Price indices for selected products

The following indices are based on US dollar FOB prices









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

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http://www.itto.int/en/mis_registration