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Bogor Workshop on Wood Identification Technique :

DEVELOPING INTEGRATED TIMBER DATA TO ENHANCE LEGAL TIMBER TRADE OF APEC THROUGH XYLARIA NETWORKING

- Courtesy Visit : Strengthening Ties Between Bumiputera Wood Carving Entrepreneurs And Jepara, Indonesia
- Lakar Fest 2024

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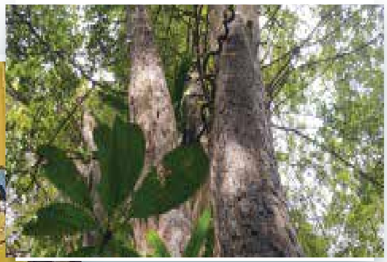

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BOGOR WORKSHOP ON WOOD IDENTIFICATION TECHNIQUE : DEVELOPING INTEGRATED TIMBER DATA TO ENHANCE LEGAL TIMBER TRADE OF APEC THROUGH XYLARIA NETWORKING

Prepared by : Sunita binti Muhamad

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is the premier Asia-Pacific economic forum which supports sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region by facilitating and enabling a sustainable business environment, which includes the timber trade. In an effort to support the legal timber trade, the establishment of an integrated APEC timber database is essential. Following that, the Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) implemented 'Project 2/2022: Advancing Integrated Timber Data to Increase APEC Legal Timber through the Xylaria Network EGILAT Policy Theme 2022-2023'. To date there are 180 wood collection centers (Xylaria) located in 60 economies around the world.

Cooperation between Xylaria in the Asia-Pacific region aims to help strengthen the timber identification system, thus improving document accuracy in the legal timber trade. In line with that Bogor Workshop on Wood Identification Technique was held on 23 to 25 April 2024. The programme, conducted by EGILAT Indonesia covered three main activities, namely Joint Research Discussion, Focus Group Discussion and a Workshop on Wood Identification. The implementation of the programme included

a. Exploration and review of existing wood identification tools and current practices
b. Listing of commercial timber species; investigating the of developing a standard system
c. Introduction to different tools/methods in wood through the Xylaria network
d. Organising a Forum Group Discussion (FGD) for decision -makers to discuss the potential of timber identification tools with the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS).

The objectives of this workshop was to increase the use of timber identification systems, examine the potential of developing a standardized timber identification system, and discuss opportunities for integration into the APEC timber legality assurance system (TLAS) and economic procedures to support international legal timber trade.

The opening speech was delivered by Dr. Ir. Agus Justianto, Director General of Sustainable Forest Management at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEE). Among the topics covered in this workshop were; Wood Anatomy for Wood Identification (theory and practical), Machine Learning for Wood Identification; Xylorix for Wood Identification; SOP of Forensic DNA Testing on Plant Species and Wood Tracking; Implementation of Wood Identification System (in Canada, China, and PNG); DART TOFMS and other methods for Timber Forensic in Vietnam; Near Infrared (NIR) for Wood Identification; Global Standard for Collecting Timber Species and Origin Verification; and Stable Isotope for Wood Forensic.

The workshop participants also conducted laboratory activities such as collecting core wood samples from standing trees and wood DNA extraction in the Science Molecular Lab. They also conducted DNA sequencing and bioinformatics in the Nano Imaging Lab. The participants also visited the Xylarium Bogoriense, which is the largest xylarium in the world and has been standing since 1915 in Bogor, and the Bogor Botanical Garden, which was built in 1817 and contains 6,000 plant species.

A total of 40 workshop participants from APEC countries, consisting of customs officers and other government officers, scientists, members of the timber industry, academia and certification bodies, participated in this workshop. Malaysia was represented by Puan Sunita binti Muhamad, Senior Deputy Director of Licensing and Inspectorate, MTIB, and two (2) FRIM research officers, namely Dr. Lee Hong Tnah, Forest Biotechnology Division, and Dr. Nordahlia binti Abdullah Siam, Forest Products Division.

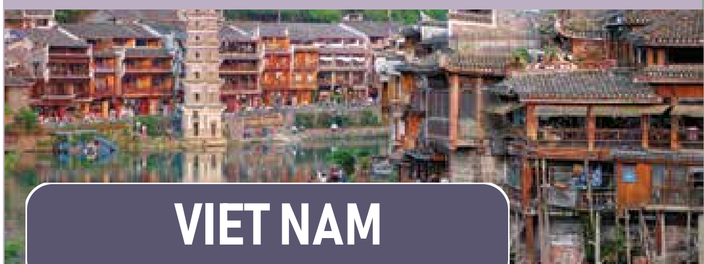
INDONESIA

SEEKS 1% OF GLOBAL FURNITURE MARKET

Indonesian furniture exporters aim to capture 1% of the global furniture market following a significant decline in exports last year. In 2023, Indonesia's furniture exports totalled USD 2.1 billion, marking a 23% decline from the previous year. Global furniture sales are estimated to have reached USD 730 billion last year, with a projected increase to USD 766 billion this year according to the Indonesian Furniture and Handicraft Industry Association, Asmindo. The United States remains the largest export destination for Indonesia's furniture, accounting for 55% of exports with almost 70% being of wooden furniture. In related news, the Chairman of the Indonesian Furniture and Handicraft Industry Association (Himki), Abdul Sobur, said that exporters are welcoming the strengthening of the US dollar. Indonesia uses 80% to 90% domestic raw materials thus avoiding high priced imports.

Sobur said he is optimistic that export earnings from the furniture, furnishings and crafts industries can grow by at least 10% compared to the 2023 performance. According to Sobur, the industry is determined to explore non-traditional markets outside of the European market such as South Korea, China, Japan and ASEAN countries while at the same time building capacity in order to meet the EUDR requirements for exporting to Europe.

https://www.itto.int/, 15 May 2024



VIET NAM

SEEKS TO GO GREEN TO INCREASE EXPORTS

General Secretary of Việt Nam Timber and Forest Products Association (Viforest) Ngô Sỹ Hoài said that the wood industry needs to pay attention to green production and trade to increase exports. According to Hoài currently, many major markets are strengthening the enforcement of import regulations as well as important technical barriers for products from exporting countries. For example, EU countries have requested exporters to meet regulations at the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). Goods imported into the EU will be imposed with a carbon tax and businesses must convert to lower-emission production models to get carbon credits.

Viforest is encouraging businesses to ensure green production, green trade and digital transformation. Sustainable development will be key to increase orders and revenue from export activities. The association has been conducting many trade promotion activities at home and abroad to seek more customers and orders.

The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) is coming into effect soon, so the association is also planning to organise training courses on implementing accountability, ensuring legal timber could join in supply chains and green transition. Hoài also said that in the first three months of this year, the export of timber and wood products reached USD 3.5 billion, an increase of 25.4% over the same period in 2023. Of which, the export turnover of wood products was USD 2.4 billion, an increase of 30.8%. The main markets were still the US, China, Japan, South Korea and the EU.

At the same time, businesses spent USD 535.7 million to import wood materials, an increase of 15.3% over the same period in 2023. The industry saw positive business results in the first three months of the year, but it cannot be confirmed the market to recover well. This year is still a very difficult year for the wood processing businesses, according to Hoài.

Meanwhile, large markets, such as the US, EU, China, Japan, and South Korea, are still heavily affected by issues related to geopolitical conflicts, economic recession, and consumers losing confidence. The US market has accounted for 50% to 55% of Việt Nam's total export value of wooden furniture.

However, the frequency of lawsuits and investigations relating to trade defence measures on wood products of Vietnamese origin is increasing, so Vietnamese wood processing businesses face many risks.

On the domestic market, many firms still have difficulty in getting value-added tax (VAT) refunded and complying with new fire prevention and firefighting standards. Many factories built 20 to 30 years ago are now located in densely populated areas. Some localities have policies on moving wood processing facilities away from residential areas, so the businesses cannot invest large sums of money in fire prevention. In that situation, the business environment needed to be reformed to encourage the businesses to develop production and business, Hoài said.

The enterprises themselves also needed to improve their management capacity and strengthen their ability to comply with regulations related to forests and wood in Việt Nam and foreign markets. In addition, they needed to improve their ability to cope with the trade defence measures in large markets. The businesses also expected value-added tax refunds to be implemented faster, and the state agencies to have feasible solutions for them in complying with fire prevention regulations.

According to the Prime Minister's direction, the preferential credit package for the wood and seafood industry of VNĐ15 trillion has been increased to VNĐ30 trillion. Viforest hopes banks will support the businesses by having simpler and more flexible procedures so that wood and seafood businesses can effectively and promptly access this capital source. Việt Nam aims to gain a value of USD 15 billion from exporting timber and wood products this year.

https://www.timberbiz.com.au/, 08 May 2024

CHINA

TIMBER IMPORT MARKET SLOW IN THE FIRST QUARTER

According to the latest data released by China's General Administration of Customs, the country's total timber imports exceeded USD 3 billion in the first quarter of 2024, a decrease of 3.05% year-on-year, and a 4.2% increase in imports sequentially from the fourth quarter of 2023, with the total volume of imports reached 15.56 million cubic meters, a decrease of 1.47% year-on-year, which was lower than the market's expectations.

In January, imports fell by 3.78% to 5.07 million cubic meters and trade value by 5.12% to USD 999 million. In February, imports fell by 6.33% to 4.46 million cubic meters, and the value of trade fell by 8.06% to USD 911 million. In March, imports increased by 4.7% to 6.01 million cubic meters and the value of trade fell by 2.83% to USD 1.254 billion.

Logs

In the first quarter, the total volume of log imports reached 8.85 million cubic meters, accounting for 56.88% of timber imports in the first quarter, compared to the same period in 2023 imports fell by 4.52%, the trade volume reached 1.5 billion yuan, a year-on-year decline of 6.44%. The average unit price of imports was at USD 170 per cubic meter(the average unit price of imports does not involve other costs such as freight, the specific price is subject to the market). It is worth noting that the volume of logs arriving in March increased significantly, up 7.9% compared the same period in 2023 and up a whopping 36.69% compared to February 2024. Log species that saw growth in imports included eucalyptus, Douglas fir with a minimum cross-sectional dimension of 15cm or less, radiata pine, birch, and oak and isinglass logs. Domestic imports of small-diameter logs have risen alarmingly in recent years compared to large-diameter logs, perhaps because log-producing countries have harvested logs early due to a combination of weather, wildfires, and insect infestations, leading to higher exports.

Sawntimber

In the first three months of 2024, the sawntimber imports increased by 2.87% year-on-year to 6.7 million cubic meters, while trade value increased by 0.24% to USD 1.662 billion, the average unit price of imports was at USD 247 per cubic meter (*The average unit price of imports does not involve other cost charges, such as freight, and the exact price is subject to the market). However, of the imports from January to March, only January saw an increase of more than 10%, while February saw a slight drop of 3.69%, and March saw imports at the same level as the same period last year. Means that, although the sawn timber imports in the first quarter showed a growing trend, but the growth trend is not obvious. Expected in the second quarter there will be sawntimber imports power period.

On the import of timber species, including ash, pineapple, spf, sapele and Douglas fir and other furniture timber imports showed growth, especially sapele sawntimber, an increase of more than 120% to 2.29 million cubic meters. However, imports of cherry from North America and beech, oak and sawntimber from Europe declined. Overall, the country's timber imports in the first quarter of 2024 did not slip too much in total, as the import volume showed positive growth in March and the decline in January to February was lower than the market had expected, but it is still evident that the market recovery is proceeding slowly.

https://www.globalwoodmarketsinfo.com/, 01 May 2024

INDIA

WOODEN FURNITURE GAINING IN POPULARITY

India's furniture industry is growing rapidly and almost 65% of Indian furniture is made of wood. The demand for wood raw material in India's furniture manufacturing industry has increased. The interest in wood products in the home usage has grown over the past few years as home owners, especially young people stared to use wood for interior decoration along with increased interest in wooden furniture.

It has been estimated that the domestic Indian furniture market will grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 13% between 2020 and 2024. Because of the growing salaried class, the number of metropolitan families and the rise in disposable income demand for furniture is expected to continue to grow.

https://www.itto.int/, 15 May 2024

UNITED KINGDOM

TIMBER AND PANEL IMPORTS REMAIN SUBDUED

UK imports of the main timber and panel products for the first two months of 2024 are fractionally ahead of the same period in 2023, up by 0.2% (3,000 cubic metres) following improvements in February after a disappointing January start. Overall, however, volumes remain subdued in line with weaker construction output and a generally lackluster economy.

With two months of data now available for 2024, we can see a more realistic reflection of the performance in the various timber product groups. Softwood, hardwood, particleboard and MDF have all experienced lower volumes compared to the first two months of 2023, whereas plywood, OSB and engineered wood products are currently ahead of last year. Solid wood imports were 2% lower than in the first two months of 2023, while imports of panel products were nearly 5% higher, largely due to big increases in imported hardwood plywood driven by imports of eucalyptus-faced plywood from China.

According to the most recently released by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) statistics, softwood plywood imports have experienced a 23.8% fall compared with January to February 2023. These statistics suggest the first two months of 2024 have been the worst start to a year for softwood plywoods since 2012 – mainly due to a poor January.

Concerningly, however, this is not being reflected in the coniferous plywood quota – which as of 2 May 2024 currently only has 4% remaining. Timber Development UK (TDUK) has raised a challenge with HMRC to resolve this clear discrepancy between the trends apparent in their import statistics and the remaining quota. The statistics will be closely monitored and will update their members on HMRC's response as soon as possible, as well as creating a Trade Note to keep all members informed.

It's also important to note that recent Office for National Statistics (ONS) data reveals a 15% reduction in new homes started during 2023 compared with 2022, ending a generally rising period of housebuilding growth since 2011. Despite volumes in 2023 returning to levels last seen in 2015, housing starts were still better than many had forecast. With housebuilding being an important market for timber products, and softwoods in particular, it is tend to see correlations between housing starts and softwood imports. More recently, softwood import volumes were high in 2021, as were housing starts, while in 2023 softwood volumes remained low as housing starts fell.

Despite the downturn in 2023 and in 2020 because of the pandemic, the trend for housing starts over the last dozen years has been positive and would have been significantly better had these and other recent obstacles to growth not occurred.

"Albeit largely anecdotal for now, we are seeing improvements in the number of enquiries received by housebuilders, and the likelihood of a softening in interest rates and more upbeat build forecasts from some housebuilders suggests that housing starts for 2024 may be better than predicted, although still likely below the overall 12-year trend. However, if better than expected housebuilding transpires in 2024, this is likely to result in better-than-expected volumes of timber imports, particularly in the softwood sector. "Much still depends on the upcoming election, and how both the current government, and any new government, invests in continuing to promote the Timber in Construction roadmap to help encourage further take-up of timber as a core building material."

https://www.timber-now.com/, 08 May 2024

NEW ZEALAND

SOFTWOOD LOG EXPORTS

Reflecting on New Zealand's softwood log exports to China in 2023, ResourceWise data indicates a 5% increase compared with 2022. However, a closer look at the numbers reveals a 4% decrease from 2021, highlighting exporters' challenges in adapting to a weakened Chinese economy.

China has consistently been a significant player in New Zealand's softwood log exports. Therefore, the nation's changing economy has impacted New Zealand's log export volume. While China still maintains a robust import relationship with New Zealand, recent figures indicate a slight dip in volume. The decrease in China's imports of logs from New Zealand since 2021 aligns with the overall trend of declining log and lumber imports in China. The majority of the trend has been driven by a decrease in demand for forest products.

According to a report from Wood Market Prices from ResourceWise in January, China's combined annual imports of logs and lumber in 2023 were at their lowest in 12 years, with log imports experiencing the most significant drop.

The current state of China's forest products sector plays a pivotal role in understanding the dynamics of New Zealand's softwood log exports. In recent years, China has experienced a shift in its economic activities, with a particular impact on its construction and manufacturing industries. These industries are significant consumers of forest products such as softwood logs for construction and furniture manufacturing, among others. Economic slowdowns and policy changes have led to fluctuations in demand within China's forest product sector.

Further exacerbating these trends are global environmental policies and China's own reforestation efforts aimed at achieving sustainability and reducing reliance on imports. This complex interplay of economic shifts and policy initiatives directly influences the demand for imported softwood logs, reflecting on trade relations with countries like New Zealand.

ResourceWise's latest Market Insights report takes a close look at historical and current figures relating to New Zealand's softwood log export market. This includes pine sawlog export prices, import numbers from China and South Korea, and New Zealand's export figures to diverse regions. Readers can also gain valuable insight into the future projections for the trajectory of New Zealand's softwood log exports.

https://www.timberbiz.com.au/, 13 May 2024

CANADA

LUMBER PRODUCTION PICKS UP IN FEBRUARY

Canadian lumber production experienced a significant uptick in February 2024, reaching 4,352.4 thousand cubic meters, as per the latest data from Statistics Canada. This marks an 8.9% increase from January 2024 and a 10.8% increase from February 2023. Observing the monthly trends, February 2024's output was the highest since March 2023, which recorded 4,785.3 thousand cubic meters. Following the peak in March, production generally declined until a gradual recovery commenced in August 2023. In terms of shipments, sawmills in Canada shipped 4,195.4 thousand cubic meters of lumber in February 2024, showing a 7.8% rise from the previous month and a notable 16.0% increase from the same month last year.

https://www.fordaq.com/, 10 May 2024

LUMBER PRICES IN A DOWNWARD SPIRAL

Demand for lumber is collapsing in North America. The reason is mortgage interest rates are rising dramatically and housing starts are plummeting. Lumber is trading at around USD 500 per thousand board feet (mfbm) on the futures market at the end of April. In mid-March, lumber was still trading at just over USD 620. That's a drop in the price of lumber by around 20% in just a few weeks. The last time there were similar low wood prices on the futures market was in November last year.

The main reason for the price drop is the further deterioration in demand in the real estate sector in North America, which is extremely important for lumber. The most important trend indicator on the physical lumber market is also pointing steeply downwards.

Lumber prices even fell to USD 408 per 1,000 mfbm. This is a decrease of USD 44, or -10%, compared to the previous week when the price was USD 452. Buyers are largely holding back in the hope of further price corrections. At the same time, sawmills reported a large availability of wood stocks, it continues. At the same time, the sawmills' order backlogs have shrunk again. Buyer hesitancy has been significantly compounded by the decline in recent data on single-family housing starts and permits.

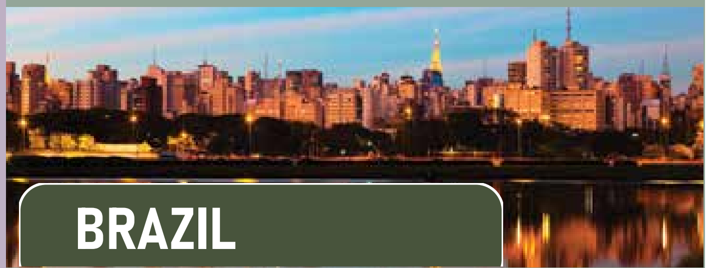
Rising mortgage rates and plummeting housing starts

The decline in U.S. housing starts in March represents the largest decline in overall housing starts since the pandemic began in April 2020. Housing investment did recover in the second half of 2023 after declining for nine consecutive quarters, the longest such period since the housing market collapse in 2006.

Total U.S. housing starts were 1.321 million in March 2024, a decrease of -14.7% from 1.549 million units in February and a decrease of -4.3% compared to the same point in 2023, when it 1.380 million units were recorded. Builders are grappling with the changing interest rate outlook,s higher interest rates weigh on demand and a drive up the cost of capital. According to the outlook from the largest US mortgage bank Freddie Macs, the forecasts for US real estate prices suddenly look very different than they did a month ago.

A series of unexpectedly high inflation figures at the beginning of the year dashed hopes that the Fed would cut interest rates soon. This led to a steady rise in US bond yields and mortgage rates. In mid-April, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell confirmed market fears by saying interest rates would remain at their current levels "for as long as necessary" due to the robust labour market and the progress still needed on inflation. The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rose to over 7%, Freddie Macs announced.

https://www.timberindustrynews.com/, 02 May 2024



FRANCE A TARGET MARKET

The French furniture market stands out as one of the main destinations for Brazilian exports according to the "Study of Opportunities for the Brazilian Furniture and Mattress Exporter - Target Country: France." With a sophisticated logistics infrastructure and a strategic position in Europe, France offers significant opportunities for the Brazilian industry. The study suggests the steady growth of apparent furniture consumption in the country, reaching USD 14.2 billion in 2022 (a 3.4% increase since 2018) highlights the growing dependence on imported products.

French demand for quality furniture, innovative designs and sustainability provides a window of opportunity for the Brazilian furniture industry which has shown signs of recovery and growth in the French market.

With a 42% increase in furniture export to France in 2022 compared to the previous year, Brazil is well-positioned to meet the demands of the French market, especially considering the recent strengthening of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

However, to capture the opportunity in the French market and achieve a projected growth of +33% (USD 37.6 million) in the short-term continuous investment in quality, innovation and sustainability will be crucial.

http://abimovel.com/, 02 May 2024

GHANA

EXPORTS OF WOOD PRODUCTS DROP

Ghana's primary product exports in the first two months of 2024 accounted for 64% of the country's total wood export volume (40,763 cubic meters), an 8% decline. In the same period in 2023, exports amounted to 44,400 cubic meters.

The exported primary products were air-dried sawnwood, billets, teak logs, air-dried boules and kindling which totalled 26,103 cubic meters in 2024 compared to 28,550 cubic meters in 2023.

According to the data from the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) the average unit prices for the secondary and tertiary products recorded increases in early 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. Average prices for primary products fell from EUR 393 per cubic meters in 2023 to EUR 384 per cubic meters in 2024.

The TIDD identifies some of the leading exporters for the period as Samartex Timber and Plywood Company Limited (9%), Miro Forestry Ghana Limited (7%), Multimodal Freight Services Limited (6%), Logs and Awnwood Limited (6%) and John Bitar and Company Limited (6%).

The main species in demand were teak (49%), ceiba (8%), wawa (8%), eucalyptus (8%) and denya (5%). For the period under consideration India topped the list of export destinations importing around 50% of the total volume of wood products. While Germany (6%), Viet Nam (5%), Saudi Arabia (4%), US (4%) and others (31%).

https://www.fordaq.com/, 20 May 2024

APRIL 2024

The total export of Malaysian timber and timber products in April 2024 decreased by 8% in value totalled at RM1.9 billion from RM2.1 billion in the previous month. However, cumulative exports for the period of January - April 2024 increased by 20% valued at RM7.6 billion over RM6.4 billion in the previous corresponding period.

The Global Timber Index (GTI) Report for April 2024 revealed that the overall performance of the global timber market was relatively sluggish this month with most of the major markets being below the critical value of 50%. Given the huge dependence on FSC and PEFC by suppliers into and out of the EU and for internal EU trade for provision of data on provenance and forestry practices, the extent to which these systems can adapt or not to the new requirements of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) will have a strong bearing on access to the EU market and on the continuing global competitiveness of European wood product manufacturers and traders in the future.

SAWNTIMBER

The total export of sawntimber in April 2024 decreased by 11% in volume and 17% in value to 87,333 m³ totalling at RM177.8 million as compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, cumulative exports for April 2024 increased by 1% in volume but decreased 3% in value to 317,507 m³ totalling at RM676.3 million over the previous corresponding period.

Exports to the EU for the month were recorded at 8,723 m³, an increase of 29% as compared to 6,741 m³ in the previous month. The Netherlands as the main buyer increased purchases by 41% to 3,464 m³ from 2,458 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, export to Belgium and Germany increased by 191% and 21% from 3,029 m³ and 1,089 m³ respectively. Similarly, outside the EU, export to the UK also increased by 33% to 824 m³ from 622 m³ in the previous month.

The total export to South Asia decreased slightly to 11,896 m³ from 12,152 m³ as recorded in the previous month. India as the main buyer from South Asia increased purchases by 21% to 8,375 m³ from 6,912 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Meanwhile, exports to Maldives decreased by 40% to 1,354 m³ followed by Sri Lanka with a decrease of 20% to 1,450 m³ respectively.

Elsewhere, total export to West Asia increased by 59% to 19,247 m³ from 12,118 m³ as recorded in the previous month. The UAE as the main buyer also increased their imports by 71% to 6,473 m³ from 3,782 m³ as recorded last month. Similarly, exports to Yemen increased by 497% to 5,646 m³ compared to 945 m³ in the previous month followed by Oman with an increase of 40% to 3,267 m³.

Shipments to East Asia decreased by 42% to 20,386 m³ from 35,167 m³ in March 2024. China as the main buyer decreased purchases by 37% to 14,411 m³ from 22,724 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, exports to Japan also decreased by 2% to 2,639 m³ from 2,669 m³ last month followed by Taiwan with a decrease of 78% to 1,871 m³ as compared to 8,589 m³ the previous month.

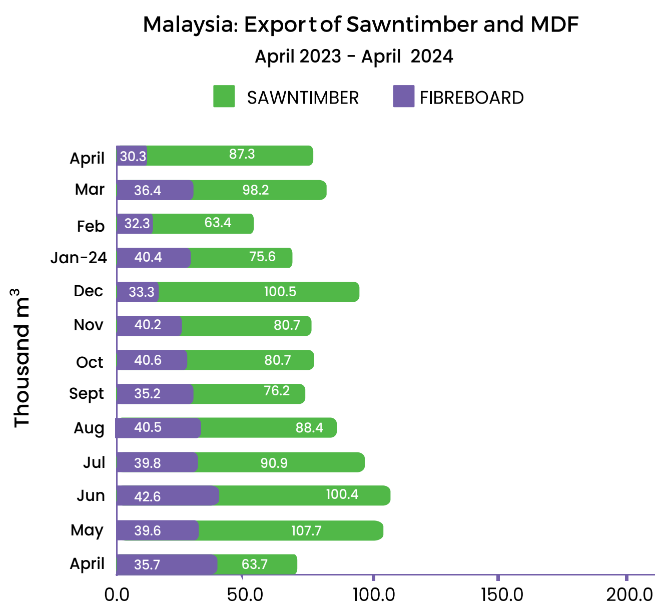
ASEAN imports also decreased by 18% to 21,383 m³ from 26,071 m³ as registered in the previous month. Thailand, the main buyer in ASEAN decreased its intake by 35% to 5,640 m³ from 8,706 m³ as recorded in the previous month. Exports of sawntimber to the Philippines also decreased by 22% to 8,034 m³ whilst Singapore increased purchases by 8% to 6,418 m³ from 5,964 m³ last month.

Moving to the Africa region, exports to Africa decreased by 34% to 2,304 m³ compared to 3,482 m³ in the previous month. Similarly, demand from South Africa also decreased by 33% to 2,032 m³ from 3,033 m³ followed by Mauritius with a decrease of 16% to 208 m³ from 248 m³ in the previous month.

Meanwhile, export to North America increased by 48% to 1,972 m³ from 1,331 m³ in the previous month. The USA as a major buyer from North America increased its intake by 64% to 1,586 m³ from 968 m³ followed by Canada with an increase of 6% to 387 m³ from 363 m³ in the previous month. In the Oceania/Pacific region, export to Australia also increased by 21% to 597 m³ from 494 m³ in the previous month.

The average FOB price of sawntimber decreased by 6% to 2,036 per m³ from 2,172 per m³ in the previous month. The price of Dark Red Meranti to the Netherlands also decreased by 15% to 3,435 per m³ from 4,052 per m³ in the previous month. Keruing was traded at 2,869 per m³, a decrease of 11% from 3,215 per m³ in the previous month.

The ongoing Red Sea crisis continues to severely disrupt global timber supply chains. Traders are struggling with escalating container costs and increased pressure on the global port system,



leading to significant congestion in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. It is reported that the crisis forcing the world's largest shipping companies to reroute USD200 billion worth of trade around the Cape of Good Hope resulted in a 30% drop in profits for the 12 months ending 31 March 2024. Meanwhile Maersk, the world's second-largest container company by fleet size, indicated that trading conditions remain highly volatile due to the unpredictability of the Red Sea situation and the unclear future of supply and demand. The crisis is now adding 2-3 weeks to shipping times, with fuel costs rising to USD1 million a week. Over 100 freight companies, including CMA CGM, Hapag-Lloyd, Evergreen, and oil giant BP, have halted movements through the channel. Meanwhile, insurance premiums for those still using the Red Sea have skyrocketed nearly tenfold since the attacks began. The impact has been particularly significant in China, India, Viet Nam, Thailand, Indonesia, and European countries like the UK, Germany, France, Spain, and Italy, where increased timber cargoes are entering European markets via China and the ASEAN region.

PLYWOOD

Export for plywood in April 2024 recorded a decrease of 20% in volume at 85,999 m³ and a decrease of 19% in value to RM195.8 million as compared to the previous month. In contrary, the cumulative exports for the period of April 2024 showed an increase of 32% in volume to 354,506 m³ and 26% in value totalling at RM813.0 million over the previous corresponding period. The EU region increased buying by 81% from 647 m³ to 1,170 m³. Ireland and Belgium improved their purchases by 72% to 415 m³ and 322% to 372 m³ each. Meanwhile, Poland decreased purchase by 3% to 220 m³. In other countries in Europe, exports recorded a decrease of 83% to 3,702 m³ from 21,700 m³ in the previous month. The UK and Turkiye reduced their buying by 80% to 3,213 m³ and 91% to 489 m³ respectively.

Moving to the East Asia market, volume decreased by 2% to 57,033 m³ from 58,003 m³ in March. Japan as the largest importer from the region reduced its buying by 1% to 46,115 m³ from 46,411 m³, followed by Taiwan with a decrease of 14% to 5,468 m³. Korea increased imports by 5% to 4,757 m³. In the ASEAN region, imports decreased by 27% from 5,389 m³ to 3,938 m³. Plywood export to Singapore and Viet Nam recorded a positive growth of 81% to 1,997 m³ and 12% to 430 m³ each. Meanwhile, Thailand dropped its orders by 62% to 1,066 m³.

In the South Asia region, plywood purchase grew by 453% from 279 m³ to 1,543 m³. Maldives decreased its imports by 22% to 45 m³ while India increased purchases by 578% to 1,498 m³. The West Asia region recorded a decreasing trend of 31% to 5,884 m³ from 8,475 m³ in the previous month. Import performance in Yemen, the UAE and Saudi Arabia decreased by 28% to 5,360 m³, 33% to 364 m³ and 46% to 161 m³ respectively.

In the Africa region, plywood export decreased by 51% from 212 m³ to 104 m³ with purchases from South Africa. Meanwhile in the North America region, imports showed a decrease of 1% from 10,254 m³ to 10,204 m³. The USA as the main buyer added up purchases by 12% to 7,957 m³. This was followed by Canada with an increase of 69% to 399 m³. Mexico reduced plywood import by 36% to 1,849 m³. Plywood export to the Oceania/Pacific region recorded an increase of 16% to 2,420 m³ from 2,082 m³. Australia improved buying to 2,350 m³, followed by New Zealand with an increase of 102% to 43 m³. French Polynesia resumed its buying with 21 m³.

The FOB price of plywood for April 2024 was at RM2,277 per m³, an increase of 0.4% from RM2,269 per m³ from the previous month.

Despite being slow on awarding of projects in the second half of 2023, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) of India continued with the front-loading of capital expenditure, as it spent over Rs54,500 crore for building new highways in April this year. The ministry has met 20% of its capex target with 11 months remaining according to the MORTH monthly report to the Union Cabinet. The ministry had earlier expected construction to fall starting FY25 due to the delay in approval of the Revised Estimates of the Bharatmala project, which had seen a Rs5 trillion increase in costs. So far, the national highway construction figures have indeed gone down in the first month of the fiscal year, but that was expected on account of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, where construction activity is sometimes slowed down due to curbs on movement of trucks by state governments and other poll-related restrictions. The ministry, through its executing agencies, constructed 483 kilometres of National Highways in April, compared to 523 kilometres during the same month last year.

VENEER

Export of veneer for April 2024 decreased in volume by 12% to 3,101 m³ and in value by 33% worth RM5.8 million as compared to the previous month. However, the cumulative export for April 2024 showed an increment in both volume and value by 5% to 12,699 m³ and by 30% to RM28.5 million over the previous corresponding period.

ASEAN recorded a tremendous increase in veneer import by 1100% from 29 m³ to 349 m³ with the new purchases from Cambodia, the Philippines and Singapore of 232 m³, 111 m³ and 5 m³ respectively. In East Asia, export decreased by 22% from 2,912 m³ to 2,269 m³. Taiwan reduced its purchase by 79% to 330 m³ while China and the Republic of Korea improved on veneer imports by 56% and 332% to 1,288 m³ and 531 m³ each. The South Asia region also recorded a decrease in import performance by 51% to 140 m³ from 285 m³ in the previous month. Veneer purchase by India and Bangladesh depleted by 34% to 111m³ and 75% to 29 m³ each.

Moving to North America, veneer import recorded a decrease of 48% from 60 m³ to 31 m³ with the sole purchase made by Canada. In the Oceania/Pacific region, a decrease of 17% to 201 m³ was recorded with purchases being from Australia. Meanwhile, South Africa didn't make any purchase for the month.

The average FOB price for veneer decreased by 23% from RM2,415 per m³ to RM1,856 per m³ as compared to the previous month.

Chinese plywood is made from high-quality wood veneers that are glued together with strong adhesives. This results in a strong and durable material that can withstand the stress and strains of everyday use. Plywood production is still the largest among wood-based panels in China. At the beginning of 2024, there were 1,477 plywood plants under construction nationwide with a total annual production capacity of about 29 million cubic metres. At this level it has been suggested the capacity of China's plywood industry is greater than demand. While the supply and demand of plywood for furniture production, home furnishing and interior decoration is relatively balanced there is over-capacity in plywood for concrete formwork. In addition, demand in the packaging sector is affected by competition from the oriented strand board (OSB).

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF)

Export of MDF in April 2024 recorded a 17% decrease in volume at 30,345 m³ and 9% in value at RM61.8 million compared to the previous month. The cumulative export for the period of April 2024 recorded a decrease of 7% in volume to 139,509 m³ but an increase of 1% in value totalling at RM264.6 million as compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

Export to ASEAN increased by 8% from 3,612 m³ to 3,892 m³ in the previous month. The Philippines and Viet Nam reduced their imports by 5% and 8% to 2,112 m³ and 600 m³ respectively. Meanwhile, Indonesia improved buying by 89% to 1,006 m³ from 532 m³.

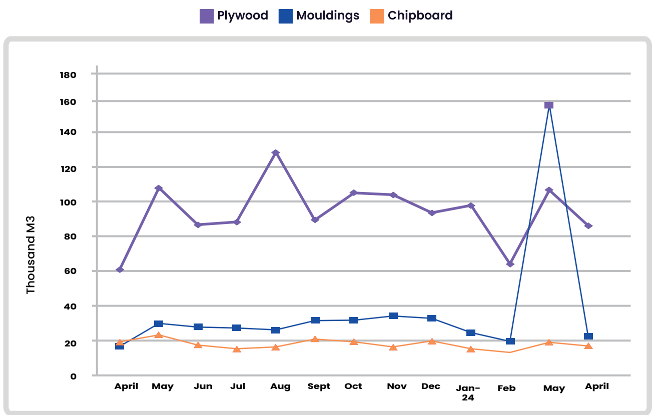
Elsewhere, East Asia purchases reduced slightly by 0.1% from 13,208 m³ to 13,196 m³ in the previous month. Import of MDF from Taiwan and the Republic of Korea increased by 80% and 299% to 485 m³ and 698 m³ each. Japan decreased MDF import by 6% from 12,743 m³ to 12,013 m³. Moving to the South Asia market, export decreased by 6% from 3,245 m³ to 3,037 m³. Export performance to Pakistan and India improved by 30% to 1,479 m³ and 118% to 1,515 m³ while Bangladesh reduced its import by 80% to 43 m³.

Exports to the West Asia region recorded a decrease of 56% from 9,103 m³ to 4,006 m³ compared to the previous month. The UAE increased sales performance by 42% to 2,202 m³ but Oman reduced its imports by 5% to 1,269 m³. Qatar resumed its purchases with 374 m³.

Export to the Oceania/Pacific region increased by 11% to 2,911 m³ from 2,634 m³ in the previous month. Australia added up its MDF purchase by 12% to 2,890 m³ while New Zealand reduced purchases by 51% to 21 m³. In Europe, MDF buying improved by 192% from 29 m³ to 86 m³ with new purchases from the UK by 85 m³ and Switzerland by 1 m³ each.

MDF import in North America showed a decrease of 22% from 3,734 m³ to 2,923 m³ compared to the previous month. MDF purchases by the USA decreased by 51% to 1,443 m³. However, purchases by Mexico and Canada climbed up by 106% and 64% to 886 m³ and 594 m³ respectively. Import from Guatemala in Central

Malaysia: Export of Major Timber Product
April 2023 - April 2024P



Note : Preliminary

America increased by 397% to 222 m³ from 45 m³ in March. In South Africa, MDF purchase plummeted by 90% to 73 m³ from 717 m³.

The FOB price of MDF increased by 9% to RM2,036 per m³ from RM1,873 per m³ in the previous month.

While the residential segment continues to dominate the USD94 billion UAE construction sector, investments in transport and renewable energy infrastructure will help propel future growth. Government transport projects such as rail and road infrastructure, energy ventures and sewerage and water infrastructure projects, will fuel the construction sector's expansion. Significant capital has been spent on the UAE's transportation and renewable energy sectors in recent years. Dubai announced last year a AED18 billion (USD4.9 billion) "blue line" Metro project adding 30km of rapid transit rail lines by 2029 alongside the existing red line and green line networks. This expansion, together with the introduction of the Etihad Rail passenger train, will add considerably to the ability of Dubai's residents to move about with ease. The new line, which will have 14 stations, will bring rail connections to the city centre to fresh areas of urban Dubai, meaning profitable opportunities for real estate investors to develop those locations. The GlobalData report estimates the size of the UAE's construction market at USD94 billion in 2023, with annual growth of 3% forecast between 2025 and 2028.

MOULDINGS

Export of mouldings for the month decreased in volume by 87% to 21,097 m³ and in value by 13% worth RM73.9 million from the previous month, March 2024. Meanwhile, for the cumulative period of January – April 2024, export of mouldings both increased in volume by 218% to 219,258 m3 and value by 13% worth RM309.6 million over the same period in 2023.

The export volume to ASEAN dropped by 37% to 722 m3 for the month from 1,146 m³ in the previous month, March 2024. Exports to both Singapore and Thailand dropped by 18% to 676 m³ and by 81% to 46 m³ for the month, respectively. Likewise, export to the East Asia region also decreased by 21% to 1,885 m³ for the month. Demand from South Korea and China reduced by 35% to 520 m³ and by 34% to 326 m³ respectively. However, Japan as the largest buyer increased its buying by 2% to 992 m³ from 971 m³ in the month before. Moving to South Asia countries, export to India reduced by 58% to 48 m3 from 113 m³ in the previous month.

Exports to the EU bloc for the month were recorded at 5,348 m³, a reduction of 20% over 6,702 m³ in the previous month. The Netherlands and France decreased its demand by 20% to 3,438 m³ and 1% to 549 m³ respectively. However, intake from Germany grew by 16% to 533 m³. Moving on to the UK, demand dropped by 99% to 335 m³ while intake from Australia also decreased by 41% to 965 m3 for the period of April 2024.

Despite being the largest buyer for mouldings in the North America region, export to the USA decreased by 91% to 11,368 m³ from 119,389 m³ in March 2024. Similarly, Canada reduced its buying to 32% to 173 m³. Elsewhere, export to Mauritius increased by 123% to 254 m³ for the month of April 2024.

Average FOB unit value for mouldings increased by 544% to RM3,505 per mm³ compared to RM544 per m³ in the previous month.

Statistics Mauritius forecast that the country's construction industry will grow at a lower rate of 18.1% compared to 37.4% in 2023, based on ongoing and upcoming public projects (road infrastructure projects, drain projects, construction of low-cost housing and other public buildings) and private construction projects (smart city projects, morcellement projects, property development scheme projects and renovation of hotels). Furthermore, final consumption expenditure of households and the general government would grow by 2.5% in 2024 compared to 1.5% in 2023. Fitch Solutions stated that despite Mauritius' real GDP growth slowing to 4.5% in 2024, from an estimated 6.5% in 2023, the demand from the construction sector growth will drive economic activity in 2024, supported by stronger demand for residential properties, an uptick in government capital expenditure, technological advancements, sustainable practices, and evolving market demands. In 2024, there will be a stronger emphasis on eco-friendly building materials, energy-efficient designs, and green certifications. The push for sustainability is driven by both regulatory frameworks and the growing awareness among developers and consumers about the importance of reducing the environmental impact of construction activities.

BUILDERS JOINERY AND CARPENTRY (BJC)

Export of BJC for April 2024 decreased by 2% in volume to 10.8 million kg, however it increased by 1% in terms of value worth RM105.8 million from last month, March 2024. Moreover, when compared year-on-year, export of BJC for the cumulative period of January-April 2024 jumped by 12% and 10% in value to 43.7 million kg worth RM423.0 million from the previous corresponding period in 2023.

Demand from the ASEAN region decreased by 13% to RM42.8 million with Singapore as the highest buyer reducing its intake to RM29.1 million, a reduction of 30% from RM41.2 million in the previous corresponding period. However, exports to Viet Nam and Thailand grew by 157% to RM6.1 million and 40% to RM4.7 million respectively.

Meanwhile, exports to East Asia countries expanded by 50% to RM34.2 million over RM22.9 million in the corresponding period in 2023. Japan recorded as the highest buyer with an increase in intake of 37% to RM25.6 million while China and Taiwan multiplied its buying by 286% to RM4.5 million and 106% worth RM2.7 million respectively.

Intake from South Asia countries increased by 41% to RM17.0 million with India as the largest buyer expanding its buying by 22% to RM9.2 million. However, Maldives reduced intake by 12% to RM2.5 million while Sri Lanka resumed its demand with RM4.4 million for the cumulative period of January - April 2024. Moving to on West Asia countries, the UAE recorded a decrease of 33% to RM1.0 million from RM1.5 million over the same cumulative period in 2023. Similarly, Saudi Arabia also dropped its intake by 64% to RM77,964 while Kuwait resumed its buying with RM7,093.

Moving on to the European Union bloc, export of BJC decreased by 2% worth RM85.8 million from RM87.8 million in the same corresponding period in 2023. Exports to both Belgium and Sweden reduced by 1% worth RM25.2 million and by 76% worth RM5.7 million respectively while the buying from the Netherlands grew by 221% to RM30.3 million. Meanwhile, export to the UK increased by 36% to RM50.4 million from RM37.0 million. Similarly, exports to both Norway and Türkiye increased by 47% to RM2.4 million and by 74% to RM0.8 million respectively.

As the largest buyer of BJC for the period of January to April 2024, demand from the North America region was worth RM105.1 million, an increase of 18% from RM88.8 million in the same period in 2023. Export to the USA increased by 27% to RM102.9 million from RM81.3 million in the same period in 2023. Export to Canada exploded by 447% to RM2.0 million from RM0.4 million in its corresponding period in 2023. Meanwhile, Mexico reduced its intake by 97% to RM0.2 million from RM7.1 million in the corresponding period in 2023. Similarly, export to Uruguay reduced by 23% to RM0.5 million from RM0.7 million over the same period in 2023.

Shifting to the Oceania/Pacific region, export dropped by 1% to RM79.8 million with Australia as the largest buyer recording an increase in intake by 3% to RM73.1 million. Export to New Zealand was down by 24% to RM5.2 million, followed by Western Samoa with imports down by 20% worth RM0.6 million. Elsewhere, export to the Africa region reduced by 26% to RM2.9 million. Intake from both South Africa and Mauritius increased by 6% to RM1.8 million and by 11% to RM0.45 million respectively. Meanwhile, Seychelles reduced its intake by 51% to RM0.49 million for the cumulative period January – April 2024.

US' Home Improvement Research Institute reported that after a small drop of 1.5% in 2023, the home improvement market slowly increased by 1% in 2024 and will grow steadily from 2025 to 2028, resulting in a roughly USD642.3 billion home improvement product market by the end of the forecast period. In their recent study on

"Spending Patterns in a Changing Market: Home Improvement Trends During and Post Pandemic", most homeowners would potentially be interested in moving to a new house, if interest rates and availability were to improve. A quarter of them are currently locked into their existing home, having secured a mortgage rate lower than 3%; they are hesitant to give that up. This group of homeowners is unlikely to move unless mortgage rates once again reach a low enough percentage, or less than 4%. Those who are likely to move skew younger (ages 25 to 44) and higher income (upward of USD80,000). Meanwhile, older homeowners, who've been in their homes for more than 20 years, are content to stay put.

Meanwhile, according to a recent Angus Reid survey, conducted by Financeit a leading provider of point-of-sale financing in Canada, one-in-four (25%) Canadian homeowners plan to undertake renovations in their current home in the next year. While Canadians may not be able to afford to purchase a new house in the next year, it is clear that some continue to look for ways to upgrade their space on a budget. With more Canadians looking to stay where they are as the cost of living continues to rise, many are looking to update their space as an alternative. The recent report found that 53% of homeowners said they want to complete home renovations to improve the functionality of their home, with homeowners in Ontario the most likely to do so at 63%. Of those polled, 21% said they want to complete a home renovation in the next year to increase the value of their home, but more shocking was a staggering 65% of homeowners in Manitoba looking to renovate for the same reason. Among those looking to complete a home renovation in the next year, 37% of Canadians are looking to remodel their kitchen, bathroom or basement, 24% are looking to landscape and 17% are looking to replace windows and/or doors.

FURNITURE

Exports of wooden furniture for the month of April 2024 decreased by 4% to RM775.5 million from RM810.6 million in March 2024. Conversely, when compared year-on-year, export of wooden furniture has increased by 23% to RM3.1 billion from RM2.6 billion in its corresponding period in 2023.

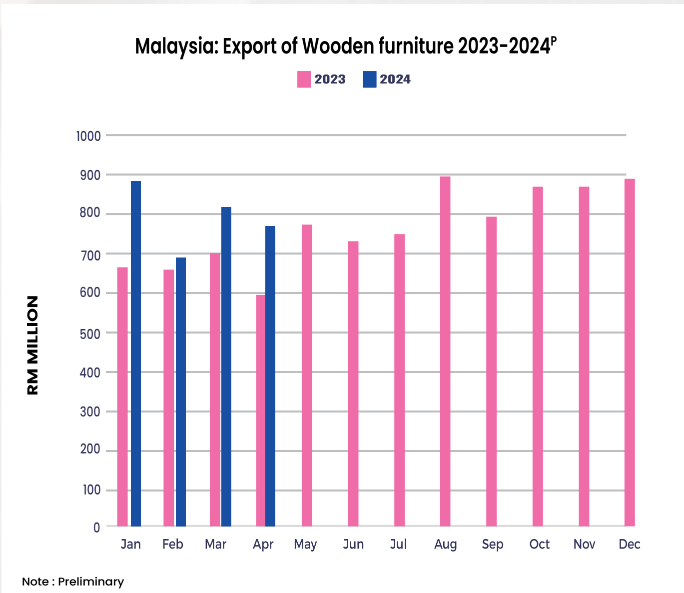
Export of wooden furniture to ASEAN dropped by 5% worth RM389.2 million from RM410.7 million in its corresponding period in 2023. Export to Singapore decreased by 7% to RM230.1 million, followed by Indonesia with export down by 31% to RM29.6 million. However, export to the Philippines grew by 26% to RM84.0 million for the cumulative period January – April 2024.

Moving to the East Asia region, export declined by 1% to RM187.5 million from RM190.2 million year-on-year from 2023. Japan remained the highest buyer with export value at RM148.1 million with an increase in buying by 2%. Similarly, exports both to Taiwan and South Korea grew by 23% to RM14.8 million and by 9% to RM12.3 million, respectively over its corresponding period in 2023.

Exports to West Asia expanded by 32% to RM167.2 million from RM126.9 million in the corresponding period in 2023. Export to the UAE, the largest buyer in the region, improved by 37% to RM81.4 million. Similarly, exports to Saudi Arabia and Oman increased by 14% to RM55.3 million and by 102% worth RM6.7 million respectively.

Moving to the South Asia region, export of wooden furniture to the region improved by 41% to RM49.7 million for the period January - April 2024. Amongst South Asia countries, India recorded the highest intake with export value worth RM44.3 million with an increase in intake by 39%. Meanwhile, export to Maldives grew by 59% to RM4.4 million while Nepal resumed its intake with RM0.5 million.

Export to the Central Asia region declined by 41% to RM1.0 million with export to Kazakhstan reduced by 14% to RM0.9 million. Both Armenia and Uzbekistan reduced their demand by 68% to RM167,565 and by 99% to RM3,907 for the cumulative period January-April 2024.



Export to the European Union recorded an expansion of 32% to RM133.0 million from RM101.0 million over its corresponding period in 2023. Export to Belgium increased by 16% worth RM16.0 million, followed by Spain with an increase of 88% to RM15.8 million and France with an intake increase of 31% worth RM15.7 million. Outside the EU, the United Kingdom as the largest buyer recorded an increase of 19% to RM145.9 million from RM122.4 million over its corresponding period in 2023. Similarly, exports to Türkiye and Georgia increased by 16% to RM6.6 million and by 35% to RM5.1 million respectively.

Exports to the Oceania/Pacific region improved by 30% to RM188.6 million from RM144.8 million over its corresponding period in 2023. Australia remained as the top buyer in the archipelago region with an export value worth RM165.2 million and an increase of 26%. Similarly, both exports to New Zealand and Papua New Guinea expanded by 39% to RM12.7 million and by 161% to RM5.9 million respectively.

Moving to the Central America region, export of wooden furniture increased by 109% to RM13.2 million from RM6.3 million year-on-year. Both Panama and Guatemala recorded an increase of sale by 161% to RM3.6 million and by 47% worth RM2.6 million respectively. Similarly, export to Costa Rica grew by 109% to RM2.5 million from RM1.2 million in January-April 2023.

Meanwhile, export to the North America region advanced by 32% to RM1.8 billion from RM1.3 billion year-on-year. As Malaysia's largest wooden furniture buyer, demand from the USA improved by 28% to RM1.6 billion from RM1.2 billion over its corresponding period 2023. Similarly, export to Canada increased by 91% to RM133.0 million while Puerto Rico reduced its demand by 7% to RM16.0 million.

Export of wooden furniture to the South America region also recorded an increase of 91% worth RM37.3 million from RM19.5 million over its corresponding period, January – April 2023. Export to Chile improved by 104% to RM23.6 million from RM11.6 million, followed by Peru with an increase of 51% to RM6.5 million. Venezuela resumed its buying with RM1.6 million for the cumulative period in 2024.

Moving to the Africa region, export to the region improved by 16% to RM45.7 million with South Africa garnering the largest market share with RM13.3 million. Intake from South Africa recorded an increase of 57% from RM8.5 million to RM13.3 million in its corresponding period in 2023. This is followed by Reunion Islands, with recorded sales of RM5.8 million, export grew by 35% from the previous corresponding period. Export to Ghana also increased by 133% to RM3.4 million from RM1.5 million year-on-year.

Rattan furniture shipments for April 2024 recorded an increase of 16% valued at RM5.5 million from RM4.7 million in the previous month, March 2024. However, based on year-on-year, export of rattan furniture for the cumulative period January – April 2024 dropped by 2% to RM20.7 million from RM21.0 million in the same period in 2023.

Exports to ASEAN member countries were recorded at RM2.7 million, an increase of 49% for the mentioned period, January – April 2024 from RM1.8 million in the same period in 2023. The highest buyer, the Philippines recorded sales of RM1.8 million with an increase of 86%. Similarly, export to Singapore grew by 40% to RM0.8 million while export to Thailand decreased by 50% to RM92,421.

Meanwhile, exports to the East Asia region recorded a decline of 77% worth RM0.5 million with Japan reducing its intake by 61% to RM0.3 million. Similarly, exports to China and Taiwan decreased by 84% to RM0.2 million and by 55% to RM42,173 respectively. Moving on to South Asia countries, India was recorded as the highest buyer of rattan furniture with a value of RM158,694 despite a reduction of 86% in its buying.

Export to the West Asia region dropped by 2% to RM1.2 million with the largest buying nation of rattan furniture in the region, the UAE increasing its intake by 53% to RM0.7 million, while intake from Saudi Arabia reduced by 46% to RM0.3 million. Meanwhile, Iraq resumed its intake with RM105,941.

Moving to the European Union bloc, export grew by 32% to RM3.5 million with France being the largest buyer amongst EU countries. Export to France increased by 24% to RM0.9 million from RM0.8 million over the same period in 2023. Similarly, exports to Ireland and Spain grew by 49% and 46% to RM0.5 million for each country respectively. Moving to other countries in Europe, demand from the group decreased by 3% to RM3.1 million with the UK being the largest buyer in the region. The UK dropped its buying by 2% to RM2.7 million, while Georgia resumed its buying to RM0.2 million. Meanwhile, intake from Russia dropped by 59% to RM0.2 million for the period January – April 2024. Shipments to the Oceania/Pacific archipelago region dropped by 58% to RM1.0 million from RM2.4 million over the same period in 2023. Australia recorded a decline in intake by 57% to RM0.9 million, while both Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa increased their buying by 67% to RM61,044 and by 68% to RM35,033 respectively.

Exports to the North America region increased by 31% to RM7.9 million from RM6.0 million over the same period in 2023. The USA being the largest buyer for rattan furniture recorded a surge in intake by 13% to RM6.5 million, followed by Canada with an increase of 84% worth RM0.5 million. The Dominican Republic and Chile resumed their buying with RM0.5 million and RM0.3 million respectively. Similarly, Panama also resumed its intake with RM18,756 for the period from January to April 2024.

Moving to the Africa region, South Africa and Senegal increased their intake by 263% to RM0.2 million and by 25% to RM10,397 respectively while Kenya resumed its buying of rattan furniture to RM79,283.

According to Furniture World's (www.furninfo.com) latest survey of residential furniture manufacturers and distributors, new orders were up 22% in April 2024 compared to April 2023 (which was down 19% from April 2022). Approximately 75% of the participants reported increased orders in April 2024 compared to a year ago with an increase up to 8% as compared to the same period in 2023. Shipments appear to have begun normalising compared to last year, with April 2024 up 2% from April 2023, but down 1% from March 2024. Shipments in April 2024 were up for approximately half of the participants compared to April 2023. Year to date through April 2024, shipments are down (9%) compared to 2023. Presumably that trend will begin to turnaround in the coming months with the increased new order volumes.

Meanwhile, Techanvio.com reported that the global furniture market is projected to grow by USD136.6 billion, at a CAGR of 4.15%, from 2024 to 2028. The key drivers include evolving consumer demographics in emerging economies and rapid urbanisation, leading to increased demand for new furniture products, particularly in Asia and Africa. Urbanisation has raised wages and income levels, especially in countries like China and India, further boosting market growth. Increased residential and commercial construction investments, notably in the USA and developing economies like India, are major growth catalysts. Challenges include high volatility in raw material prices, impacting profit margins, and market growth. Despite this, the market's expansion is supported by rising disposable incomes and the increasing penetration of e-commerce in emerging economies. The APAC region is expected to contribute significantly, driven by urbanization and supportive government policies in countries like China and India.

COURTESY VISIT DURING TECHNICAL VISIT OF BUMIPUTERA WOOD CARVING ENTREPRENEURS AND PRODUCTS TO SEMARANG, JEPARA & YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA ON MAY 6 - 11, 2024

COURTESY VISIT: STRENGTHENING TIES BETWEEN BUMIPUTERA WOOD CARVING ENTREPRENEURS AND JEPARA, INDONESIA

Prepared by : Shaiful Ikhmal Shaiful Nazir

A delegation of Bumiputera wood carving entrepreneurs visited Semarang, Jepara & Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on 6 - 11 May 2024, marking a significant event in the region's wood carving industry. This visit was leaded by the Director of Bumiputera Economic Empowerment Division, Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB), YBrs. Dr. Haji Norazli Haji Ismail and an Assistant Administrative Officer of Bumiputera Economic Empowerment Division of MTIB in charge of this visit, 10 companies of Bumiputera wood carving entrepreneurs, representatives from members of the Malaysian Bumiputra Wood and Furniture Entrepreneurs Association (PEKA), representatives from the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) as well as representatives from CTCS Worldwide Sdn. Bhd. The visit included a courtesy meeting with Edy Supriyanta, the Acting Regent of Jepara, aimed at fostering stronger ties and collaboration between the delegation and local authorities. Key attendees at the meeting included representatives from the Jepara Regency Government, Department of Industry and Trade, Jepara Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and various industry associations.

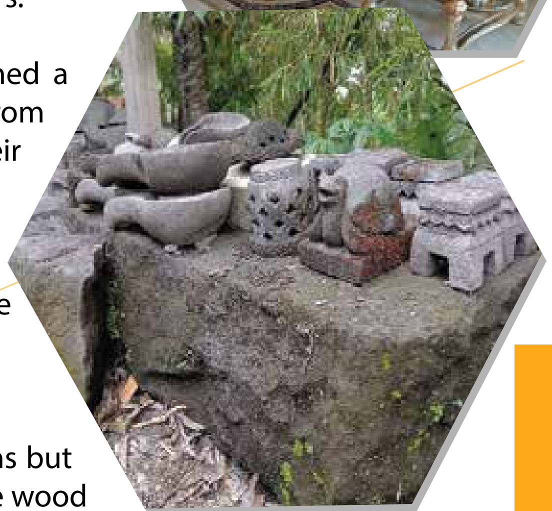
YBrs. Dr. Haji bin Norazli Haji Ismail, leading the delegation, expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and acknowledged the valuable insights gained during the visit. Edy Supriyanta reciprocated the appreciation, emphasising Jepara's pride as a global wood carving hub and the economic significance of the industry. The delegation learned about Jepara's substantial wood carving and furniture exports, contributing significantly to the local economy. Jepara's economic growth outpaced regional and national averages, with declining unemployment and poverty rates.

The industry meeting provided a platform for fruitful discussions on industry challenges, quality enhancement, and market expansion strategies. The event strengthened relationships among industry stakeholders and paved the way for future collaborations.

Additionally, the delegation had the opportunity to visit several successful companies in Jepara, gaining valuable insights into the region's renowned wood carving and furniture industry. One of the notable companies visited was CV Mandiri Abadi, which specializes in both outdoor and indoor furniture, showcasing the versatility of Jepara's craftsmanship. At Jepara Modern Art and Gallery, the delegation explored unique art and gallery exhibits, reflecting the region's rich artistic heritage. CV Mebel Jati Jepara was another highlight, renowned for its high-quality teak furniture, which exemplifies Jepara's expertise in fine woodwork.

The delegation also visited Mulyoharjo Carving Village, famous for its traditional wood carving techniques, offering a glimpse into Jepara's artisanal heritage. Meubel Ukir Persaudaraan was noted for its intricately carved furniture, highlighting the region's detailed craftsmanship. Oval Jati, known for its premium teak products, demonstrated Jepara's commitment to high-quality materials. Hafiz Mandiri, a key supplier of teak wood, supports the local furniture and carving industries. The factory and showroom of ELS ARTINDO showcased a diverse range of wood products, reflecting the breadth of Jepara's woodcraft. CV Delta Manunggal Rotan was recognized for its role as a supplier of rattan wood, essential for both traditional and modern furniture designs.

Furthermore, the delegation explored Raka Art Stone, which focuses on artistic stone carvings, adding another dimension to Jepara's craft industry. Mebel Bambu Dheling Asri, a supplier of bamboo wood, contributes to innovative and sustainable furniture solutions. Finally, Nangsib Keramik was visited for its specialization in ceramic products.These visits provided the delegation with a comprehensive view of the local industry, offering insights into the diverse aspects of Jepara's wood carving, furniture, and ceramics sectors.



To maximize the benefits of this technical visit, the delegation gained a profound understanding of traditional wood carving techniques from Jepara and Yogyakarta. They also had the opportunity to enhance their skills through hands-on training with local artisans and to forge strong business connections with local entrepreneurs. This visit provided valuable insights into the local market, including trends, consumer preferences, and market needs, aiding in the development of a more effective marketing strategy for their wood carving products.

In summary, the courtesy visit not only strengthened bilateral relations but also facilitated valuable exchanges and opportunities for growth in the wood carving industry, emphasising the importance of cooperation and collaboration for mutual development.

Red Sea Disruption Could Cut Asia-Europe Capacity by 20%

Disruption to Red Sea container shipping is rising, Maersk said on Monday, forecasting this will cut the industry's capacity between Asia and Europe by up to 20% in the second quarter.

Maersk and other shipping companies have diverted vessels around Africa's Cape of Good Hope since December to avoid attacks by Iran-aligned Houthi militants in the Red Sea, with the longer voyage times pushing freight rates higher. "The risk zone has expanded, and attacks are reaching further offshore," Denmark's Maersk said.

"This has forced our vessels to lengthen their journey further, resulting in additional time and costs to get your cargo to its destination for the time being," it added in an updated advisory to customers.

Maersk's fuel costs on the affected routes between Asia and Europe are now 40% higher per journey, a spokesperson said. Germany's Hapag-Lloyd, which has said it believes the crisis can be overcome before the end of 2024, is also rerouting vessels for the time being.

"The attacks in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden are moving further and further out to sea. That is why we are avoiding this area altogether," Hapag-Lloyd said in e-mailed comments. By routing traffic away from the Suez Canal, Maersk estimated that the container industry's capacity between Asia and northern Europe and the Mediterranean would be cut by between 15% and 20% in the second quarter.

Complex

The disruptions cause ripple effects across several other container freight routes, particularlyfrom Asia to the east and west coasts of South America, Maersk's spokesperson said, adding that the Red Sea situation was complex and continued to evolve. Maersk, viewed as a barometer of world trade, forecast last week that disruptions would last at least until the end of 2024.

Meanwhile, France's CMA CGM is still sending some vessels via the Red Sea escorted by French or other European navy frigates, but the majority of its ships are being rerouted around Africa, CEO and Chair Rodolphe Saade told Le Monde.

"The problem is that you have to call at ports that are not the final destination and to transship onto smaller vessels," Saade told the newspaper in an interview published on Monday. "Tangiers is saturated and alternatives need to be found – like (Spain's) Algeciras or Valencia," he added.

The knock-on effects of voyages around Africa include bottlenecks and vessel bunching, where several ships arrive at port at the same time, as well as equipment and capacity shortages. "We are doing what we can to boost reliability, including sailing faster and adding capacity," Maersk said, adding that it had so far leased more than 125,000 additional containers

Source: Reuters_May 6, 2024

Shipper Fury As Spot Rates Soar And Carriers Ignore Contracts

The sense of genuine anger amongst North European shippers and freight forwarders was palpable this week as they struggled to digest rapidly escalating spot freight rates. The ascent steepened over recent weeks, with Drewry's WCI Shanghai-Rotterdam leg rising 20% week-on-week to finish at $4,999 per 40ft.

However, sources told The Loadstar that slots were being purchased at much higher levels.

"Real terms rates for spot are in the $6,000-$7,500 mark, with carriers saying they will hit $10,000." Tight vessel supply is continuing to combine with high demand in trunk trades and has led to a worsening shortage of containers at key export hubs in Asia, as The Loadstar reported earlier this week, and which is now having a significant impact on secondary trades.

But carriers' preference to carry higher paying spot cargo over contracted volumes is infuriating many customers. One European import manager suggested the recent hikes would likely force it to suspend shipments once its current bookings are completed.

"The carriers don't honour anything but their profits – we're loading/shipping out the stock that's currently on production lines, then we will cease again, and we've already informed our suppliers and partners. "Personally, I believe it needs manufacturers to lobby their officials and shippers to cancel orders. All professional shippers understand and totally accept the lines need an operating profit.

"But this flippant nonsense is no good for any party, including the lines themselves in the long run – so many shippers have mitigated their production now due to the last hikes during Covid," he said. "It's an excuse, like Covid was," one forwarder told The Loadstar. "Is it any more expensive to move a container now than it is any other time? Or is it shipping lines taking advantage of a situation? "It's tulip mania. The bubble will burst and then the usual cyclical rate reverberation of collapse and recovery," he added.

Meanwhile, on the WCI's Shanghai-Genoa leg, spot rates rose 15% to $5,494 per 40ft. Similar trends were seen across the market – transpacific rates on Drewry's WCI were up 18% to $5,277 per 40ft, and up 16.5% on Xeneta's XSI to $4,689, while Freightos' FBX Asia-US west coast had prices lower at $4,333 per 40ft, a week-on-week increase of 12%.

Meanwhile, the WCI's Shanghai-New York leg saw a 13% week-on-week increase to $6,463 per 40ft, while the FBX Asia-US east coast prices climbed 5% to $5,359 per 40ft. And forwarders on the US trades reported similar problems in Asia – Falcone yesterday warned of a "severe shortage of 20ft, 40ft, and 40ft HQ containers available to be used for export shipments, especially at the ports of Shanghai, Ningbo and Xiamen".

Port congestion in Asia also appears to be getting worse – an operational update from Hapag-Lloyd said vessels were waiting three-to-four days at both Shanghai and Singapore to be berthed, and between one and two days at Qingdao and Ningbo.

The eeSea liner database currently shows 20 ships at berth in Qingdao and 53 waiting, while Singapore has 51 at berth and 69 vessels at anchor awaiting a berth. Meanwhile, some secondary trades are now being described as ticking time bombs with the same factors further propelling rates increases.

"There is a ticking time bomb about to go off on Asia-Middle East," Hans-Henrik Nielsen, global development director at CargoGulf, told The Loadstar. "The freight rates are going through the roof – we are hiking FCL rates each week. Right now, we are just shy of $4000 per 40ft on China-Jebel Ali, and I have a feeling we could see another 50 % increase by mid-July, if not earlier. "All sorts of surcharges will start to creep in – peak season and congestion surcharges...we already have the congestion surcharges for cargoes ex-China, south-east Asia and Sri Lanka," he added.

On the Asia-east coast South America trade, short-term rates recorded by Xeneta have returned to levels last seen in the fourth quarter of 2022, with a current average spot rate of $6,468 per 40ft., although some Brazilian importers are reported to have paid up to $8,231.

Source: The Loadstar_May 24, 2024

Southeast Asia Riskiest in Shipping, Says Report

Almost a third of the vessels that were lost at sea last year were in the vicinity of the Philippines and other parts of Asia where high volumes of shipments pass throughaccording to global, underwriter Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty (AGCS). The Safety and Shipping Review 2024 report by AGCS noted that most of the shipment losses were tracked in the Philippines, South China, Indochina and Indonesia last year.

In 2023, a total of 26 vessels were lost worldwide, fewer than 41 in 2022. The latest figure shows a significant improvement as shipment losses amounted to as much as 105 vessels in a single year in the past decade. Most of the shipment losses were cargos, with a total of 16 vessels, followed by fishing with four vessels and tug boats with three vessels.

Vessels sinking was the primary cause for shipment loss last year. Others were wrecked and stranded while some were lost due to fire or explosion and collision incidents. The report noted the geopolitical tension surrounding Russia, Ukraine and the Red Sea has made cross-border transfers of vessels challenging.

Dynamic Situation

Unstable regimes, regional disputes and rivalries make for a dynamic situation around some of the world's busiest shipping routes," said Nitin Chopra, senior marine risk consultant at Allianz Commercial Asia. "The Red Sea crisis shows just how important critical waterways like the Suez Canal are to the world economy, and how vulnerable they can be to disruption," he added.

The Houthis have launched attacks in the Red Sea—one of the world's busiest shipping lanes—to show its alliance with Palestinians amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas. This situation has forced shippers to reroute their vessels via Cape of Good Hope in South Africa to avoid the Suez Canal in Egypt, which means longer turnaround time and costlier operation.
"Both routes are critical for the transport of manufactured goods and energy between Asia, Europe, and the US East Coast. Whichever route vessels take, they face lengthy diversions and increased costs," Chopra said.

More costs

And let's not forget, prior to these situations, the war in Ukraine had already prompted many shipping companies and cargo interests to seek alternative routes," the analyst added.
According to a report by the Business Monitor International, a Fitch Solutions unit, the conflict might cause shipment delays of six days to 15 days due to rerouting of vessels.

Data from the Philippine Ports Authority showed that cargo throughput grew by about 5 percent to 271.97 million metric tons (MT) last year from 259.14 million MT in 2022, surpassing the prepandemic volume of 265.88 million MT.

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) is set to build additional maritime facilities to promote sea transport for both cargo and passengers. The DOTr previously shared its plan to construct and expand 14 roll-on-roll-off ports across the country.

Source: newsinfo.inquirer.net_May 26,2024

Freight Rate Surge Recalls Covid 'Chaos'

Global goods trade is showing signs of accelerating after last year's slump, pushing up shipping rates and giving some supply-chain managers flashbacks to the demand spike that disrupted international commerce three years ago.

"This situation will bring back memories of the chaos and sky-rocketing ocean freight rates during the pandemic," said Emily Stausbøll, a senior shipping analyst with Xeneta, an Oslo-based freight analytics platform. "Shippers have learned lessons from Covid-19 and some are bringing their imports forward, ahead of the peak season and the potential for a capacity squeeze."

Some of the catalysts for the monthlong advance in seaborne freight rates stem more from worry than optimism. They include concerns about port congestion in Asia, labor strikes in North America that threaten to hobble ports or rail services, and heightened trade tensions between the US and China.

Ocean shipping began the year already stretched by Red Sea attacks that forced carriers to send their vessels the longer way around southern Africa rather than through the Suez Canal. A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S, the world's No. 2 container line, has estimated the industry's capacity loss at 15%-20% this quarter on routes to northern Europe from Asia.

Importers and exporters across Asia, the US and Europe typically see shipments increase from July to September as retailers look to restock before back-to-school, Halloween and year-end holiday sales seasons. That spurt of orders looks to be happening now, analysts said, at a time when spare container capacity is limited.

"This early peak season is packing a major punch," Stephanie Loomis, head of ocean freight for the Americas at Rhenus Logistics, wrote in a LinkedIn post heading into the US Memorial Day weekend. "In speaking with many carriers this week, the comments were all the same: Vessels are all completely full."

Spot rates for containers reflect the tightness. The cost for a 40-foot container to the US West Coast from Asia jumped 13.4% to $4,915 in the week ended Sunday, according to Freightos data, the fifth straight weekly advance. That's triple what it was in late December, but still well below the September 2021 peak of $20,586.

The spot rate for containers to northern Europe from Asia is also climbing, fetching $4,882 last week, more than three times higher than a year ago, according to Freightos. In a research note last week, Judah Levine, head of research at Freightos, said some carriers have announced more increases for June, meaning "they do not expect conditions to ease in the short term."

Some of the snarls originate in China, according to an operational note last week from Hapag-Lloyd AG, the world's fifth-largest container carrier. In the ports of Qingdao, Shanghai and Ningbo, ships are waiting one to four days for a berthing slot because of "vessel bunching" and harsh weather. Wait times are also elevated in Singapore and Malaysia, it said.

Those kinds of delays are making it difficult to keep up with the demand across the Pacific. Container imports through the top 10 ports in the US rose for a seventh straight month in April from a year earlier, pushing the three-month trailing average gain to 19.1%, according to veteran shipping analyst John McCown. That was the strongest showing since July 2021 — near the peak of the demand surge during the pandemic.

"Underlying economic activity would seem to be the driver of these strong gains," McCown wrote in a report released on Saturday. Fear and long memories might also be at play. To prevent shortages during the pandemic, companies ordered more products and parts than demand warranted, boosting inventories that have since come down.

Source: Bloomberg_May 28, 2024

Shipments of Timber and Timber Products Through Ports in Peninsular Malaysia, APRIL 2024

Products	Port Klang		Kuantan		Pasir Gudang		Tanjung Pelepas		Penang		Total all ports (m³)	% change Mar'24/Apr'24
	m³	% change	m³	% change	m³	% change	m³	% change	m³	% change		
Sawntimber	37,274	-3	1,638	-80	591	-28	313	26	4,592	-22	44,409	-17
MDF	13,936	25	96	0	1,392	-19	904	-28	805	-64	17,134	4
Mouldings	12,499	-7	32	60	1,214	14	1,761	-14	297	61	15,804	-6
Plywood	2,265	-32	0	0	0	0	594	-34	6,650	8	9,508	-9
Veneer	579	-55	0	0	0	0	21	136	2,164	40	600	-53
Particleboard	9,114	-8	0	0	50	-32	0	0	6,415	-19	15,578	-13
Total	**75,667**	**4**	**1,767**	**-79**	**3,248**	**-10**	**3,592**	**-19**	**20,923**	**-13**	**105,197**	**-11**

LAKAR FEST 2024

Prepared by : Norazleen Othman

The LAKAR 2024 Furniture Carving Design Competition (LAKAR FEST 2024), organised by the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and co-organized by Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), TANGGAM Design Centre (TDC), PEREKA Malaysia, and REKAism, was launched at UMK's Bachok Campus on 18 May 2024. LAKAR FEST 2024 is a festival dedicated to celebrating the integration of carving and fine woodcraft into contemporary lifestyles. The event featured three main components: a talk delivered by Ts. Dr. Mohd Nor Zamri bin Mat Amin, Director General of MTIB with title “Furniture and Wood product Design Development Program”; the official launching ceremony of the LAKAR FEST 2024 and a symbolic handover of a carving project by MTIB. The ceremony attracted 120 participants.

LAKAR FEST 2024 is expected to draw participants from around the globe, reflecting its international appeal and the growing interest in furniture carving. The competition will provide a platform for artisans and designers to showcase their talents, blending traditional craftsmanship with modern design principles. Participants are encouraged to push the boundaries of creativity, and experiment with various styles, materials, and techniques to produce stunning, innovative pieces.

LAKAR FEST 2024 also aims to foster a deeper appreciation for the art of wood carving. The event underscores commitment towards preserving and promoting this intricate craft, ensuring its relevance in today's contemporary lifestyle. The organisers hope to inspire a new generation of craftsmen and designers to continue this rich tradition, adapting it to meet modern aesthetic and functional demands. The festival will not only highlight the artistic and cultural significance of wood carving but also emphasise its potential in contributing to sustainable design practices. As participants from various backgrounds come together to exchange ideas and techniques, LAKAR FEST 2024 will be a melting pot of innovation, creativity, and cultural exchange. Ultimately, LAKAR FEST 2024 aims to harmonise the timeless beauty of woodcraft with contemporary design, creating pieces that are both functional and artistically profound. This celebration of craftsmanship will serve as a testament to the enduring legacy of wood carving and its ever-evolving role in the world of design.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Timber Industry After Brexit

Overview

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was created when the Kingdoms of England and Scotland which previously had been distinct states under a single monarchy, were joined under the 1701 Acts of Union. The island of Ireland was incorporated under the 1800 Acts of Union, while Wales have been part of the Kingdom of England since the 16th century. The United Kingdom has historically played a leading role in developing parliamentary democracy and in advancing literature and science. The 18th and 19th centuries saw the rapid expansion of the British Empire despite the loss of the Thirteen Colonies, and at its zenith in the early 20th century, the British Empire stretched over one fourth of the earth's surface. The first half of the 20th century saw the two World Wars seriously depleting the UK's strength and the Irish Republic withdrawing from the union. The second half witnessed the dismantling of the Empire and the UK rebuilding itself into a modern and prosperous European nation.

As one of five permanent members of the UN Security Council and a founding member of NATO and the Commonwealth of Nations, the UK pursues a global approach to foreign policy. The devolved Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales, and the Northern Ireland Assembly were established in 1998. The UK was an active member of the EU after its accession in 1973, although it chose to remain outside the Economic and Monetary Union. However, motivated in part by frustration at a remote bureaucracy in Brussels and massive migration into the country, UK citizens in 2016 voted by 52 to 48 percent to leave the EU. On 31 January 2020, the UK became the only country to depart from the EU, a move known as "Brexit" after prolonged negotiations on EU-UK economic and security relationships.

Economy

With growth recovering faster than expected, the UK economy is approaching a soft landing, following a mild technical recession in 2023. Consumer price index (CPI) inflation has fallen faster than was envisaged last year and is projected to return durably to target in early 2025. As monetary policy reaches an inflection point, the timing and pace of rate cuts must carefully balance the risks of premature and delayed easing. Fiscal policy has been appropriately tight, but difficult choices will need to be made over the medium term to stabilise public debt, given significant pressures on public services and critical investment needs. The banking system remains healthy, but continued vigilance of all banks is warranted. Maintaining progress on initiatives to better assess and mitigate risks stemming from non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) is important. Further, ambitious structural reforms to boost economic potential and living standards are urgently needed, with a focus on easing planning restrictions, addressing skills shortages and improving health outcomes.

The IMF said in a new report on the health of the UK economy that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the country is expected to grow by 0.7% for 2024, following 0.6% growth over the first quarter. It represents an upgrade from the IMF's previous prediction of 0.5% growth for the year. The IMF said that it then expects growth of 1.5% in 2025 in line with its previous forecast as real incomes are supported by slowing inflation and easing wider financial conditions. Nevertheless, the UK economy's longer-term growth prospects "remain subdued" due to weak labour productivity and higher-than-expected inactivity levels due to illness.

Forestry

According to the latest National Statistics on forestry, the area of woodland in the UK in 2023 is estimated to be 3.25 million hectares; 1.44 million hectares (44%) are independently certified as sustainably managed. Woodlands in the UK are tree-covered areas, including plantation forests, more natural forested areas, and lower density or smaller stands, or uniform collections, of trees. Around 12.96 thousand hectares of new woodland were created in the UK in 2022/23. 10.1 million green tonnes of UK roundwood (softwood and hardwood) were delivered to primary wood processors and others in 2022, representing a 10% decrease from the previous year. Wood products imported into the UK in 2022 were valued at EUR10.7 billion and included 6.5 million cubic metres of sawnwood, 3.2 million cubic metres of wood-based panels, 7.5 million tonnes of wood pellets and 5.0 million tonnes of paper. Demand for timber and timber products remains high, and there is scope to further increase the area of woodland sustainably managed to meet demand for UK grown timber. This will help improve woodland resilience, manage tree pests and diseases, and reduce England's reliance on timber imports in the face of global supply-chain uncertainties.

Timber Production

According to the FAO forest statistics in 2022, the UK produced around 5,691,387 m3 of sawlogs and veneer logs. Apart from logs production, the country also produced 3,220,591 m3 of sawntimber, a decrease of 10% from 3,573,539 m3 in 2021. Meanwhile, wood chip and particles production decreased by 14% to 2,018,703 m3 compared to the previous year. Overall production trend showed in decreasing pattern, unlike MDF/HDF which was growing stronger in the country. The table below depicts the UK's production of timber and timber products from 2018 – 2022.

THE UK: PRODUCTION OF TIMBER & TIMBER PRODUCTS, 2018 – 2022

(Volume m3)

Products	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Wood fuel, coniferous	1,865,800	1,865,800	1,816,700	1,571,200	1,571,200
Sawlogs and veneer logs, coniferous	6,401,736	5,925,912	5,840,353	6,297,780	5,691,387
Other industrial roundwood, coniferous (production)	421,447	437,586	437,717	414,785	400,358
Wood charcoal	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Wood chips and particles	2,440,407	2,120,282	2,281,341	2,341,334	2,018,703
Sawnwood, coniferous	3,618,236	3,408,180	3,310,523	3,573,539	3,220,591
MDF/HDF	724,000	751,000	656,000	798,000	856,000

Source: FAO Stats

The United Kingdom's Export of Timber and Timber Products

The UK's export of timber and timber products in 2022 increased by 3% to USD1.94 billion from USD1.89 billion in the previous year. The country exports mainly furniture, chipboard/particleboard, sawntimber and BJC. Export of furniture totalled at USD1.1 billion, an increase of 9% compared to RM1.0 billion over the previous corresponding period. Meanwhile, export of chipboard/particleboard totalled at USD108.2 million followed by sawntimber and BJC with USD104.8 million and USD83.7 million respectively. The UK exported mainly furniture, chipboard and sawntimber totalled at USD3.49 billion, USD108.2 million and USD104.8 million respectively. Its major market in 2022 for furniture was the USA, amounting to USD655.5 million, while chipboard and sawntimber were mainly exported to Ireland, amounting to USD29.3 million and USD70.4 million respectively.

THE UNITED KINGDOM: EXPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS TO THE WORLD, 2018-2022

(Value USD'000)

Products	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Furniture	1,044,402	1,051,420	856,564	1,028,787	1,120,401
Chipboard/Particleboard	57,187	73,320	68,850	114,367	108,247
Sawntimber	85,191	75,131	81,739	132,054	104,840
BJC	92,034	82,321	73,928	106,981	83,650
Plywood	47,052	50,894	45,174	51,333	50,350
Fibreboard	28,944	28,981	29,700	46,546	49,022
Mouldings	39,902	35,979	31,315	42,226	34,614
Logs	30,538	24,410	23,192	41,102	33,608
Wooden Frame	14,628	13,691	12,357	12,436	12,622
Veneer	4,820	4,447	3,936	4,724	6,189
Others	196,226	200,024	175,050	311,123	337,981
Total	**1,640,924**	**1,640,618**	**1,401,805**	**1,891,679**	**1,941,524**

Source: UN-Comtrade Statistics

The United Kingdom's Import of Timber and Timber Products

The UK's import of timber and timber products in 2022 increased by 3% to USD15.8 million over the previous corresponding period. The UK imports mainly furniture, sawntimber, BJC and plywood. Imports of furniture increased by 10% to USD6.3 billion whilst imports of sawntimber decreased by 18% to USD2.9 billion. Meanwhile, imports of BJC and plywood improved by 21% to USD1.3 billion and 11% to USD865.2 million compared to 2022. The UK still needs to import furniture from other countries to fulfil the demand from their domestic market. In 2022, the majority of furniture imported into the UK was mainly from China, Italy and Germany. Import of furniture from China amounted to USD2.2 billion, a decrease of 10% over the previous corresponding period. Malaysia ranks 8th as UK's import partner for furniture.

THE UNITED KINGDOM: IMPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS FROM THE WORLD, 2018-2022

(Value USD'000)

Products	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Furniture	4,985,936	4,995,663	4,427,221	5,755,749	6,327,536
Sawntimber	2,282,376	2,015,647	1,998,836	3,530,720	2,907,714
BJC	995,546	994,364	868,724	1,119,013	1,348,458
Plywood	766,960	651,836	552,522	780,029	865,217
Fibreboard	440,652	433,351	408,465	532,348	621,786
Chipboard/ Particleboard	355,888	314,299	252,306	410,239	416,657
Mouldings	207,775	188,972	151,242	199,705	266,559
Logs	96,948	111,518	117,664	121,520	128,813
Wooden Frame	62,956	66,974	60,339	67,697	57,705
Veneer	39,623	26,240	26,263	17,152	42,147
Others	2,405,704	2,596,862	2,626,565	2,859,378	2,856,409
Total	**12,640,364**	**12,395,726**	**11,490,147**	**15,393,550**	**15,839,001**

Source: UN-Comtrade Statistics

THE UNITED KINGDOM: TOP 10 FURNITURE SUPPLIERS FROM THE WORLD,2018-2022

(Value USD'000)

Rank	Products	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	World	4,985,936	4,995,663	4,427,221	5,755,749	6,327,536
1	China	1,424,243	1,520,310	1,513,800	2,462,289	2,214,390
2	Italy	633,366	650,088	487,121	596,567	861,675
3	Germany	465,419	422,317	384,473	412,372	533,338
4	Poland	320,393	332,854	291,132	265,249	447,115
5	Viet Nam	322,665	358,746	274,745	372,739	370,393
6	Lithuania	143,595	157,725	134,970	145,777	252,903
7	United States of America	206,288	177,781	152,124	181,581	154,373
8	**Malaysia**	**104,739**	**126,944**	**120,768**	**121,023**	**119,840**
9	Türkiye	65,641	68,176	60,010	88,571	106,070
10	Sweden	53,327	46,544	46,453	73,861	104,597

Source: UN-Comtrade Statistics

Malaysia's Export of Timber and Timber Products to the United Kingdom

In 2023, Malaysia exported RM739.9 million of timber and timber products to the UK with wooden furniture garnering the largest market share of its export value. Malaysia exported wooden furniture worth RM431.9 million followed by BJC at RM124.9 million (12,029,763 m3) and plywood valued at RM104.0 million (47,717 m3). The UK ranked 6th as Malaysia's major export market in timber and timber products as well as being the biggest importer from the Europe. According to Eurostat, the EU's statistical office, in 2023, growth in the construction sector has increased by 1.9% in the European region and by 2.4% in the EU, contributing to a slight increase in Malaysian timber and timber product exports to the European market.

MALAYSIA: EXPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, 2019 – 2023

(Value RM)

Products	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Wooden Furniture	513,528,653	470,749,423	405,593,374	405,314,610	431,854,624
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	118,639,196	127,661,243	119,377,319	110,852,509	124,947,867
Plywood	109,603,686	113,719,000	152,720,014	67,117,014	104,047,731
Sawntimber	51,473,625	34,950,424	50,362,671	41,933,782	44,871,845
Mouldings	34,374,817	26,659,755	28,120,625	33,399,141	23,267,110
Fibreboard	5,494,641	4,631,700	2,536,197	1,044,378	3,965,765
Chipboard/Particleboard	193,747	0	12,592	0	2,638,291
Veneer	819,992	0	0	32,460	78,315
Others	9,809,607	5,815,203	4,740,781	23,712,136	4,184,684
Total	**843,937,964**	**784,186,748**	**763,463,573**	**683,406,030**	**739,856,232**

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Malaysia's Import of Timber and Timber Products from the United Kingdom

In 2023, imports from the UK into Malaysia registered a decrease of 58% to RM11.6 million from RM27.9 million in 2022. Major products imported in 2023 were chipboard/particleboard with a total value of RM4.5 million followed by wooden furniture at RM2.1 million, plywood at RM933 thousand and sawntimber at RM909 thousand.

MALAYSIA: IMPORT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, 2019-2023

(Value RM)

Products	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Chipboard/Particleboard	2,010,531	1,683,633	2,968,467	5,659,845	4,526,540
Wooden Furniture	1,736,439	1,150,948	1,150,842	1,899,786	2,053,251
Plywood	18,461	14,720	204,397	872,893	933,306
Sawntimber	17,124,777	4,788,656	1,320,464	0	909,043
Builders Joinery & Carpentry	8,459	0	0	162,079	353,491
Veneer	688,083	302,156	1,201,651	17,868,266	175,880
Fibreboard	423,141	0	6,856	0	36,285
Mouldings	0	0	0	22,531	3,269
Others	404,589	818,183	661,861	1,386,215	2,627,039
Total	**22,370,480**	**8,758,296**	**7,514,538**	**27,870,615**	**11,618,104**

Source: MTIB & DOSM

Import Tariffs

The UK's import duty on timber and timber products ranges from 0 – 10% with plywood recording the highest duty of 6-10% followed by wooden furniture (0-4%). The details are as follows:

THE UNITED KINGDOM: TARIFF DUTY

HS Code	Product	MFN Duty Rates (%)
4401	Fuel Wood	0
4402	Wood Charcoal	0
4403	Logs	0
4404	Hoopwood, Split polis, Piles	0
4405	Wood wool; Wood flour	0
4406	Railway sleepers	0
4407	Sawntimber	0
4408	Veneer	0
4409	Mouldings	6
4410	Chipboard/Particleboard	6
4411	Fibreboard	6 - 10
4412	Plywood	0
4413	Metalised wood or other densified wood	0 - 2
4414	Wooden Frame	0
4415	Packing cases	0
4416	Casks, barrels, vats, tubs	0
4417	Tools, tool bodies, tool handles	0 - 2
4418	Builders Joinery & Carpentry	0
4419	Tableware and kitchenware, of wood	0 - 4
4420	Wood marquetry and inlaid wood	0
4421	Other articles of wood, n.e.s.	0 - 4
9401	Seat and parts thereof	0 - 4
9403	Wooden Furniture	0 - 4

Source: World Trade Organisation (WTO)

PROSPECTS

The UK timber market, critical to the construction, manufacturing, and paper industries, faces unprecedented challenges in 2024. The Brexit aftermath continues to affect the timber supply chain seriously. The departure from the EU has not only imposed complex trade barriers but also led to higher import tariffs and longer delivery times. British businesses are struggling to adapt to the new norms, with increased costs and bureaucracy. The ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are still being felt across global markets, including the timber industry. Lockdowns and labour shortages have resulted in decreased production capacity at mills, particularly in key supply countries such as Canada, Russia, and Scandinavia. Furthermore, geopolitical tensions and trade disputes continue to threaten stable supply lines, adding an extra layer of complexity to the situation. The growing alarm over deforestation and the loss of biodiversity has put additional pressure on the timber industry. There's a heightened demand for sustainably sourced timber, driven by more stringent regulations and a more conscious consumer base.

United Kingdom Timber Regulation (UKTR)

With the growing demand for timber and timber products, illegal logging and related trade have become a problem that affects the environment and has social, political, and economic consequences. Illegal logging also poses a threat to operators in the sector, who work in accordance with current legislation. Timber supply chains are regulated to ensure harvesting practices are legal, to encourage sustainable harvesting practices and support global forest governance. Businesses trading in timber and timber products in the United Kingdom must take steps to ensure that they originate from legal sources.

Malaysia's decision to adopt the United Kingdom Timber Regulation (UKTR) reflects a significant move towards improving forest management and combating illegal logging. The UKTR, which was introduced in 2013, aims to prevent the import of illegal timber and timber products into the UK by requiring companies to exercise due diligence. The UKTR and the UK FLEGT Regulations has been enforced in Great Britain since 1 January 2021, the requirements remaining the same as under EUTR.

In principle the operators themselves are required to comply with several in-depth requirements under the UKTR, including the implementation of a Due Diligence System (DDS) for all timber and timber products. The DDS requires an initial assessment of the risk of illegal origin of timber or timber products. Furthermore, the system must be maintained and regularly evaluated in accordance with the requirements of the UKTR. An independent review of the company compliance with UKTR confirms and ensures that the company has implemented a DDS and regularly monitors its use. Successful completion of the review confirms sustainability, product legality, and competitiveness.

The UK signed the accession protocol to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) on July 16, 2023. For the UK's membership to officially enter into force, both the UK and the existing CPTPP member countries need to complete their individual ratification processes. This involves passing the necessary legislation or administrative procedures in each country. The ratification process can vary in duration, depending on each country's legislative schedule and requirements. Once all parties have completed their ratification, the UK's membership in the CPTPP will officially take effect.

The Way Forward

One strategy to mitigate these challenges is diversifying the supply sources. Exploring alternative markets and suppliers outside the traditional network could help alleviate some pressure. This approach requires investment in building new relationships and understanding different regulatory environments. Adopting new technologies can also play a pivotal role in overcoming the current hurdles. For instance, advancements in timber processing and manufacturing can increase efficiency and productivity. Digitalisation of the supply chain can also improve transparency and tracking, helping to forecast and manage disruptions more effectively.

Investing in sustainable forestry practices is not just environmentally responsible; it's also becoming a business necessity. Certification schemes like Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) can help assure buyers of the sustainability of their timber sources. Reforestation and better management of forest resources are essential to securing the long-term viability of the timber industry. A coordinated effort between the government and the timber industry could address some of the structural issues. Policies that support sustainable forestry, reduce trade barriers, and provide financial incentives for innovation could significantly impact the market's health.

As a conclusion, the UK timber market in 2024 is at a crossroads, facing a myriad of challenges that highlight the need for adaptive strategies and innovative solutions. By actively addressing these issues through diversification, technological investment, sustainable practices, and collaboration, there's a path forward that supports both the industry's growth and environmental stewardship. Malaysia, as a leading exporter of timber products, looks forward to expanding its market reach. Since the UK is a significant market for high-quality, sustainable timber products and has a strong demand for diverse wood products, by enhancing trade relations and understanding market needs, Malaysia can better position its timber products in the UK market, and vice versa.

Living room set from Linley, one of the best luxury furniture brands in UK

Kitchen cabinet set with dining from Clive Christian, one of the designers from UK.

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LOGS

According to current log price information, 55% or 11 of the 20 reference species, have not experienced any price changes, while another 45% have, with 30% of them experiencing price decreases ranging from 1.7 to 6.1%, or RM34 to RM135 per tonne. The remaining three species, or 15% were reported to have a price rise of 1.0–11.6%, or roughly RM17–RM157 per tonne compared to the previous month.

Kempas and Mengkulang from the Medium Hardwood Group, as well as Dark Red Meranti, Red Meranti, Yellow Meranti and Mersawa from the Light Hardwood Group, were all reported to have seen price drops. For the record, all of these species were traded at average prices of RM1,653, RM1,905, RM2,075, RM1,883, RM1,633 and RM1,767 per tonne. Keruing, Tualang and White Meranti were the three species that saw price rises, with prices averaging roughly RM2,417, RM1,600 and RM1,667 per tonne. The highest prices for all six species reported to have fallen this month were about RM2,700, RM2,150, RM2,100, RM3,000, RM1,750 and RM2,150 per tonne. Meanwhile, the highest prices for the three species seeing price rises were RM2,650, RM1,600 and RM1,750 per tonne.

One of the elements influencing logs prices is the supply issue, which appears to be inconsistent with the demand for popular species. Industry players also stated that the current market trend for timber products, particularly sawn timber, is still reported to be low, resulting in a decrease in demand for timber supply, which indirectly affects timber prices, as nearly half of the referenced species experienced price decreases while the majority remained unchanged.

PLYWOOD

Plywood goods with thicknesses of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm, and 12mm were expected to retain their average trade price in April 2024, as they did last month. Without any recorded increases, plywood of the specified thickness was selling for RM19.40, RM26.00, RM38.25 and RM48.85 per piece, respectively. Meanwhile, the highest plywood prices observed were RM19.40, RM27.00, RM38.50, and RM49.00 per piece.

SAWNTIMBER

At least 75%, or 15 out of 20 species, were found to remain unaltered throughout the three manufacturing classes of sawntimber products, namely General Market Specification (GMS), STRIPS, and Scantling. Only one species, Nyatoh, received a price rise of 6% or roughly RM94 per m³ under the GMS. The remaining 19 species did not experience any price changes. Sawntimber from the Nyatoh species is currently priced at RM1,695 per m³, up from RM1,684 per m³ the previous month.

Under STRIPS, almost 75% or 15 species, maintained their average prices from the preceding month. Only 25% or five species, saw price modifications. Merbau and Yellow Meranti saw price increases of 3.8% and 8.3%, respectively, equating to RM118 per m³. The remaining three species, Mix Heavy Hardwood, Mengkulang and Sepetir, saw price decreases ranging from 2.2% to 8.5% or RM30 - RM142 per m³. Price increases for two species were reported at RM3,225 and RM1,799 per m³, while declines were observed for three species at RM1,172, RM1,324 and RM1,518 per m³. Compared to the GMS and STRIPS production classes, the Scantling production class was the only one under sawntimber products in April 2024 that had an average price retention of 100% for all species. The reported market demand rate remains modest, particularly in the export market and is oriented toward preferred species based on demand, which has a significant impact on the present price of sawntimber.

APRIL 2024

MEDIUM DENSITY FIBERBOARD (MDF)

Price retention was also observed in MDF goods in April 2024, as the trading price for this reward product did not move on all of the primary MDF sizes traded. As a result, MDF with thicknesses of 4mm, 6mm, 9mm and 12mm were still being sold in the market for RM12.90, RM23.66, RM31.49, and RM37.59 per piece, respectively. According to the pricing data supplied, the maximum costs recorded for the four MDF sizes in April 2024 were roughly RM12.90, RM26.00, RM37.00, and RM42.00 per piece.

INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE* - APRIL 2024

In April 2024, the trade value of sawntimber, plywood, and veneer from Sabah to Peninsula Malaysia was RM7.70 million, with a volume of 6,624 m³. No trade transactions in log products were registered in April. Overall, the three items traded this month showed a favourable improvement, with reported trade value and total volume increasing by 24 - 186% and 23 – 158%, respectively. Plywood goods continued to dominate commerce between the two regions, with a transaction value of RM6.56 million, up 158% from the previous month.

Unlike Sabah, the overall value and volume of wood product trade between Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia in April decreased by 1 to 100%. In April, just two timber products were traded: plywood and veneer. In comparison to the previous month, no trade transactions were documented for sawntimber products in the current month, whereas trade for timber products have been reported as non-existent for several months. In April, the trade value between the two regions reached RM1.25 million, with a product volume of 964 m³.

* Source: Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

*AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICES OF LOGS, SAWN TIMBER, PLYWOOD AND MDF IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

RINGGIT MALAYSIA

APRIL 2024

SPECIES	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/M³		
	18" UP	GMS	STRIPS	SCANTLINGS
HEAVY HARDWOOD				
Chengal	6,000	9,887	4,590	9,887
Balau	3,875	3,055	2,059	3,857
Red Balau	2,425	2,754	2,472	2,419
Merbau	2,950	3,754	3,225	3,725
Mixed Heavy Hardwood	1,143	1,294	1,172	1,246
MEDIUM HARDWOOD				
Keruing	2,417	2,954	2,295	2,495
Kempas	1,653	2,213	2,048	2,542
Kapur	1,875	1,746	1,142	1,877
Mengkulang	1,905	1,434	1.324	2,013
Tualang	1,600	2,048	1,448	2,105
LIGHT HARDWOOD				
Dark Red Meranti	2,075	2,278	1,942	3,566
Red Meranti	1,883	1,777	1,801	2,319
Yellow Meranti	1,633	1,799	1,530	1,695
White Meranti	1,667	2,172	1,801	1,624
Mersawa	1,767	2,013	1,330	2,154
Nyatoh	1,625	1,695	1,306	1,412
Sepetir	1,453	1,819	1,518	1,530
Jelutong	1,325	2,048	1,589	1,819
Mixed Light Hardwood	1,167	1,396	1,118	1,201

MALAYSIAN RUBBERWOOD	LOGS/ton	SAWN TIMBER/M³			
Heavy brasiliensis		1" X 1"	2" X 2"	3" X 3"	4" X 4"
	195	1,180	1,320	1,400	1,500

PLYWOOD 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm	12mm
	19.40	26.00	38.25	48.85
MDF 4' X 8' (RM per piece)	4mm	6mm	9mm	12mm
	12.90	23.66	31.49	37.59

Note: log prices ex-matau, Sawn timber, plywood, MDF and Malaysian Rubberwood (Hevea brasiliensis) prices ex-mill
*Prices are only indicative

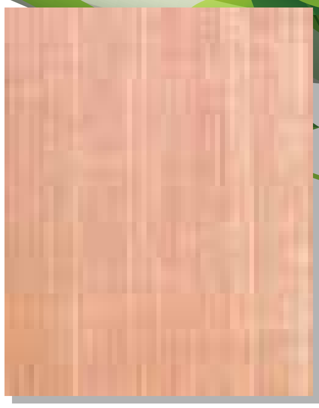
INTRA-MALAYSIA TRADE

	Mar-24		Apr-24		% change in volume	% change in value
	Vol (m³)	Val(' 000 RM)	Vol (m³)	Val(' 000 RM)	MAR/APR	MAR/APR
Sabah						
Logs	7,306	219	0	0	-100	-100
Sawn Timber	2,129	452	3,052	551	43	22
Plywood	1,303	2,292	3,362	6,556	158	186
Veneer	171	486	210	602	23	24
Sarawak						
Logs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sawn Timber	237	343	0	0	-100	-100
Plywood	1,324	1,551	812	872	-39	-44
Veneer	154	428	152	373	-1	-13

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia
Tabulated: Malaysian Timber Industry Board

DERUM

Prepared by :
Mohd Fazli Jaiman



INTRODUCTION

Derum is the Standard Malaysian Name as well as the ASEAN Standard Name for the heavy timbers of Cratoxylum spp. (Guttiferae). Vernacular names applied include derum (Peninsular Malaysia) with various epithets, belunchus (Peninsular Malaysia), dat tetong (Sarawak), entemu (Sarawak), geronggang (Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah) with various epithets, melan (Sarawak), mirinos (Sarawak), nyalin bahe (Sarawak), patok tilan (Sarawak), raja tugag (Sarawak), selangan biabas (Sabah), serungan (Sabah), serungan batu (Sabah) and sidodot (Sarawak). Major species include C. cochinchinense, C. formosum and C. maingayi.

It is also known as Batun, Gerunggung and Mampat (Indonesia); Geronggang (Brunei); Leuang, Tiou-tiou and Tiu som (Laos); Bebya (Myanmar); Guyong-guyong, Paguringon and Salinggogon (Philippines); and Tiu-khao and Tiu-kliang (Thailand).

DENSITY

The timber is moderately hard to hard and moderately heavy to heavy. It has been classified under Medium Hardwood with a density of 705-945 kg/m3 air dry.

NATURAL DURABILITY

The timber is moderately durable.

STRENGTH PROPERTIES

The timber falls into Strength Group B (Burgess, 1958) or SG 4 (MS 544:Part 2:2001).

AIR DRYING

The timber seasons fairly slowly without any defects at all. 13 mm thick boards take approximately 3 months to air dry, while 38 mm thick boards take 6 months

TEXTURE

The sapwood is not differentiated from the heartwood, which is brown to red-brown with a purple tinge. Its texture is fine and even, with straight or interlocked grain

MACHINING PROPERTIES

It is slightly difficult to difficult to resaw and easy to difficult to cross-cut. Planing is easy to fairly easy and the planed surface is smooth

SHRINKAGE

Its shrinkage is very high, with radial shrinkage averaging 2.3% and tangential shrinkage averaging 4.6%.

USES

The timber is suitable for heavy and medium construction such as posts, telegraphic and power transmission posts and cross arms, tool handles (impact), pallets (expendable or permanent type), flooring, vehicle bodies (framework, floor boards and planking), plywood, door and window frames and sills, panelling, mouldings, partitioning, staircase (carriage, newel, riser, stringer, tread, bullnose, round end and winder), furniture, carving and ornamental items.

REFERENCES

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Wong T.M. 1982. A Dictionary of Malaysian Timbers. Revised by Lim S.C. & Chung R.C.K. Malayan Forest Records No. 30. Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. 201 pp.

2 MAY 2024

Working visit by YB Datuk Chan Foong Hin, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Commodities (KPK) to MTIB Sabah Region

3-5 MAY 2024

"Program MADANI Rakyat 2024" at Tapak Pesta Sungai Nibong, Pulau Pinang

13 MAY 2024

Students from Advanced Biocomposite Course (FHH 4203) and Wood Waste Management and Utilization Course (FHH4303), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) at the Fiber and Biocomposite Center (FIDEC), Banting Selangor during the "Jom Kenali FIDEC" programme.

14 MAY 2024

Bachelor of Science (Industrial Design) students, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Kuala Lumpur Campus at the Fiber and Biocomposite Center (FIDEC), Banting Selangor during the "Basic Exposure to Biocomposite and Fibre Products programme ("Program Pendedahan Asas Produk Biokomposit dan Gentian").

31 MAY 2024

Retirement of YBrs. Ts. Dr. Mohd Nor Zamri Mat Amin, Director General MTIB

28 – 30 MAY 2024

Timber Legality Assurance System (MyTLAS) Compliance Audit Briefing and Familiarisation Programme in Perlis and Kedah

21 MAY 2024

Working visit by YB Datuk Larry Sng Wei Shien, Chairman MTIB to Muar, Johor

16 MAY 2024

Joint briefing between Other Government Agencies (OGA) and Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB)